

## **South African Surprise**

### **16 day Tour to Johannesburg, Mpumalanga, Swaziland, St Lucia, Durban, Drakensberg, Eastern Cape Coast, Port Elizabeth, Knysna, Oudtshoorn & Cape Town**

It's an adventure unlike any other - South Africa, a vast land of unimaginable beauty and diversity of experiences, is set to take your breath away. Tour starts from Johannesburg, the largest city, financial and commercial heart in South Africa; then take game drives in Kruger Park, which are famous for the Big Fives sightings. Travel along the Garden Route, which is universally known for its spectacular natural beauty. The startling out-of-the-ordinary vistas will generously reward your eastward journey. Last stop-Cape Town has it all – a fascinating mix of up-to-the-minute vibrancy, memorable history and culture, and spectacular natural beauty – all rubbing shoulders under the iconic magic of Table Mountain.

#### **Day 1: (Sat) Arrival Johannesburg**

Today you will fly to Johannesburg. Upon arrival you will be met and assisted to your shuttle transfer service to the hotel.

Accommodation: Protea Hotel OR Tambo or similar



#### **Day 2: (Sun) Johannesburg**

**(Meal: B)**

Today you will have a half day seat in coach tour in Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city remains its financial and commercial heart. It's in this fast-paced metropolis that the country's radical political and social transformation is most evident – this is the 'Rainbow Nation' at work. It's a heady experience, with contrasts of every kind round every single corner. Our tour sets off for Constitution Hill, home of South Africa's architectural marvel, the Constitutional Court. We explore the inner city of Johannesburg and the influence the discovery of gold brought to this city and indeed South Africa. We visit and explore the Maboneng Precinct, a wonderful example of urban regeneration of the eastside of the Johannesburg CBD which is now home to several independent retail, restaurant, art and entertainment venues – fresh and unique lifestyle offerings of this new exciting development. We return to your hotel via the flipside of the coin, the lush, up market suburb of lower Houghton. A city of contrasts, that's for certain.

You have the remainder of the day at leisure until 7.00pm when we all meet at the hotel reception for a briefing on the main tour and a chance to meet up with your fellow travellers.

**Day 3: (Mon) Johannesburg - Mpumalanga**

**(Meal: B)**

This morning we leave for Mpumalanga, dropping several hundred feet into the lush subtropical region of the Lowveld. Travel along the circular Panorama Route, visiting the view sites of the Blyde River Canyon, home to the Three Rondavels and one of the natural wonders of Africa; gasp at the glory of God's Window, with a boundless view of mountains and fertile plains and visit Bourke's Luck Potholes. After meandering down the Kowyn's pass, we arrive at our safari themed country estate in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Hippo Hollow Country Estate

Distance travelled today: 500 KMs

**Day 4: (Tue) Mpumalanga (Kruger National Park)**

**(Meal: B)**

We have a bright and early start to the day in order to experience the wonders of exploring the Kruger National Park in our closed vehicle. You will take half day open vehicle safari with the Big Five in the Kruger National Park. The Kruger National Park is an internationally renowned game reserve of nearly 2 million hectares and supports the largest variety of wildlife species on the African continent. Keep a lookout for the wonderful flora and bird life that abounds. We return to our hotel around lunch time and your afternoon is at leisure. Distance travelled today: 200 KMs



**Day 5: (Wed) Mpumalanga - eSwatini (Swaziland)**

**(Meal: B)**

This morning we travel to eSwatini (Swaziland), an independent Kingdom within the borders of South Africa, known for its lovely scenery, crafts, and colourful indigenous culture. An interactive

cultural experience introduces us to the charming people of eSwatini and their traditions. We travel via the capital city, Mbabane, to the beautiful Ezulwini Valley for overnight in eSwatini (Swaziland).

Distance travelled today: 280 KMs

*As the Lugogo Sun Resort and Royal Swazi Spa are adjoining, sister resorts, a complimentary shuttle service is operated between the two complexes every 15 minutes. All of our valued Lugogo Sun Guests are more than welcome to enjoy the restaurants, bars, casino and spa facilities located at the Royal Swazi Spa complex.*

**Day 6: (Thu) eSwatini - Hluhluwe and surrounds (Meal: B)**

This morning we journey through eSwatini (Swaziland) into Zululand. Our journey continues into the Kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal where ancient traditions and modern cultures of both Zulu and Settler have combined into a vibrant society living in peace and harmony.

Enjoy an afternoon open vehicle game drive in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve (included). Arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon for overnight.

Check-in to Anew Hotel Hluhluwe & Safaris

Distance travelled today: 350 KMs

**Day 7: (Fri) Hluhluwe - St Lucia and surrounds - Durban (Meal: B)**

Guests have the option to take a morning boat cruise (optional and for own account @ ZAR350 pp) on Lake St Lucia, to experience Africa's largest estuarine system, before heading off to Durban. An orientation tour of Durban; that travels along the Golden Mile, the beachfront promenade, The Point Waterfront and harbour introduces us to this multicultural, vibrant seaside city. The orientation tour concludes with a visit to the Durban Botanic Gardens before arriving at our hotel late afternoon.

