

17 Day South Africa South to North

17th November – 4th December 2016

Discover why South Africa is the adventure capital of the world, why our natural beauty and wildlife will leave you awe-struck, why it's possible to afford luxury and why our friendly people, rich culture and freedom struggle will warm your heart! Follow the African drum and gumboot beat; the bright sun, stars and city streets; the bouquet of our prize-winning wines; the invigorating mountain or ocean air. And, most of all follow your desire for a personal journey, one that will change you beyond expectation, starting right here...

Day 1: Thu 17th November 2016 - Cape Town – The Commodore **** (Double Rooms)

Flight arrival 22.35 KL597

On arrival and touchdown from your international flight TBC, we transfer to our accommodation in the very heart of the V and A Waterfront.

Depart: N/A
Activities: N/A
Lunch: N/A
Dinner: N/A

Day 2: Fri 18th November 2016 - Cape Town – The Commodore **** (Double Rooms)

This morning weather permitting we head straight to the emblem of the city, Table Mountain. We then make our way to Kirstenbosch Gardens where we will have the opportunity to enjoy this, the largest Botanical Gardens in Southern Africa. After lunch we will all reunite at the bus and continue our explorations for the day.

This takes us to Groot Constantia, the oldest vineyard in South Africa with a reputation for award winning wines of the highest quality.

This evening we will have a thorough breakdown of the tour and what to expect, time dependant, failing this your guide will discuss more detail en route. Please ensure that you a copy of your passport as well as your medical insurance details available for your guide.

Depart: 08:30
Activities: Table Mountain (Weather permitting), Kirstenbosch Gardens & a wine tasting at Groot Constantia
Lunch: Included
Dinner: At the Hotel

Day 3: Sat 19th November 2016 - Cape Town – The Commodore **** (Double rooms)

Free day.

Depart: N/A
Activities: N/A
Lunch: N/A
Dinner: N/A

Day 4: Sun 20th November 2016 - Cape Town – The Commodore **** (Double rooms)

Today we delve into our rich and at times shady history from the arrival of the first representative of the VOC in 1652 to the forced removals in district six. Join us on a tour to Langa and comprehensive tour of Robben Island – a true testament to the human spirit and determination. The day is designed to give you a better understanding of where South Africa comes from and its role in broader African politics. Most importantly though what the future may hold in store for us. Before our journey to

Robben Island we meet up with one of our local Langa guides who will show us through the oldest group areas act African town and the vibrance which streams out of it. An amazing experience which focuses not on the hardships but the need of joy in survival.

Depart: 08:30

Activities: Langa Township, Robben Island, Apartheid Museum, Waterfront

Lunch: N/A

Dinner: Included

Day 5: Mon 21st November 2016 - Cape Town – The Commodore ** (Double Rooms)**

Today we start off our tour travelling along the Atlantic Seaboard via Sea Point, Clifton and Camps Bay, stopping at a Llandudno look-out point before continuing to Hout Bay, a quaint village and fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views and beach.

On through Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breathtaking coastal drives, to Cape Point and the Good Hope Nature Reserve, which has magnificent fynbos vegetation, birdlife, endemic antelope species and zebra, historic lighthouses and shipwrecks. Cape Point is perceived to be the meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

We stop for lunch at The Two Oceans Restaurant. Staying with marine life we stop at the largest Jack Ass penguin colony in Africa (Not really there name has only recently been changed to the African Penguin due to irreversible psychiatric problems experienced by the species.)

Depart: 08:30

Activities: Clifton / Camps Bay Drive, Chapmans Peak, Cape Point, Boulders Beach

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Situated at the south-western tip of Africa, the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) encompasses the incredibly scenic Table Mountain Chain stretching from Signal Hill in the north to Cape Point in the south and the seas and coastline of the peninsula. The narrow finger of land with its beautiful valleys, bays and beaches is surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the warmer waters of False Bay and has within its boundaries two world-renowned landmarks - majestic Table Mountain and the legendary Cape of Good Hope. The Park is recognised globally for its extraordinarily rich, diverse and unique fauna and flora - with rugged cliffs, steep slopes and sandy flats - is a truly remarkable natural, scenic, historical, cultural and recreational asset both locally and internationally. Nowhere else in the world does an area of such spectacular beauty and such rich bio-diversity exist almost entirely within a metropolitan area - the thriving and cosmopolitan city of Cape Town.

Simon's Town owes its name and original importance to Governor Simon van der Stel, who personally surveyed False Bay in 1687. He recommended Simon's Bay as a sheltered safe winter anchorage - but it was only in 1741, after many shipwrecks in Table Bay, that the Dutch East India Company decreed that their vessels anchor in Simon's Bay from May to August.

