



Adventure South Africa 15 nights / 16 days

Taste the adventure of South Africa!

Visit the Blyde River Canyon, track rhino, elephant and lion in the National Parks, taste the great wines of the Cape, cycle along the Peninsula, kayak amongst the penguins at Boulders, and dare to dive with the White Sharks.

Day 1: Johannesburg to Long Tom Pass

On arrival at Johannesburg International Airport, you will be met and escorted to your first destination, situated on the spectacular Long Tom Pass, nestled in imposing surroundings with majestic views of mountains and timbered valleys. In the afternoon, **walk** through the indigenous forests and open grasslands, listen to the waterfall and partake in a spot of **bird watching**. See if you can identify South Africa's most endangered bird, the Blue Swallow.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Misty Mountain or similar (DBB)

Day 2: Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon



The most spectacular stretch of the Panorama Route is the Blyde River Canyon.

From many well-positioned vantage points one has a view of the 33 km long gorge, which starts at "Bourke's Luck Potholes" and ends at the "Three Rondavels". We drive to "God's Window" and then continue visiting viewpoints en route. After check-in at the lodge, we commence on a **hike** through the **Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve**. Duration is dependent on how late we arrive at the lodge.

Overnight and dinner at Blyde River Canyon Lodge or similar (DBB)

Day 3: Kruger National Park

After breakfast we visit the **Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**. 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.

Continue to the Phabeni Gate into the Kruger National Park. Here you change over into open safari vehicles. You commence your afternoon safari with a professional ranger who will share his knowledge about the African bush and search for the Big 5 and all the other variety of animals. At sunset you will be taken to your camp in the park for dinner and overnight.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Skukuza Camp (subject to availability) (DBB)

Day 4: Kruger National Park



Early morning **bush walk**, duration 2 - 4 hours. Trained field guides (with backup rifles) take groups out into the bush to **track rhino, elephant and lion on foot** and learn and observe fascinating facts about the African bush. Return to camp for breakfast. Check-out and continue looking for game whilst driving further south of the park. After a day's full game-viewing we check into Lower Sabie camp

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Lower Sabie Camp (subject to availability) (DBB)

Day 5: Swaziland's Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary



After breakfast we depart Kruger through the Malelane gate and cross the border at Jeppe's Reef into Swaziland. Our first stop is the Ngwenya Glassfactory. Here you can view a glassblower, as he creates a product from 100% recycled glass. A light lunch is available (own account).

In Swaziland the weather is hot and dry, but the earth is very fertile. Your next 2 days will be spent in the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, a 4.560 hectare wildlife area that lies in the Ezulwini Valley between the capital Mbabane and Manzini.

After check-in you can take a walk or a mountain-bike ride at your own leisure to get to know the area before dinner.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Beehives in Mlilwane or similar (DBB)

Day 6: Swaziland's Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Before breakfast participate in a special-guided bird watching walk. Experience the prolific birdlife as well as many unique antelope types and other animals (± 2.5 hrs).

After breakfast you will be taken on a small sightseeing tour of the area. Included at the „House on Fire“, Swazi Candles and arts & crafts markets. In the afternoon, return to Mlilwane and participate in other *optional activities*. Dinner in the boma.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Beehives in Mlilwane or similar (DBB)

Day 7: Swaziland to Durban



Before breakfast a ranger and other staff await you with a variety of *optional activities* (to be pre-advised upon booking):

- Horse-riding in the reserve, ± 2 hrs
- Mountain-biking in the reserve, 2 hrs or
- a guided bush-walk

After breakfast on the terrace overlooking the waterhole that houses crocodiles and hippos, we make our way back across the border into South Africa, past Zululand to Durban.

You will be able to enjoy an authentic **African cultural experience** at the traditional, ethnic Dumazulu Lodge. We arrive in time for the cultural experience and lunch. Continue to Durban. The charm of this metropolis is not only due to the warm Indian Ocean meeting the golden beaches there, but can also be explained by the colorful mix of rich history and culture. Dinner on own arrangements.

