

13-day Best of South Africa

Enjoy game viewing in 5 different areas; stay at a private game lodge and see Africa's 'Big 5'. Spot unique wildlife at a World Heritage Site; board an ocean safari; enjoy a sunset oyster cruise on the Knysna Estuary and walk through the Tsitsikamma Forest. Explore Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula.



TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code	TIRS	TISD 01	TISD 21
Duration	13 days 12 nights 1 night Johannesburg 1 night Hoedspruit 1 night Hazyview 1 night Eswatini 1 night St Lucia 1 night Umhlanga 1 night Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) 2 nights Knysna 1 night Oudtshoorn 2 nights Cape Town	5 days 4 nights 1 night Hoedspruit 1 night Hazyview 1 night Eswatini 1 night St Lucia	4 days 3 nights 2 nights Knysna 1 night Oudtshoorn
Start location	Johannesburg, Gauteng		
End location	Cape Town, Western Cape		
Group size	2 – 8 guests per vehicle Cape Town guided day tours may be bigger groups		
Departure time	By arrangement from O.R. Tambo International Airport (transfer included)		
Language	English guided German guided French TICP Full day Cape Point tour on day 12 is Bilingual (German/English) Other language tour guides are available on request if booked on a private basis and a surcharge applies		
Accommodation	3 and 4-star hotels; 5-star private game lodge		
Vehicle	Air-conditioned vehicle of appropriate size Sedan or minibus		
Included	Meals	12 breakfasts and 4 dinners	
	Entrance Fees	Blyde River Canyon Bourke's Luck Potholes God's Window Conservation fees into Kruger National Park a private game reserve and iSimangaliso Wetlands Park Garden Route National Park (Storms River) conservation fee Hotel Porterage	
	Excursions	2 open safari vehicle game drives in a private game reserve Morning open safari vehicle game drive in iSimangaliso Wetland Park St Lucia Estuary boat cruise Short walk in Tsitsikamma to the Storms River Suspension Bridge Sunset Knysna oyster cruise Ocean safari in Plettenberg Bay Qolweni Township visit	

		Ostrich farm tractor tour Cango Caves heritage tour Olive and wine tasting Cape Point full day tour
	Green Seat	Endangered Wildlife Trust, Trees for Tourism
Excluded	Travel insurance, flights, visa fees, 13 lunches, 8 dinners and gratuities - Day 9 > Guests are invited to donate stationery to Qolweni School in Plettenberg Bay - Day 12 > Duiker Island boat cruise and Boulder's Beach Penguin Colony entrance fee	

