



CLASSIC SOUTH AFRICA

13 Days

Day 1 ARRIVE IN CAPE TOWN

A warm welcome on arrival at Cape Town International Airport, with a private transfer to the hotel.

Cape Town is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, with its majestic Table Mountain backdrop. It is also the oldest town in the country and one of South Africa's jewels. The city is filled with culture and rich in historical experiences, with pristine white beaches along the coastline.

The afternoon is free to relax and explore the Waterfront precinct at your leisure.

Day 2 IN CAPE TOWN: City, Table Mountain and Cape Peninsula

After breakfast, depart for a day exploring Cape Town, Table Mountain and the Peninsula.

On a clear day, the distinctive shape of Table Mountain can be seen from up to 200km out to sea, while its summit provides spectacular views of the city, its Waterfront and Harbour below, the majestic Hottentots Holland mountains to the East and Cape Point to the south.

An Authentic Touch – Why not Abseil down Table Mountain?

Abseiling down one of the 7 wonders of nature, the iconic Table Mountain. The panoramic views from the top of Table Mountain are breath-taking, but the views from the side of it are even better. Descending the side of a sheer cliff you will have Camps Bay, the Atlantic Seaboard, and the deep blue ocean at your feet.

Continue along the Peninsula to Cape Point, the most southwestern tip of the African continent. Also visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 3 CAPE TOWN - KNYSNA

After breakfast, guests will depart on drive along the coast to Hermanus.

This coastal town is known to be one of the best land-based whale watching destinations in the world. The most diverse floral kingdom and a beautiful hidden valley called the Hemel en Aarde Valley (Heaven on Earth) can also be found here.

Here guests can enjoy a Great White Shark Cruise or a Whale Watching Cruise.



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Great White Shark Cruise with optional Cage Dive

Great White Shark Diving in South Africa is a combination of goosebump thrills, education and relaxation on a luxury boat in the company of experienced experts and researchers! Learn how to distinguish between a male and female shark, and how to identify a specific shark by its unique dorsal fin and scars.

OR

Whale Watching Cruise (In season: June – December)

Set off from Hermanus New Harbour in search of the 'gentle giants.' The purpose-built catamaran provides superior viewing and comfort and the friendly, knowledgeable crew add that personal touch allowing for an all-round great experience, from ensuring the perfect photo opportunities are not missed to serving complimentary light refreshments.

Continue along the scenic Garden Route, through Mossel Bay to the resort town of Knysna.

Day 4 KNYSNA - OUDTHOORN

After breakfast, enjoy a cruise across the Knysna Lagoon, with spectacular views from the Knysna Heads.

After lunch at Featherbed Nature Reserve, drive inland over the scenic Outeniqua mountains, to the ostrich centre of the country, Oudtshoorn.

Located in the Klein Karoo between the Swartberg and Outeniqua Mountain Ranges you will find the town of Oudtshoorn. The Ostrich capital of the world and home to the Cango Caves, Africa's largest show cave system.

Day 5 OUDTSHOORN – PORT ELIZABETH

Breakfast at the hotel, then continue along the last stretch of the Garden Route, through spectacular Storms River area, to Port Elizabeth.

An Authentic Touch: enjoy a bungee jump off the Bloukrans River Bridge – the highest bungee jump in the world.

On arrival in Port Elizabeth, check in to the hotel, with time to relax on the beach or explore the city, known as the Windy City.

Day 6 PORT ELIZABETH - DURBAN

After breakfast at the hotel, guests check out and transfer to Port Elizabeth Airport.

Check in for the scheduled flight to Durban.

Welcome on arrival in Durban, and enjoy a short city tour en route to the hotel, where guests will visit the Moses Mabida Stadium, the Golden Mile beachfront, and uShaka Marine World.

An Authentic Touch: experience The Big Rush Swing over the Stadium.
The Big Rush Big Swing has been officially named the world's tallest swing by the Guinness Book of Records since 14 May 2011. Not your average swing, the aptly named Big Swing allows you to take the thrilling leap swinging out into a massive 220m arc where you soar into the centre of the stadium.

Day 7 DURBAN - HLUHLUWE

After breakfast, guests will drive northwards through Zululand, to the village of Hluhluwe.

