



Splendour of South Africa
19 Feb - 05 Mar
Cad \$ 4247

*Johannesburg , Hazyview (Mpumalanga) E Swatini , Zululand ,
Durban (Umhlanga) Port Elizabeth , Knysna , Outshoorn , Capetown*

The South Africa Odyssey is an exceptional, long wandering journey through South Africa. From city life to adventure, wildlife to culture, breath-taking scenery to sun-soaked coasts, South Africa is a premier travel destination.

Our Odyssey begins in Johannesburg and travels through Mpumalanga, with visits along the Panorama Route as well as the Kruger National Park, a safari extravaganza. Once you have encountered the wildlife of the country, you will then travel to the Kingdom of eSwatini, where a vibrant cultural journey inspires. Zululand is where ancient kings once hunted, where the Big Five now roam, conserved, and protected. The last leg of the odyssey is a Garden Route journey ending with a few days spent in the city of Cape Town.

Highlights

Open Vehicle Game Safari at Kruger National Park

Guided Tour of Congo Caves

Cruise on Lake St Lucia

Full Day Cape Peninsula Tour including Cape of Good Hope

Outstanding drive along the Panoramic and Garden Routes

Cable care to Table Mountain and the vibrant Cape town waterfront

DAY 1 – SUNDAY

JOHANNESBURG

On arrival in Johannesburg at OR Tambo International Airport, you'll be met by your representative and transferred to your hotel. Johannesburg is the largest and most populous city in South Africa. It is also the source of a large-scale gold and diamond trade due to its location on the mineral-rich Witwatersrand range of hills. The remainder of the day is at leisure and unescorted. Why not enjoy an **Optional** (own account) sightseeing tour of Soweto, learning more about the struggle for freedom in South Africa, or simply relax at your hotel? At 19h00 we will meet at reception for a briefing on the tour and a chance to meet fellow travellers.

DAY 2 – MONDAY

JOHANNESBURG - MPUMALANGA

Depart Johannesburg after breakfast and head for Pretoria, South Africa's capital city, for a short orientation tour, before continuing to the Mpumalanga Province, known as "Paradise Country". Dropping several hundred feet into the lush subtropical region of the Lowveld, we travel via the historic towns of Dullstroom and Lydenburg. After traversing the famous Long Tom Pass, we travel via Sabie and arrive late afternoon into Hazyview, the safari hub of the Kruger National Park. **[Breakfast]**

DAY 3 – TUESDAY**MPUMALANGA**

After an early morning breakfast, we'll drive along the spectacular '**Panorama Route**', offering views of amazing scenery including the 26-kilometre long **Blyde River Canyon** (home to the **Three Rondavels**), **Bourke's Luck Potholes** and historic **God's Window**, a breath-taking view (weather permitting) of the edge of the escarpment taking in the Kruger National Park. We arrive back in Hazyview in the late afternoon where the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax. Tonight, enjoy an African dinner feast and an evening of traditional Shangaan storytelling and entertainment. **[Breakfast , Dinner]**

DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY**MPUMALANGA**

The day begins with early morning coffee or tea, followed by a thrilling **open vehicle game safari** (with English speaking game ranger) through the **Kruger National Park** with pre-packed breakfast. Kruger is one of the world's greatest national parks, home to a stunning array of wildlife. Search for the 'Big Five' (rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, and elephant) as well as prolific birdlife and numerous other game species.

For the wildlife enthusiasts we have arranged an afternoon **open vehicle safari**, as an extension to the morning safari, in one of the world's most renowned game reserves. In the evening experience an exclusive el fresco bridge sunset dinner, overlooking the magnificent Sabie River under a star-studded sky **[Breakfast . Dinner]**

DAY 5 – THURSDAY**MPUMALANGA – eSWATINI (SWAZILAND)**

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** inclusive of lunch, introduces us to the charming people of eSwatini (Swaziland) and their traditions. We travel via the capital city, Mbabane, to the beautiful Ezulwini Valley for overnight in eSwatini (Swaziland) and a sumptuous dinner at your hotel. **[Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner]**

DAY 6 – FRIDAY**eSWATINI (SWAZILAND) - ZULULAND**

After breakfast we will continue south through eSwatini (Swaziland), before re-entering South Africa. Travel into Zululand, passing traditional round huts and endless vistas. There is an **Option** to enjoy an afternoon **open vehicle safari** (Optional and for own account with an

English-speaking game ranger) in the **Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve**, which contains an immense diversity of fauna and flora and is particularly famous for its conservation of black and white rhino. Overnight in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi region. **[Breakfast]**

DAY 7 – SATURDAY

ZULULAND – DURBAN (UMHLANGA)

This morning we will join a cruise on Lake St Lucia (depending on favourable weather conditions) before departing for Durban. Our journey takes us past traditional Zulu Kraals, Eucalyptus plantations and sugar cane fields. We arrive early afternoon and the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the golden beaches of the Indian Ocean. Overnight in Durban (Umhlanga). **[Breakfast]**

DAY 8 – SUNDAY

DURBAN (UMHLANGA) - KNYSNA

After breakfast, transfer to Durban (Umhlanga) airport for the short southward flight to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), where we will be met by our representative and once everyone has arrived, we set off to explore the magnificent beauty of the indigenous Tsitsikamma Forest (Time permitting). Visit the spectacularly beautiful **Tsitsikamma National Park and Storms River Mouth** (weather permitting). We'll arrive at our hotel in **Knysna**, known as the oyster box of South Africa, nestling on the banks of a beautiful lagoon in the heart of the Garden Route. Overnight in Knysna. **[Breakfast]**