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATES

2025 Season 01 Nov 2024 - 31 Dec 2025 Scheduled Sundays Block-out dates may apply		Language	Start Sunday	End Friday
	Group 1	English	03-Nov-24	15-Nov-24
	Group 2	German	10-Nov-24	22-Nov-24
	Group 3	French	17-Nov-24	29-Nov-24
	Group 4	German	24-Nov-24	06-Dec-24
	Group 5	German	01-Dec-24	13-Dec-24
	Group 6	English	08-Dec-24	20-Dec-24
	Group 7	German	15-Dec-24	27-Dec-24
	Group 8	English	22-Dec-24	03-Jan-25
	Group 9	German	29-Dec-24	10-Jan-25
	Group 10	English	05-Jan-25	17-Jan-25
	Group 11	French	12-Jan-25	24-Jan-25
	Group 12	German	19-Jan-25	31-Jan-25
	Group 13	German	26-Jan-25	07-Feb-25
	Group 14	English	02-Feb-25	14-Feb-25
	Group 15	German	09-Feb-25	21-Feb-25
	Group 16	French	16-Feb-25	28-Feb-25
	Group 17	German	23-Feb-25	07-Mar-25
	Group 18	English	02-Mar-25	14-Mar-25
	Group 19	German	09-Mar-25	21-Mar-25
	Group 20	English	16-Mar-25	28-Mar-25
	Group 21	German	23-Mar-25	04-Apr-25
	Group 22	English	30-Mar-25	11-Apr-25
	Group 23	German	06-Apr-25	18-Apr-25
	Group 24	French	13-Apr-25	25-Apr-25
	Group 25	German	20-Apr-25	02-May-25
	Group 26	English	27-Apr-25	09-May-25
	Group 27	German	04-May-25	16-May-25
	Group 28	English	11-May-25	23-May-25
	Group 29	German	18-May-25	30-May-25
	Group 30	English	25-May-25	06-Jun-25
	Group 31	German	01-Jun-25	13-Jun-25
	Group 32	English	08-Jun-25	20-Jun-25
	Group 33	German	15-Jun-25	27-Jun-25
	Group 34	English	22-Jun-25	04-Jul-25
	Group 35	French	29-Jun-25	11-Jul-25
	Group 36	German	06-Jul-25	18-Jul-25
	Group 37	German	13-Jul-25	25-Jul-25
	Group 38	English	20-Jul-25	01-Aug-25
	Group 39	German	27-Jul-25	08-Aug-25
	Group 40	French	03-Aug-25	15-Aug-25
	Group 41	German	10-Aug-25	22-Aug-25
	Group 42	English	17-Aug-25	29-Aug-25
	Group 43	German	24-Aug-25	05-Sep-25
	Group 44	French	31-Aug-25	12-Sep-25
	Group 45	German	07-Sep-25	19-Sep-25
	Group 46	English	14-Sep-25	26-Sep-25
	Group 47	German	21-Sep-25	03-Oct-25
	Group 48	English	28-Sep-25	10-Oct-25
	Group 49	German	05-Oct-25	17-Oct-25
	Group 50	English	12-Oct-25	24-Oct-25
	Group 51	German	19-Oct-25	31-Oct-25
	Group 52	English	26-Oct-25	07-Nov-25
	Group 53	German	02-Nov-25	14-Nov-25
	Group 54	English	09-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
Group 55	French	16-Nov-25	28-Nov-25	

Group 56	German	23-Nov-25	05-Dec-25
Group 57	German	30-Nov-25	12-Dec-25
Group 58	English	07-Dec-25	19-Dec-25
Group 59	German	14-Dec-25	26-Dec-25
Group 60	French	21-Dec-25	02-Jan-26
Group 61	German	28-Dec-25	09-Jan-26

ADDITIONAL TOURING OPTIONS

Scheduled Private Guided Tour	<p>The itinerary is available on a private basis departing on scheduled Sundays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available on 30-day freesell and on request thereafter - Departure on any other day is subject to availability and a surcharge applies - Public attractions and open safari vehicle game drives will not be private - Other foreign language tour guides available on request if booked on a private basis and a surcharge applies
Scheduled Self-drive Tour	<p>The itinerary is available on a self-drive basis departing on scheduled Sundays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available on 30-day freesell and on request thereafter - Excluding most entrance fees - Departure on any other day is subject to availability and a surcharge applies

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE Recommendations

Pre-Tour Accommodation in **JOHANNESBURG**: **4-star** Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton

Pre-Touring in **JOHANNESBURG**: **My Joburg Flexible Private Full Day Tour**
-No fixed itinerary; limited to 300km / 9 hours
- Places of interest subject to operating hours

Post-Tour Accommodation in **CAPE TOWN**: **4-star** SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl

Post-Touring in **CAPE TOWN**: **My Cape Town Flexible Private Full Day Tour**
-No fixed itinerary; limited to 300km / 9 hours
- Places of interest subject to operating hours

