

Cape Town, Garden Route & Kruger



Overview

This itinerary takes in the best of South Africa. Cape Town is arguably one of the most beautiful cities in the world, with fabulous scenery, locally produced wine and gastronomic delights and plenty to see and do. The vineyards and restaurants in the winelands are well worth exploring for a few days, and the Garden Route provides a huge range of activity options, including hiking through forests, boat cruises, and beach based activities. During the winter (July – November), Southern Right Whales can be seen breaching offshore. More unusual and special opportunities exist to have up-close encounters with Meercats with an expert, or a short course in Cape Malay cuisine. On safari in the renowned Kruger National Park, you are virtually guaranteed an opportunity to see the Big 5, and the luxury lodges will provide a truly memorable wildlife experience.

Trip Highlights

- Visiting cosmopolitan Cape Town
- Having a sumptuous lunch at a local vineyard.
- Seeing whales, seals and dolphins on a marine cruise off the Garden Route
- Hiking through the forests or taking a gentle walk on one of the Garden Route's Nature Trails.
- Big Game Viewing in Kruger National Park

Day 1

Depart the UK on your overnight flight to Cape Town.

Days 2-4 In Cape Town

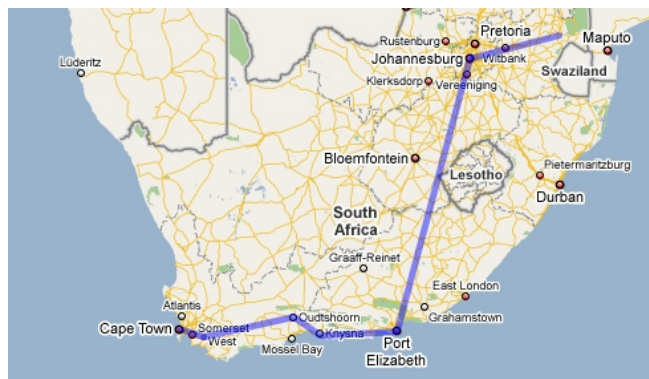
Arrive Cape Town International Airport and make your way to your accommodation, a drive of approx 30 minutes for a 3 night stay in a deluxe room on a bed and breakfast basis.

We have a selection of accommodation to choose from according to budget and locations all located close to the V&A waterfront and Robben Island, Table Mountain, Clifton and Camps Bay beaches, as well as Kirstenbosch Gardens and within walking distance of the city centre.

Cape Town is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city offering outdoor activities, a lively music scene and a host of trendy bars and restaurants. Contrasts abound in this city, with beaches, vineyards, and of course Table Mountain within easy reach, and the stark differences between the townships and beach-side mansions provide a constant reminder of this nation's tumultuous history. We can provide advice on things to do.

Days 4-6 Franschhoek, Winelands

This morning, take to the road for the relatively short drive to Franschhoek in the Winelands. Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town, this area has stunning scenery: vast mountains towering over pretty vineyards with Dutch-architectural homesteads, and the area is fast building a world-renowned reputation as a top gastronomic destination. The area has 3 main towns, each a bit different, but all worth exploring. A day out visiting local vineyards many of which include cellar tours and wine tastings is a must: some of them



offer lunch as you sip!

Accommodation: There are options to stay on vineyards, in Country Houses or small guesthouses.

Days 6-7:

This morning, you leave the Winelands and drive to Oudtshoorn. Oudtshoorn is known as The Feather Capital of the World, due to the large number of Ostrich farms in the area. You can choose to visit a working Ostrich Farm, and/or perhaps take a tour of the magnificent Cango Caves, a 20 million year old cave system closeby. Another more unusual option is an experience with Meercats: this experience is run by one of the world's leading experts on these small mammals and we highly recommend it for anyone interested in wildlife and wanting a privileged insight into some rather unusual creatures!

Days 7-10: Near Plettenberg Bay, Garden Route

This morning, you set off through the stunning mountain pass scenery towards the coast and the beautifully scenic Garden Route.