DAY 9 – MONDAY

KNYSNA

After breakfast, journey into the magical **Knysna Forests**, the stamping ground of the elusive Knysna elephants. Discover the stories of the woodcutters who worked the forests, the elephants that were hunted to extinction and the discovery of gold. Our expedition into the forest starts with a visit to the **Dalene Matthee Big Tree Memorial**. The enormous Yellowwood tree of over 880 years was named after Matthee, best known author of four books on the Knysna Forest. Enjoy a delicious lunch, in the forest, of traditional cuisine and local treats at the Diepwalle Tea Garden. The afternoon concludes with a visit to the **Forest Legends Museum**, that exhibits tools and household items used by the woodcutters, the colourful **Old Suzie steam engine**, that was used to generate power, and the stately **Old Forester's House**, home of forester David Ernest Hutchins, who was the first person to manage the indigenous forest in a sustainable manner. Overnight in Knysna with dinner at Drydock Restaurant, renowned for dishes with glorious aromas and flavours, using the finest local ingredients and freshly picked herbs from the region. **[Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner]**

DAY 10 – TUESDAY**KNYSNA - OUDTSHOORN**

Travel through the **Outeniqua Pass** to **Oudtshoorn**, known as the ‘ostrich capital’ and the centre of the world’s Ostrich farming industry. Along the way, visit the ‘**Map of Africa**’, an extraordinary viewpoint in Wilderness. In Oudtshoorn, we’ll visit an **Ostrich Farm** for a fun filled interactive tour and light lunch that includes local specialities such as Ostrich Steak, before taking a tour of the spectacular limestone caverns of the **Cango Caves**, one of the world’s great natural wonders, sculpted by nature through the ages. We arrive at our hotel in the late afternoon to check in and relax before dinner (for own account). Overnight in Oudtshoorn. **[Breakfast & Lunch]**

DAY 11 – WEDNESDAY**OUDTSHOORN – CAPE TOWN**

There is an **Option** (for own account and subject to availability) to enjoy an early morning **Meerkat Safari**. Witness these incredible wild habituated creatures emerging out of their burrows, in time to soak up the sun before they head about their daily activities (weather permitting). ***A portion of the monies paid by guests for this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience go towards the Buffelsdrift Foundation, that focusses on Wildlife conservation in the Klein Karoo region, habitat conservation and the local community. The experience directly advances UN Global Goal 15: Life on Land.*** After this thrilling experience, head back for a delicious breakfast.

After breakfast, the journey continues through the ‘Little Karoo’ to **Barrydale**, where you will have the opportunity to visit a **local farm school**, to interact with the children and teachers, spending time with them in the classroom, learning more about this rural community. ***A portion of the trip monies go towards our Barrydale Farm School Development Fund, that supports local education of underprivileged children in rural communities.*** (The school visit is subject to the school being open). Continue to Cape Town, spectacularly set at the foot of Table Mountain. Overnight in Cape Town **[Breakfast]**

DAY 12 – THURSDAY**CAPE TOWN**

Morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Cape Town and Table Mountain Travel by cable car to the top of Table Mountain (weather permitting), then descend to further explore the city.

Excluding the cost of the Table Mountain cable way ticket.

Although a small city, Cape Town is packed with sightseeing attractions, excellent bars, cafés, and restaurants as well as colourful craft markets. Enjoy a fun filled evening with interactive

entertainment and delectable food at Gold Restaurant. Overnight in Cape Town. **[Breakfast & Dinner]**

DAY 13 – FRIDAY

CAPE TOWN

Enjoy a full day tour of the **Cape Peninsula**, offering some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world. Drive through Sea Point, the seaside village of **Hout Bay** (where you can enjoy an **optional** and for own account seal island boat cruise) and then on to **Cape Point** where (by tradition) it is said that the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. We'll return to Cape Town by way of **Simon's Town**, where we visit the **Penguin colony at Boulders Beach** (entrance fee for own account) and Fish Hoek fishing village. Overnight in Cape Town. **[Breakfast]**

DAY 14 – SATURDAY

CAPE TOWN

Enjoy some last-minute shopping (unescorted) or sightseeing (own account). The Robben Island Tour (for own account & time permitting), which departs from the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, offers a fascinating excursion, or perhaps just wander through the variety of shops and boutiques catering for all tastes and budgets. Later you will be transferred to the airport, harbour, or railway station for your onward journey. **[Breakfast]**

Accommodation included:

- 4* Protea Hotel Balalaika or similar x 1 night*
- 4* Perry's Bridge Hollow Boutique Hotel or similar x 3 nights*
- 5* The Royal Villas or similar x 1 night*
- 3* Anew Hotel Hluhluwe or similar x 1 night*
- 4* Protea Hotel Umhlanga or similar x 1 night*
- 4* Rex Hotel or similar x 2 nights*
- 4* Hlangana Lodge or similar x 1 night*
- 4* President Hotel or similar x 3 nights*

INCLUSIONS

Welcome and Assistance at Airports

Well appointed Hotels and Transfers

Transportation in an Air-Conditioned Deluxe Vehicle

Services of Professional English Speaking Guide

Entrance fees as specified in the Itinerary

13 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches , 5 Dinners

EXCLUSIONS

International Flights

Mandatory Insurance

Tips to Tour Guides and Drivers

Visa (to E Swaziland)

Optional Tours within Cities

Items of personal nature

Drinks with meals

