

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Family Discover South Africa (FCP 2018)



TRIPDURATION  
**12**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Accommodation**  
**Grade:** Standard

**Trip Code:** FCP

#### Trip Highlights - Family Discover South Africa

- ✓ Schotia Game Reserve - Search for lion and leopard on a game drive.
- ✓ Teniqua Treetops - Stay in a unique eco-tented tree house; sleep, eat and shower up in the canopy of the forest all surrounded by birdsong and butterflies.
- ✓ Table Mountain - Take a walk to the top of the iconic Table Mountain and see the city and landscape from the top.
- ✓ Cape Town - Have a guided tour around a museum describing life under apartheid from an ex-resident
- ✓ Hermanus and Plattenberg Bay - Spot humpback whales and dolphins (in season).
- ✓ Tsitsikamma National Park - An exciting walk in a beautiful marine and forest park along the famous Garden Route.
- ✓ Oudtshoorn - Visit the Cango Cave and an ostrich farm.

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 5 nights Standard Hotel  
2 nights Simple Lodge  
2 nights Standard Lodge  
1 night Standard Tree-House  
1 night Standard Cabins

**Included Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Cape Town

**End Point:** Trip ends: Port Elizabeth Airport

**Transport:** 4WD, Bus, Boat, Ferry

**Countries:** South Africa

**Minimum Age:** From 7 years

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## Family Discover South Africa

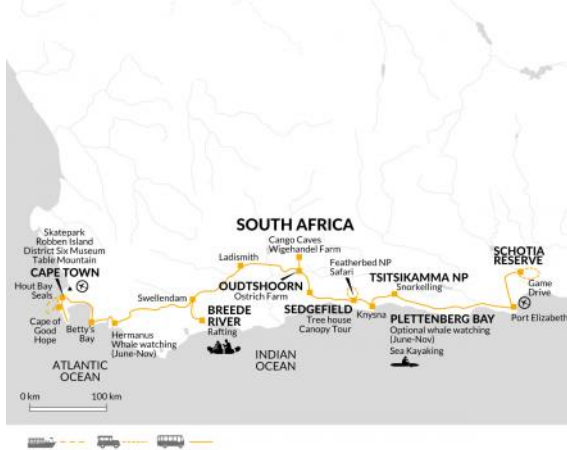
From the top of Table Mountain to dramatic sea cliffs, beautiful sandy beaches and underground caverns, South Africa's Garden Route is a remarkable setting for this varied holiday. There are a wide range of adventures included: from game viewing and boat trips to rafting and whale watching. We explore the dramatic coastline, visit the vibrant city of Cape Town and venture deep into the caverns of the Cango Caves.

### TRIPLE ROOMS

This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

### Why Book this trip

Although there are numerous tours that travel along the Garden Route, few incorporate as many activities or possibilities to meet locals as this adventure. Starting in Cape Town and travelling to the beautiful sandy beaches in Plettenberg Bay, we visit the prison where Nelson Mandela was kept, meet local Cape Town kids in a skateboard park run as a youth initiative, are taken around District Six Museum by an ex-resident, see whales, stay in a tree house, whitewater raft and go on safari. A varied and interactive adventure showcasing the beauty of the country and its people.



### Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

### Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

### Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

### Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.



# Your trip itinerary

## Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

## Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

### DAY 1 Join trip and scale Table Mountain

This afternoon we plan to ascend Table Mountain. You can choose to take an energetic but highly rewarding 3 to 4 hour hiking trail up to the top accompanied by your tour leader (if the weather permits). Alternatively, an aerial cableway runs frequently to and from the summit although it does close for 2 weeks for maintenance each year roughly from the end of July (the ticket cost is included). The climb is spectacular not just for the stunning views it affords of the city below and the beach-fringed coastlines stretching away to the horizon, but also for the beautiful plant life of the Cape Floral Kingdom, which has more indigenous plant species per square metre than anywhere else on earth! A network of trails criss-crosses the summit plateau, providing a variety of vantage points. Note, weather conditions in Cape Town can be highly variable throughout the year. Should weather conditions prevail that are unsuitable for the ascent of Table Mountain, this excursion will be undertaken on an alternative day, likewise anyone arriving late on day 1 will also be able to ascend Table Mountain on one of the other days in Cape Town. Also, Table Mountain Cableway usually closes for general maintenance at the end of July, based on 2017 dates, the provisional closure is scheduled for Monday 23rd July 2018 to Sunday 5th August 2018. Although the cable car will not be running, Table Mountain is still be accessible by a hiking trail as described above.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** None