Day 6: Tues 22nd November Hermanus - The Windsor Hotel * (Double Rooms)**

After a relaxed breakfast we make our way into the central area of Cape Town and visit the original Company Gardens established by the VOC under the guidance of Jan van Riebeeck. This stroll through the historically significant area culminates with our arrival at Green Market square, here there are numerous sidewalk cafes to order your lunch from before we head to Hermanus.

Famous for its awesome whale sightings (Whale viewings July-November) and of course the only whale crier in the world. Amongst all the craft shops and hidden in nooks is a town vibrant and offering a host of activities and restaurant options. We arrive late afternoon and check into our hotel directly. Everyone is free to enjoy dinner at their own time, your guide will assist with any bookings.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Company Gardens, Green Market Square, Parliament Buildings.

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Day 7: Wed 23rd November Hermanus - The Windsor Hotel * (Double Rooms)**

Free day.

Depart: TBC

Activities: N/A

Lunch: N/A

Dinner: N/A

Day 8: Thurs 24th November Montagu – Montagu Hotel ** (Double Rooms)**

After a relaxed morning, we drive toward the mountain lands of the Langeberg Mountain Range and overnight in the quaint town of Montagu and the centre of the longest wine route in the world. The ever changing colours of the majestic mountains, scenic passes, rivers, vineyards and orchards, as well as the multitude of attractions, will offer you an unforgettable adventure - whether this is in the physical sense or simply a kaleidoscope of scenic tranquillity.

As we love our wines we believe there is always time for another farm, so if time is available we will make more stops.

Depart: 10.00

Activities: 2 x Wine Tastings

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Day 9: Friday 25th November Oudtshoorn – Venue TBC

Departing Montagu this morning we make our way along the road less travelled and ever changing scenery of the Route62 East toward Oudtshoorn. Upon entering town we will make our way towards the Ostrich Farm where we will indulge in a three course lunch.

We then make our way toward our accommodation where we will settle in for the evening

Depart: 09:00

Activities: Ostrich Farm, Route 62

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Ostrich Farm: The tour starts in the breeding camp, with a nest of ostrich eggs, where the first stage of the ostrich life cycle is explained. Visitors will get the opportunity to test the strength of the eggs by standing on them - a great photo opportunity. During the breeding season visitors get to see ostrich eggs hatching in the incubator rooms. Visitors get to sit on an ostrich and those who are brave enough can even try their hand at riding one. Every tour ends with an "Ostrich Derby" where local jockeys display their riding skills. A highly entertaining and educational tour is guaranteed.

Day 10: Sat 26th November Knysna – The Knysna Manor * (Double Rooms)**

This morning we head North for an hour in the underground labyrinth of the Cango Caves one of the most extensive Limestone cave structures in the world.

After Lunch we head to Knysna where we stay for 2 nights. Your guide will point out areas of interest. Being situated in town makes exploring a pleasure. Your hotel is a short walk from both the town centre and Knysna Waterfront, which is the departure point for boat cruises and ferry rides to the Knysna Heads and Featherbed Nature Reserve.

Cango Caves: 29kms from oudtshoorn, at the head of the picturesque Cango Valley, lies the spectacular underground wonder of the Klein Karoo – the Cango Caves. Situated in a limestone ridge parallel to the well know Swartberg Mountains, you will find the finest dripstone caverns, with their vast halls and towering formations.

Depart: 08:00
Activities: Cango Caves
Lunch: Included
Dinner: Included

Day 11: Sun 27th November Knysna – The Knysna Manor * (Double Rooms)**

This morning is free then at 14.30 we depart for the Featherbed Nature Reserve for outstanding views of the towering Knysna Heads, The Knysna "Lagoon" and Thesens Island. This is a half day activity which includes a journey over the lagoon by boat as well as entry into the reserve and a ride up the mountain.

In the morning you will have a host of options to choose from, our personal favourite activity here is the Elephant Park, an amazing experience as well as an ideal awareness campaign. Guests are transported to the elephants on a tractor & trailer where they will have the opportunity to touch, feed and photograph our gentle giants. Elephants love eating so don't forget your bucket elephant feed. There are no barriers or fences to spoil the close encounter. Guests are then transported back to unique elephant curios shop and Askaris restaurant.

However there are a multitude of activities to indulge in, chat to your guide who can assist you.

