

EXPLORE!

Tailormade Cape Town to the Eastern Cape
13 days

South Africa - Trip code TMSA 1



Tailormade Cape Town to the Eastern Cape

Self-drive along South Africa's coastline

A self-drive holiday in South Africa is a great value way to discover beautiful highlights at your own pace. After exploring Cape Town's Table Mountain, Robben Island and the Victoria and Alfred waterfront, head to the Winelands – a gastronomic delight where you can taste some of South Africa's famous tipples. Continue through the Little Karoo to the forests and bay of Knysna before ending on safari in Amakhala Game Reserve.

Enriching tailormade journeys – for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in South Africa. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches; maybe an adventure activity or two in Cape Town or visit Addo Elephant National Park to spot the Big Seven. We're here to design your perfect holiday.

Call us on 01252 883 184.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate


Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.


DAY 1 - Overnight flight to Cape Town

Depart the UK on your overnight flight to Cape Town.

 Included Meals: None

DAY 2 - Arrive Cape Town

On arrival at South Africa's Mother City you will be met by a representative who will provide you with maps, information and tips for your forthcoming self-drive trip along the Garden route. You will then be transferred to your hotel.

 Included Meals: None

DAY 3 - Free day in Cape Town

Cape Town is possibly one of the world's most iconic cities, with Table Mountain dominating its backdrop and the wild Atlantic Ocean in the forefront. Today has been left free for you explore at your leisure. Depending on weather conditions you may choose to take a trip over to Robben Island, the infamous prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 18 of 27 years. You may wish to take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain for spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.



Accommodation: Sugar Hotel (or similar)



Premium Guesthouse

Wi-Fi available



 Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Free day in Cape Town

Today is free for you to explore, perhaps you might want to wander around one of the modern districts along the seafront. The Victoria and Alfred waterfront is particularly popular for its range of shops and restaurants, or take a trip to the Camps Bay where you can relax on the beach. Head over to the Cape Peninsula to see the African penguin colonies at Boulders Beach. Any of these options can be done with a guide, just speak to your Tailormade Regional Specialist for more information. In the evening your hire car will be delivered to your hotel.



Accommodation: Sugar Hotel (or similar)



Premium Guesthouse

Wi-Fi available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Drive to Stellenbosch

Today you leave the city behind and head out through rolling green hills of vineyards to Stellenbosch. At the centre of South Africa's winelands, Stellenbosch was established in 1679 and has a mix of Victorian, Cape Dutch and Georgian architecture. Spend the afternoon wandering the tree-lined streets and admiring the architecture, then visit the bars and restaurants in evening when the town becomes abuzz with entertainment. For something quieter we recommend Franschhoek or Paarl.



Accommodation: De Zalze Lodge (or similar)



Premium Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Free day to visit the vineyards

You can't go to Stellenbosch and not visit one of the many wineries. There are around 130 vineyards in the area as well as a number of private cellars open to visitors. It may be possible to taste some wines too. Many of the wineries have brilliant restaurants, with lovely views of the landscape it is a perfect stop for lunch. Speak to your Tailormade Regional Specialist to add on a vineyard tour to your itinerary.



Accommodation: De Zalze Lodge (or similar)



Premium Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



DAY 7 - Drive to Oudtshoorn

Departing Stellenbosch this morning, you'll drive through the Western Cape to Oudtshoorn in the Little Karoo. This region flourished between 1860 and 1914 thanks to the fashion industry of the western world, where it was all the rage to be adorned with ostrich feathers. Farms flourished and feather barons made their fortunes, building grand mansions. Today the ostriches are used more for their leather and meat - try some of the biltong. With a free afternoon in Oudtshoorn, there is also time to visit Cango

Caves. Discovered by a European farmer in the late 18th century, these massive limestone caverns have breathtaking stalactites and stalagmites.



Accommodation: De Zeekoe Guest Farm (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Drive to Knysna

Today you'll drive to the coast to the picturesque town of Knysna, joining South Africa's famous Garden Route. Sitting on the edge of a stunningly scenic bay, Knysna is popular with sailing enthusiasts and it is possible to take a boat trip into the bay. For those preferring to stay on terra firma, there are some fabulous walks up into the forested hills surrounding the town, where you can enjoy the views overlooking the bay.



