

Cape Town, Winelands, Garden Route & Safari - Luxury



Trip highlights

Explore buzzing Cape Town: ride the Cable Car up Table Mountain, take the scenic drive down the Peninsula; soak up the atmosphere at the V&A Waterfront

Stay on a Wine Estate: the Winelands are a World class foodie destination – top class restaurants overlooking vineyards are aplenty, and all excellent value

Drive the stunning Garden Route: walking & cycling trails overlook the coastline or meander through forests, dolphins & whales frolick in the sea, taste the freshly caught seafood.

Safari in a Big 5 Reserve on the Eastern Cape and spot lion, Elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo.

Stay in top class accommodation, where the emphasis is on Hospitality, beautifully appointed rooms, and fabulous food.

Day 1

Depart London for your overnight flight to Cape Town

Days 2-5 In Cape Town

Arrive Cape Town, pick up your hire vehicle and drive to your accommodation for 3 nights stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

Your accommodation is in an exclusive and luxurious boutique hotel on the slopes of Table Mountain. There are eight luxurious rooms which boast marble baths, private terraces, exquisite fabrics and original artworks from mostly South African artists. Each room is equipped with satellite television, a DVD player and air conditioning. The city, its harbour and the surrounding mountains are all visible the private terrace in each of the rooms.

The hotel is within easy reach of the City Centre, historical sites, beaches, and the Winelands which are only 30 minutes away. The hospitable staff can arrange day trips and excursions around the Cape, as well as sports activities and spa sessions.

With excellent and discreet personal service, interiors that have an unmistakably contemporary feel, and stylish African touches throughout the hotel's recent inclusions in Tatler's 'Top 101 Hotels in the World' and Conde Nast UK's 'Top 10 Places to stay in Cape Town' are more than justified!

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 of course 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: some suggestions include:

- Take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain for fabulous views
- Take the ferry to Robben Island for an insight into South Africa's tumultuous past. (Note: Robben Island tickets must be booked in advance in order to avoid disappointment)
- Spend an afternoon soaking up the atmosphere at the V&A Waterfront: this area is buzzing usually some live music on and this is a great place to



sit in the sun with a beer overlooking the water and Table Mountain.

Take a Township Tour: we can advise on trips that are sympathetic to the communities.

Take a cookery course in Cape Malay cuisine this normally includes either lunch or dinner.

Drive the Peninsula circuit, including a visit to Simons Town and Boulder Beach, home to a large colony of African Penguins. There is an option to rent kayaks, take a walk with the resident baboons with an expert biologist, or an unusual experience watching wild white sharks take their feed from the sealife.

Visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, 528 hectares of gardens that support diverse fynbos flora and natural forest. This is a popular place with locals to take a picnic and take in the scenery of Table Mountain and the City in peace: your guesthouse will help if you wish to do this.

Take a guided 'Gastronomy Tour' of the local winelands: a dedicated guide will consult and choose the most appropriate wine estates to visit for tastings, and help choose an appropriate restaurant for lunch.

We have a list of recommended restaurants for Cape Town which we will include with your Booking information.

Days 5-7: Winelands

This morning, take to the road for the relatively short drive to Franschhoek in the Winelands for a 2 night stay at a beautiful wine estate in Franschhoek.

This Wine & Country Estate is set in a peaceful corner of the Franschhoek Valley, just 5 minutes drive from the centre of Franschhoek village. Home-made food, thoughtful service and pampering beauty treatments are part and parcel of this sensory experience and guests can expect to leave this

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Luxurious choice of accommodation with a regenerated sense of spirit.

These premises retain the comfort and warmth associated with a homestead, with lush, expansive lawns which lead you to vegetable patch where fresh produce is grown in tidy rows. Afternoons may be spent strolling on a path along the river or simply lounging by the crystalline pool with a refreshing drink.

Breakfast is served in the sunny dining area which is warmed by a well-stoked fireplace in winter time. Picnic baskets can be enjoyed on the estate or at the myriad picnic spots and hammocks along the Franschhoek River.

The Farm's owners have commissioned a Tulbach cheese-maker to create special cheeses to complement the Estate's wines. Although not yet a perfectly organic estate, the team here take great care in growing their produce with only the most natural of possible means. When summer rolls around, everything served comes from their abundant gardens. Herbs (such as basil, chives and coriander), seasoning, jams, juices, chicken, eggs, blue-gum honey and even the mustard is produced right on the estate!

One of the more delicious smells, guaranteed to make anyone weep at the knees, is the smell of freshly baked bread which infuses the main building with enough doughy goodness to make anyone salivate as if they were being served their very last meal. The blue-gum honey is harvested from multiple fixed-frame beehives that the estate shares with their neighbours.

The area has 3 main towns, each a bit different, but all probably worth exploring. The people in the area are extremely friendly and welcoming and more than happy to give advice on restaurants and wines. 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! The restaurants in this area are fabulous: fine dining at reasonable prices, and visitors are spoiled for choice: chefs from around the world have relocated here and the competition is driving quality upwards. We will be happy to recommend restaurants and vineyards to visit in the area.

