

SOUTH AFRICA

Eastern Safari, Garden Route, Cape Town

Day 1-2: UK - Johannesburg

Depart UK for an overnight flight to Johannesburg. You will be met and transferred to your accommodation in one of this city's green suburbs. The economic heart of South Africa, Johannesburg has a wonderful energy, and is also one of the greenest – more trees have been planted here than anywhere else in the world. This evening, your group will all meet up with your guide for a welcome dinner. Overnight at Melrose Lodge.

Meals included: Dinner



Day 3: Mpumalanga

After breakfast we head south for Soweto, heart of the struggle against apartheid. There is much history here, including the houses where Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu lived, as well as the monument to the Soweto uprisings of 1976. From here, we head east travelling via Nelspruit before stopping for overnight in one of the towns near the escarpment. Overnight at the Windmill Wine Cottages (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Kruger National Park

We set off in the morning to discover the scenic splendour of this region. First stop is the little Victorian gold mining town of Pilgrim's Rest before we join the Panorama Route, taking in Bourke's Luck Potholes, the impressive Lisbon Falls, and the highlight – Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world. Dinner and overnight on the edge of the Kruger National Park at Needles Lodge (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5: Kruger National Park, Big 5 game viewing

Day 4 of the tour starts early as you join your ranger in an open vehicle for your full day safari into the Kruger National Park, to spot the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo) and other game. Return to your lodge for dinner and overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 6: Swaziland – Zululand

Depart after an early breakfast and enter the independent kingdom of Swaziland. Well known for its excellent markets with craft and curios from all over Africa. You will have the opportunity to stop at one of these markets en route before entering northern Zululand. Here we will check in to our lodge for dinner and overnight. Overnight at Mvubu Game Lodge or similar (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7: Zululand

In the morning you will embark on a boat cruise on one of Zululand's most scenic lakes, giving you the opportunity to spot hippos, crocodiles and fish eagles. Return to your lodge early this afternoon, with an optional activity available to you – either a game drive in open vehicle, or a walking safari, both accompanied by your expert ranger. This area is rich in elephant and rhinoceros as well as being one of the most pristine areas in South Africa. Return to your lodge for dinner and overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8: Durban - Cape Town

We follow the sugar cane fields of KwaZulu Natal south after breakfast, arriving in Durban late in the morning. We visit the impressive new uShaka Marine World, one of the largest marine worlds in the Southern Hemisphere – particularly renowned for the large shark tank! We then transfer to Durban International for your onward flight to Cape Town. On arrival in Cape Town, you will be met and transferred to your overnight accommodation at the Cape Town Hollow (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9: Winelands - Garden Route

Your guide will collect you in the morning at 09h00 and you will set off for Stellenbosch, the second oldest settlement in South Africa after Cape Town. Its oak lined streets and famed Cape Dutch architecture makes it one of the most charming towns in the country. We continue from here to Paarl, where we stop at the impressive Afrikaans Language Monument that offers awe inspiring views of the Winelands and the Hottentots Holland Mountains, before enjoying lunch and a wine tasting at one of the nearby wine estates. We continue to Franschhoek, where we enjoy another wine tasting, before checking in to our accommodation, Maison Chablis (or similar) and giving you an opportunity to explore this French Huguenot town with its charming pavement cafes on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 10: Oudtshoorn

We join Route 62 today – an inland road that travels through the stark beauty of the Little Karoo, a semi desert region, passing towns such as Barrydale and Montagu. We stop at the little village of Calitzdorp famous for its Haanepoort grapes for a port tasting, before arriving at Oudtshoorn, the ostrich farming capital of the world. We have lunch and a tour of an ostrich farm before visiting the Cango Caves, the largest accessible caverns in Africa. Overnight in Oudtshoorn at the Thorntree Guesthouse (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11: Knysna

In the morning we travel over the Outeniqua mountains, to George. Our journey takes us through a most scenic coastal route passing the magnificent beaches and lakes of Sedgefield and Wilderness to Knysna. Here, we join the ferry for Featherbed Nature Reserve, where we are taken to the top of the cliffs for breathtaking views of the area. Lunch on the lagoon before we return to Knysna for check in at Waterfront Lodge on the lagoon (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 12: Knysna