TOUR SUMMARY

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEALS	ACTIVITIES & ENTRANCE FEES INCLUDED	KM
1 Sun	Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton		Afternoon at leisure	30
2 Mon	aha Makalali Main Lodge	Breakfast Dinner	Afternoon open safari vehicle game drive	456
3 Tue	ANEW Resort Hazyview	Breakfast Dinner	Early morning bush walk or open safari vehicle game drive Blyde River Canyon and Three Rondawels Bourke's Luck Potholes God's Window	180
4 Wed	Mantenga Lodge	Breakfast Dinner	Kruger National Park game viewing in closed vehicle	285
5 Thu	Forest Lodge	Breakfast	Visit Swazi Candle Factory and Crafts Market	335
6 Fri	The Capital Pearls	Breakfast	Morning open safari vehicle game drive and short forest walk in iSimangaliso Wetlands Park St Lucia Estuary Boat Cruise	225
7 Sat	Southern Sun The Marine	Breakfast	Departure and arrival airport transfers Recommended flights departing after 15h00	
8 Sun	Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays	Breakfast	Short walk to Storms River Bridge Sunset Knysna oyster cruise (weather permitting)	285
9 Mon	Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays	Breakfast	Marine excursion in Plettenberg Bay (weather permitting) Qolweni Township visit	60
10 Tue	Surval Boutique Olive Estate	Breakfast Dinner	Cango Caves heritage tour Olive tasting, paired with Protea Rose or juice	125
11 Wed	SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl	Breakfast	Ostrich farm tractor tour	440
12 Thu	SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl	Breakfast	Cape Point full day tour (Bilingual guide commentary)	
13 Fri	TOUR ENDS IN CAPE TOWN	Breakfast	Driver only airport transfer	

DAY-BY-DAY BREAKDOWN

Alternative accommodation may be booked when required and will be communicated 30-days before departure

Day 1 | Sunday

DAY OF ARRIVAL (±30km)

Arrival at O.R. Tambo International – airport driver only transfer to hotel (included)

Lunch (own expense)

Afternoon at leisure

Dinner at the hotel (own expense)

Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton or similar - Breakfast (4-star)

NOTE: Guests will receive a Welcome Letter in their room, re-confirming the relevant tour details and times

Day 2 | Monday

JOHANNESBURG to MAKALALI GAME RESERVE via DULLSTROOM (±456km)

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Afternoon open safari vehicle game drive (included)

Dinner at the lodge (included)

aha Makalali Main Lodge or similar – Dinner, breakfast and 2 game viewing excursions (5-star)

Day 3 | Tuesday

MAKALALI GAME RESERVE to HAZYVIEW via PANORAMA ROUTE (±180km)

Early morning bush walk or open safari vehicle game drive (included)

Breakfast at the lodge (included)

Blyde River Canyon and Three Rondavels (included)

Bourke's Luck Potholes (included)

God's Window (included)

Late lunch en route along the Panorama Route (own expense)

Arrive at the hotel late afternoon

Dinner at the hotel (included)

ANEW Resort Hazyview or similar – Dinner and breakfast (4-star)

Day 4 | Wednesday

HAZYVIEW to ESWATINI via KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±285km)

Early breakfast at the hotel (included)

Enter Kruger National Park at Phabeni Gate – game viewing in closed vehicle (included)

Exit Kruger National Park at Malelane Gate (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Enter Eswatini at Jeppes Reef Border (visas for own expense)

Arrive at the hotel late afternoon

Dinner at the lodge (included)

Mantenga Lodge or similar – Dinner and breakfast (4-star)

NOTE: When entering the Kingdom of Eswatini, guests must ensure they have a valid passport and for nationals of applicable countries, multi-entry visa regulations apply (own expense)

Day 5 | Thursday

ESWATINI to ST LUCIA (±335km)

Breakfast at the lodge (included)

Visit Swazi Candle Factory and Crafts Market

Lunch en route (own expense)

Enter South Africa at Lavumisa Border (multiple SA entry visas for own expense)

Dinner at the hotel (own expense)

Forest Lodge or similar – Breakfast and 1 game viewing excursions (4-star)

Day 6 | Friday

ST LUCIA to UMHLANGA (±225km)

Morning open safari vehicle game drive and short forest walk in iSimangaliso Wetlands Park (included)

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Boat cruise on the St Lucia Estuary (included)

Lunch in St Lucia on the banks of the lake (own expense)

Arrive in Umhlanga late afternoon (not before 5pm)

Drop-off at the beachfront hotel

The Capital Pearls or similar – Breakfast (4-star)

NOTE: TIRS Northern portion Tour guide services end

Day 7 | Saturday**UMHLANGA to PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA) (Flight own arrangements and own account)**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Morning at leisure

