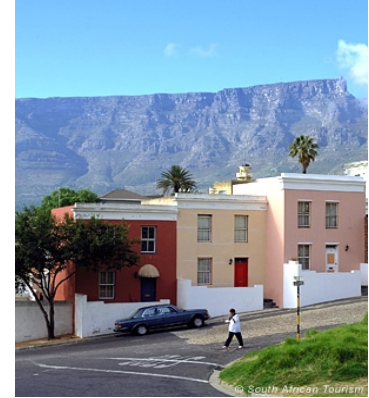


Cape Town, Winelands and Garden Route (Small Group)



Overview

This trip commences in Cape Town one of the world's most beautiful cities, with a cosmopolitan atmosphere, some of the world's best wines produced in the region, a reputation for excellent cuisine, and a year round temperate climate. We take a trip to Robben Island and take in the views from the top of Table Mountain, and take a scenic drive down to Cape Point.

Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town are the Winelands: 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. We make the most of the area, taking our guide's advice on the best vineyards for wine tastings.

Along the Garden Route, the spectacular scenery is renowned: from June to November, Southern Right Whales can be seen from the shore off Hermanus, and we visit a spectacular cave system, take a boat trip along the Garden Route in the hope of seeing dolphins, seals and whales and spend time at a Monkey Sanctuary for a safari in indigenous forest.

There is an option to extend the trip with a 2 night safari on a private game reserve.

DAY 1

Overnight flight from London to Cape Town.

DAY 2

Arrive Cape Town and transfer to the Winchester Mansions Hotel for 3 nights in a classic twin room on a bed and breakfast basis.

This afternoon is free: you may choose to wander round the trendy V&A Waterfront, where there is usually live music and plenty of bars and restaurants. Alternatively, visit the Botanical Gardens or the sobering District Six museum.

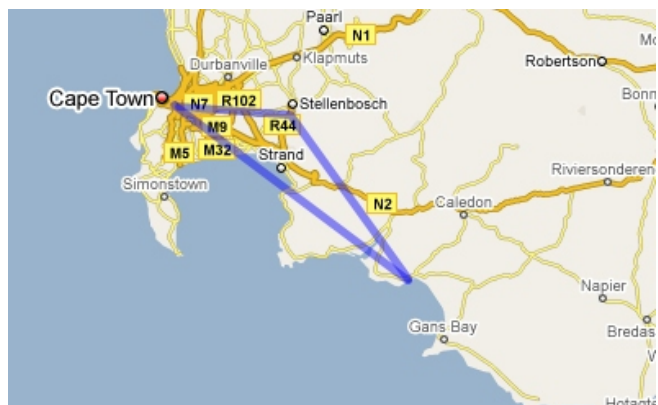
Situated on Cape Town's Platinum mile and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Winchester Mansions is an exclusive, privately-owned 4 star hotel in Cape Town with a spectacular beachfront location, stylish elegance and personalised service. The hotel is conveniently situated close to the V&A Waterfront as well as Cape Town's sights.

Meals: None included.

DAY 3 Full Day City, Table Mountain and Robben Island

This morning, we depart from Cape Town's Victoria & Alfred Waterfront by ferry for a 25-minute trip across Table Bay to Robben (Seal) Island.

This World Heritage Site and South Africa's most revered national monument was a prison for some 450 years - for convicts, slaves, exiled Eastern princes, lepers, the insane and those punished for resisting oppressive rule - among them, Nelson Mandela. The tour, led by guides (some of whom were once inmates) includes a visit to



the Prison Block and the infamous Limestone Quarry, where prisoners once toiled, as well as a drive around the island with its breathtaking views across the bay.

We stop for lunch at a seafood restaurant before boarding a revolving cable car for a 5-minute ride to the top of Table Mountain. 1036 meters above sea level, this sandstone massif offers staggering views of the city, the bay and the Peninsula as you explore its summit. (This may be done in reverse depending on the weather)

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch included.

DAY 4 Peninsula Tour including Kirstenbosch Gardens

This morning we travel along the Atlantic Seaboard coast to Hout Bay, where we board a boat to see the mass of Cape Fur Seals on Duiker Island (weather dependent). Continuing along the spectacular road below Chapman's Peak- one of the finest scenic

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coastal drives in the world, we visit the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and drive to the tip of the Cape Peninsula where there is an option to either walk or take the funicular to the lighthouse at Cape Point with its beautiful views overlooking False Bay. Lunch is at one of the restaurants along the coast followed by a visit to Boulders Beach, and an opportunity to study the African Penguin. This afternoon, we make a visit to Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens en route back to the city.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 5 Full day Wine Tour

This morning we leave Cape Town to explore the Cape's wine route towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek. We will taste the "fruits of the vines" and enjoy the charm and hospitality of this unique area. Estates visited vary: tastings of fine reds and whites - some with cheese tastings - make for a pleasant way to spend an afternoon!

Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town, this area has stunning scenery: vast mountains towering over pretty vineyards with Dutch-architectural homesteads, some fantastic small boutique style accommodation, and the area is fast building a world-renowned reputation as a top gastronomic destination.

The day includes a visit to Franschhoek where we enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants in this area.. Finally, we explore Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in the country, with beautiful Cape Dutch houses. We visit the museum to see the different styles of architecture in the Cape from the 17th century. Stellenbosch is a university town and we experience the many shops and galleries it has to offer. Later in the afternoon we check into the River Manor Boutique Hotel & Spa in Stellenbosch for a one night stay in a

standard twin room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 6 Winelands to Hermanus

This morning, we travel to the charming village of Hermanus, stopping en route at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, with its wealth of indigenous Fynbos plants, including the rare Red Disa, for a mountain walk to the waterfall at Disa Kloof.

Hermanus is known for its abundant sightings of Southern Right Whales, which come in very close to shore to mate and calve (from June to November). There are excellent vantage points from cliff



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Paths that run from one end of the town to the other. We lunch at a popular seafood restaurant. We stay tonight at Abalone Guest Lodge in a superior room with sea view on a bed and breakfast basis.

The rest of the day is at leisure to browse the town's craft market, or take walks along the coast path.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Lunch included.

DAY 7 Hermanus to Oudtshoorn

We travel this morning to Mossel Bay, from where we head inland to Oudtshoorn. Lunch will be enjoyed en route at a local restaurant. Oudtshoorn is known as The Feather Capital of the World, due to the large number of Ostrich farms in the area. This afternoon, we visit the magnificent Cango Caves a 20 million year old cave system - and a working ostrich farm.

Tonight, we stay at Rosenhof Country House, a 5 star country homestead with an excellent restaurant, pool and spa treatment facilities.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Lunch included

Day 8 - Overland Oudtshoorn/ Knysna

We travel over the Outeniqua Pass to the quaint town of Knysna situated on the Knysna Lagoon. We board a ferry and travel across the lagoon to the beautiful 150ha Featherbed Nature Reserve which affords amazing views of the whole area, whilst being totally surrounded by the diverse flora. On arrival, we are taken in a landcruiser and trailer through the reserve to the top of the head and then on an easy downward scenic walk through the forest to the restaurant. Lunch will be enjoyed under the milkwood trees, prior to return to Knysna. In the afternoon we have an opportunity to wander and shop in the quaint little town of Knysna.

Our accommodation for the next 3 nights is at Knysna Hollow Country Estate, set on a secluded country estate near Knysna Lagoon with pool, restaurant and cosy pub. Knysna has an excellent choice of restaurants: oysters are the name of the game here, but fresh seafood and actually anything else can be found. Find your way to the waterfront area and choose from a range of restaurants overlooking the harbour. Sunset cruises depart from Knysna's waterfront around the lagoon (not included).

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 9 Knysna

Today, we visit Monkeyland, one of the best attractions in the area, where over 200 primates live on a 12 hectare sanctuary which helps rehabilitate wild monkeys that have been in zoos or private homes. The guided walking safari through a dense forest and across a 120m long rope bridge is a fun and educational way to find out about these primates.

We move on to Birds of Eden, another of South Africa's top eco-attractions. The largest free-flight bird-aviary in the world, the aviary consists of a two hectare dome which spans over a gorge of indigenous forest. The sanctuary has its own mysterious ruin, which incorporates a walk-behind waterfall and a canopy walk.

After lunch, we visit Knysna Elephant Park. For many years, elephants roamed freely in large numbers in their natural forest habitat around Knysna, but due to conservational failure, numbers dwindled from over 400 to just 3. The Knysna Elephant Park was developed to bring elephants back to Knysna, and to give them a natural environment in which to thrive.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Lunch included.

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Day 10 Knysna

Today we board an ocean safari from Plettenberg Bay, home to the largest concentration of marine mammals in the world, and we may expect to see dolphins, whales (during the winter months) and Cape Fur seals. We enjoy lunch in a local restaurant, and then continue to Tsitsikamma National Park, a spectacular area with indigenous forest, deep river gorges and waterfalls backed by mountains. There are many wonderful short walks in the reserve including one over the suspension bridge, which we can enjoy.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 11 Knysna to Port Elizabeth (by 12h00)

This morning we transfer you to Port Elizabeth Airport for your return flight to London via Cape Town.

Meal Arrangements: Breakfast included.

Day 12- Arrive UK

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 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.