



BAREFOOT SAFARIS & Adventure Tours

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South Africa

TRIP DOSSIER

SOUTH AFRICA: KRUGER, CAPE TOWN & NELSON MANDELA BAY (KC)

(11 DAYS LAND ONLY)

Revised 4th March 2012

Think of South Africa and think – African wildlife, mountains, deserts, oceans and ocean life, stunning scenery, amazing history, world beating wines and fantastic food.

South Africa, roughly the size of Spain and France combined, encompasses an astonishing diversity of environments; from the dramatic arid moon shapes of the north west to the forest fringed coastline of the Garden Route, from the flat dry Karoo interior to the craggy Drakensburg in the east and the manicured vineyards of the Cape to the spring flower field of the Namaqualand. South Africa is the only country in the world that can lay claim to an entire floral kingdom within its borders. South Africa long coastline stretches more than 2,500Km from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast, southwards around the tip of Africa, then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. On this safari we tread in the footsteps of the early pioneers through a land of spectacular scenery and unparalleled hospitality.

Not only does South Africa have lots of sunshine it also has more animal species than north and South America combined, or Europe and Asia added together. On a Barefoot safari you can view, in their natural haunts, "The Big Five" – elephant, lion, leopard, rhinoceros and buffalo – or be shown "The Sea Big Five"- Right Whale, Great White Shark, endangered Bottle nosed Dolphin, Blue Marlin and Tuna. Look, also, for "The Little Five" – elephant shrew, ant lion, rhinoceros beetle, buffalo weaver and leopard tortoise. We at Barefoot can also introduce you to the South Africa's history and rich cultural heritage. Did you know that South Africa has produced seven Nobel Prize winners (for Peace, Literature and Medicine).

But that is not all; South Africa is the only country with an entire floral kingdom within its borders. The tiny Cape Floral Kingdom has at least 8,578 flowers – the richest variety on earth. Altogether, South Africa has 23,200 plant species – a greater variety than that of the entire northern half of the planet.

Grading: *Anyone in good health with a sense of adventure should be able to take part. There's no real physical difficulty involved, but as in much of Africa – rough roads in the national parks, limited facilities and basic accommodation may require you to adjust your levels of expectation. Walking on and around Sabi is graded 'moderate'.*

NB: *Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed and detailed below, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure such as accommodation, or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary, i.e. BLD Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner.*

Day 1: Johannesburg

You are collected at O R Tambo airport and we drive to our guest house in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, set in a secure golf estate, and check in.

Johannesburg is an extraordinary city, born just over 125 years ago, when one of the world's richest gold-bearing reefs was discovered under the sweeping savannah plains.

The area of Johannesburg began on a vast undulating grassy plain, interspersed with ridges and *kopjes* (small hills) in an area known as the Witwatersrand, named after the white water springs that coursed the land. It wasn't until George Harrison, an Australian prospector, arrived here that the mineral wealth of the Witwatersrand became apparent. In 1886, after George sold his gold claim for just £10, Johannesburg was born. He may never have envisaged the significant world history that would unfold here in the province of Gauteng, place of gold.



We have a few optional excursions that we can offer you to do today, your guide can advise you about our day tours or we can relax in the garden or swim in the pool at the guest house in Johannesburg.

Guest house (D) South African Braai

DAY 2: Sabi Forest

Today we start our safari after a scrumptious breakfast and travel from Johannesburg to Mpumalanga via Dullstroom, Lydenburg and the Long Tom Pass to the forestry town of Sabi in Mpumalanga, which means "land of the rising sun" in the local SiSwati language.

This province offers us from exhilarating wildlife, secluded mountains, wild water sports and some of South Africa's most diverse and vibrant African

Cultures. In the afternoon we visit the Lone Creek Waterfall. Along the edge of the escarpment, visit God's Window (time and weather permitting) and the scenic gorge with the Pinnacle Rock. We overnight outside Sabi in an exclusive lodge set among beautiful mountains and forests at a country lodge we might try our hand at some trout fishing, birding or just lazing around the swimming pool before we have our sun downers saluting the African evening with its night sounds.