### DAY 2 Catch the ferry to Robben Island

Today we travel from the nearby Nelson Mandela Gateway at the Waterfront in Cape Town and take a tour to the world famous Robben Island museum in the afternoon which includes a boat trip across Table Bay, a visit to the infamous maximum security prison, time to meet an ex-political prisoner and a guide providing commentary. Please note, the ferry tickets and museum entrance tickets (both booked by Explore) need to be purchased around 4-6 weeks before departure and we cannot guarantee that they will be available for any late bookings. We arrive back at the hotel around 2pm with the rest of the day free to explore the city.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 3 Cape Town, Boulders Beach, Hout Bay and Cape Point. Visit a skateboard park.

We will make our way to Boulders Beach to see the resident colony of African Penguins, one of the only places in the world where this sea bird resides. A series of wooden walkways allow visitors to get exceptionally close to the birds and observe their often quite playful habits. We then drive to Cape Point and take a walk up to a viewpoint to watch the turbulent clash of the warm Agulhas current from the Indian Ocean meeting the cold Benguela current from the Atlantic. Afterwards we walk along a short trail that leads down to Cape Point. Moving onto Hout Bay, we take a boat trip to see the remarkable bird and marine life of Seal Island - where approximately 7,000 Cape Fur Seals have made their home on low lying rocks. The rest of the day is free to explore the city once we return to Cape town. This afternoon is spent at a skateboard park run as an initiative by the Salesian Institute of Don Bosco. We have the opportunity of meeting kids from the Cape area from a variety of backgrounds and share experiences with each other as we learn how to skateboard.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 4 District Six Museum and whale watching Breede River

We take a drive to District Six Museum. Although the Museum was initially started as a community space for ex-residents to gather and meet, it has now become a space that tells the story of District Six under apartheid to both local and foreign visitors to Cape Town and South Africa. The museum has been designed in such a way that a visitor can wander in off the street and take a self-guided tour, but more importantly, our group will also make use of the privilege of taking a tour with an ex-resident of the district and listen to the amazing personal experiences and recollections of an ex-resident. Leaving Cape Town behind, we make our way to the small seaside resort of Hermanus a few hours east. Hermanus is regarded as one of the premier spots for shore-based whale watching in the

world. From the cliff top walks you can often look down at several whales no more than 50 or 100 metres away! (The whale watching season is between June and November). We depart Hermanus for the short drive to Swellendam and our camp situated on a hill top overlooking the Breede River. We plan to arrive at 'Up The Creek' camp around 5pm.


Overnight: **Simple Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 5 Rafting along the Breede River

We spend the day in rafts as we travel along this stunning river. From its source up in the mountains above Ceres, the Breede River meanders for 300 km's before it deposits its water into the mighty Indian Ocean. During its long journey to the coast, it provides life-giving water to one of South Africa's most beautiful regions. This river also boasts amazing bird life and ample fishing. The winding channels and playful rapids make it the ideal river-rafting destination for families. This ultimate river adventure offers exciting grade 2 and 3 rapids. No experience is necessary and briefings will be given by the guides.

Overnight: **Simple Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 Oudtshoorn and Cango Caves

Today we drive the short distance and check into our accommodation situated near Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of South Africa!. The arid landscape that borders the Little Karoo is a desolate and yet magnificent area of semi desert. After checking into our accommodation we set out to explore the finest dripstone caverns in the world - the Cango Caves. Situated in the foothills of the Swartberg Mountains, these limestone caves extend more than 5 kms underground through a series of large caverns connected by passages. We hike into the most spectacular caverns - a truly surreal experience. We then have a tour of the Safari Ostrich Farm, north of Oudtshoorn as well as The Zeekoegat Primary School Project Room which showcases the process of building a new school. Each individual will get the opportunity to sponsor a 'brick' towards the building of the new Zeekoegat Primary School. Depending on timings and weather, we may have to visit the caves, school and Ostrich Farm on the next day (Saturday)

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Sea kayaking along the coast