Spend the night in the renowned Hluhluwe Imfolozi National Park, home to both white and black rhino, as well as a number of other mammals and incredible birdlife.

Optional: afternoon game drive by open safari vehicle, with qualified ranger.

Day 8 HLUHLUWE – ST LUCIA - SWAZILAND

After an early breakfast, enjoy a game drive in the Park, then continue to St Lucia, where guests will enjoy a cruise on Lake St Lucia and the estuary, part of the iSimangaliso Wetlands National Park and renowned for its sightings of crocodile and hippo.

Continue northwards, into the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland).

This remote mountain kingdom boasts many opportunities for an intrepid traveller – wildlife, adrenaline-boosting activities, a lively and colourful local culture, with celebrations and ceremonies still common practice, as well as superb walking trails, and stunning mountain scenery.

Check in at the hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 9 SWAZILAND – PANORAMA ROUTE

After breakfast, the leisurely journey continues, through Swaziland and on to Hazyview.

The Panorama Route is a scenic road in South Africa connecting several cultural and natural points of interest. The route, steeped in the history of South Africa, is in Mpumalanga province, centred around the Blyde River Canyon, the world's third largest canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Gods Window and Pilgrims Rest.

Spend the rest of the day relaxing at the poolside of the hotel.

Day 10 ON THE PANORAMA ROUTE

After breakfast, depart with a local guide for a full day on the Panorama Route.

A qualified tour guide will take you to magnificent sites with breath taking views, including the Three Rondavels, Gods Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the greater Sabie area.

The Blyde River Canyon is the most spectacular stretch of the Panorama Route and is the third largest canyon in the world (after the Grand Canyon in the U.S. and Namibia's Fish Eagle Canyon). The Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve runs along the Canyon's winding path, which at every turn offers more and more impressive views over sheer edges dropping up to 2,600 feet (800metres) into the riverbed.

Along the route you will find God's Window which is a small part of a 250km long fortification of sheer cliffs and offers awesome views of the Lowveld. With its magnificent views, rock formations, canyons and waterfalls, God's Window is truly an area of breath taking scenic grandeur and is so named for its beauty and the fact that it appears as if one can see 'forever'!

Bourke's Luck Potholes are impressive rock formations that were shaped millions of years ago by erosion. They are one of South Africa's most unusual geological phenomena. Over thousands of years, surreal cylindrical rock sculptures created by whirling water have formed a series of dark pools which contrast artfully with the streaked white and yellow lichen covered rocks. The Potholes are named after a miner, Tom Bourke, who struck it lucky at a mine he opened nearby.

Pilgrims Rest is the romantic gold-rush town along the Panorama Route. It is frozen in time and the entire village is an historical monument that has been preserved in the architectural style of the South African Gold Rush years between 1880 and 1915. You can try your hand at gold panning at the national museum!

The 'Three Rondavels (also called the 'Three Sisters'), are three huge spirals of dolomite rock rising out of the far wall of the Blyde River Canyon and have been likened to rockets about to take off. From the 'Three Rondavels you can see the widespread Swadini Dam in the far distance, which marks the end of the Blyde River Reserve.

Head back to the hotel and enjoy dinner at leisure.

Day 11 PANORAMA ROUTE – KRUGER PARK

After breakfast, continue the journey into the world-renowned Kruger National Park

Drive into the Park, and onwards to Skukuza Camp or similar (Skukuza is one of the larger camps with many amenities, but there are many smaller options if preferred).

Settle into the chalet, or visit the camp restaurant for lunch, followed by a game drive in your own vehicle, through the many roads in the Park.

Return to the camp as the sun sets, and enjoy an independent dinner in the restaurant.

Day 12 IN THE KRUGER PARK

This morning, wake up early and drive out of the Camp into the Reserve, where if you are lucky you could see the predators returning from their nightly hunt.

Either return to the camp for breakfast, and continue your drive to another camp for breakfast, and to explore the vast network of roads to view the many animals and birds in their natural environment.

Optional: open vehicle game drive with professional ranger.

Return to the camp in the late afternoon, with independent lunch and dinner today.

Day 13 KRUGER PARK – JOHANNESBURG - DEPART

After breakfast this morning, check out of the Kruger Park

Drive southwards back to Johannesburg, arriving at OR Tambo International Airport in the late afternoon.

Check in for the homeward flight.