Lodge (B, D)

Day 3: Kruger National Park

After an early breakfast, we continue our safari visiting more of the scenic sights of Blyde River Canyon including the Potholes and Three Rondavels. Then we drive to one



of the best wildlife reserves in Africa: the Kruger National Park.



Elephant enjoying a welcome drink.

The Kruger National Park is the second-largest game reserve in Africa and the largest in South Africa. Spanning 360km, North to South, and 65km from East to West, the scenic beauty of Limpopo is situated to the west, the lush Mpumalanga to the south and with Zimbabwe to the North. It has nine entrance gates and is home to the famous Big Five, the Little Five and the birding Big Six, in addition to a range of fauna and flora unique to the area.



African Hunting Dog

Also available are a wide variety of tour options and safaris around the distinct and contrasting landscapes of the 18,989 square kilometre area of the park.

Game spotting is the order of the day and this park is noted for the population of lions that hunt in the area around the banks of the Crocodile River. In addition to the incredible game sightings, we will also share with you our knowledge of the bush and the folklore of Africa.

The Kruger National Park is internationally recognised as a world-class destination and is at the top of any wildlife enthusiast's list of dream destinations. Enter the famous Kruger National Park and continue in our microbus through the reserve to look for animals in this unique wilderness area where Africa's BIG 5 roam in their natural habitat. We overnight in one of the rest with in the Park. Tonight we listen to the sound of the nocturnal animals and birds as we discuss the day's adventures.

Chalet 1 night (B, D)

Day 4: Kruger National Park/Cape town

We have a very early wake up-call for a safari in the Park before breakfast. We continue searching for animals as we drive out of the park. We drive to Johannesburg via the fertile farming area of Elands River Valley, in time for a flight to Cape Town. We arrive in CPT in the late afternoon.

We are transferred to our lodge. The rest of the day is free for personal exploration (un accompanied). Cape Town (Afrikaans: Kaapstad; Xhosa: iKapa) is the second-most populous city in South Africa

The city is famous for its harbor as well as its natural setting in the Cape floral kingdom, including such well-known landmarks as Table Mountain and Cape Point.

Located on the shore of Table Bay, Cape Town was originally developed by the Dutch East India Company as a victualing (supply) station for Dutch ships sailing to Eastern Africa, India, and the Far East. Jan van Riebeeck's arrival on 6 April 1652 established the first permanent European settlement in South Africa. Cape Town quickly outgrew its original purpose as the first European outpost at the Castle of Good Hope, becoming the economic and cultural hub of the Cape Colony.

The city was named the World Design Capital for 2014 by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design

One optional excursion is a day tour on the "Hop on – Hop off" open bus. Visit sights in Cape Town including Waterfront, City Centre, South Africa Museum, Table Mountain (entrance to the mountain is excluded), Camps Bay and Sea Point. Your guide can advise you as to what to do and assist you to make a booking. This is an optional excursion.

Guest house (B)

Day 5: Cape Town.

Today we have the option of a full day Cape Peninsula Tour, beginning with Hout Bay. Enjoy a boat cruise to Seal Island. Visit Cape Point Nature Reserve, the meeting place of two currents of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean. Visit Cape of Good Hope and the Penguin Colony at Boulders Beach. Continue via Simonstown to the famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. (Optional: Robben Island. From the 17th to the 20th centuries, Robben Island served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment.



Boulders Beach Penguin Colony

Today it is a World Heritage Site and museum, a poignant reminder to the newly democratic South Africa of the price paid for freedom.

The standard tour to Robben Island is 3.5 hours long, including the two half-hour ferry rides. Ferries depart at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm, weather permitting, from the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town.



Penguin on Boulders Beach

The Robben Island Tour includes:

A return boat trip across Table Bay.

A visit to the infamous Maximum Security Prison .

Interaction with an ex-political prisoner.

A 45-minute bus ride with a guide providing commentary.

The opportunity to explore the Murray's Bay Harbour precinct attractions, such as the Muslim shrine, or kramat, and the Museum Shop.

To secure a place for yourself or your group on the ferry during the busy summer season, we recommend you book early. These are all optional excursions.

Guesthouse (B)

Day 6: Franschoek.

