

Family Adventure Holiday, South Africa's Western Cape



Overview

This specially adapted itinerary starts in buzzing Cape Town, where there are lots of sights to keep the kids occupied. Activities feature highly, with accommodation selected in destinations where the whole family can make the most of the outdoors: options include canoeing, fishing, cycling, walking, nature drives, dolphin watching trips, and a game reserve with a kiddies programme aimed at giving an educational but fun insight into bushman culture and wildlife.

Trip Highlights

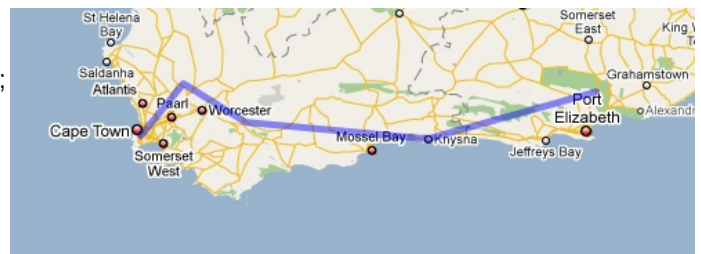
Explore Cape Town: take the Cable Car up Table Mountain, visit the Penguin Colony on the Cape Peninsula; picnic in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

Canoe, Windsurf and take nature drives at a beautiful farmstead on a nature reserve

Take the Montagu Tractor Trip, go rafting, cycling, walking or quad biking on Route 62

On the Garden Route; take a steam train, go dolphin watching; visit Monkeyland or relax on the beaches

Go on Safari: special kids programmes include jungle drives, wildlife spotting and learning the art of bush survival.



Day 1

Overnight flight to Cape Town

Days 2-4

Arrive Cape Town and pick up hire vehicle, then drive to your accommodation at the V&A Waterfront for a 2 night stay in a 2 bedroom apartment on a bed & breakfast basis.

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.

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.

Take a picnic to 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.

Days 4-7

Today, you drive an hour and a half to a romantic Victorian farmstead on a large wheat and sheep farm with its own 10 000 acre private nature reserve, renowned for its fabulous home produced food and in an excellent location for exploring local wine farms, for 3 nights on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis. This is a fabulous place to relax, however, mountain bikes are provided for cycling through the reserve and there are plenty of wonderful routes to choose for walks. Down at the dam guests can take to the water in canoes, or go windsurfing, trout fishing or birdwatching. On the morning and evening game drives through the reserve, visitors may spot eland, springbuck, black wildebeest, zebra and bontebok.

Days 7-9

Today, you drive along the popular Route 62 to Montagu, for a 2 night stay at a lodge with a superb reputation for its cuisine. Things to do in this area include:

Explore the local artist galleries and studios specialising in paintings, sculptures, wire-work, clothing, linen and pottery.

Take the Montagu Tractor Trip - to the summit of the Langeberg with stunning views of the Koo and Robertson Valleys. This is great for families.

Visit Bird's Paradise in Robertson - ideal for families with over 260 exotic birds, monkeys, llamas, crocodiles and ponies.

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Take one of ten mountain bike trails, with a variety of riding experiences. Join one of Rafting Route 62 trips paddling down the Breede river, something the whole family can do together, or take a cruise lasting a few hours. Quad biking on guided farm tours, with stops at the ostrich camps. No experience needed, makes a great family outing.

Days 9- 11

Today, you drive west to the Garden Route, for 3 nights in a two bedroom villa on a bed and breakfast basis.

This accommodation is in an area which offers prolific birdlife, exceptional bass-fishing, mountain biking, boating and beautiful unspoilt beaches nearby, as well as many world-class golf courses and a wide variety of attractions to enjoy. Facilities include a kiddies pool with water slide, a play area, including a jungle gym and volleyball court, child minders (by prior arrangement), and kiddies menus. The Spa & Gymnasium boast sauna and steam rooms, an indoor heated relaxation pool and a gym open to guests. A wide range of specialist beauty and body treatments are available and administered by professional staff using a combination of time honoured techniques and trusted international and local products.