Today we drive east after breakfast to the thick indigenous Forest of Tsitsikamma, where we head towards the coast at Storm's River Mouth. Here the Storm's River meets the Indian Ocean amidst dramatic cliffs. Our tour continues with a stop at a monkey sanctuary in a protected area of the forest before we drive to the holiday village of Plettenberg Bay and famed Lookout Beach. We return via Knysna Elephant Park where we have a chance to interact with elephants before returning to Knysna. In the afternoon, enjoy the artistic shops and crafts of the town. Dinner and overnight in Knysna.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13: Cape Town

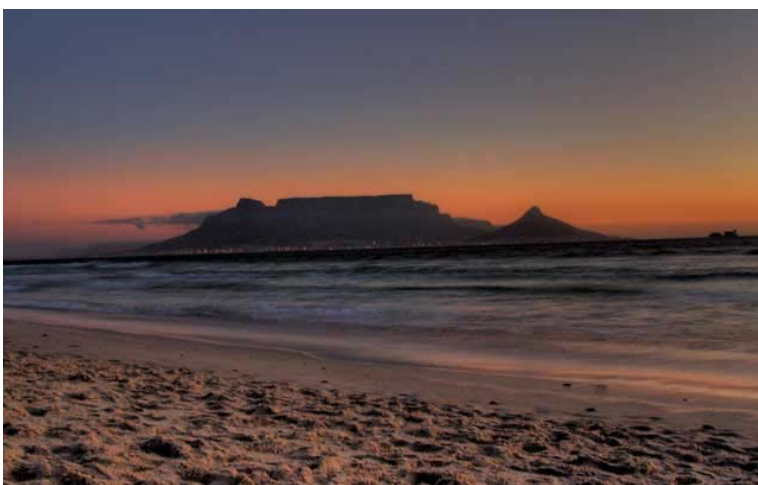
After breakfast, we head west via the historic town of Swellendam with its 18th century architecture to the coastal town of Hermanus, world famous for its excellent land based whale watching. Whales are in the bay between May and November, but even out of whale season the location and views makes this a special place to visit. We enjoy lunch here at the Relais and Chateaux hotel, the Marine, a beacon of elegance on the coast. This afternoon, we continue to Cape Town via Sir Lowry's Pass. The next three nights are in Cape Town at the Cape Town Hollow (or similar).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14: Cape Town

This morning you will discover Cape Town – or the “Mother City” as it is affectionately known. Rich in history – you will visit the Castle and the historic city center as well as the Houses of Parliament and Company Gardens. We will also stop at the colourful Malay Quarter and bustling market at Greenmarket Square. Weather permitting, we will ascend Table Mountain (own cost) for spectacular views over the entire Cape Peninsula. At the end of the tour, you may choose to be dropped off at your accommodation or at the vibrant Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, a working harbour with many shops, restaurants and outdoor performers. The rest of the day is yours at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 15: Cape Town

Set off on this morning after breakfast for the Cape of Good Hope – a drive that takes you along the incredible Atlantic seaboard through exclusive areas such as Clifton and Camp's Bay and the little fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Here, we will stop for a cruise to Seal Island to see the Cape Fur Seals. We continue to Cape Point where we ascend by funicular to the top to witness the symbolic meeting of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. We return via Simon's Town and the breeding Colony of African Penguins on the beach there. Dinner this evening is a special arrangement in the township of Langa, where we will enjoy traditional African food and the most talented young African musicians. Overnight in Cape Town.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 16-17: Cape Town to UK

A day to say farewell to your fellow travellers and guide. You will be transferred to the airport in time for your outbound international flight with many happy memories and stories to tell those at home.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included?

- International flights

What's NOT Included?

- The flight from Durban to Cape Town is not included in the price
- The Conservation levy* of R120 per person for the Kruger National Park is not included in the price. *subject to increase

Tour details correct as of 01/10/2007