

EXPLORE!

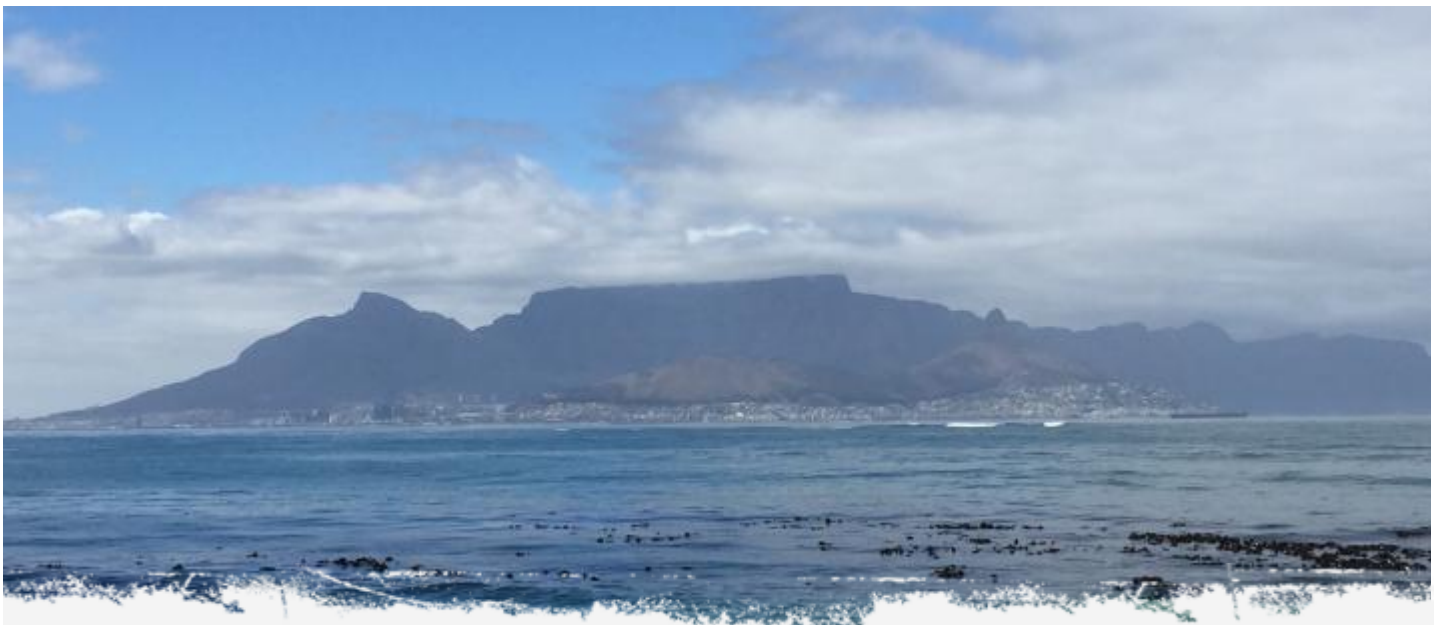
TRIP NOTES



Comfort Itinerary Version (TMSA4)



TRIPDURATION
9
DAYS



Tour Type: Tailormade

Trip Code: TMSA4

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 3 nights Hotel
3 nights Lodge

Included Meals: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

Transport:

Countries: South Africa

Tailormade Cape and Kruger

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 in South Africa you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the Mother City. 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. The rest of the day has been left free for you to 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, or 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.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 3 Table Mountain and Cape Peninsula visit

Today you have a guided trip to explore some of Cape Town's best bits. For spectacular views of the surrounding countryside you'll head up to the top of Table Mountain, home to baboons, a variety of birds and 1400 species of flora – visit between September and March to see the mountain covered in wild flowers. You'll then head over to the Cape Peninsula to take the funicular railway at Cape Point. From the top there are wonderful views of the peninsula and ocean. There are also a number of walks that can be explored, and well-worth the 120 steps, is a climb to the Old Lighthouse for some of the best views. On your journey back to Cape Town you'll stop at Boulders Beach to see the African penguin colonies, one of the only places in the world where these sea birds can be found.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Free day in Cape Town

Today has been left free for you to explore at your leisure. Perhaps you would like to visit the famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. Established in 1913, these impressive gardens stretch up the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and contain several walks, including a tree canopy walkway that winds its way up and over the arboretum. Alternatively, take a guided trip out to South Africa's Winelands, where you can try award-winning wines in gorgeous vineyards just outside Franschoek and Stellenbosch - speak to your Tailormade Regional Specialist for more information.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Fly to Kruger National Park

Today you depart Cape Town and fly to Kruger, from here you'll transfer to your lodge in a private concession within Kruger National Park. Depending on the time of your arrival you may have the opportunity to head out on your first game drive within the park. Looking for something special? Why not upgrade to the Blue Train. Travelling overland on this luxury train you'll journey north while enjoying a lavish meal and the mellow tones of the Soweto String Quartet. Arriving in Pretoria in the late afternoon you'll continue to Kruger the following day. Speak to our Tailormade Regional Specialists for more information.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6 Game drives in Kruger National Park

Kruger National Park was established in 1898 to protect big game that had been hunted to near extinction, it is now one of the most prolific animal habitats in South Africa, committed to animal conservation. Rising early this morning you'll head out with your experienced ranger into the Mluwati Concession. This private reserve is a mix of acacia and bushwillow woodland, open grassland and riverine forest. Your guide will help you seek out some of the resident wildlife; herds of elephant frequently pass through, zebra, impala and wildebeest lure in leopard and lions, while in the bushes lilac-breasted rollers and crested barbet add a flash of colour. After your morning game drive there will be time for lunch, a swim or perhaps a nap. In the afternoon, as the temperatures cool, you have another game drive within the park. You'll stop for a sundowner before journeying back to the lodge, looking for nocturnal animals by torchlight.

Overnight: **Lodge**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Game drives in Kruger National Park

Today you have another opportunity to go in search of the 'Big Five' - lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant. Your lodge is in the central region of Kruger National Park, one of the best areas to spot game and birds of prey. The western area of the central region has the greatest population of vultures than anywhere else in the park. The statistics around Kruger are incredible - 507 bird species, 114 reptiles, 147 species of mammal and over 23,000 plant species, including the iconic baobab trees, and your safari ranger will help you seek out some of the various flora and fauna. Following an afternoon game drive and scenic sundowner, head back to your lodge for dinner. En route keep an eye out for the more elusive animals found in Kruger National Park - honey badger, porcupine and aardwolf to name but a few.

Overnight: **Lodge**



Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Transfer to Johannesburg

Today you depart from your lodge and transfer back to Hoedspruit, from here you have a short flight to Johannesburg where you will catch your flight home or on to your next destination.



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Arrive back in the UK



Included Meals: None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 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 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

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 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: 4 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 4. 5/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 5.

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