Airport transfer to King Shaka International Airport (included)

Flight to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) (flight not included)

Airport transfer to beachfront hotel (included)

Dinner at hotel (own account)

Southern Sun The Marine or similar - Breakfast (4-star)

Day 8 | Sunday**PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA) to KNYSNA via TSITSIKAMMA FOREST (±285km)**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Storms River Suspension Bridge walk (included)

Lunch in Tsitsikamma Forest (own expense)

Arrive at the hotel

Sunset Knysna oyster cruise (included – weather permitting)

Dinner at a restaurant next to Knysna Estuary (own expense)

Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays or similar – Breakfast (4-star)

NOTE: TIRS Southern portion Tour guide services start

Day 9 | Monday**KNYSNA to PLETTENBERG BAY and back (±60km)**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Marine excursion in Plettenberg Bay (included - weather permitting)

Qolweni Township visit (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Dinner at a restaurant next to Knysna Estuary (own expense)

Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays or similar – Breakfast (4-star)

Day 10 | Tuesday**KNYSNA to OUDTSHOORN via WILDERNESS (±125km)**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Outeniqua Mountain Pass

Cango Caves heritage tour (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Arrive at the hotel late afternoon

Olive tasting, paired with Protea Rose or juice (included)

Dinner at the hotel (included)

Survival Boutique Olive Estate or similar – Dinner and breakfast (4-star)

Day 11 | Wednesday**OUDTSHOORN to CAPE TOWN via ROUTE 62 (±440km)**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Ostrich farm tractor tour (included)

Lunch en route (own expense)

Wine tasting en route (own expense)

Drive via Route 62 and Stellenbosch

Arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon

Dinner at the hotel or at the V&A Waterfront (own expense)

SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast (4-star)

Day 12 | Thursday**CAPE POINT FULL DAY TOUR**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Cape Point full day tour (Bilingual commentary - included)

Lunch on tour (own expense)

Dinner at hotel or in the city (own expense)

SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast (4-star)

Day 13 | Friday**DAY OF DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at the hotel (included)

Driver only airport transfer (included)

DETAILED ITINERARY

Alternative accommodation may be booked when required and will be communicated 30 days before departure

Day 1 | Sunday

DAY OF ARRIVAL (±30km)

On arrival, you will be welcomed at the O.R.Tambo International Airport. The moment you step into the arrivals area, you will become part of South Africa's colour and buzz. It's a short highway drive from the airport to your hotel in Sandton, where you'll get a glimpse of the iconic Johannesburg skyline. Spend the afternoon relaxing after your flight, or explore the sleek Sandton City complex. Walk through Sandton Square with its giant statue of Mandela. Wander down the Diamond Walk with its designer stores and trendy boutiques, making it the most expensive shopping hub in South Africa. Sandton City is more than boutiques; it's a large, modern complex offering a wide range of shopping options and a number of unique curio shops. Find your way back to the hotel for a relaxed dinner (at your own expense) and prepare yourself for the adventure ahead.

Overnight at Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika Sandton or similar - Breakfast

Day 2 | Monday

JOHANNESBURG to MAKALALI GAME RESERVE via DULLSTROOM (±456km)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and board your touring vehicle for the drive to the Makalali Private Game Reserve. We will stop en route in Dullstroom, a quaint country town known for its trout fishing and tranquillity. The main street of the tiny town is packed with quirky shops and restaurants. From Dullstroom, we wind through the grasslands and hills of the Limpopo Province to the private game reserve. Your open safari vehicle and expert guide will be waiting to take you into the 25,000 hectares of reserve. Have your binoculars and cameras ready – this is 'Big 5' territory and we'll be looking for lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and leopard. There is plenty of other wildlife, including hyena and the elusive cheetah. As you adjust to the rhythm of the bush, you will see animals of all sizes. The reserve is an important conservation area for the enormous, endangered Southern Ground Hornbill, which can be found hunting snakes or frogs. A delicious dinner will be served at the lodge as the star-studded southern sky makes its appearance. It's another beautiful evening in Africa.