After breakfast we leave the fairest Cape behind and travel inland on a day tour to the famous Wine Route of South Africa, including wine tasting, and visits to Paarl, Franschoek and Stellenbosch.

We arrive in the afternoon at our guesthouse and can relax next to the swimming pool before we stroll down to find a place to eat of our choice.

Franschoek (Dutch spelling before 1947 *Franschen Hoek*): "French Corner" is a small town in the Western Cape Province and one of the oldest towns of the Republic of South Africa

The valley was originally settled in 1688 by 176 French Huguenot refugees, many of whom were given land by the Dutch government in a valley called *Olifantshoek* ("Elephants' corner"), so named because of the vast herds of elephants that roamed the area. The name of the area soon changed to *le Coin Français* ("the French Corner"), and later to Franschoek (Dutch for "French Corner"), with many of the settlers naming their new farms after the areas in France from which they came. La Motte La Cotte, Cabrière, Provence, Chamonix, Dieu Donné and La Dauphine were among some of the first established farms — most of which still retain their original farm houses today. These farms have grown into renowned wineries.

Guest house (B)



Day 7: Franschhoek.

We explore the wine region in the morning, visiting one of the wine estates, doing some wine tasting and we have the afternoon free for personal exploration

This heritage is shown today by the Huguenot Monument which stands at the end of the town. The museum nearby chronicles the history of the first settlers, with each of the original Huguenot farms having its own fascinating story to tell. The Cape Dutch architecture in much of the village is unspoilt, as restrictions have been placed on the extent of renovations and new construction in order to preserve the spirit of the original settlers to the area.



The Huguenot Monument

Franschhoek is notable for having some of the top restaurants in the country within its quiet borders. This fact, together with the strong wine culture, and pristine natural and architectural beauty has made Franschhoek into what many describe as the "food and wine capital" of South Africa. The city hosts one of the TOP 50 restaurants in the world, according to the "S.Pellegrino world's 50 best restaurants"-ranking and a famous Belgian Patisserie for Belgian pralines.

Guest house (B)

Day 8: Oudtshoorn.

Today we embark on a new experience .We depart after breakfast for the scenic Garden Route. Leaving Franschhoek through the Drakenstein Mountains we drive towards Worcester. Here we visit the Open Museum that portrays the life style of the first settlers of the Cape area. We then continue to Oudtshoorn, to an Ostrich Farm and learn about this unique bird. The town of Oudtshoorn is in the Klein Karoo between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains.

Ostriches are found in great numbers and the region produces the best feathers, leather products and ostrich meat in the world. But the world's biggest bird is just one of the many attractions in this area of exceptional contrasts and natural beauty.

It is also; home to the spectacular Congo Caves, Africa's largest show cave system. In the vicinity of an ecological hotspot where three distinct plant biomes (succulent Karoo, cape thicket and fynbos) converge. Nestled next to the Swartberg mountain range, which is part of the Cape Floral World Heritage Site. After another exciting day we settle into our comfortable accommodation.

Guest house (B)

Day 9: Knysna.

After breakfast, we drive to go and explore the Congo Caves. The Congo Caves are located in Precambrian limestone at the foothills of the Swartberg range.

The principal cave is one of the country's finest, best known and most popular tourist caves and attracts many visitors. Although the extensive system of tunnels and chambers go on for over four kilometers, only about a quarter of this is open to visitors, who may proceed into the cave only in groups supervised by a guide.

Tours are conducted at regular intervals on most days - there is a "Standard Tour" which takes an hour and an "Adventure Tour" which takes an hour and a half. The "Adventure Tour" consists of crawling through narrow passages and climbing up steep rock formations guided by small lights.

The caves contain spectacular halls and grand limestone formations (on both tours) as well as some rather small passages on the Adventure Tour. The smallest passage that tourists will have to pass through on the Adventure Tour is just under 30 cm high at the exit. After our cave tour we continue to the coast through the beautiful Outeniqua Mountain Pass. In the town of George we visit the local Railway Museum and then continue to Knysna with its evergreen forests. Here we have an optional excursion: Boat Cruise on the Knysna Lagoon (weather permitting)



Knysna Heads

We overnight in Wilderness.