We make our way eastwards along the Garden Route to Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. We try our hand at sea kayaking along the coastline from Central Beach Explore the magic of our unique coastline with its abundant marine life up close and personal in one of our stable kayaks in the company of an experienced guide. Glide across sparkling water while enjoying a view of the majestic Tsitsikamma mountains, Robberg Nature Reserve and marine life. After a thorough briefing on kayaking techniques and safety we paddle from Central Beach with possible sightings of Cape Fur Seals, Bottlenose and Humpback Dolphins and a variety of sea birds. No experience is necessary although you will need to be able to swim (sun hat and sunscreen and a change of clothes for afterwards is advisable. In the afternoon, we make our way to Plettenberg Bay with its range of beaches, the most famous of which is Central Beach, which offers long stretches of white sand and warm waters which are perfect for swimming. The water is calmest on Central Beach making it ideal for families.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8 Free time around Plettenberg Bay and beach

Plettenberg Bay and its surroundings boast some of the most exquisite beaches and stunning scenery of the Garden Route and an unparalleled range of activities. Our first day is left free to choose from boat based dolphin and whale watching, to snorkelling, scuba diving, sailing, kayaking, surfing, mountain biking and canoeing (some of these activities do have age restrictions). In season (June to November, sometime into December too) the whale watching is especially recommended, as this shoreline offers the chance to watch a truly great mammal, the southern right whale. The dunes and escarpments offer panoramic views of the coast and you have a good chance of seeing seals, dolphins and whales, plus a wealth of bird and botanical life.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9 Treehouse accommodation in the tree canopy

We then make our way south, to perhaps our most unique setting....treehouses! Teniqua Treetops is a unique eco-tented tree house occupying a position high on the foothills of the ancient Outeniqua mountain range. The tree houses offer a unique opportunity to sleep, eat and shower up in the canopy of the forest, all surrounded by birdsong and butterflies. Built on hand crafted platforms and

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situated in carefully chosen beauty spots, the accommodation boasts comfortable tented bedrooms, fully equipped kitchens and leafy bathrooms. Experience a true environmentally friendly accommodation experience.

Overnight: **Standard Tree-House**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 10 Morning walk and snorkelling in Tsitsikamma Marine Park

The waterpark has a series of water slides ranging from very gentle to downright scary which children and young-at-heart adults will enjoy! The waterslides include the Supertube, which twists and turns before finally spitting you out into a pool of gushing water, a Kamikaze slide which is not for the faint hearted, a Free Fall slide with a drop down a 12m free fall slide and a Raging Rapid Tube ride where you will rush down raging rapids and fly around corners. There's also a small play park for younger children. Should the Waterpark not be open in July and August due to cold weather, we will make our way to Plett Puzzle Park-unique attraction offering interactive fun for the whole family. The two main activities are the first life size 3D maze in South Africa as well as an exciting and unique forest puzzle walk. These activities are designed for all ages. The activities are absolutely unique and are suitable for children and adults alike. Around Midday, we take a short drive to Tsitsikamma 'the place of much water', probably South Africa's most impressive marine and forest park, stretching for some 80 kms from the lagoon at Nature's Valley to the mouth of the Groot River. The lush forest and sheer cliffs provide an ideal setting for short walking trails, the most popular of which takes you to the suspension bridge spanning the mouth of Storm's River: a quite spectacular sight, where the booming breakers of the Indian Ocean relentlessly pound rocky shores. The heartland of the park stretches some 5km to sea, protecting a wonderland of inter-tidal life, reef and deep-sea fish and where we can snorkel to discover the marine life. Dolphins frolic in the breakers, surfing and playing for the sheer joy of life, and the gentle giant of the ocean, the southern right whale visits here, coming inshore to breed.

Overnight: **Standard Cabins**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 11 Schotia Game Reserve

We spend the early morning exploring the rock-pools and beaches; leaving late morning we again head eastwards to Schotia Private Game Reserve which has been owned by the same family for six generations since 1833. There is a good chance of seeing lions at the park here as well as over fifteen antelope species and several smaller African animals such as warthog, monkeys and genets. We enjoy an evening game drive in an open 4WD vehicle with a specialist guide and then round off the day with a typical bush braai dinner. The accommodation at Schotia is designed with an 'African feel' and set within dense subtropical thicket with a rustic-brick lodge approach within the original farm's homestead.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 12 Port Elizabeth

Morning at Leisure before we make our way to Port Elizabeth airport for the flight home