Knysna is one of the Southern Cape coast's best known holiday destinations, situated between lush forests and the shores of the peaceful lagoon - it offers many activities and attractions of a wide variety. The most well known attraction being the heads - two great sandstone cliffs guarding the mouth of the lagoon which connects the estuary with the sea. A lookout has been erected on the Eastern Head, commanding spectacular views of the lagoon, Leisure Isle and Knysna. The Western Head is a privately owned nature Reserve - Featherbed Bay. The Knysna Lagoon is one of the few places along the coast and in the world that supports a oyster hatchery. And the Knysna oysters are reputedly among the tastiest in the world. Millwood House Museum in Queen Street houses material relating to the history of the town, and includes artifacts once owned by George Rex. It was built from yellowwood at the end of the previous century during the gold rush. From Millwood, it was later moved to Knysna.

Depart: 08:30
Activities: Featherbed Nature Reserve
Lunch: Included
Dinner: Included

Day 12: Monday 28th November Port Elizabeth – The Kelway * (Double Rooms)**

Leave Knysna and make our way to Port Elizabeth on the N2. We stop off at Tsitsikamma National Park for Lunch and a stroll to the Hang Bridge if desired.

We stop at Monkeyland Sanctuary. Monkeyland has as one of its aims, to create awareness about the plight of primates and to show that with a greater understanding of our primate cousins, that we can all live in harmony.

Depart: 09:00
Activities: Tsitsikamma National Park, Monkeyland Sanctuary, Sormsriver Bridge
Lunch: Included
Dinner: Included

Day 13: Tues 29th November JHB – Emperors Palace* (Double Rooms)**

After breakfast and some time at the beach we load up and head to the airport where we will catch our internal flight Johannesburg, on arrival we will be transferred to our accommodation venue.

Depart: TBC
Activities: N/A
Lunch: N/A
Dinner: Included
INTERNAL FLIGHT: PORT ELIZABETH - JOHANNESBURG preferably mid afternoon 14:35

Johannesburg, Jo'burg, Jozi . . . Ever evolving, this vibrant city throbs to a heady, relentless beat, fueled by the paradox of its reputation as a crime hub and the tremendous sociability of its inhabitants. Jozi's diverse population is a considerably better reflection of South Africa's burgeoning hegemonic spirit than you'll encounter anywhere else in the country, with a new black aristocracy creating their own cultural stew in the clubs, bars, and restaurants in this city's more cosmopolitan areas.

Day 14: Wed 30th November Kruger National Park – Berg en Dal (Double Rooms chalets)

We depart the "Big Smoke" generally referred to as Johannesburg and make our way East and into the Jewel in the crown of South African National Parks, The Kruger National Park. Entering from the South of the Park we have a slow drive to our accommodation venue. Time availing you will have the opportunity of partaking in a Sunset Drive in parks vehicles , this is an optional activity and at your own cost.

Depart: TBC

Activities: Game Drive in our vehicle, optional sunset Game drive in parks vehicles

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve in South Africa. It covers 18,989 square km (7,332 sq mi) and extends 350 km (217 mi) from north to south and 60 km (37 mi) from east to west. To the west and south of the Kruger National Park are the two South African provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. In the north is Zimbabwe, and to the east is Mozambique. It is now part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, a peace park that links Kruger National Park with the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, and with the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.

The park is part of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere, an area designated by the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as an International Man and Biosphere Reserve (the "Biosphere").

The park has 8 main gates that allow entrance to the different camps. The names of these gates are Paul Kruger, Numbi, Malelane, Crocodile Bridge, Punda Maria, Orpen, Phabeni, Phalaborwa and Pafuri. The park is the site of the popular eyewitness viral video Battle at Kruger.

Day 15: Thurs 1st December Kruger National Park – Skukuza (Double Rooms Chalets)

For those wanting to go out on an (optional) early game drive your guide will assist in arranging this for you, alternatively after breakfast we have a slow game drive to our next accommodation in our vehicle and arrive early to mid afternoon. After checking in the afternoon is free.

We overnight this evening in the Central Portion of the park and settle in for the night. Available for those who would like to make use of the facility are night game drives offering the opportunity of seeing cats and other nocturnal creatures by way of spot lamps a eerily different way of seeing anything in the night. Time here is dedicated to game, walk within the safety of the camps fence and try and spot a Hyena or one of the multitudes of nocturnal animals to be seen.

The area hosts White Rhino, Kudu, Impala, Giraffe, Elephant, Reedbuck, Klipspringer, Grey Rhebok and Warthog. Leopard are seen regularly in the region - some lucky people have even seen them drinking at the dam in front of the camp, while on a Kruger National Park safari tour. Wild Dogs are also found in the area. Lion are usually found in the lower plains on the roads to Skukuza and Crocodile Bridge. Not that this guarantees sightings of course, animals do not appear on cue – luck is always a part.

