



South African Surprise - 15 Days (#17074)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **13-10-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Overview

An expedition of surprise, our South African Surprise package is a collection of experiences unique to South Africa. South Africa is a country of vast contrasts of landscapes, a thrill-seekers paradise, a wildlife enthusiast dream, and a photographer's canvas.

Beginning in Johannesburg, highlights include the Kruger National Park, where wildlife never ceases to amaze, and the Panorama Route is a wonder of natural sights. It's then on to eSwatini and Zululand, two regions steeped in ancient culture and tradition. The Southern Drakensberg Mountains forms a great part of this package, where nature rejuvenates the soul. The last leg includes trips to the birthplace of Nelson Mandela, a world hero and revolutionary, and the famed Garden Route region, ending in the Mother City, Cape Town.

15 Days Tour - Minimum 2 guests/Maximum 40 guests

Departure Day - Sunday, selected departure dates

Trip Highlights



Johannesburg-Mpumalanga-Eswatini-St Lucia-Durban (Umhlanga)-Drakensberg-Eastern Cape Coast-Tsitsikamma-Knysna-Oudtshoorn-Cape Town

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

Day 1, Sunday - Johannesburg

On arrival in Johannesburg at OR Tambo International Airport, you'll be met by your representative and assisted to your shuttle transfer service (unescorted, driver only) that will transfer you to your hotel. You have the remainder of the day at leisure until 19h00 when we all meet at the hotel reception for a welcome briefing on the tour and a chance to meet your fellow travellers

Day 02

Day 2, Monday - Johannesburg-Mpumalanga

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. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 500 kms

Meal: Breakfast

Day 03

Day 3, Tuesday - Mpumalanga

We have a bright and early start to the day to experience the wonders of exploring the Kruger National Park in our closed vehicle. Why not join a thrilling open-vehicle game safari through the Kruger National Park (optional and for own account)? The Kruger National Park is an internationally renowned game reserve of nearly 2 million hectares that 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 to relax. [Packed Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 200 kms



Meal: Breakfast

Day 04

Day 4, Wednesday - Mpumalanga - Eswatini

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 south to our hotel, nestled in the mountainous peaks of eSwatini (Swaziland) for overnight. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 200 kms

Meal: Breakfast

Day 05

Day 5, Thursday - Eswatini - St Lucia & Surrounds

After breakfast we journey through eSwatini (Swaziland), visiting Ngwenya Glass, where a small group of eSwati craftsmen and women create beautiful handmade items from recycled glass. Our next stop is The Swazi Candles Centre where you will experience local artisans creating colourful, handmade candles. 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. Arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon for overnight. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 375 kms

Meal: Breakfast

Day 06

Day 6, Friday - St Lucia and Surrounding - Durban (Umhlanga)

Guests have the option to take a morning optional open vehicle game drive in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve (optional and for own account), 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. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 320 kms



Meal: Breakfast

Day 07

Day 7, Saturday - Durban (Umhlanga) - Drakensberg

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast or perhaps explore the bustling Umhlanga Beach with a stroll along the Promenade mile that buzzes with energy as surfers, joggers and cyclists take to this seaside playground. Then we head into the majestic Southern Drakensberg Mountains. We visit the impressive 300-foot-high Howick Falls, located in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands town of Howick. Our journey continues through the Southern Midlands Meander Route, arriving at our hotel, situated on a scenic World Heritage site, mid-afternoon. Your afternoon is at leisure to soak up the surroundings, or enjoy fishing, hiking and even horse riding in clean mountain air (all activities are optional and for own account). Sit down to a sumptuous dinner at your hotel. [Breakfast & Dinner]

Distance travelled today: 280 kms

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 08

Day 8, Sunday - Drakensberg

Enjoy a full day at leisure to soak up the surroundings of the magnificent Southern Drakensberg Mountains. There are also many leisure activities to be enjoyed at the Resort. Consider joining a thrilling 4x4 tour up the spectacular Sani Pass into the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho (optional and for own account). Enjoy an evening dinner at your hotel with a wide variety of local specialities to choose from. [Breakfast & Dinner].

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 09

Day 9, Monday - Drakensberg - Eastern Cape Coast

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 former homeland area known as the Transkei and stop for lunch (own account) outside the capital of Mthata. We travel past 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 with local delicacies awaits you at your lodge. [Breakfast & Dinner]



Distance travelled today: 520 kms

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10

Day 10, Tuesday - Eastern Cape Coast - Tsitsikamma

We awake to the sounds of the crashing waves and have the morning at leisure to unwind with 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 heading south to the Tsitsikamma Forest. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 510 kms

Meal: Breakfast

Day 11

Day 11, Wednesday - Tsitsikamma - Knysna

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. [Breakfast & Dinner]

Distance travelled today: 92 kms

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12

Day 12, Thursday - Knysna - Oudtshoorn

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, with a walk around its magnificent dripstone formations of stalactites and stalagmites. Overnight in Oudtshoorn. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 180 kms

