

Angela, thanks so much for your note. I have been meaning to write you, but you know how real life gets in the way once you get home from a trip.

Our trip was fantastic. Everything was absolutely perfect! Everything! Someone was waiting for us when we arrived at the J'berg airport. He quickly got us to our hotel. The hotel was convenient and the food was very good. Our driver was on time the next day to take us to the airport, and our Federal Air flight to Mala Mala was just fine.

Mala Mala was wonderful. The people were so nice. They had the wheelchair and ramp for my dad and he had the disabled suite which was great. We saw so many animals, and saw the Big 5 during the first 2 days. We loved our ranger, John. He was great with my dad, and especially great with the kids. We saw some fantastic animal sightings, such as a male lion approaching female lions in the evening, 2 cheetahs reuniting with their mom, and a white rhino taking a mud bath. The food and accommodations at Mala Mala were fantastic. In fact everything was so wonderful, I was wondering if Mashatu would be a bit of a let down.

We had a private charter flight to Mashatu. There were people meeting us with a wheelchair in Polokwane when we went through customs. Our driver also had the wheelchair for my dad when we got to Mashatu. As it turns out, there were only a few guests at Mashatu at the beginning of our stay, so we basically had the camp to ourselves. We loved Mashatu. In fact, its hard for us to tell you which camp we loved more. The service at Mashatu was impeccable. The staff was so friendly and accommodating (they moved my dad to a closer room so he had less of a walk). All of the people there helped my dad get around b/c it was less wheelchair friendly. Elvis, our ranger, was wonderful. He was so great with my dad, and really helped take some duties off me! We saw wonderful animals at Mashatu - you were right, its very different than Mala Mala. We saw hundreds of elephants that were right next to our truck We saw 1 month old giraffes with their mom. We saw 4 cheetahs, which we had not seen at Mala Mala. We saw hyenas eating an impala. We saw tons of giraffe, zebras, wildebeests, warthogs, eland, ostriches, and baboons. It was truly amazing. In addition, Mashatu brought in a woman to entertain the children during our afternoon break. My kids loved her and loved her activities.

We were very sad to leave Mashatu, but Elvis actually crossed the river with us to help my dad down the stairs in S. Africa. Our driver was there, and the ride was very pleasant to Polokwane. I'm glad that we had a chance to drive through some parts of S. Africa. At Polokwane, once again, we had a wheelchair for my dad. Our plane was on time to J'berg. We had wheelchairs at J'berg and Cape Town (I keep mentioning this b/c it wasn't until we got to Atlanta, GA that we didn't have any wheelchairs. Everything was perfect for my dad). Jeff, the guide met us in Cape Town and took us to the Cape Grace.

I have to say that the Cape Grace was wonderful. The 2 bedroom suite was beautiful. The breakfast was great. The staff was very friendly and helpful. In fact, when we arrived, they greeted us by name at the front of the hotel and took us straight to our suite (check in was in the suite). A nice treat after a long day of travelling. Cape Town was beautiful, and we enjoyed our trip to Cape Point with Jeff. My dad especially enjoyed talking to him.

Our flight back to J'berg was great - in fact you're your tourguide was able to upgrade us to business class and put us on an earlier flight. We had a good trip back to Atlanta.

It was a wonderful trip. A special experience for my Dad's birthday. Thank you so much for arranging everything. We will definitely be using Journeys of Distinction for our next trip to Africa and will recommend you to all our friends coming to Africa. I've attached a couple of photos for you.

Sincerely,
Carla Garrett and family (USA)