Days 7 - 9: Hermanus

This morning, you leave the Winelands and drive to Hermanus for a 2 night stay at a luxury retreat perched high on the Hermanus cliffs, in a luxury room on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

This beautifully appointed boutique hotel offers uninterrupted views and diverse activities, the very finest in international cuisine, and luxury accommodation. On offer from the kitchen are homemade breads, ice creams and sorbets, as well as tempura strawberries (seasonal) and fresh local fishes ranging from Marlin, Red Roman & Kabeljou to crayfish and mussels. Soups are a treat and you can enjoy flavours ranging from vanilla butternut to roasted red pepper tomato. In all food preparation only the freshest ingredients are used, dishes are cooked to perfection and exquisitely presented. The Hotel's Spa offers a range of treatments.

Hermanus has the status of being the best land-based whale watching destination in the world. Southern Right Whales visit Walker Bay from June through to December and can be viewed from aboard a boat, an airplane or from the shoreline. As well as its beaches and mountain walks in Hermanus, the craft market is famous for its art. The town also has many fine restaurants and is a wine lovers paradise with nearby wine farms offering wine tasting. Shark diving (in a cage), golf, horse riding, quad biking, and sea kayaking are also options.

During your stay here, you may opt to go on a complimentary two hour Hermanus orientation excursion which visits Fernkloof Nature Reserve, the old and new harbours, a township and wine tasting at Hamilton Russell, Newton Johnson and Bouchard Finlayson. Transfers to and from Hermanus town are also complimentary.

Days 9 - 11: Knysna, Garden Route

This morning, you drive towards the Garden Route. You are headed for Knysna for a 2 night stay in a beautifully appointed guesthouse in a room with a sea view on a bed and breakfast basis.

Uniquely situated on the highest point of the famous Knysna Heads, this guesthouse offers breathtaking views. Guests have access to a private lounge, bar and a stunning cliff-edge swimming pool. Breakfast is a sumptuous affair, served whilst dolphins and whales (in season) frolic, or yachts slip silently out between the Heads.

Knysna is the place to be for savouring seafood fresh from the sea: Knysna Oysters in particular are popular. Knysna Harbour is a great place to relax and watch the sunset from one of the many waterside restaurants and bars. Boat trips to Featherbed Nature Reserve and sundowner cruises can also be arranged here.

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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.

- Hiking trails galore in the Garden Route or Tsitsikamma National Park
- The ferry-ride to the Featherbed Nature Reserve and a gentle guided walk
- The 'Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe' steam train ride
- Monkeyland a huge open-air sanctuary for rare primates
- Fresh air - golf, running, swimming, hiking, riding, climbing, cycling, paddling .
- Fine dining - Knysna oysters and Knysna beer make a good combination
- Sunset cruises from Knysna Harbour
- Treetop canopy Tours
- Marine Cruises

Days 11-13: Plettenberg Bay

About 20 minutes further on from Knysna, Plettenberg Bay has stunning beaches and is a resort town with a relaxed atmosphere. Here, boat trips to see dolphins and whales operate in season, and sea kayaking, horse riding, sailing trips and surfing are on offer. Nearby, the Robberg Nature & Marine reserve has a fabulous circular walk (11km long). Your stay here is in luxury beachfront accommodation for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

Just two minutes walk from Central Beach this six suite designer boutique beach lodge offers an unbeatable location, magnificent views, tranquil contemporary beach décor and a roof terrace with Jacuzzi. The lodge features the latest in designer trends and the highest standards of barefoot luxury lodging and hospitality. You can be pampered to breakfast in bed, on your terrace or overlooking the beaches.

Plettenberg Bay is a resort town with a rare combination of mountains, white sand and crystal blue water. The town has a relaxed atmosphere with lots of cafes. Boat trips to view whales and dolphins can be taken: other activities include horse riding through the forest, catamaran sailing, and walks in the nearby Robberg Nature & Marine Reserve. Plettenberg Bay is also a good base to explore Tsitsikamma National Park and Storms River, where an abundance of activities such as bungee jumping, black water tubing, abseiling and mountain biking can be organised.

Days 13 - 15: Eastern Cape Safari

This morning, you drive to your Game Reserve for a 2 night stay in a luxury twin tent on a full board basis, including local brand drinks and two safari activities daily.

This Private Game Reserve is the ultimate luxury big five African safari adventure and conservation effort coupled with responsible tourism. Accommodation is in a luxurious, 5-star tented lodge overlooking the Buffalo River. Each of the 9 luxury tents is air conditioned and heated, and has a private viewing deck and plunge pool plus the luxury of an indoor and outdoor shower. The main area is a splendid stone walled and thatch roofed lodge with a large deck area overlooking a waterhole.

You will be assigned a personal game ranger to a maximum group of 6. Your game ranger and lodge manager will design your daily program with you. There is great game viewing, in modern open game viewing vehicles that have been especially converted to maximise comfort and viewing potential. Your personal game ranger will provide insightful and valuable information about the fauna and flora.

In between game drives your time is filled with relaxing, reading, spa treatments, swimming, enjoying delicious cuisine, a game walk, or a visit to one of the two Born Free Big Cat Sanctuaries.

Day 15

Drive to Port Elizabeth Airport, where you drop off your car hire and fly to Cape Town, arriving in time for your return flight to London.

Day 16

Arrive London

Price: £3,385.00 per person in high season including return economy flights, accommodation and meals as described, vehicle hire and safari activities. Prices vary according to season: contact us on 020 8977 7034 or at info@nativeescapes.com for more information.

Note: During Summer, this route can be directed over the scenic Route 62 rather than via Hermanus. There are a number of lovely boutique hotels to stay at on Route 62 many with world class chefs and within easy reach of walking or cycling routes and wonderful wine estates.

