



SOUTH AFRICA

Escape

Talk to a Mondo Expert:
0800 110 108 | info@mondotravel.co.nz

Welkom in Suid-Afrika! Wamkelekile eMzantsi Afrika! Welcome to South Africa! This package has been designed as an adventure-packed tour that will introduce you to the best of the Rainbow Nation. Travel along the Atlantic and Indian Coastlines, head south to Cape Point and visit quaint and historic destinations dotted along the way. Adventure along the famous Garden Route, experience the highlights of Route 62 and explore the Great Karoo. Venture north on a four-night visit to the Kruger National Park Region and see amazing African wildlife!

This tour is also available as shorter, half-length tours - **Cape Town And The Garden Route** and **Kruger Safari And The Panorama Route**.

Tour Highlights

- Explore Cape Town and the Cape Winelands
- Admire the beautiful landscapes of the Garden Route
- Visit Hermanus, Mossel Bay and Knysna
- Experience a South African safari with 3 full days of wildlife spotting in the Kruger National Park Region



From just **\$3,190 per person** based on twin share.

What's Included

- 13 nights' accommodation in twin rooms with private en-suite facilities
- 13 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 9 Dinners
- Modern air-conditioned coach with reclining seats
- Internal flight from the Garden Route to Johannesburg
- Services of your Tour Leader who will ensure you get the most from your trip.
- 21 Experiences as detailed in the itinerary below.

This tour starts in **Cape Town** and concludes in **Johannesburg**. Ask us about extending your tour with pre and or post-accommodation.

You will have an Experienced and passionate tour leader with you throughout this tour, so you are sure to have a memorable experience. Just remember to take a camera with plenty of storage space, you are going to need it!

Tour Itinerary

DAY 1: Start of tour in Cape Town

Wamkelekile e iKapa! Welcome to Cape Town! Home to the iconic Table Mountain, Cape Town is one of the most beautiful destinations in the world! The “Mother City” is South Africa's oldest city and one of the country’s three official capitals. Meet your tour leader at the hotel and jump right into the action on a city tour! Explore the city highlights in the heart of Cape Town on a driving and walking tour, see Signal Hill, District Six, Bo Kaap and more. After the city tour, freshen up at the hotel before enjoying a welcome dinner with the group tonight. Get to know your new travel companions and celebrate the first night of the tour

Experiences

Take a driving and walking tour of Cape Town: This Cape Town city tour showcases the historic heart of the city. It’s a place with many influences that include Cape Malay and Xhosa communities, as well as a Dutch colonial heritage. The afternoon drive shows off some of Cape Town's most scenic landmarks. The Atlantic Coast and Table Mountain National Park are very beautiful at this time of day.

Welcome dinner: Enjoy an included welcome dinner this evening - the perfect opportunity to get to know your tour leader and fellow travellers from all over the world!

DAY 2: Cape Town - Peninsula Tour: Free Day

Today is a free day to explore this wonderful city and its surroundings! There are several incredible travel attractions including Robben Island, Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, the Two Oceans Aquarium and much more! Travellers also have the option to join the Cape Peninsula Day Trip. Experience a scenic drive to Cape Point, see the penguins at Boulders Beach and enjoy a lunchtime stop in Kalk Bay. After the tour, the rest of the day is yours to spend at your leisure. Upon return, the peninsula tour will include a drop-off at the V&A Waterfront - a fantastic shopping, eating and entertainment destination!

DAY 3: Cape Winelands - Stellenbosch - Hermanus Region

It’s time to explore the Cape Winelands! Following breakfast, take a scenic drive through the Cape wine region. The first stop is Stellenbosch, a university town in the heart of the Cape Winelands. Explore the Cape Dutch architecture and laid-back coffee shops, boutiques and art galleries. Lunch is a delicious meal served among the vineyards at a local winery. This is your chance to taste South Africa's signature wine, Pinotage. Learn all about Cape district wines and the wine-making process from a local wine expert. After one more wine tasting tour this afternoon, admire the views on a coastal drive to Hermanus. This evening, enjoy free time to explore this delightful seaside town before heading to tonight’s accommodation.

Experiences

Visit Stellenbosch: Take some free time to explore the historical university town, admire the mix of Cape Dutch, Georgian and Victorian architecture, the tree-lined streets and relaxing coffee shops.

