



## Cape Town, Garden Route & Safari

### Introduction

We have put this itinerary together by pulling together some of the best deals available in Cape Town, along the Garden Route, and at Eastern Cape Game Reserves: with the result that this trip offers excellent value. Luxury accommodation in fabulous locations, including breakfast, vehicle hire and flights are included. At least 4 nights are free, with a saving of £330 per person!

### Highlights

- Take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain, visit Robben Island, and drink in the atmosphere at Cape Town's buzzing waterfront
- Indulge at some of the world's top restaurants in the Winelands – gastronomic food at reasonable prices
- Watch Southern Right Whales breaching from the shoreline as they migrate round the coast
- Walks in nature reserves, sunset boat trips, kayaking, cycling – or relaxing on the beach – the Garden Route has much to offer
- Safari at one of the Eastern Cape's best Private Game Reserves

### **Day 1**

Overnight flight to Cape Town

### **Days 2 – 5**

On arrival in Cape Town, pick up your hire vehicle and transfer to your accommodation in a lovely hotel nestled between the Waterfront and Table Mountain for 3 nights in a luxury double room on a bed and 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.
- 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.

### **Days 5 - 7**

This morning, take to the road for the relatively short drive to Franschhoek in the Winelands for 2 nights in a luxury boutique hotel in the centre of what many regard as the most charming and picturesque village in the Cape Winelands.

Elegantly restored in the Cape Huguenot tradition, this historic residence offers 5\* comfort, privacy, tranquillity and personal security. It is only a minute's walk from the many excellent award-winning restaurants and numerous character-filled boutique style shops and art galleries. The boutique hotel has been designed as a luxurious dream home with sumptuous home comforts, creating an elegant, sophisticated interior with a handsome mixture of classic and contemporary furnishings. The 6 luxurious ensuite superior double rooms each has its own traditional Cape charm and 3 open onto a small shaded garden while the other 3 each have a separate lounge. All the en-suite bathrooms have travertine tiles, double marble vanities and generous baths to be shared by candlelight for the ultimate in romance.

Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town, 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. Franschhoek in particular is a very pretty village with top class restaurants (many of the village's restaurants have won international awards for their cuisine and you will need to book for lunch or dinner: we can make recommendations from personal experience).

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 out visiting local vineyards – many of which include cellar tours and wine tastings – is a must: some of them offer lunch as you sip! One recommendation is the 'Pique-Nique' hampers served under parasols at Boschendal winery near Franschhoek or the platters of freshly baked breads and home-cured meats served on the terrace at Bread & Wine. Another option is to take a guided wine tour – this gets you out of the driving and involves a full day trip including lunch. 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**

This morning, you leave the Winelands and drive to Hermanus for a 2 night stay at a Guest house in a standard double room on a bed and breakfast basis. Perched on the cliff tops overlooking the ocean, this Luxury Guest House boasts ten beautifully appointed rooms, each with 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. It's perfect for those seeking luxury by the sea. 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. Hermanus is home to the world's only Whale Crier who blows his kelp horn when whales are spotted along the central sea route. 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 - 12**

This morning, you drive from Hermanus to Knysna in the heart of the Garden Route for a 3 night stay in a hotel set on the Knysna Quays Waterfront with the lagoon on the doorstep.

The hotel has a wide array of choice facilities including a heated outdoor swimming pool, free internet service, conference facilities and a wellness therapist for rejuvenating massages and aromatherapy treatments.

Knysna is the place to be for savouring seafood fresh from the sea: Knysna Oysters in particular are popular. Knysna Harbour is a great place to relax and watch the sunset from one of the many waterside restaurants and bars. Boat trips to Featherbed Nature Reserve and sundowner cruises can also be arranged here.

The Garden Route is blessed with a year-round warm climate that encourages lazy days on the beach, cocktails at sunset, to be followed by lingering dinners. The Tsitsikamma Mountains form the backdrop to pristine sandy beaches and eco-sensitive riverine forests and wetlands. Options for things to do abound...

- Hiking and cycling trails galore in the Garden Route or Tsitsikamma National Park
- The ferry-ride to the Featherbed Nature Reserve and a gentle guided walk
- Monkeyland – a huge open-air sanctuary for rare primates, Birds of Eden or the Elephant Sanctuary
- Fresh air - golf, swimming, hiking, riding, climbing, cycling, paddling
- Fine dining - Knysna oysters and Knysna beer make a good combination especially on Knysna's Harbour front at sunset
- Whale & Dolphin discovery cruises or kayaking trips
- Treetop canopy Tours, black water rafting or bunjy jumping in nearby Tsitsikamma National Park

### **Days 12 – 14**

Today, you drive along the Garden Route, to arrive at your Private Game Reserve for a fabulous safari experience. Your stay here is for 2 nights on a full board basis, including local brand drinks and two safari activities daily.

This is a luxurious, 5-star tented lodge overlooking the Buffalo River. Each of the 9 luxury tents is air conditioned and heated, and has a private viewing deck and plunge pool plus the luxury of an indoor and outdoor shower.

The main area is a splendid stone walled and thatch roofed lodge with a large deck area overlooking a waterhole. There is a double volume lounge and dining area which spills out onto the deck which is adjacent to the outside boma for traditional fireside dining under the stars. The wine list is especially selected and includes a choice of 12 red and 12 white South African wines. A further selection of rare and fine wines and imported French champagne is also available. A selection of Cuban cigars are on offer from the humidor.

The Game Reserve is the ultimate luxury big five African safari adventure and conservation effort coupled with responsible tourism. Situated in the malaria-free Eastern Cape province of South Africa, the Game Reserve offers an unsurpassed nature& safari experience. In an area blessed by the convergence of 5 eco-systems, it's a natural habitat for all types of wildlife.

The aim here is for you to have the 'safari of a lifetime'. You will be assigned a personal game ranger to a maximum group of 6. Your game ranger and lodge manager will design your daily program with you. There is great game viewing, in modern open game viewing vehicles that have been especially converted to maximise comfort and viewing potential. Your personal game ranger will provide insightful and valuable information about the fauna and flora.

In between game drives your time is filled with relaxing, reading, spa treatments, swimming, enjoying delicious cuisine, a game walk, or a visit to one of the two Born Free Big Cat Sanctuaries.

## **Day 14**

Today, you drive to Port Elizabeth Airport in time for your flight to Cape Town, arriving in time to connect with your return flight to London

## **Day 15**

**Arrive London.**

### **Guide Cost:**

**£2,110.00 per person**

Costs are based on 2 people sharing, and including economy flights from London. Costs are subject to availability and change. Note that this itinerary is available for travel during the low season, May – September.

### **INCLUDES**

Twin / Single accommodation  
Meals & drinks as specified  
Safari activities as specified  
VAT at 14%  
SA tourism levy

### **EXCLUDES**

All items of a personal nature  
Meals not specified  
Gratuities and portorage  
Personal travel and medical insurance

### **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 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 three 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.

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](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.

## 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.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations are only effective on receipt of a written cancellation. Cancellation charges will be levied when travellers cancel their confirmed reservations as follows:-

The traveller's 20% deposit is forfeited if a confirmed booking is cancelled.

Cancellations made after the due date of full payment carry a charge, expressed as a percentage of the total booking value, and are as follows:-

- within 42 days = 30%
- within 30 days = 45%
- within 25 days = 50%
- within 20 days = 60%
- within 15 days = 100%

*The air holiday shown is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.  
Our ATOL number is ATOL 9709. Please see our booking conditions for more information.*