Overnight at aha Makalali Main Lodge or similar – Dinner, breakfast and 2 game viewing excursions

Day 3 | Tuesday

MAKALALI GAME RESERVE to HAZYVIEW via PANORAMA ROUTE (±180km)

Early morning in the bush is extraordinary. The clear air is filled with birdsong; animals make their way to drinking holes. Be part of the wilderness on a guided walk through the bush, or head out on an open vehicle game drive. After a lodge breakfast, we drive the Panorama Route where the road enters a scenic wonderland. Blyde River Canyon, the world's largest green canyon, filled with waterfalls and ancient geological formations, will take your breath away. Spot the Three Rondawels - three conical peaks resembling African huts. Stand on the bridges over the Bourke's Luck Potholes, where millennia of swirling water have carved giant holes into the sandstone. Be ready for the vistas from God's Window, the highest point of the day. We stop in an old mining town for a late lunch (at your own expense). Established in the 1880s, at the height of the gold rush, these towns are now mostly part of the timber industry. Savour a pancake bar and browse for curios. The scenic drive to Hazyview winds through rolling hills and forests. Soak in the outstanding natural beauty of the Mpumalanga Province as we head for your hotel.

Overnight at ANEW Resort Hazyview or similar – Dinner and breakfast

Day 4 | Wednesday

HAZYVIEW to ESWATINI via KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±285km)

After an early breakfast, we enter the Kruger National Park, the world's premier wildlife destination, through the Phabeni Gate, for a game viewing journey to Malelane Gate in your touring vehicle, immersing you in the world of the 'Big 5'. Sprawling over 20,000km², The Kruger National Park is slightly smaller than Belgium and supports a staggering variety of fauna and flora - including rare bird species. The slow driving pace is in contrast to the anticipation of spotting an elusive cheetah or the highly endangered rhino. There's a lot to look for, with 336 tree, 49 fish, 34 amphibian, 116 reptile, 507 bird, and 147 mammal species. Graceful giraffe graze amongst the thorn trees, while raptors glide in vast African skies. We stop for lunch at a bush picnic spot (at your own expense). Listen for the laughing call of a hyena or the unforgettable, full-throated roar of a lion. At a water hole, look for crocodiles or a hippo suddenly surfacing for air. We exit the Park via the Malelane Gate. After the excitement of the morning, we make our way to the misty mountains of Eswatini, entering through Jeppes Reef Border Post in the late afternoon, leaving time to relax and enjoy dinner at the lodge.

Overnight at Mantenga Lodge or similar – Dinner and breakfast

NOTE: When entering the Kingdom of Eswatini, guests must ensure they have a valid passport and for nationals of applicable countries, multi-entry visa regulations apply (own expense)

Day 5 | Thursday

ESWATINI to ST LUCIA (±335km)

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before visiting the Swazi Candle Factory. The candles, handmade in a music-filled workshop, are not ordinary. A special wax is used to create distinctive and colourful designs. The candle has a hard veneer from the ancient technique of "millifiore". This candle factory started as a simple initiative in a cowshed in 1982, now has a global reach and supports over 200 local people. Eswatini's vibrant craft market is overflowing with carvings, beadwork and colourful materials. Visit the Yebo Art Gallery to view the work of talented local artists. Sample local specialties, such as Baganu, a marula fruit drink or enjoy tea and cake at the Sambane Tea Garden. For something fiery, try the Black Mamba chilli sauce, a local delicacy. After a fascinating morning, we re-enter South Africa through the Lavumisa Border Post. We will enjoy lunch on the way to St Lucia. The landscape changes dramatically as we approach the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We travel through lush wetlands and dense forests in this paradise on the pristine shores of the Indian Ocean on the way to your lodge and a delicious dinner (at your own expense).

