Itinerary for Cape Town and the Garden Route • Expat Explore

Start Point:
Cape Town International Airport,
Matroosfontein, Cape Town, 7490,
South Africa
12:15 hrs & 14:45 hrs
Cape Town Hotel,
Please contact us
Check in from 14:00 hrs

End Point:
Cape Town,
Contact us for hotel info
18:00 hrs (subject to traffic)

DAY 1: Arrive in Cape Town

Wamkelekile e iKapa! Welcome to Cape Town! The Mother city is South Africa's oldest city and one of three official capital cities. For flights arriving today, an Expat Explore team member will meet and greet you at Cape Town airport. A complementary airport transfer is offered at selected times to take you to our starting hotel in the city. If you arrive early enough you'll have some free time to explore Cape Town and its many tourist attractions. This
evening you will meet and greet your tour leader as well as your fellow travellers from all over the world. Enjoy a welcoming party at the hotel with an included dinner.

Experiences

Book flights to arrive at Cape Town international airport today, where a member of the Expat Explore team will direct you to your complementary airport transfer (certain times - see tour help section (https://expatexplore.com/tours-help/?t=21072) for more information), which will take you to the starting hotel in the city.

Enjoy an included welcome dinner this evening - the perfect opportunity to get to know your Expat Explore tour leader and fellow travellers!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✗ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

DAY 2: Cape Town city tour
On your first full day in the Republic of South Africa, we take you on a driving
tour of Cape Town. Visit the Castle of Good Hope, the beautiful St George's
cathedral, and the colourful Cape Malay quarters. Also set foot in the
Company's Gardens (the oldest garden in SA!). The afternoon is then yours
free to explore the city; we'll drop you off at the beautiful V&A Waterfront, the
perfect base to grab a spot of lunch in the heart of the city. After lunch, why
not take a cable car ride up to Table mountain, one of the official 'New 7
Wonders of Nature'?

**Experiences**

Cape Town city tour - Explore the historic heart of this vibrant city. A rich
melting pot of cultural flavours, the city's multi-cultural history has been
shaped by diverse influences including Afrikaner descendants of the original
Dutch colonists, the coloured and Cape Malay communities and Xhosa
migrants from the Eastern Cape.

Free afternoon - enjoy free time to explore the incredible city of Cape Town,
with a drop off at the V&A Waterfront, a lifestyle, food and shopping
destination located in the vibrant heart of the city.

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✔️ | Lunch: ✗ | Dinner: ✗ |

**Accommodation**

StayEasy Cape Town City Bowl

**Optional Excursions**

Helicopter Flight: R 1450
Langa Experience: R 900

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 3: Cape Town: Free Day**
Today you have the whole day to explore Cape Town on your own. Some of the most famous attractions include Robben Island and the Two Oceans Aquarium. You can also go wine tasting in Constantia or visit the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Ask your tour leader for ideas!

If you want a planned adventure, you can join us on the optional day trip to Cape Point. The area is protected as a nature reserve and about an hour's drive from Cape Town, on the southeast corner of the Cape Peninsula. Discover the Cape Floral Kingdom and beautiful landscapes. Next, visit the penguins at Boulder's Beach and stop with free time for lunch in Kalk Bay. On the way back, travel along Chapman's Peak drive to see the stunning views out over the Atlantic ocean.

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✔️ | Lunch: ✗ | Dinner: ✗ |

**Accommodation**

StayEasy Cape Town City Bowl

**Optional Excursions**

- Cape Peninsula Day Trip: R 1390
- Langa Experience: R 900
Today we're off to the Cape Winelands! South Africa has 100,000+ hectares of vineyards. The wine industry is also the oldest outside of Europe. Top wine varieties include Chardonnay and Shiraz. There is also a cultivar called Pinotage, which is unique to SA. We have breakfast and then go on a drive through this beautiful area. A wine specialist leads us in a tasting of local wines and tells us more about South African varietals. Then we have a tasty traditional lunch in the vineyards.

After lunch, drive to Stellenbosch, a beautiful university town. It was settled by French Huguenots in the 1600s and has a rich history. We go on a walk to see Cape Dutch architecture, boutiques and art galleries. Before we leave, we have one more wine tasting. At the end of the day head to Hermanus, where you have the evening to yourself.

Experiences

Cape Winelands - Enjoy a wine tasting and included lunch at a wine farm in the famous winelands region of the Western Cape.
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.

Hermanus - Savour the stunning coastal views as we make our way to Hermanus, where you’ll have a free evening to explore this delightful town on the Cape Whale Coast Route - if you’re lucky and here in the right season you’ll even be able to spot whales from the beach!

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✔️ | Lunch: ✔️ | Dinner: ✗ |

**Accommodation**

Windsor Hotel

**Optional Excursions**

Dinner with a South African family: R 400

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 5: Hermanus - Swellendam - Mossel Bay**
This morning you can still enjoy free time in Hermanus before setting off for the Garden Route! Between June and November, there are lots of whales in the water, and you can spot them from the shore! You can also join in on the optional shark cage diving experience. SA is known for Great White Sharks and you can see them up close in Gansbaai.