Overnight and breakfast at Riverside Hotel & Spa or similar (BB)

Day 8: Tsitsikamma National Park & Tree Top Canopy Tour

After a hearty breakfast, we depart and travel to Durban International Airport. Here we board a flight to Port Elizabeth. We continue to the Tsitsikamma National Park. This is the beginning of one of the most spectacular routes in South Africa, called the Garden Route with indigenous forests with giant yellowwood trees, waterfalls, lakes, mountains, rivers, streams, deep gorges, a rugged coastline and long stretches of white beaches. We participate in the **Canopy Tour**; the first of its kind in Africa. Explore the Tsitsikamma forest while traversing 30m above the forest floor on cable slides – no experience is needed. Check-in and dinner at Buffalo Hills.

Overnight and breakfast at Buffalo Hills or similar (DBB)

Day 9: Buffalo Hills Game Reserve



Participate in a morning hike through the reserve. You walk very close to various wildlife including buffaloes, wildebeest and zebras. In the afternoon you visit the Tenikwa Awareness Wildlife Centre, where you can experience endangered wild animals, especially wild cats. Join cheetahs for their evening stroll. Dinner in the Boma at Buffalo Hills Camp.

Optional activity: Visit the Bloukrans Bridge where adrenalin junkies experience a seven second freefall going down 180 m. This is the highest commercial bungee jump in the world.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Buffalo Hills (DBB)

Day 10: Plettenberg Bay Excursion

Today you drive to Plettenberg Bay. Here you will visit the Township Qolweni. With the Outeniqua Mountain range as the impressive backdrop, you are now able to experience these interesting interactive cross-cultural tours to Qolweni Township. Proceeds from these tours will directly benefit the township's people as it will be used by the Qolweni Development Trust to develop the infrastructure of the township. Basic amenities, schools and clinics will be developed, with the focus always staying on giving the community the opportunity to start self-sustaining projects and businesses. By visiting this township and taking one of the township tours, you are helping one of the many disadvantaged communities in South Africa to develop. By showing your interest, you are directly helping to uplift this community. Continue to Knysna. The idyllic town of Knysna is famous for its spectacular scenery and for its natural beauty, which promises you many enjoyable hours in the countryside and a dash of adventure. Continue to Knysna where the **Outeniqua Yacht** is ready to sail. Drinks and snacks will be served. Return to Buffalo Hills for an afternoon game drive in open safari vehicles and visit the famous Nyati JJJ distillery. Here you can taste the brandy and see how it is made. The dinner will be held in the Boma.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Buffalo Hills (DBB)

Day 11: Oudtshoorn via Wilderness



Early morning walk and then breakfast.

In the afternoon we travel to Oudtshoorn via George and the majestic Outeniqua Mountain Pass.

Overnight, breakfast and dinner at Oue Werf Country House or similar (DBB)

Day 12: Oudtshoorn to Hermanus



After a typical Karoo farm-style breakfast, we visit an Ostrich Show farm, where you explore Ostrich farming of today. Oudtshoorn is known as the Ostrich capital.

Continue via Barrydale over the Tradouw Pass to Swellendam where we break for lunch (own account). We continue to Hermanus, the whale watching capital. Each year Southern Right whales, among other species, migrate into the coastal waters to calve (July – November). Observe the whales as they frolic in the water close to the shoreline. Late afternoon we walk through the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. From a trail-network of 60km you can choose your own route, based on your fitness level. The various trails offer magnificent and unequalled views of Walker Bay, the Hemel en Aarde Valley and Maanskynbaai. Dinner is to your own account tonight.

Bed and Breakfast in the Misty Waves Hotel or similar (BB)

Day 13: Hermanus to Stellenbosch

Morning beach walk. 18 km of pristine beach awaits you with a variety of bird life to entertain you between whales and dolphins, the endangered Black Eyed Oyster Catcher, tiny Strandloper, gulls and even hunting falcon.