Overnight at Forest Lodge or similar – Breakfast and 1 game viewing excursions

Day 6 | Friday

ST LUCIA to UMHLANGA (±225km)

Start your morning on an open safari vehicle, driving through wetlands teeming with wildlife and enjoy coffee with rusks on the beach. iSimangaliso is home to both white and black rhino; it's not often you are presented with the possibility of seeing both in one day. Keep your cameras ready for buffalo, elephant, and the elusive leopard. Buck are plentiful, from ever-present impala to the curved horned kudu, waterbuck with its distinctive markings, and rietbuck. After breakfast, take a boat cruise on the St Lucia Estuary. The Estuary, with its island-like setting, is one of the largest estuaries in Africa and a recognised natural wonder. This rich wetland is home to a mind-boggling 2,180 plant species, over 1,000 Nile crocodiles, more than 800 hippopotami and many prehistoric-looking monitor lizards. With over 400 species of birds, it is a watery paradise. Gliding over the water will be a very different experience from the morning safari. Enjoy lunch (at your own expense) on the banks of the lake listening to the sweet song of an Oriole or the chatter of the vibrantly plumed St Lucia Parrot. You will be loath to leave St Lucia, but more adventure awaits. We depart for a late afternoon arrival in Umhlanga, where you will bid farewell to your tour guide on the Northern portion of your tour. Dine at a restaurant at the hotel or in town (at your own expense).

Overnight at The Capital Pearls or similar – Breakfast

Day 7 | Saturday

UMHLANGA to PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA) (Flight own arrangements and own account)

After breakfast at the hotel, take a stroll along the promenade that stretches along 3km of shoreline. If you're an early bird, sit on a bench and watch the sunrise over the Indian Ocean. Walk out on the Whalebone Pier and watch the fishermen casting their lines from the rocks. You will pass the iconic Umhlanga Lighthouse with its distinctive red stripe. It flashes a warning of the perilous coast to ships over a distance of 24 nautical miles. Be ready for your transfer to King Shaka International Airport and a flight (at your own expense and arrangement) to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha). You will soon find yourself in a beachfront hotel in what is affectionately known by the locals as the "Windy City". Settle into your hotel and then go for a walk along King's Beach, swim or relax on the white sands and enjoy the ocean view, watching daredevil surfers making the most of the excellent waves. Once back at your hotel, enjoy an unhurried dinner (at your own expense) and take time to relax before your Garden Route exploration.

Overnight at Southern Sun The Marine or similar - Breakfast

Day 8 | Sunday

PORT ELIZABETH (GQEBERHA) to KNYSNA via TSITSIKAMMA FOREST (±285km)

After breakfast, be ready to meet your local tour guide for the Garden Route journey to Cape Town. The road takes us to Knysna along the Garden Route, famous for its outstanding natural beauty. The excellent road ensures a smooth trip past coastal vistas and indigenous forests on our way to one of the gems of the Garden Route. We enter the Storms River section of the Garden Route National Park for a walk across the unique Storms River Suspension Bridge and experience the thrill of standing high above the vast rocky chasm below you. There are a series of 3 bridges with stable wooden paths and stairs. This hour-long walk offers spectacular views of the gorge and ocean. After enjoying lunch in the forest (at your own expense), the afternoon brings us to Knysna, famous for its inland waterways and the Knysna Heads, the twin sandstone cliffs towering over the entrance to a vast lagoon. End a perfect day with a sunset oyster cruise on the lagoon. The sun will set on the day as you enjoy the local delicacy of fresh oysters. Watch for dolphins at the river mouth and enjoy the abundant birdlife. After your cruise, dine (at your own expense) at a restaurant on the shores of the Estuary.

Overnight at Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays or similar – Breakfast

Day 9 | Monday

KNYSNA to PLETTENBERG BAY (±60km)

After breakfast at the hotel, it's a short drive to Plettenberg Bay. This little town, with its blue flag beaches and sweeping bay is a premier tourist destination and one of the best whale spotting areas in the world. Your marine adventure starts at Central Beach, from which the boats are launched. In the impossibly blue ocean, you will have the opportunity to see humpback or southern right whales. The excitement of seeing whales breaching and crashing back into the ocean is unforgettable. These waters are home to large schools of dolphins and there are often great white sharks cutting through the waves. The protected beaches of the Robberg Nature Reserve are home to large seal colonies. Keep your binoculars ready for elegant Swift Terns, Cormorants, or a rare sighting of a Frigatebird. Back on dry land, we visit Qolweni Township, a vibrant Xhosa community. A representative of the Qolweni Community Development Trust will share insight into the project and how your contribution is utilized to pay teachers' salaries and towards the maintenance of the Qolweni crèche and its 188 children. The locals invite visitors to experience an authentic African way of life and happily share their history and culture. The children in the crèche will soften your heart with their beautiful singing. Visit a spaza shop or have a traditional drink in a shebeen. We head back to Knysna for dinner (at your own expense) at the Waterfront.