In the surrounding area, there is a host of activities: the Garden Route is blessed with a year-round warm climate that encourages lazy days on the beach, cocktails at sunset, to be followed by lingering dinners. The Tsitsikamma Mountains form the backdrop to pristine sandy beaches and eco-sensitive riverine forests and wetlands. Options for things to do abound.

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Days 10 - 13

This morning, you drive to Port Elizabeth Airport to drop off your rental vehicle and take a flight to Johannesburg, where you connect with a flight to Hoedspruit Airport. On arrival, you take a private road transfer to your safari lodge on the edge of the Kruger National Park

Kruger National Park is world renowned for its fabulous safari experience. The park is home to over 140 different mammal species, including lion prides and elephant herds, and over 500 bird species, as well as a wide variety of amphibians, reptiles and plants. The area is wonderfully scenic, with forest, mountains and rivers forming an impressive backdrop.

Your chances of seeing all of the **Big Five** are **virtually guaranteed** in the private reserves. Although conservation standards are very high in the private reserves, there are fewer restrictions than in the park, and game vehicles are allowed to leave the roads at the rangers' discretion. The animals here also tend to be more habituated to people, allowing closer and more frequent sightings of otherwise elusive animals.

A typical day in the bush starts off at around 5:30 am with tea/coffee before you set off on your game adventure for the day.

An informative and professional game drive with the excitement of tracking down the untamed game and big 5 is interrupted by a stop over in the bush for tea or coffee with a light snack. The adventure continues and you return back to camp at around 9:30 am to freshen up. This is followed by a sumptuous brunch with a choice of continental and hot breakfast.

Following brunch the possibility of a bush walk offers unexpected insight and knowledge of the eco-system to learn more about the fauna & flora unique to the area. You then have time to rest or relax perhaps sit on your private or the lodge deck enjoying the sounds and smells unique to the African bushveld. You are most likely to encounter wild animals browsing the camp grounds or a herd of elephants at the water hole directly in front of the lodge. This is also a unique time for bird lovers to indulge their passion in the abundance of the species found.

Afternoon high tea is a time to interact with other guests and is served at around 3:30pm with a selection salty and sweet treats. Following directly thereafter you are off to an afternoon & evening game drive adventure with a

stop-over in the bush for sundowners watching the splendour of the African sun setting over the mountains. Drinks are accompanied by snacks and some South African specialties. You return for dinner prepared by an in-house chef with fresh ingredients.

Day 13

Today, you take the return road transfer to Hoedspruit Airport for your flight to Johannesburg, arriving in time for your return flight to London.

Day 14

Arrive London

General Information

Visas

Visas are NOT required by UK citizens for South Africa. (Note that all nationalities travelling to South Africa must have 2 consecutive blank pages in their passport which lie side by side when the passport is open. Passports must also be valid for at least six months from the date of entry to South Africa. Passengers travelling to South Africa with passports that do not comply with these requirements could be refused entry.

Note: Passport and visa requirements are liable to change at short notice. Travellers are advised to check their entry requirements with their embassy or consulate.



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Health

The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis A, malaria and typhoid are also recommended by the Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up to date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. Guests on group departures must take their policy documents with them on the trip as the guide will ask to see this at the start. The documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the period of travel. The policy document must also indicate that medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover is included and a 24 hour contact telephone number for the insurance company must be shown on the documentation in case of emergency. Guests unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip will be asked to purchase a policy prior to joining the trip.

Electricity supply

220v, 3pin South African plug. Adaptors are required to charge cameras, etc.

Money

Currency is the South African Rand. There will be ATM's en route for guests to withdraw money.

What to bring

Binoculars, torch, walking shoes, swimming gear, plenty of high factor sunscreen, sunhat, insect repellent, camera, a day pack. Warm clothing is recommended for evenings, and a waterproof jacket. Lightweight clothing is recommended for the day. Avoid brightly coloured clothing for game viewing.

Tipping

It is normal to tip for good service in bars and restaurants in South Africa. Guests may also consider tipping their guide at their discretion.



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