Duration: ± 3 hours. We end with a tour of the brewery Birkenhead, to find out about the exceptional beer, the country estate, brewery, restaurant and pub where you can enjoy a delicious lunch and freshly brewed beer.

*Optional: Early morning boat excursion from Gansbaai/Hermanus to Dyer Island with the opportunity to go **Shark Cage Diving**. For those who don't go down in the cage, there is still plenty to view from the boat, as sharks come up close and break the surface. Often dolphins can be seen from the boat and during whale season, these large mammals can be observed at close range. The excursion takes approximately 5 hours. Refreshments are served on the boat. Once back on dry land, we enjoy a light lunch.*

After lunch we depart for Stellenbosch via the Franschoek and Helshoogte Passes. Check into our accommodation and freshen up for dinner which may be enjoyed in a local restaurant with specialties of the region (own account).

Bed and breakfast at the Evergreen Lodge or similar (BB, L)

Day 14: Winelands to Cape Town



After breakfast we meet at reception for a walking tour of Stellenbosch. We then proceed into the winelands. The wine estates form a chequer board of colours, the colours and hues tinted by each passing season. We walk through a vineyard, we you have the opportunity to taste some wines. This **moderate** walk takes approximately 2 hours.

We drive to Cape Town and take the cable car up Table Mountain (weather permitting). Once on top you will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views across the city, the Cape Flats, Blouberg Strand, Robben Island, the Atlantic Coast and the Twelve Apostles. We take the cable car back down and check into our accommodation. The tour guide says fare well at this stage. Evening at leisure.

Your hotel is within walking distance of the famous V&A Waterfront, with many restaurants, pubs and shops on its doorstep. Dinner at your own arrangements.

Bed and Breakfast at the City Lodge Hotel or similar (BB)

Day 15: Cape Peninsula



Today we explore the beauty of the Cape Peninsula. We first head to Simon's Town to meet up with guides and the **kayaks**. Double kayaks are very stable and perfect for those with no paddling experience.

We leave from Simon's Town Waterfront and **paddle** past the civilian and Naval Harbour and out to Boulder's Beach. After visiting the penguins we stop on a lovely semi-private beach for refreshments, swimming and **snorkelling** (we provide the snorkels and refreshments!) Duration: ± 2 – 2 ½ hours.

We proceed to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve where you swap four wheels for two and **cycle** around the Reserve to Cape Point and **hike** up to the light house, recuperating with a delicious picnic lunch. Duration of cycle: ± 1 hour.

Don't forget comfortable shoes, a sweater/windbreaker and bathers!

The cycle is easy-going, with some slight inclines. It lasts approx. 1 hour. The hike up to the lighthouse is more demanding as it is quite steep but very short. A funicular is available.

Return to the hotel over the scenic Chapman's Peak Drive by vehicle.

Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional African Restaurant with entertainment.

Bed and Breakfast in the City Lodge Hotel or similar (BB, L, D)

Day 16: Departure Day

In case we did not manage to ascend Table Mountain on the previous days, this is our last chance to do so. The remainder of the morning is at leisure. *Optional activities* are available on request, such as a helicopter flip over Cape Town, visit to Robben Island or a walking tour of the city.

End of journey

Pre- and post-tour options are available on request. We gladly will provide extensions in Cape Town, packages to Victoria Falls (Zambia), Botswana and/or Kenya.

Prices on request.

Travel dates 2010:

14 January to 29 January,
15 February to 2 March,
08 March to 22 March,
12 April to 27 April,
24 May to 08 June (Pre-World-Cup Special),
12 July to 27 July (Post-World-Cup Special),
16 August to 31 August,
06 September to 21 September,
11 October to 26 October,
15 November to 30 November,
5 December to 20 December.