Wine tasting in the Cape Winelands: Enjoy two wine tastings including lunch at a wine farm in the famous wineland region of the Western Cape.

Explore Hermanus: Savour the stunning coastal views as the tour makes its way to Hermanus. Enjoy free time to explore this delightful town on the Cape Whale Coast Route - if you’re lucky and it’s the right time of year, you might be able to spot whales from the beach!



DAY 4: Hermanus Region - Swellendam - Mossel Bay

Today, the Garden Route adventure begins! This morning, why not embark on one of today's optional excursions? Go Shark Cage Diving, which includes a short drive to Gansbaai and a chance to see great white sharks in their natural habitat. Or, enjoy a Whale and Eco tour. This afternoon, enjoy a lunch stop in Riviersonderend before embarking on an orientation walking tour of Swellendam. Next up is a visit to a fascinating Cape Aloe Vera farm. Today's last stop is Mossel Bay. This coastal village is a popular holiday destination. Upon arrival, visit Pinnacle Point Caves; this archaeological site is home to fossils dating back 170,000 years! Finally, enjoy dinner at the hotel with the group tonight.

Experiences

Discover Swellendam: Enjoy some free time in the third-oldest town in the Republic of South Africa. Check out the incredible architecture of the Dutch Reformed Church - a striking mix of Italian Baroque and French Gothic influences, with an Eastern dome and Cape Dutch facades.

Explore an Aloe Vera farm: Stop at one of the original aloe factories in the Hessequa region. Sample various Aloe Vera products, walk around in the indigenous garden (with 17 species of aloe) and drink some Aloe tea!

Visit Pinnacle Point Caves in Mossel Bay: Visit Pinnacle Point Caves, a Provincial Heritage Site where human bones from between 40,000 and 170,000 years ago have been discovered!

DAY 5: Garden Route: Game Drive - Knysna - Tsitsikamma

See more of the gorgeous Garden Route today. First thing this morning, travel to Botlierskop Private Game Reserve for a unique safari experience. Enjoy close encounters with impala, wildebeest, rhinos, lions, giraffes and more! Next up is a visit to Knysna. Enjoy free time to explore and find a great spot for lunch around the bustling waterfront - the fresh oysters are well worth a taste! Afterwards, it's time for more animal adventures and optional excursions! Roam free with the monkeys at Monkeyland, a multi-species monkey sanctuary. Alternatively, visit Birds of Eden, a unique eco-tourism experience, and the world's largest free-flight aviary and bird sanctuary. Dinner is included this evening after which you can kick off your shoes for some rest.

Experiences

Botlierskop Game Drive: Get to know the Garden Route wildlife on an open vehicle safari truck in Botlierskop Private Game Reserve. Sightings include buffalo, zebra, giraffe, golden wildebeest, hippos, rhinoceros, lions and more than 200 bird species!

Visit Knysna: Experience the laid-back yet stylish vibe of Knysna, a quaint town known as "the beating heart" of the Garden Route. Get off at the Knysna waterfront - an ideal location with unique and trendy stores, water activities and the most divine dining options.

DAY 6: Tsitsikamma National Park & Storms River - Eastern Cape

The outdoors are calling today! The Tsitsikamma forest forms part of the greater Garden Route National Park. The area encompasses rivers, gorges, mountains and lush forests and plantations - the perfect place to get adventurous! The morning is yours to explore as you choose. Options to consider include tree-top canopy tours, bungee jumping at Bloukrans Bridge (the highest bridge bungee in the world!) or the Woodcutters Trail Drive. Then it's onto the Storms River Mouth in the Tsitsikamma National Park. Take a walk along the coast, cross the longest suspension river in South Africa and enjoy some free time to enjoy lunch overlooking the ocean.

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Experiences

Tsitsikamma National Park and Storms River Mouth: Walk across a suspension bridge and lookout trail that meanders along the most spectacular ocean and forest landscapes. The highlight of the walk is a famous 77m-long suspension bridge over the Storms River Mouth. As you walk keep an eye out for the Knysna Loerie, Cape Clawless Otter and dolphins.