Birding:

The camp is an excellent venue to see fantailed flycatchers, Heuglin's and Whitethroated robins. Scarlet chested sunbird is particularly prominent. The adjacent Matjulu Dam attracts a constant supply of water birds and African Fish Eagle is usually present and viewed at close quarters. The surrounding hills host a wealth of species and are a good place to search pennant winged nightjar (in summer and at dusk) and croaking cisticola.

Depart: 09:00

Activities: Game Drive in our vehicle, optional sunset Game drive in parks vehicles

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Day 16: Fri 2nd December Escarpment – Moholoholo Ya Mati (3 bedroomed Shared Chalets)

We depart Kruger today and make our way toward Ya – Mati. This will also be another opportunity to have a final game drive in our vehicle. Leaving the Kruger Gates behind us we head directly to lunch at Ya – Mati and follow this up with a tour of the Moholoholo Rehabilitation centre.

Coming back to Ya – Mati we relax in the late afternoon and prepare for our Braai next to the Olifants river.

YaMati is ideal for a bushveld breakaway or as a base to visit many of the other destinations in the Lowveld area. Sit back, relax and enjoy refreshments on the waterhole deck while the sun casts its last rays over the peaks of Moholoholo, providing you with unforgettable African sunsets. Prepare for an evening under millions of stars with friends or family, around a crackling bushveld fire and listen to the sounds of Africa at night You may even here the roar of resident lion. YaMati will leave you enthralled and a lot closer to nature Come experience it!

Nestled in a picturesque setting at the base of the Drakensberg escarpment in the Limpopo Province Lowveld of South Africa, Moholoholo has become a haven for the rehabilitation and care of abandoned, injured and poisoned wildlife. Wildlife is brought to the center from all corners of South Africa, and once healthy enough are re-introduced into their natural environments. Those creatures who cannot be returned to the wild due to the nature and extent of their injuries, are cared for at the center and are used to educate the many people who visit us each year, both from across South Africa and abroad.

Another important function of the center is breeding. They have successfully bred and released into the wild the endangered Crowned Eagle, Serval and many others. This Centre is a non-profit organization, relying completely on the support of the public.

Depart: N/A

Activities: Moholoholo Rehabilitation and Training Centre

Lunch: Included

Dinner: Included

Day 17: Sat 3rd December Graskop – Graskop Hotel (Double Rooms)

Leaving this morning we make our way toward the Northern Portions of the great Drakensberg Range. What we will view on the Panorama Route are the scenic wonders of the 3 Rondawels, Bourkes Luck Potholes and Gods Window (Weather Dependant). We will overnight in the original timber town of the region on the Highveld in the retro Graskop Hotel.

Depart: TBC

Activities: Bourkes Luck Potholes, 3 Rondawels, Gods Window (Weather Dependant)

Lunch: Included – Packed Lunch

Dinner: Included

Day 18: Sun 4th Dec Flight Home –evening flight

We depart Graskop in a leisurely fashion today and head back to Johannesburg where you will board this evening for your International flight home. Time dependant we will stop at Emperors palace for a few hours before your departure allowing you the opportunity to have a meal and relax before heading to the airport.

Depart: 08.00

Activities: N/A

Lunch: N/A

Dinner: N/A

Flight KL592 Departing 23.59

FOR EXTENSION TOURS OR PRE/POST ACCOMMODATION PLEASE ASK...

Inclusions:

All accommodations stated on the itinerary or similar
All breakfasts included
All other meals as indicated. (Restaurant Venues may change – Quality will not!)
Water on bus
Vehicle Throughout, Fuel and Road Tolls
Guide accommodation and meal allowance

Entrance Fees and Conservation Fees for National Parks:

Cape Point National Park
Boulders Beach
Table Mountain National Park (Weather Dependant)
Tsitsikamma National Park
Kruger National Park
Panorama Route

Sightseeing included:

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
Table Mountain
Wine tasting Groot Constantia
3 Hour Langa Township Visit
3 Hour Robben Island Excursion including Ferry
Cape Peninsula National Park
Penguin Colony
Company Gardens, Green Market Square, Parliament Buildings
2 x Wine Tasting in the Robertson area
Ostrich Visit
Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn
Featherbed Excursion – weather dependant
Stormsriver Bridge
Monkeyland Sanctuary
Game Drive in our own vehicle
Moholoholo Rehabilitation and Training Centre
Bourkes Luck Potholes
Gods Window, 3 Rondawels

Tour Exclusions:

Meals / Drinks not listed in the itinerary
Personal Insurance
Any visas you may require – these are entirely your responsibility.
All items of a personal nature
Any and all incidentals not listed expressly in the itinerary.
Guide Tips
Flights