

Kirstenbosch

# South Africa

# **Arranged by Travel Editions**

## September/October 2025 12 days from \*£4,125pp

This tour is a once in a lifetime trip to South Africa, to see some of the wonderful gardens of this stunning country. Naturally, we will also take in some of the scenic highlights including Cape Town and Table Mountain as well as sampling some of the country's superb wines as we travel through its wine region and stunning wildlife whilst we visit two of the country's nature reserves.



This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel For further information please contact: Travel Editions Group Limited, 3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB on Tel: 020 7251 0045 \*Based on 20 passengers subject to availability



#### Day by day itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Cape Town where you will be met by your local guide. Start by exploring South Africa's exciting 'Mother City' on a guided tour of the historical and cultural sights of Cape Town. A tour of this vibrant city, home to street markets of every kind, cosmopolitan and rustic eateries, and a host of cultures is an unforgettable experience.

## Day 2 Full Day Table Mountain and Kirstenbosch visit.

You will take a trip to the top of the world, high above the clouds on the famous Table Mountain (weather permitting). Table Mountain is an icon in Cape Town and is almost certainly the most photographed landmark in the country. This afternoon, we explore the diverse beauty of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, which is set up against Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain looking out onto the city. It was the first botanical garden in the world to be included within a natural World Heritage site.

#### Day 3 Full Day Hout Bay Harbour, Boulder's Beach and Cape of Good Hope and on to Stellenbosch.

The first visit of the day is to step into the working harbour of Hout Bay at the end of Cape Town's Atlantic seaboard to see an authentic fishing village, with colourful fishing boats moored on the dock to the range of fish markets, restaurants, street markets and shops that have sprung up overlooking the bay. Take a trip via funicular to the lighthouse at 286 metres above sea level (which warns ships they are approaching the feared "Cape of Storms"). The sheltered Simon's Town beach of Boulders Beach is the home of an endangered land-based colony of African penguins (over 2 000 of them). We then continue to Stellenbosch for a two night stay.

## Day 4 Full day Babylonstoren and Harold Porter Botanical Garden.

Our first stop of the day will be at Babylonstoren. Set within 3.5 hectares of cultivated fruit and vegetables, the big garden at Babylonstoren is at the heart of the farm. It was inspired by the historic Company's Garden in Cape Town, which supplied sailing ships of the Dutch East India Company. We then proceed to Betty's Bay for the visit to Harold Porter National Botanic Gardens. This beautiful, secluded garden is set between mountain and sea, in the heart of the Cape Fynbos region within the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

## Day 5 Full Day Winelands & Old Nectar Gardens and on to Franschloek.

The first stop today will be at Vergelegen Estate for a Heritage and Garden Tour. This tour will be followed by wine tasting before we enjoy a sumptuous lunch. Shortly after Anglo American purchased Vergelegen in 1987, a team was commissioned to restore the Vergelegen gardens and grounds in the historic core of the estate. No matter what time of the year you visit Vergelegen, there's always something interesting to see and visitors will have the opportunity to meander through 18 unique gardens. After lunch, we proceed to Jonkershoek Road for a visit to the Old Nectar Gardens. Home to the van der Spuy family since 1941, the iconic Old Nectar manor house, located just 5km from the heart of Stellenbosch, combines Cape Dutch 18th and 19th century atmosphere with 21st century comfort. We then continue to Franschhoek for overnight stay.

## Day 6 Visit to Karoo Desert National Park and on to Oudtshoorn.

The 154-hectare Karoo Desert National Botanical Garden is a truly unique garden. It cultivates and displays a wide variety of arid and semi-arid plants. It lies at the foot of the Hex River Mountain range, with only 11 hectares cultivated and the remaining 143 hectares comprised of natural vegetation. A long drive this afternoon takes us to Oudtshoorn for check in for overnight stay.

## Day 7 Full day visit to Knysna Elephant Park and an afternoon Featherbed Nature Reserve excursion.

An early start takes us to the Knysna Elephant Park is where you can get up close and personal with Africa's gentle giants. The resident "ellies" at the park are all orphans rescued from culling operations in the Kruger National Park. The elephants have free range of this 60 hectare camp where there is plenty to eat and where there are two large dams for bathing and drinking. Take the ferry to Knysna's famous Featherbed Nature Reserve with its abundance of plant, bird and small wildlife. Once ashore, the 2.2 kilometre trail winds its way through Milkwood Forests up to steep sandstone cliffs overlooking the wild Atlantic Ocean.

#### Day 8 Full day Garden Route National Park.

Visit to the Garden Route National Park, with the National Park Conservation Fees and the Forest Trail entrance fee included. The Storms River Mouth in the Tsitsikamma forms part of the Garden Route National Park. One of the many highlights in this area is the 77m long suspension bridge that crosses the Storms River Mouth. This bridge is famous in this part of the world and has striking gorge views and leads to a path that takes you to a popular lookout point.

#### Day 9 This morning, prepare yourselves for an African Safari!

After breakfast we will transfer to Sanbona Wildlife Reserve in the Western Province of South Africa. It stretches over 54 000 hectares of plains and mountains, where Africa's beloved wild traverse. The reserve is malaria-free and home to the Big Five, as well as the rare free-roaming white lions, often referred to as the Star Lions. The perfect way to unwind after a day exploring the African wild is a trip to the Relaxation Retreats, where pampering is an art form and rejuvenation is the inevitable result (extra cost).

### Day 10 Sanbona morning excursion and to Citrusdal.

After breakfast, we depart Sanbona Wildlife Reserve for Citrusdal via Robertson and Tulbagh for a two





night stay. This gentle meander along the winding curves of Piekenierskloof Pass will bring you to the welcoming sight of Piekenierskloof Mountain Resort. Perched at the top of the pass, overlooking the charming town of Citrusdal, Piekenierskloof delivers uninterrupted views of the spectacular Cederberg and genuine country hospitality. Afternoon at leisure

#### Day 11 Full day Skimmelberg Nature Reserve.

After breakfast, depart for Skimmelberg Nature Reserve for tea tasting and busch distillery. After the tour you will spend time discovering the magnificent wildflowers that abound - bird watching is also available on the farm.

Day 12 A scrumptious breakfast ends our journey. Transfer to Cape Town International Airport for our flight back home.

#### Where you stay

Cape Town Hollow Hotel - Two nights

Protea Hotel by Marriott Stellenbosch Dorpshuis & Spa - Two nights

Protea Hotel by Marriott Franschhoek - One night

Queens Hotel, Oudthoorn - One night

The Wilderness Hotel Resort & Spa - One night Sanbona Wildlife Reserve, Gondwana Family Lodge - One night

Piekenierskloof Mountain Resort - Two nights

#### Included

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Cape Town
- Eleven nights accommodation at selected hotels as listed
- All dinners
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues as stated in the itinerary
- Porterage at airports and hotels (one standard piece of luggage per person)
- Transport in private touring vehicles
- Local English speaking guide on all transfers and sightseeing excursions
- Services of David Hurrion throughout

#### Not included

- Double for sole use supplement
- Holiday insurance
- Meals other than those stated
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc
- Porterage and gratuities

