

Cape Town, Wine and Whales



Overview

This suggested itinerary combines trendy Cape Town with the spectacle of southern right whales breaching, and the beautiful landscape of the world famous winelands. The trip can be undertaken on a self-drive or guided basis.

Cape Town is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city offering outdoor activities, a lively music scene and a host of trendy bars and restaurants as well as fabulous scenery and a host of things to see and do. Nearby, the small town of Hermanus is world-famous for its whale-watching: excursions by boat are available, but these mammals are just as easily seen from the coastline. Nearby, the winelands offer some stunning scenery, fantastic restaurants and of course, vineyard tours.

Accommodation in the area is excellent: we have based our prices on 5 star boutique style hotels, but of course there is a whole range available: contact us for details.

Trip Highlights

Visiting cosmopolitan Cape Town, a vibrant beach-side city with world famous sites and a lively restaurant scene. Experiencing the beautiful tranquility of the winelands. Visit Hermanus, the world's best land based whale Watching site..

Day 1

Depart the UK on your overnight flight to Cape Town.

Days 2-3 In Cape Town

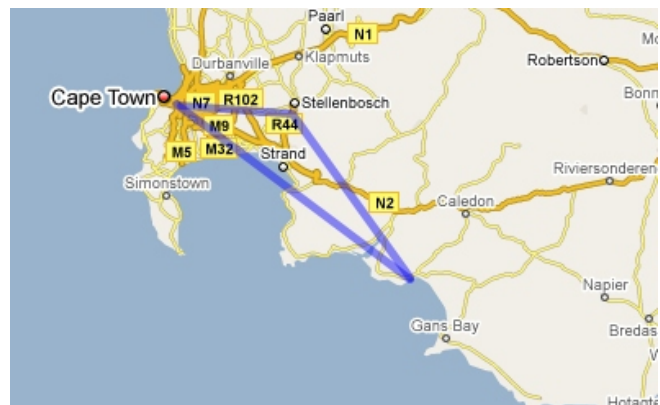
Arrive in Cape Town and transfer to your accommodation. The city has enough to keep visitors busy on a short break: suggestions include a cable car ride up Table Mountain, a trip to the city's museums and galleries, a boat ride to Robben Island, a tour of the Cape Flats townships, a visit to District Six Museum, a wander round the Company's Gardens, and taking in some live music at the V&A Waterfront.

Days 3-4: Hermanus

Your drive to Hermanus will take you along the Cape coastline with some of the most magnificent views in the Cape.

Hermanus has grown from a rustic fishing village to a well-known town famous for its superb whale watching. Today it is marketed as the world's best land-based whale watching site, and indeed Walker Bay is host to impressive numbers during the calving season (July to November).

Eco-whale-watching excursions operate from the town, but the mammals can also easily be seen from the shoreline and there is a coastal path for walks and viewing points. For those so wishing, there is an option to have an even closer encounter with the largest marine predator in the world, the great white shark. There are extremely reputable companies offering shark cage diving, which is an unforgettable and humbling experience for those



fascinated by these marvellous animals.

Days 5 & 6 Stellenbosch

Famous for the wine estates in the area, Stellenbosch is a great base for visiting vineyards as well as being a lively and interesting town with good dining options. Cellar tours are available at many of the wineries, and some offer lunch as well as tastings. Tours of local wineries can also be arranged for those not wanting to drive.

Day 7 Cape Town

A final night in Cape Town gives an opportunity to see the sights missed on arrival, or to relax in the trendy, vibrant V&A Waterfront area.

Day 8:

Arrive back in the UK.

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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.

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 suncream, 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.

