

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Comfort Itinerary Version (TMSA1)

TRIP DURATION
13
DAYS



Tour Type: Tailormade

Trip Code: TMSA1

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 7 nights Hotel
3 nights Lodge

Included Meals: 10 breakfasts, 2
lunches, 2 dinners

Transport:

Countries: South Africa

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Tailormade Cape Town to the Eastern Cape

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.

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 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 in Cape Town.

Overnight: **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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **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.


Overnight: **Hotel**

 **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.


Overnight: **Lodge**

 **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.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **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:** None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 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

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, 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.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers 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 Introducing 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

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 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.

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.

Luggage allowance on trip:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

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

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.

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.

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) 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.

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.

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

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.

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: 1 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 1. 2/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2.

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