

Cape Town, Winelands, Garden Route & Safari - Self Drive



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.

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 at an absolute jewel of a Guest House: a gem set in a tranquil, leafy cul-de-sac at the foot of Table Mountain, in the cosmopolitan city bowl neighbourhood of Gardens. Secluded and serene, it is still only just around the corner from both Long and Kloof Street, two of Cape Town's trendiest restaurant and design destinations.

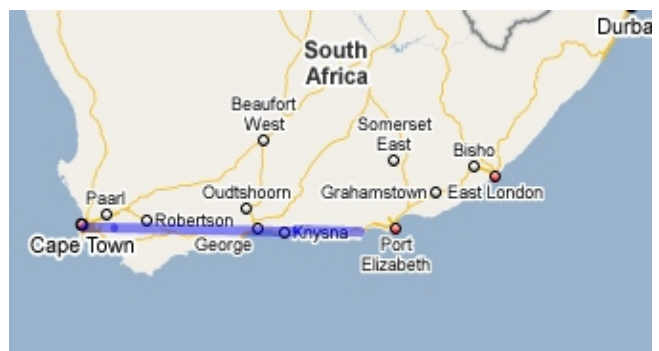
All rooms are individually furnished with neutral tones and splashes of both African chic and classic bohemia. There is comfort evident everywhere...from the candles, the natural Rooibos bath products and the towelling dressing gowns in each bathroom, to the home-made biscuits, complimentary port and huge inviting armchairs in each room. Every room has its own charm and most have balconies offering views of Table Mountain, Signal Hill or the patio below. One room has a travertine surround bath in the room complete with open fire-place, another has its own private garden and lily pond! An in-house treatment room provides pampering for the soul with holistic and polarity based massages, reflexology and "tapping techniques". Alternative therapies as well as manicures and pedicures are also catered for.

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:

Ride 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 in a restored manor house and **former perfumery** on the outskirts of Franschhoek and surrounded by vineyards and mountains.

Cape Town, Winelands, Garden Route & Safari - Self Drive



Accommodation: There are a number of Game reserves to choose from: we have priced this itinerary on an intimate thatched lodge with unique air-conditioned safari huts, which offers all the comforts of a luxury five star lodge.

Attention to detail and **personalised service** is the motto of this country retreat. The ambience is one of a **French provincial village**, complete with water features, fountains, cobblestones and olive trees. All suites enjoy **spectacular views** of the surrounding mountains, fountain courtyard and **swimming pools** on the extensive lawns.

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 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 in a guesthouse perched on the cliff tops overlooking the ocean, with all rooms offering an all-embracing sea view over Walker Bay. Large rooms with walk in wardrobes and spacious bathrooms, inviting beds and double doors that open onto a terrace just make you want to relax. There's the pool with comfy sun loungers and umbrellas. A great selection of beaches nearby include award winning Nanny's, Karma Bay Beach, Voelkop beach or Grotto beach which is the largest and longest in Hermanus.

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.

Days 9-11: Wilderness, Garden Route

This morning, you drive towards the Garden Route. You are headed for Wilderness, surrounded by 2500 ha of National Park with five rivers, five lakes, two estuaries and 18km of coastline, for 2 nights at a Guest House in a luxury lagoon facing suite on a bed and breakfast basis.

The Guest house overlooks the beautiful Wilderness Lagoon in the heart of the scenic village of Wilderness within easy and safe walking distance to golden beaches, restaurants and village shops. Renowned for its spectacular beauty and golden beaches, Wilderness has become an internationally sought after holiday destination. Activities on offer in the area include hiking, dolphin and whale-watching, hang-gliding, paragliding, horse riding, mountain-biking, scenic drives, day tours, ferry cruises, angling, boating and other water sports. There are several nature trails in Wilderness National Park taking in the lakes, the beach and the indigenous forest. The Kingfisher Trail is a day walk that traverses the region and includes a boardwalk across the intertidal zone of the Touws River. Pedal boats and canoes can be hired at Ebb & Flow South camp. The 'Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe' steam train ride runs from George towards Mossel Bay along the coastline.

Days 11-13: Plettenberg Bay, Garden Route

Today you drive further along the Garden Route to Plettenberg Bay for a 2 night stay in a stylish and modern guest house situated right on the beautiful Robberg Beach in Plettenberg Bay with wonderful views over the Indian Ocean and down to the Robberg Peninsula. The rooms have breathtaking sea views and include large, ensuite bathrooms and satellite TV. All the rooms are individually decorated in bright, happy colours which reflect the surrounding sea and mountains. All areas are ideal for whale and dolphin watching or just relaxing in the sun.

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.

Cape Town, Winelands, Garden Route & Safari - Self Drive

Days 13 - 15: Eastern Cape Safari

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

This region is famous for its warm hospitality and this safari lodge is no exception. The staff will ensure that you feel immediately at home and enjoy plentiful game activities guided by professional guides who'll not only enlighten you in Africa's splendid creatures, but also reveal the fascinating history of this revitalized wilderness.

The lodge is situated in the Addo Elephant Park and offers 8 individual suites, tastefully designed for tranquillity, relaxation and privacy. All the suites are air conditioned and equipped with ceiling fans, electronic safes, mini bars, satellite TV, hair dryer and bathroom en suite with bath and shower.

Addo Elephant National Park is home to the Big Five, and game drives are conducted inside the Addo or in the 5000ha Private Intsomi Reserve. The Reserve, is also home to various species not seen in the Addo such as Giraffe, White Rhino, Gemsbok and the endangered Bontebok to name but a few.

Guided walks are conducted in the Reserve where your guide will focus on the smaller creatures and plants. Joining one of the professional guides on a night drive, the beauty of the Southern Hemisphere sky and its history will form part of the search for some of the indigenous nocturnal species to be found in the area.

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: £2,360.00 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.