DAY 7: Fruit Route: Route 62 - Oudtshoorn Ostrich Farm - Cango Caves Experience

Explore a different region of South Africa today. Leave the Garden Route behind and travel along Route 62. Heading for the arid Karoo, the drive meanders through the Langkloof Valley. Nestled between the Kouga and Tsitsikamma Mountains, this area offers spectacular views. Next, arrive in Oudtshoorn, South Africa's famous ostrich capital! Enjoy a guided tour of a working ostrich farm, learn more about these big feathered animals and sit down for an included lunch. Next, explore the Cango Caves on a heritage walking tour. This cave valley is a series of dripstone caverns that are more than 20 million years old! This evening, sit down for a traditional Karoo dinner.

Experiences

Visit a Klein Karoo ostrich farm: Take a guided tractor tour that covers the history of ostrich farming, farming practices and the breeding cycle of these special Karoo ostriches. See ostriches and adorable chicks up close! A delicious traditional lunch is also included in this experience.

Visit the Cango Caves: Enjoy a visit to the historic Cango Caves near Oudtshoorn. The caves are one of South Africa's hidden treasures and are millions of years old. See the large chambers and learn more about the caves' cultural and historical heritage.

Karoo Dinner: Eating and drinking in the Karoo is an experience in itself! On the menu tonight are a variety of dishes prepared the traditional way: Braaivleis (BBQ), boerewors (South African sausage), potato salad, fresh seasonal veg and an iconic South African dessert. You might also get to taste true Karoo lamb. It has a distinctly herby flavour due to the fragrant shrubs and grasses sheep naturally feed on in this region. Either way, this is sure to be a sensational culinary experience!

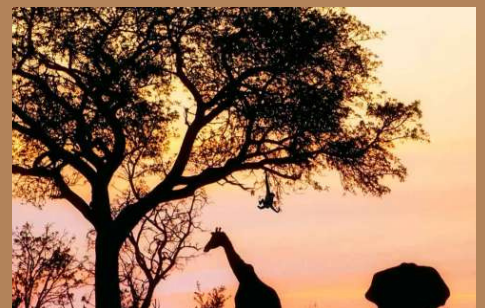
DAY 8: Oudtshoorn - Route 62 - Cape Winelands - Cape Town

The tour turns back towards Cape Town today. Travel along Route 62 and enjoy a comfort stop at one of the many quirky and charming restaurants and shops along the way. Next, head for Robertson, another fantastic wine-producing region, to enjoy an included lunch before the tour continues to Paarl in the Cape Winelands. Paarl is home to a number of award-winning wine estates. Here, enjoy a cheese and wine tasting as well as free time to explore the Spice Route which is home to wonderful artisanal shops and restaurants. Finally, arrive at the hotel in Cape Town. Make the most of a free evening in the city. Why not visit Camps Bay or book a table at one of Cape Town's marvellous restaurants?

Experiences

Explore Robertson: Experience this stunning wine-producing region. It's known as the Valley of wine and Roses and sits at the heart of the Route 62 wine route.

Enjoy a cheese and wine tasting in Paarl: Sample some of South Africa's most delicious cheese and wine during a stop in Paarl in the Cape Winelands! Enjoy free time to visit the Spice Route afterwards to explore the artisanal shops, delis and restaurants.



DAY 9: Cape Town - Johannesburg - Kruger National Park Region

Tuck into breakfast in Cape Town before travelling to the airport. Catch an included flight to Johannesburg in the Gauteng province, known as the "City of Gold". Soon after, it's time to travel east towards South Africa's Mpumalanga province. The day ends as the tour arrives at tonight's accommodation located on the outskirts of the Kruger National Park. Settle down for an included meal under the African sky on arrival.

DAY 10: Kruger National Park Region

Time for a full-day game drive of the park! Sitting elevated in the tour bus you can easily spot animals in the bush, perhaps even the iconic Big 5! The Kruger National Park stretches over 20,000 square km and is just a bit smaller than the country of Belgium. In the park, see all African game in their natural habitat. Spot wild animals like cheetahs, wild dogs, leopards, elephants and the white and black rhino. En route, stop at rest camps like Skukuza, Tshokwane and Satara. Around late afternoon, make your way to the safari lodge/hotel on the western edge of the park, for a multi-night stay. Time for a relaxing swim in the pool and a sun-downer or two before our included dinner this evening!

Experiences

Kruger National Park game drive: Enjoy a full-day game drive through the southern part of Kruger in our air-conditioned tour bus. Keep your eyes peeled for the iconic 'Big 5' - the African lion, African elephant, Cape buffalo, African leopard and rhinoceros. Today's Kruger conservation fee is included in the tour price.