Guesthouse (B)

Day 10: Garden route.

In the morning we depart along the coast to Plettenberg Bay, a historic whaling station. Plettenberg Bay is the jewel of The Garden Route and is tranquil and charming, hospitable and rather special. Originally christened "Bahia Formosa" (beautiful bay) by early Portuguese explorers, Plettenberg Bay offers the us miles of sweeping, unspoilt

golden beaches, a dramatic rocky peninsula, intriguing lagoons and estuaries, towering indigenous forests and unpolluted rivers and sea.

With its exceptional climate and beautiful view sites over the Indian Ocean, Plettenberg Bay is perfect for those of us interested in exploring and whale watching. From there we travel through the mountain passes, surrounded by ancient trees to the coastal Tsitsikamma National Park, combining the unique beauty of coast with a variety of vegetation.

In the afternoon we arrive in Port Elizabeth. **Port Elizabeth** (Xhosa: *Ebhayi*; colloquial *The Bay* or Afrikaans: *Die Baai*). The city often shortened to **PE** and nicknamed "The Friendly City" or "The Windy City", stretches for 16 km along Algoa Bay.

Port Elizabeth was founded as a town in 1820 to house British settlers as a way of strengthening the border region between the Cape Colony and the Xhosa. It now forms part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality .

We have the afternoon free to explore on our own or to buy the last minute curios. We have our farewell dinner in a good South African eatery.

Guesthouse (B, D)

Day 11: to airport.

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Johannesburg and then home. End of our service.

(B)

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Since January 2003, Barefoot Safaris has donated £10 for every person we take to Malawi and Zambia, to assist with the funding and development of **Chanyoli School**. Parents and school staff have recently fired 60,000 bricks and began building this year. You may like to bring some books or school equipment to assist this very deserving project and see for yourself how well received it is. Any donations in cash are always welcome.

We also support the **SOS Children's Village**, which you can visit in Lilongwe. They would be most grateful for any children's clothes or toys that you might donate.



Price Includes:

- All transport on tour.
- All meals as per itinerary.
- All park entry fees.
- All game viewing activities as per itinerary.
- All armed scout fees as per itinerary.
- All accommodation fees as per itinerary.
- Safari equipment.
- Reference library.
- Deep freezer.

Price Excludes:

- Airfare.
- Visa fees.
- Airport taxes.
- Meals as per the itinerary.
- Drinks.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Any changes to the itinerary.
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Optional excursions

**** Excursions:** A qualified grade 1 safari guide from Barefoot Safaris will accompany clients on all excursions except where it is necessary to employ a guide from local parks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Climate: South Africa's wet season runs from mid October or early November to March or April. During the rainy season, daytime temperatures are pleasantly warm, but low lying areas can sometimes be humid. The heaviest rain is confined to the highlands, while while the lakeshore is much drier.

The dry season tends to be cooler and generally runs from May to early October. During the dry season, daytime temperatures in the lower areas are fairly consistent at 21°C to 26°C. In the highlands daytime temperatures can be considerably cooler ranging between 10°C and 20°C. Nights can be particularly cold during the dry season, so warm clothing is essential. Kruger's can be cool and dry season runs from May to Aug; the hot and dry from Sep to Oct, and the wet season from Nov to Apr. South Luangwa is relatively low lying, so evening temperatures shouldn't be too low!

Baggage:

- One piece of main luggage only (**max 12kg**), this should be a soft bag rather than a hard suitcase, so it can be easily stowed and not take up too much room in the vehicle or in the tent. Space in the vehicle is restricted.
- A day sack (large enough to carry your camera, water bottle, & binoculars etc) is also essential.
- Sleeping Bag

Clothing and Footwear:

- For comfort in the heat, lightweight cotton is best. Brightly colored clothing

is not appropriate for safari because it is easily seen by animals and has the added discomfort of attracting insects (wear muted tones in natural colors i.e. beige, khaki, olive, etc, but **not** army-style camouflage clothing).