Making our way to Mossel Bay, we will stop en-route for lunch, before paying a visit to the third-oldest town in South Africa, Swellendam. This was the original trade route to the north. You can taste some real Boerekos (farmer's food) or even some Springbok (game) carpaccio. Outside of Albertinia, we stop at the Cape Aloe Vera farm. You can taste aloe tea and try body products made from this special medicinal plant. We also learn more about its many uses. Then leave for Mossel Bay, a popular coastal village. On our way to the hotel, we stop at Pinnacle caves. Fossils of 170,000+ years have been found at this ancient site.

**Experiences**

Swellendam - enjoy 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.

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!

Mossel Bay - Visit Pinnacle Point Caves, a Provincial Heritage Site where human bones of between 40,000 and 170,000 years ago have been discovered. The discoveries have led to further studies by the Institute of Human Origins.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✗
- Dinner: ✓

**Accommodation**

- Oceans Hotel
Optional Excursions

Shark Cage Diving: R 2250
Whale and Eco Trip: R 1290

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 6: Garden Route: Game Drive - Knysna - Garden Route

The first South African wildlife experience awaits at Botlierskop Private Game Reserve. You will have the chance to see wildebeest, rhinos, giraffes, elephants and lions on a safari with the group.

Spend lunch time in Knysna, the heart of the Garden Route. Jump aboard a unique paddle-boat for an optional lunch cruise of the lagoon. Alternatively, choose to explore the harbour and eat at a local restaurant. After lunch there are some more animal encounters! You have the choice of two optional excursions - roam free with the monkeys at Monkeyland, or visit Birds of Eden, the world's largest free flight aviary and bird sanctuary.

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, wildebeest, hippos, rhinoceros and lions!

Knysna - Experience the laid-back yet stylish vibe of Knysna. A small and 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.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✗
- Dinner: ✓

**Optional Excursions**

- Monkeyland: R 260
- Birds of Eden: R 260

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 7: Tsitsikamma National Park & Storms River - Eastern Cape**
Today you can get adventurous in the Garden Route National Park. The Tsitsikamma forest is filled with rivers, gorges and mountains. There are lots of fun things to do in this beautiful place. You can go on a zipline tour through the trees or bungee-jump off the Bloukrans bridge. Or stay on the ground to go on a guided bush walk to learn more about the region's fauna and flora.

Drive to the Storms River mouth in Tsitsikamma National Park, where you can hike through the forest, take a seaside walk and cross the longest suspension bridge in South Africa. This afternoon head to the Eastern Cape coast. This area is known for great weather and long, sandy beaches.

**Experiences**

Storms River mouth, Tsitsikamma National Park - 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 bridge. As you walk keep an eye out for the Knysna Lourie bird, Cape Clawless Otter and dolphins.

Eastern Cape - Surfers and beach lovers from the world over flock to the Eastern Cape every year. It offers over 800 km of breathtaking coastline, perfect mild weather, nature walks and some of the best swimming and surfing beaches in South Africa. Did you know the Eastern Cape was Nelson Mandela's home province?
Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔  Lunch: X  Dinner: ✔

Optional Excursions

Bloukrans Bungee Jump: R 1350
Tree Canopy Zip-lining: R 660
Tsitsikamma Hike: R 210
Tsitsikamma Woodcutters Trail Drive: R 335

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 8: Fruit Route: Route 62 - Oudtshoorn Ostrich Farm - Cango Caves Excursion

Today brings a whole new landscape as you head into a semi-desert area. The Karoo is a very unique place known as the 'land of the thirst'. The scenic Route 62 takes you through the Langkloof. Here you'll see many fruit and
vegetable farms along the road and among the foothills of the epic Kouga and Tsitsikamma mountains. In Oudtshoorn, visit a working ostrich farm to take a tour and learn more about these big birds.

On the way to tonight's accommodation there is also the option to visit the Cango Caves - these dripstone caverns are over 20 million years old! This evening brings a delicious Karoo dinner at our lodge.

**Experiences**

Visit a Klein Karoo ostrich farm - Take a guided tour which covers the history of ostrich farming, farming practices and the breeding cycle of these special Karoo ostriches. Also get the opportunity to meet ostrich adults and chicks for a special up-close experience.

Karoo Dinner - Taste true Karoo Lamb prepared the traditional South African way. Lamb in the Great Karoo has a very distinct taste due to the fragrant shrubs and grasses sheep feed on in this region. The meat has been scientifically proven to have a unique herby flavour, unlike anywhere else in South Africa and perhaps the world.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✔️
- Lunch: ✔️
- Dinner: ✔️

**Optional Excursions**

- Star Gazing: R 370
- Cango Caves Heritage Tour: R 120
- Cango Caves Adventure Tour: R 180

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

**DAY 9: George - Cape Town**
This is the last day of this wonderful tour of the Garden Route. Make your way back to Cape Town with our driver for the end of the tour.

**Experiences**

Travel back to Cape Town for the end of the tour; make sure you have exchanged contact details with your new found travel friends, and share your amazing tour memories with us using the hashtag #ExpatExplore!

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✔  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✗