Accommodation: The Rex Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Explore Knysna

Today you could take a walk out to Robberg Peninsula. Named after the seal colony found there by Dutch sailors, it offers stunning views of the coastline, and you may even spot seals and dolphins in the water. Between June and late November you may see southern right whales that come to the calm and warm waters to calve and nurse their young. Alternatively you could drive to nearby Plettenburg Bay, with its lovely sand beaches it is a popular holiday resort for wealthy South Africans.



Accommodation: The Rex Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Journey to Amakhala Game Reserve

After dropping your hire car at Port Elizabeth Airport, you will be transferred to Amakhala Game Reserve. Created by a group of settlers who combined their land to create this private reserve near Addo Elephant National Park, Amakhala is home to the Big Five

- rhino, elephant, buffalo, leopard and lion. Located in the Eastern Cape, one of the main draws of this park is that it is malaria-free. Late this afternoon you will have the opportunity to head out into the park with an experienced ranger who will help you spot some of the resident wildlife, and as the sun sets you may be able to see some of the nocturnal animals as they wake for the evening.



Accommodation: Amakhala Safari Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Included Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 11 - Game drives in Amakhala Game Reserve

You have two game activities today; these can be either early morning game drives which allow you to see wildlife at its most active, before the sun gets too hot, and before nocturnal animals have bedded down for the day. Alternatively you could go on a walking safari with a tracker who will point out smaller animals, insects and birds, as well as plants, that may well be missed on a game drive. After lunch and relaxing back at your lodge, you'll head out again in the late afternoon in search of some of the park's wildlife, you may see giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, monkeys, cheetah and a variety of antelope.



Accommodation: Amakhala Safari Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Included Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 12 - Depart South Africa

After an early morning game drive you will be transferred back to Port Elizabeth Airport in time for your onward flight.



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Arrive back in the UK



Included Meals: Breakfast



Meet Sarah Phelps,
Regional Specialist for South Africa

Call on 01252 883 184

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 10
Lunch: 2
Dinner: 2



Transport

Private car
Hire car
4WD



Trip staff

Driver
Safari guide



Accommodation

2 nights premium guesthouse
4 nights premium hotel
3 nights premium lodge

Trip information

Country information

South Africa

Climate

Mild throughout the year and can thus be visited year round. The Western Cape has a Mediterranean-type climate, with warm, dry summers and cold winters with rainfall. Summer runs from November to March, with temperatures averaging 22oC to 34oC. The months of April and October are generally warm and sunny. Winter is also a good time to visit as towns and sites are not so crowded and the countryside is more verdant, but it can be cold. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Christian

Language

Afrikaans, English

Budgeting and packing

Country Information

South Africa

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£6

Dinner price

£12

Beer price

£1.2

Water price

£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Rand.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Take your money in a combination of cash and an ATM card. Both GBP and USD are readily exchanged.

Where To Exchange

Most towns or cities, your tour leader will advise you.

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn on debit cards from ATM's in most South African towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

In large shops and restaurants.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard

Light on your pocket but long on authentic experiences, these tours are based in simple, sometimes local-style accommodation. If your idea of adventure travel is to experience real, everyday life then you will enjoy our Standard style of tour. You will have the chance to stay at simple, family-run hotels and guesthouses where the lack of luxury is more than compensated for by the warm welcome and genuine insight into local life.

Underberg Guesthouse

Underberg Guesthouse is a small hotel located in a quiet suburb of Cape Town, at the base of Table Mountain and just a short distance from the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. The property was originally a farmhouse built in 1860 and has since been converted to a cosy, welcoming guesthouse. Rooms are comfortable, some with a balcony. Breakfast is served in the dining room, off the main lounge where guests can relax with a book or perhaps enjoy the views of the mountains from one of the verandahs.