Close by, Knysna has a pretty harbour with a huge range of restaurants specialising in seafood and coffee shops as well as marine cruises. Some suggestions for things to do in the area include:

Visit Sedgfield, home to talented artists including woodworking, pottery, fabric painting and sculpturing. Activities available here include horse riding, paragliding, board sailing, deep sea fishing, forest trails, mountain bike routes and four wheel adventure drives.

Take the ferry-ride to the Featherbed Nature Reserve and a gentle guided walk from Knysna

Take the 'Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe' steam train ride from George

Visit Monkeyland a huge open-air sanctuary for rare primates, Birds of Eden or the Elephant Sanctuary near Plettenberg Bay

Enjoy the fresh air - golf, swimming, hiking, riding, climbing, cycling, paddling

Indulge in fine dining - Knysna oysters and Knysna beer make a good combination especially on Knysna's Harbour front at sunset.

Take a Whale & Dolphin discovery cruise or kayaking trip or simply relax on the beaches at Plettenberg Bay

Days 11- 13

Today, you drive to your safari lodge on the Eastern Cape for 2 nights in a family room, including full board, drinks, and game activities.

On this private game reserve, game drives in an open 4x4 vehicle with an experienced game ranger bring you face to face with a multitude of game species, ranging from mighty elephant, lion, rhino and buffalo to tiny blue



duiker and rock hyrax. Night drives focus on the elusive bat-eared fox, armadillo, black-backed jackal and aardwolf. All of the animals, including the predators, are free-roaming throughout the entire reserve. Lalibela spans five eco-systems, (valley bushveld, savannah grassland, fynbos, riverine forest and acacia woodland), resulting in a huge diversity of fauna and flora. African wild dogs, spotted hyena and more lion have just been reintroduced to Lalibela.

The Camp is a child-friendly game lodge, approx 30 mins drive into the reserve. Children under the age of 8 are not allowed on adult game drives, but are fully supervised and entertained with their own special 'kiddies drives' and various other games and activities. Activities for children are filled with creative African arts and crafts and bush skills, including making clay projects, candle making and beading, tracking spoor around the lodge, making plaster cast moulds of the spoor and painting them. Younger children eat earlier, whilst parents are out on a game drive and then when parents return from their game drive, the younger children can enjoy roasting marshmallows over the fire and listen to exciting stories of Africa, its people and the wildlife whilst parents enjoy dinner. There is also a specially designated play area, with paddling pool and jungle gym.

Game drives

Children between the ages of 8 and 12 are welcome to join their parents (at the discretion of the game ranger) on the adult game drives. Children under the age of 8 are not allowed on the adult drives but have their own game ranger and game-viewing vehicle. The children's game drives are slightly shorter than those of the adults and, while they will have the opportunity of seeing the Big Five, because of the unpredictability of small children, care is taken on the children's drives to avoid getting too close to these dangerous animals. In addition to the children's game ranger, child minders accompany the children's game drive. Parents are always welcome to join their small children on the children's game drives.

Meals

Children under 8 have special meal times (at earlier times), with food more suited to young children. Children over 8 are welcome to join their parents at dinner.

Child Minders and babysitters

Child minders and babysitters are on duty from 6h00 to 10h00 and again from 16h00 to 22h00. Should any additional child minding be required outside of these hours, your lodge hostess will arrange it for you at an additional charge.

General

The children's programme is run separately to that of the adults and, while the adults are more than welcome to join in on the children's activities, they can also enjoy the peacefulness of the lodge and relax on their own game drive while their children are being entertained.

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Note:

There is no extra charge for the children's programme - any additional child minding required outside of the hours above, will be an additional charge.

Day 13

Today you drive to Port Elizabeth Airport, where you drop off your hire vehicle in time for your return flight to London via Cape Town.

Day 14

Arrive London.

Costs:

£2,840.00 per person

Cost includes return flights from London, accommodation and vehicle hire. Price is based on a family of 4: prices may vary according to children's ages: contact us on 01304 834700 / 0818 719321 (Eire) or by email at info@nativeescapes.com for more information.

This itinerary can be varied according to individual requirements.

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.

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.



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