DAY 11: Kruger National Park Region - Free Day

Time to further explore the Kruger National Park! Embark on a safari in open safari trucks led by local wildlife specialists. A full-day safari drive offers the opportunity to spend the day driving in prime game viewing areas, stopping at various waterholes and rest camps. Snacks and lunch are served picnic-style along the way. Try to spot some of the resident antelope, birds and wildlife from the truck. Fingers crossed you'll be able to tick off more animals on your list! Did you know that Kruger National Park is home to 114 different species of reptiles, 507 kinds of birds and 147 mammal species? Come across some of the most amazing creatures in Africa. Slip into the pool on return to cool down before enjoying an included dinner - in true African style.

DAY 12: Kruger National Park Region - Free Day

Today, enjoy the option to go on a full-day, half-day or sunrise safari. The sunrise safari offers the chance to be outside in the African bush during an enchanting time of day. Listen to the chorus of animals as they awake and the sun rises over the savanna. As it gets cooler the animals move around to find food, and your guide will follow to see if there's anything interesting to see. This evening, enjoy the last dinner in the African bush. Spend time around the campfire exchanging safari stories and sipping Amarula (an African liqueur made with fruit of the Marula tree).

DAY 13: Three Rondawels - Bourke's Luck Potholes - Blyde River Canyon Viewpoint - Johannesburg

Leave the Kruger National Park behind, and discover the Panorama Route through the Mpumalanga province. The first destination is the renowned Three Rondavels viewpoint with a stunning vista over the Blyde River Canyon. This canyon forms part of the Drakensberg Ridge and is known for storybook views. Next is Bourke's Luck potholes, a natural water feature with hundreds of natural potholes and plunge pools. This area marks the beginning of the Blyde River Canyon. On a clear day, you can see the Kruger and even Mozambique in the distance. Continue the final leg of the tour back to Johannesburg. Sit down for a farewell dinner with new friends!

Experiences

Three Rondavels viewpoint: Take in views of three famous mountain tops that tower over the Blyde River Canyon. Named after a traditional round-shaped African homestead, The Three Rondavels is one of the major attractions in the area. Various look-out points are sure to offer fantastic photo opportunities.

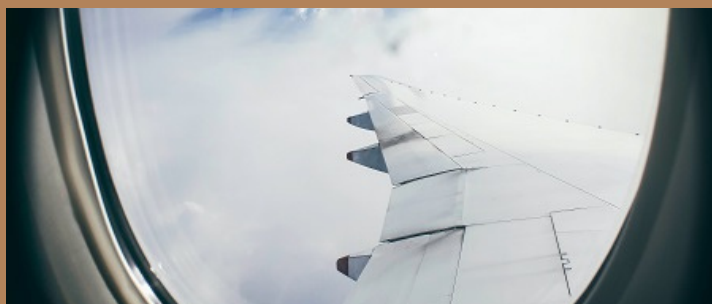
Bourke's Luck Potholes: Take a short walk and wander around what has been dubbed "nature's wishing well". See numerous waterholes, plunge pools and impressive rock formations. Visit the information centre to learn more about the natural history as well as the San people, the earliest inhabitants of this region.

Blyde River Canyon Viewpoint: Get one last look at the majestic Blyde River Canyon. This must be one of the most cherished and most photographed views in South Africa. See the Lowveld of South Africa with the Kruger National Park and Mozambique in the far distance.

Farewell dinner: Sit down for one last special dinner together with the group in Johannesburg. You are now in the bustling city of Johannesburg, the second-largest city in Africa. Exchange stories, highlights and memories as you look back at your two-week South African experience.

DAY 14: End of tour in Johannesburg

The South Africa Escape tour concludes after breakfast. Have one last breakfast together to say bon voyage. Guests are welcome to stay on to explore Jozi, as the locals call Johannesburg, and enjoy one of the optional city tours available.



Departure Dates:

We have a selection of departures throughout 2023 and 2024. Contact us for availability as these tours will fill quickly.

Optional On Tour Excursions

Optional excursions are available during the tour. These are booked on tour and paid in cash to your tour leader unless stated otherwise. Please note, certain optional excursions are subject to availability and could change as a result.

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