

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



Overview

The Garden Route is one of the most scenic areas of the country, with miles of white-sand beaches, pretty lagoons crossed by low bridges, forested mountains with a network of footpaths, and pretty towns with excellent seafood restaurants. The route travels on beautiful back roads through the forests and over picturesque mountain streams to the Garden Route, where there are opportunities to take a cruise to see dolphins and whales (in season) offshore, walks in nature reserves, and to visit wildlife sanctuaries. The trip starts in Cape Town, where you can take in the sights such as Table Mountain, Robben Island, and to explore the winelands and Cape Peninsula. And finally, a safari - we will recommend the best lodges and reserves to see the Big 5.

Tailor Made Trips

The itinerary below is a sample: we specialise in tailoring itineraries to individual needs: this trip can be made longer, shorter, take in special interests (such as golf), be extended (eg to include the Victoria Falls or Mauritius): call us for your own tailor made version on 01342 834700.

Accommodation & Prices

The prices given below are a guide: costs will depend on the lowest airfares available at the time of quotation, the type of accommodation and seasonal price variations. Air fares are generally cheaper the earlier the booking: airlines sell their least expensive seats first when releasing fares. Accommodation costs will depend on the grading: the location of the property, room size and type (eg if there is a view), quality of furnishings and linen, ratio of staff to customers and quality of food will all impact on the amount charged.

Seasonal variations also impact on the price: low season from May to September is a less expensive time to travel in South African than high season which runs from October to April. Let us know a budget and we can research the best accommodation available for you.

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. (There is an option to be transferred to your accommodation and have your hire vehicle delivered). 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 provide a factsheet on things to do with all bookings.

Days 5 - 7: Winelands

This morning, take to the road for the relatively short drive to the Winelands for a 2 night stay in one of the towns surrounded by vineyards and mountains.

We can choose from a selection of accommodations: boutique guesthouses



within easy reach of some fabulous restaurants, chic accommodation within a vineyard, or luxury hotels are on offer.

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 provide a factsheet with recommendations on where to visit in the area.

Days 7 - 9: Hermanus

This morning, you leave the Winelands and drive to Hermanus for a 2 night stay.

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, and there is a great selection of beaches nearby.

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Days 9 - 11: Garden Route

This morning, you drive towards the Garden Route. There is a choice of locations for where to stay: you might choose a small village surrounded by 2500 ha of National Park with rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastline, or a town with a beautiful harbour – a perfect setting for plates of fresh seafood served up by the restaurants, or a resort town where chic cafes and watersports are on offer.

We provide a factsheet with all bookings on things to do in the area.

Days 11- 13: Tsitsikamma National Park

Today, you drive further along the Garden Route to Tsitsikamma National Park – an area covered in large tracts of indigenous forest, with deep river gorges creating spectacular waterfalls.

The area is spectacular for walking: otters, baboons, monkeys and small antelopes inhabit the area. There is an abundance of activities on offer: we provide details with all bookings.

Days 13 - 15: Eastern Cape Safari

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

We select safari lodges according to budget but will also make a recommendation based on the quality of safari experience. There is an option to fly to Kruger National Park for your safari if budget and preference allows. Activities on safari will include game drives and bushwalks: lodges normally operate on an all inclusive basis.

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: £2,325.00 per person in high season (£1960 in low season) including return economy flights, good quality guesthouse accommodation and meals as described, vehicle hire and safari activities. Prices vary according to season: contact us on 01342 834700 or at info@nativeescapes.com for

more information.

Why Book With Us?

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in South Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do.

When you book, we 'flesh out' your itinerary with suggestions for things to do in each area, and will provide maps and directions to each destination with your final paperwork.

We have on-the-ground services by way of ground handlers, who provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. All vehicle hires include no excess insurance.

We comply fully with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will, arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to *Native Escapes* in advance.

Our ATOL number is 9709. We are also happy to book ground arrangements only where clients wish to purchase their own flights: we have separate financial cover for these holidays with IGI Insurance.

Note that booking directly does not provide any financial cover in the event of any suppliers going into administration and is often more expensive.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below).

You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication. You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas / Departure Taxes

Not required for South Africa. Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

Health

The [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int/en/) (<http://www.who.int/en/>) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Airlines and Charter Companies

The airfare and airport tax quoted are current and are therefore subject to change without prior warning should the airline impose an increase in rate for any reason. The airfare quoted is based on the lowest class fare available at the time of quoting and is subject to seats being available in that class at the time of booking and to any restrictions or fees for changes. Native Escapes cannot be held responsible should airlines discontinue flights on a particular routing or change schedules resulting in missed connections. Should an amendment in a routing or itinerary be necessary we will re-quote accordingly.

Insurance

As part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is **essential** that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