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Ability to swim required

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Notes

The lodge in Swellendam offers an outdoor space, play area, dining room and bar area. The games room has a pool and table tennis table with plenty of room to play sports with the staff and other families. The rooms are ensuite and have a mosquito net. Cuisine is simple but wholesome and is served in a buffet style format. The guesthouse in Calitzdorp offers ensuite accommodation with a TV and coffee and tea making facility. Wifi is available. There is a decent sized swimming pool and the accommodation offers a welcome and homely feel. The resort complex in Plettenberg Bay has 2 swimming pools and a restaurant. Rooms are well decorated with a TV, ensuite tea and coffee making facility and safe. The accommodation is a short walk to the beach. One of the highlights of the trip is the Teniqua Treetops in Sedgefield with individual treehouses scattered around the complex which are built into the trees and consequently offers wonderful views of the surrounding area that can be taken from the balcony. Each treehouse varies in design but generally they will have a living room, kitchen and a sleeping area. The main area of the complex has a large living area with lots of games, restaurant and a pool and table tennis table. There is also a hot tub and swimming pool. We move onto the Tsitsikama Coastal National Park where we sleep in cabins (not ensuite - communal shower blocks are available). The cabins are all together with

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a separate restaurant close by and there are amazing walks that can be taken in the area. Our final accommodation is in Scotia Game Reserve where we sleep in lodges. Meals maybe served during the game drives and served by the ranger.

## Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### Food

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.

#### South Africa

**Lunch £:** 6.00

**Dinner £:** 12.00

### Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

#### South Africa

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.20

**Water £:** 1.00

### Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

### Optional Excursions

Plettenberg Bay - Whale watching trip; adults £44.

Knysna Monkey Land £15 adults, £8 children.

Cape Town - Aquarium £11;

### Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow £20 for tipping.

### Foreign Exchange

#### South Africa

**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.

**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.

## Joining your Trip

### 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 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 on our website at [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk), in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

### 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, 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 please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

### 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.

## Important Information

### Travel 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. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

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Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers [www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore](http://www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore) who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Travel Aware

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 follow the link at [www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

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We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

## 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.

## Visa Information

Travelling with Minors via South Africa (including transits)

Regulations affecting all children aged under 18 years that are travelling to, from or via South Africa are in place. The law states that parents and/or guardians are requested by the airline and/or South Africa immigration officers to provide additional documentation for each child they are travelling with. Please refer to the South African House website and your airline for full requirements: [http://southafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis\\_forcit.html](http://southafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html)

South Africa: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. All visitors should ensure their passport is machine readable and has two blank pages when entering and leaving South Africa. The South African Immigration officials will not allow child/ infant pages to be used for this purpose and visitors without the stipulated blank pages will be denied entry.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on **0208 5431846**.

## Lone Parents

### South Africa

Single parents or other adults travelling with children should be aware that travel to South Africa requires documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact South African House for further information on exactly what may be required via: [http://southafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis\\_forcit.html](http://southafricahouseuk.com/visas/vis_forcit.html) and your airline for up to date requirements.

## Vaccinations & Protection

### South Africa

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. 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 <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

## Preparing for your Trip

## Climate

### South Africa

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.

## Clothing

Clothing should generally be lightweight for the day. Also take a fleece, long trousers, a waterproof and windproof jacket. Take swimming gear and a beach towel. During Winter (June to November) we recommend you bring plenty of warm clothing, as temperatures can drop significantly. Swimming pools can be cold in the winter months as they are outside and not heated.

## Equipment

Take a torch, water bottle, sunhat/sunscreen and insect repellent. Binoculars are useful for bird watching and whale watching. Mosquito nets are not required as the accommodation provides screening where necessary. While tap water in South Africa's urban area is drinkable, some people may take a few days to acclimatise and thus may experience traveller's tummy. Therefore we recommend for you to travel with a reusable filtered water bottle such as the ones featured at Water-to-Go: <http://www.watertogo.eu/>

## Footwear

Comfortable shoes (or well broken-in walking boots if planning to hike), trainers or sandals for relaxing/travelling.



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## Luggage: On Tour

Take a soft bag, holdall or suitcase. Also take a daypack for items needed during any walks or sightseeing.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

## General Information

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### Country details

#### South Africa

**Population:** 50,586,757

**Size of Country:** 1,221,037

**Major Language:** Afrikaans, English

**Religion:** Christian

**Time Difference to GMT:** +2

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### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### South Africa

3 Pin Round

## Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

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### Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

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### Earth Matters

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group ([www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

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## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

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### **Reserving your place**

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

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### **100% No Surcharge Guarantee**

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

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### **Trip Itinerary Versions**

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2018 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2018. 2019/20 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2019.

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