- A long-sleeved shirt is essential to protect neck and arms while on game walks/drives.
- Long trousers and socks for evenings.
- Windproof/waterproof jacket.
- Lightweight trail boots.
- Trainers or sandals for relaxing.
- Sunhat.
- Swimming gear.
- Warm mid layers i.e. fleece or jumper for cool nights and early mornings
- Kagoul if you are travelling during the rains.

Equipment:

- A laundry service may be available in some hotels, but we recommend you take biodegradable travel detergent
- Torch (Head torch is ideal)
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lipsalve
- Insect repellent
- Binoculars
- Dust can be a problem for cameras; take a dustproof bag

Medicine:

- Basic personal first aid kit
- Any prescription drugs required
- Female sanitary products
- Malaria prophylaxis

Visas and Permits:

South Africa: Holders of UK, USA, CAN, AUS, NZ, IRL, NOR, NL passports do not require a visa.

This information is given in good faith, but may be subject to change without warning. Please note that, where appropriate, obtaining a valid visa is ultimately your responsibility. Please consult a visa agency or the consular authorities 4-6 weeks before departure for the most up-to-date information.

Vaccinations & Health Advice:

Vaccination requirements & other health advice can change, so please check with a specialized travel clinic for up to date information before you depart. For useful advice you can visit The Medical Advisory Service for Travelers Abroad www.masta.org

Nevertheless we recommend that you protect yourselves against: *Malaria, Hepatitis A, and Polio & Typhoid as a minimum.*

Food: Although every effort will be made to accommodate any dietary requirements, the availability of certain products is limited in South Africa. Any special dietary requirements should be explained to us in writing at time of booking. Gluten free flour

should be brought with you if required. Decaffeinated coffee should be brought with you if required.

Local Costs: 10 Breakfasts, 0 lunches and 4 evening meals are included. You must pay for all other meals yourself (you can eat very well for \$10 a day). Approximate costs are given for guidance only, and may vary widely according to location and type of establishment.

Coffee/tea	USD\$0.30
Soft drink	USD\$0.30
Medium beer	USD\$0.60
Local snack lunch	USD\$2.00
3-course dinner*	USD\$7.00

*reasonable mid-range tourist class restaurant.

Optional excursions:

Some or all of the excursions detailed below may be available; others not listed may also be available. Approximate per person costs are given for guidance only, and may depend on the number of participants. Your safari guide should be able to assist you in arranging them as well as advise you on any.

Tipping: For better or worse, tipping is an accepted part of everyday life, and - although it is always at your discretion - you will be expected to tip to reward service. Your group leader will give you an indication of when and how much is appropriate. This can vary widely, but please allow USD 25 per person for this tour.

Seasonal changes: Although all rooms/chalets in malaria areas that we use are protected with mosquito netting; there will be insects and mosquitoes about. The camps are essentially "al fresco" so you should be prepared with insect repellent and appropriate long sleeved/legged clothing.

Insects are attracted to lights at night and are especially prevalent during the rainy season. Switching the lights off and placing a hurricane lamp a distance from you will remove the problem.

The evenings and mornings will be chilly from about June to August; so it is advisable to take a light sweater or fleece. The Highlands in Malawi has a much cooler climate, so if you are visiting these areas warmer clothes will be required during these months.

Currency: South African Rand. We recommend that you bring all you need for the trip as cash in US\$ or to make use of your debit or credit card.

NB: Pre 1990 dollar bills are not accepted in most African countries.

Airport Tax: This should be included in your air ticket. Please confirm with your air carrier



TEMPERATURE CHART

Temperature data for Johannesburg

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	25.6	25.1	24	21.1	18.9	16	16.7	19.4	22.8	23.8	24.2	25.2
Average low °C	14.7	14.1	13.1	10.3	7.2	4.1	4.1	6.2	9.3	11.2	12.7	13.9

Temperature data for Cape Town

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	26.1	26.5	25.4	23	20.3	18.1	17.5	17.8	19.2	21.3	23.5	24.9
Average low °C	15.7	15.6	14.2	11.9	9.4	7.8	7	7.5	8.7	10.6	13.2	14.9

Temperature data Kruger NP

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	33	32	31	29	28	26	26	27	29	30	31	32
Average low °C	21	20	19	15	10	6	6	9	13	16	18	20