Baruch Guesthouse

Made up of two bed and breakfast properties, Baruch Guesthouse offers a homely stay where guests feel incredibly welcomed by the homeowners. The rooms are all different, individually and tastefully designed around a theme. Some rooms have a small kitchenette and/or balcony or terrace. The Rhodes Noord Street property has a small plunge pool, while the Lovell Road guesthouse has a larger swimming pool.

Hlangana Lodge

Hlangana Lodge is a friendly, mid-sized guesthouse located just a short distance from Oudtshoorn town. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, with French doors leading to the porch overlooking the gardens. Outside there is a large, shaded swimming pool. A buffet breakfast is served in the sunny breakfast room or on the patio. Hlangana Lodge is within walking distance to restaurants. .

Premier Hotel Knysna Moorings

Premier Hotel Knysna Moorings is located within the Knysna Heads, in a beautiful setting on the banks of the lagoon. The hotel offers comfortable, spacious rooms, some with a balcony. The waterfront is just three and a half kilometres away where you will find a variety of shops and restaurants. There is a relaxed restaurant offering poolside dining or indoor a la carte and buffet meals.

Amakhala Woodbury Tented Camp

Amakhala Woodbury Tented Camp is part of a series of accommodations within the Amakhala Private Game Reserve offering an authentic African safari experience. Set in a secluded and tranquil area of the park, the spacious tents are meru style with comfortable furnishings, en suite bathrooms and a verandah. The main dining area has a lounge and decking which overlooks a watering hole where animals can often be seen. There is a small pool where guests can cool off during the day and a boma to warm up by in the evening.

Premium

On Premium level tailor-made tours you will stay at comfortable mid-range hotels, chosen for their location, ambiance or local character. Your rooms will be clean and well-appointed, with en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning or heating as necessary. Premium level hotels normally have restaurants, bars and often other amenities such as a swimming pool and gardens, offering a good level of comfort at a reasonable price.

Sugar Hotel

Sugar Hotel is a small, boutique property located in the trendy area of Green Point, just a 10 minute walk to the waterfront or a 20 minute walk to downtown. The modern rooms are decorated in calming, neutral tones with either waterfront or mountain views. The hotel has a small restaurant and bar where guests can dine inside or out on the patio.

De Zalze Lodge

De Zalze Lodge is designed in a typical Cape Dutch style, located on a farm three kilometres from the town, overlooking vineyards and across the Stellenbosch mountains. The Standard rooms are simple, modern and comfortable with vineyard views. The lodge offers wine tasting, fishing, mountain biking and hiking trails in addition to a large outdoor pool and two restaurants. Wi-Fi is available in the rooms.

De Zeekoe Guest Farm

De Zeekoe Guest Farm, located just outside of Oudtshoorn, offers guests comfortable and stylish accommodation within the main house. The cosy rooms have an open fireplace for cooler winter evenings and views of the river from the small balcony or porch. The restaurant serves fantastic local cuisine, and there is a range of activities that can be organised through the property including a unique opportunity to walk with wild meerkats.

The Rex Hotel

As one of Knysna's finest accommodation establishments, The Rex Hotel offers a stylish and sophisticated stay on South Africa's famous Garden Route. Situated near the Waterfront, the hotel is within walking distances from exclusive shopping and restaurants that offer world class cuisine. The Rex offers free onsite parking and free bike hire.

Amakhala Safari Lodge

Amakhala Safari Lodge is part of a series of accommodations within the Amakhala Private Game Reserve and is situated on the northern boundary of the park. The spacious thatched suites are tastefully furnished and has a private plunge pool with sun deck and separate lounge area. There is a communal pool and decking area overlooking the bushveld where you can cool off in the day, or relax with a glass of wine on your private deck.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

South Africa

Vaccinations

Please note that you will be required to supply a yellow fever certificate that has been issued at least 10 days prior to arrival in South Africa if you have travelled from or via a country where yellow fever is endemic. We recommend protection against hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid, polio and diphtheria. According to various travel health sources, the Western Cape is not regarded as a malaria risk area. If you are travelling to other areas in South Africa please check with your doctor about malaria requirements. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