Meal: Breakfast



Day 13

Day 13, Friday - Oudtshoorn - Cape Town

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 top quality port style wines in Calitzdorp, before continuing via Worcester and the Huguenot Tunnel, arriving in Cape Town in the late afternoon. [Breakfast]

Distance travelled today: 420 km

Meal: Breakfast

Day 14

Day 14, Saturday - Cape Town

Enjoy a full day at leisure. Perhaps join a sightseeing tour of Cape Town and Table Mountain (optional and for own account) or spend the day exploring the magnificent Cape Winelands on a full day winelands tour (optional and for own account) or join a full day tour of the Cape Peninsula, with its dramatic coastline and spectacular scenic beauty (optional and for own account). Although a small city, Cape Town is packed with sightseeing attractions, excellent bars, cafes, and restaurants as well as colourful craft markets. Alternatively relax on one of Cape Town's many pristine beaches. Overnight in Cape Town. [Breakfast]

Meal: Breakfast

Day 15

Day 15, Sunday - Cape Town Departure (Unescorted)

This morning after breakfast, check out of the hotel by 11h00. The remainder of the day will be at leisure until your transfer to Cape Town International airport. [Breakfast].

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

- 18 Meals: 14 breakfasts, 4 dinners including gratuities.
- 14 Nights' accommodation including portorage.
- Transportation including toll fees in air-conditioned vehicles.



- Services of a professional English-speaking tour guide.
- Entrance fees as specified in the itinerary.

Exclusions

- International / Domestic airfares.
- Optional activities.
- Other meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program.
- Personal equipment.
- Travel insurance.
- Voluntary tips for guides or drivers.
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Any items not mentioned as included.
- Check visa requirements for Eswatini (Swaziland).

Note

Hotels Envisaged OR Similar

Johannesburg - 4* Protea Hotel OR Tambo or similar

Mpumalanga - 4* Hippo Hollow Country Estate or similar

eSwatini (Swaziland) - 3* Piggs Peak Hotel or similar

St Lucia and Surrounding - 3* Anew Hotel Hluhluwe or similar

Durban (Umhlanga) - 4* Protea Hotel Umhlanga Ridge or similar

Drakensberg - 3* Drakensberg Gardens Hotel or similar

Eastern Cape Coast - 4* Crawford's Beach Lodge or similar

Tsitsikamma - 3* Tsitsikamma Village Inn or similar

Knysna - 3* Premier Resort The Moorings (Knysna) or similar

Oudtshoorn - 3* Protea Hotel Riempie Estate or similar

Cape Town - 3* Sun Square Cape Town Gardens or similar

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the spectacular scenic Three Rondavels, Bourke's Luck Potholes and God's Window.
- Experience a game safari in the Kruger National Park.
- Meet the friendly people of eSwatini (Swaziland) and experience their culture through singing and dancing.
- Orientation tour of Durban including a visit to the Durban Botanic Gardens.



- Visit to the charming village of Howick and its impressive waterfall.
- Overnight in the magnificent Southern Drakensberg Mountains and experience the unspoilt Eastern Cape Coast.
- Travel past Nelson Mandela's birthplace and house.
- Visit Tsitsikamma National Park and the scenic Storms River Mouth.
- Overnight in Knysna, known as the oyster box of South Africa.
- Guided tour of the Cango Caves and a guided tour of a working ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn.
- Explore the small towns long the famous Route 62 between Cape Town and Oudtshoorn.
- Sample top quality Port style wines in Calitzdorp, a town well known for its fortified wines.
- Two overnights in Cape Town, spectacularly set at the foot of Table Mountain.
- Enjoy a variety of carefully chosen optional MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences that positively impact our travellers and the communities we visit.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

This tour travels through eSwatini (Swaziland) and Lesotho. Please check visa requirements, as certain nationalities may require visas to travel through eSwatini (Swaziland) and Lesotho.

NOTE

Accommodation check-in on Day 1 is from 14h00. Shuttle service on Day 1 starts at 05h15 and ends at 23h00. If you are arriving on a very early morning or late evening flight, please inform your Travel Agent, to make alternative transfer arrangements.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: Enhance your journey with optional excursions, available for pre booking, subject to a minimum of 2 adults travelling. (Rates on request).

Prices are subject to alteration without prior notice. Prices are also subject to adjustment in the event of changes in government imposed taxes, fuel price, airfares, hotel charges, tourism levies and the introduction of national, regional or local taxes or levies of whatever nature.

Departure from Johannesburg on Sundays.

Program Touring / Guide

Escorted Experience

Fixed Departure



03 Nov, 2024

Package Cost
AUD 3,746 P P twin share
AUD 4,712 P P single
AVAILABLE

01 Dec, 2024

Package Cost
AUD 3,746 P P twin share
AUD 4,712 P P single
AVAILABLE