Overnight at Protea Hotel by Marriott Knysna Quays or similar – Breakfast

Day 10 | Tuesday

KNYSNA to OUDTSHOORN via WILDERNESS (±125km)

After breakfast, we continue along the Garden Route past lakes and wooded mountains to the town of Wilderness and the Map of Africa viewpoint, where the Kaaimans River creates a clear map of Africa. We turn inland and climb the Outeniqua Pass. The Pass takes us to the semi-desert of the Klein Karoo and Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. You will have travelled through game parks, up mountain passes and across estuaries, but the Cango Caves Heritage Tour will take you into an astounding subterranean world. The Caves are considered one of the great wonders of the world. The Caves, approximately 20 million years old, are an underground marvel. Don't worry about claustrophobia; the Van Zyl's Hall cave is 107m long and 54m in width. We will have lunch (at your own expense) before arriving at your lodge in Oudtshoorn in the late afternoon. The dry climate here is ideal for olive growing. The estates in the region produce award-winning handpicked olives, which create exceptional quality extra virgin olive oil. Enjoy an olive tasting, paired with a Protea Rosé or fruit juice, while taking in spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountains. With leisure time in the evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at Surval Boutique Olive Estate or similar – Dinner and breakfast

Day 11 | Wednesday**OUDTSHOORN to CAPE TOWN via ROUTE 62 (±440km)**

After breakfast at the hotel, it's time to visit one of the famous ostrich farms. A fun and interactive tractor tour will take you through the farm's breeder bird camps where you will learn about and see three different species of ostrich. The ostrich feather trade boomed during the Victorian era but collapsed during World War I. Modern farmers have successfully adapted and now farm mainly for meat, leather, and eggs. Grab some ostrich biltong (dried meat) to enjoy on the drive along Route 62, the world's longest wine route. The scenery is captivating, with wine and orchards greening the countryside. We stop for lunch along the route and you will have an opportunity to taste local wines (all at your own expense). The scenery on the way to Cape Town via Stellenbosch is a canvas of beauty. The road wanders through valleys and past farmhouses with historic Cape Dutch architecture in Stellenbosch. The road into Cape Town presents a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean and of the most beautiful South African city. There's time to explore the V&A Waterfront to try one of the many restaurants for dinner.

Overnight at SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast

Day 12 | Thursday**CAPE POINT FULL DAY TOUR**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and prepare for one more day of adventure as we head to Cape Point. Cape Town is built on a mountainous peninsula. Travel along the Atlantic seaboard with its white beaches and rugged mountains to Hout Bay. If time permits, there is the option of taking a half hour boat trip to Duiker Island to see a Cape Fur Seal colony (at your own expense). If open, continue on Chapman's Peak Drive, noted as one of the most stunning roadways in the world. Visit the Cape Point Nature Reserve and the tip of the Cape Peninsula, which has captivated travellers for centuries. The return journey to Cape Town takes us along the False Bay coast with the option of visiting the colony of rare African Penguins at Boulders Beach (entrance fee at your expense). We will pass through the naval village of Simon's Town, Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay and Muizenberg. Visit the Rhodes Memorial viewpoint and learn about the significance of this historical site before returning to the hotel. After a full day, enjoy dinner in town or choose a restaurant at the fabulous and cosmopolitan V&A Waterfront.

Overnight at SunSquare Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast

Day 13 | Friday**DAY OF DEPARTURE**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before your transfer to the Cape Town International Airport. You will arrive home changed by your South African journey.