Check-in to Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! by Marriott Durban uMhlanga Ridge

Distance travelled today: 320 KMs



**Day 8: (Sat) Durban - Drakensberg (Meal: B/D)**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast or perhaps take an early morning cab ride to the bustling Umhlanga Beach for a stroll along the Promenade mile which buzzes with energy as surfers, joggers and cyclists take to this seaside playground. Then we head into the majestic Southern Drakensberg Mountains. We proceed on a visit to the 300 foot high Howick Falls, continuing through the Southern Midlands Meander Route, arriving at our hotel mid-afternoon. Your afternoon is at leisure to soak up the surroundings, or go fishing, hiking and even horse riding in clean mountain air (own expense). Sit down to an extensive dinner buffet at your hotel.

Check-in to Drakensberg Gardens Golf & Spa Resort

Distance travelled today: 280 KMs

**Day 9: (Sun) Drakensberg (Meal: B/L/D)**

Today you will join a 4x4 tour up Sani Pass and into the tiny mountain Kingdom of Lesotho (passport required) which includes lunch at the highest pub in Africa. In the evening enjoy dinner at your hotel with a wide variety of local specialities to choose from.

**Day 10: (Mon) Drakensberg - Eastern Cape Coast (Meal: B/D)**

This morning we continue south to the Eastern Cape entering the fourth of the provinces and the birthplace of Nelson Mandela (fondly known as Madiba). En route we see the old traditional way of life in the homeland area known as the Transkei and stop for lunch (own account) outside the capital of Umtata. We continue via Nelson Mandela's birthplace and house, arriving late afternoon at our accommodation in Chinsta East, on the beautiful, unspoilt Eastern Cape Coast. A delicious dinner crafted from fresh, locally sourced seasonal ingredients awaits you at your lodge.

Check-in to Crawford's Beach Lodge

Distance travelled today: 520 KMs

**Day 11: (Tue) Eastern Cape Coast - Tsitsikamma (Meal: B)**

We awake to the sounds of the crashing waves and have an early morning to enjoy the powdery beach sand between our toes. The beach stretches on uninterrupted for many kilometres and the thick indigenous beach forest is a haven for an amazing variety of birdlife. We set off after breakfast, heading south to historic Port Elizabeth where we enjoy a short city orientation drive and lunch (own account). The city is steeped in the history of the 19th century British settlers who formed one of the earliest English colonies in the Eastern Cape. From our gateway to the Garden Route, we continue to our quaint accommodation for the evening, nestled in the lush Tsitsikamma Village.

Check-in to Tsitsikamma Village Inn

Distance travelled today: 510 KMs



**Day 12: (Wed) Tsitsikamma - Knysna (Meal: B/D)**

After a leisurely breakfast, visit the spectacularly beautiful Tsitsikamma Forest, which provides scenic walking opportunities. A short walk to the Storms River Mouth offers some magnificent views of the gorge and river below. Arrive in Knysna, known as the oyster box of South Africa, for check in at your hotel. Enjoy a dinner filled with culinary delights at the hotel's trendy restaurant.

Check-in to Premier Hotel Knysna The Moorings

Distance travelled today: 92 KMs

**Day 13: (Thu) Knysna – Oudtshoorn (Meal: B)**

After breakfast, we travel inland over the spectacular Outeniqua Pass to Oudtshoorn, known as the ‘feather capital of the world’ because of its ostrich industry. We visit a working ostrich farm and then explore the famous Cango Caves. Walk (the more adventurous may crawl!) around the famous Cango Caves with their magnificent dripstone formations of stalactites and stalagmites. Overnight in Mossel Bay.

Distance travelled today: 360 KMs

**Day 14: (Fri) Oudtshoorn - Cape Town (Meal: B)**

Today’s journey travels along the famous Route 62 and through the little Karoo, ending in Cape Town. On the way, we stop off to sample port style wines in Calitzdorp before continuing via Worcester and the Huguenot Tunnel, arriving in Cape Town in the late afternoon.

Check-in to SunSquare Cape Town Gardens

Distance travelled today: 420 KMs



**Day 15: (Sat) Cape Town Peninsular Day Tour (Meal: B)**

Today you will join a full day seat in coach Cape Peninsular tour. Join this full day tour that explores the dramatic coastline of the Cape Peninsula including a visit to Boulders Beach penguin colony and Cape Point Nature Reserve (entrance fee for own account).

**Day 16: (Sun) Cape Town ✈ Australia (Meal: B)**

This morning after breakfast, check out of the hotel by 11:00 am. The remainder of the day will be at leisure until your transfer to Cape Town International airport for your flight bound to Australia.