



TRAVEL PASSION INC.

A PASSION FOR TRAVEL

07-Day Cape Town and Garden Route

Cape Town - Simons Town - Albertinia - Oudtshoorn - Knysna - Klein Karoo
7 Days / 6 Nights



Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Cresta Grande Cape Town	Cape Town	B&B	3 Nights
Garden Route Game Lodge	Albertinia	HB+	1 Night
La Plume Boutique Guest House	Oudtshoorn	B&B	1 Night
Blackwaters River Lodge	Knysna	B&B	1 Night

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

HB+: Half Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Activities

Included

6 nights accommodation in Standard Rooms

3N Cape Town, 1N Mossel Bay, 1N Oudtshoorn and 1N Knysna

Breakfast Daily

Private Airport transfer in Cape Town

Scheduled Half Day Cape Town City Tour

Scheduled Full Day Peninsula Tour

Private Transfer to Garden Route Game lodge

Private Transfer to Oudtshoorn

Private Transfer to Knysna

Private Transfer to George Airport

Garden Route Game Lodge includes Breakfast, Dinner and Morning and Afternoon Game Drive

Entrance fees for Table Mountain, Scheduled Seal Island Cruise, Cape Point, Cape Point Funicular, Botanical Gardens, Cango Caves. Cango Wildlife Ranch, Safari Ostrich Farm and John Benn Cruise

Excluded

Block out dates; bank holidays and minimum stay requirements

Additional meals and drinks

All Personal Items: Gratuity Beverages, Room Service, Telephone Calls etc.

Entrance fees mentioned as optional.

Travel insurance (please note that we strongly recommend you take out travel insurance to cover yourselves against any medical emergencies, cancellations, curtailment, etc.)

All Flights

Visas and Taxes

Anything not mentioned as included

Porterage

Child Seat (required for children under 5 years of age)

PCR Testing and Transfers related to this

Day 1: Cresta Grande Cape Town, Cape Town



Resting at the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic oceans, situated between the slopes of the iconic Table Mountain and the glistening sapphire waters of the Atlantic and Indian oceans, the exceptionally scenic city of Cape Town is in a class of its own. Some cities boast rich culture, vibrant nightlife, a cosmopolitan atmosphere and extraordinary architecture, while others boast breathtaking landscapes and extraordinary natural wonders. Cape Town is fortunate to be blessed with all of these attractions and so much more. With its bustling harbour, world-class beaches, top-notch vineyards, and its mountainous surroundings brimming with diverse flora and fauna, Cape Town consistently captivates the hearts of all who visit.

Day Itinerary

On arrival at Cape Town International Airport, clients will proceed to a COVID-19 screening before passing through customs and collecting their luggage. After passing through the arrivals terminal our guide will meet them with a signage board depicting clients' name. The guide will assist clients with their luggage and disinfect all bags before loading, thereafter temperature checks will be done and hands sanitised before clients are able to enter the vehicle for their transfer to their hotel.

The Cresta Grande Cape Town is located in the heart of the city and within walking distance to most tourist attractions, large corporations, shopping, museums, Cape Town International Convention Centre, and restaurants and nightlife.

The Cresta Grande Cape Town offers three dining options to suit your tastes and desire for entertainment. Enjoy the Red Elephant Bar and Lounge which offers a comfortable lounge setting with light snacks, an extensive drinks menu, and an outdoor terrace. Manja's Cafe & Bar is open 24-hours for light fare and at the hotel's outdoor pool overlooking the city.

Overnight: Cresta Grande Cape Town

The Cresta Grande Cape Town is located in the heart of the city and within walking distance to most tourist attractions, popular shopping areas, museums, award winning Restaurants and nightlife. The hotel offers 242 newly renovated, comfortable rooms with free high-speed Wi-Fi, private bathrooms with separate showers and bathtubs, satellite TV, mini-bar fridge, in-room safe, and in-room tea and coffee making facilities. Rooms have spectacular views of either the city, Table Mountain, or Lion's Head Mountains. 24-hour in-room dining, various bars, and an extended buffet restaurant are available, offering local and international cuisine with a live cooking station. Enjoy cocktails at the hotel's outdoor pool overlooking the city. A 24-hour gymnasium is also available. Cape Town International Airport is 25 minutes from the hotel. The CTICC is five minutes from the hotel and the vibrant V&A Waterfront is just 10 minutes away.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2: Cresta Grande Cape Town, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

After breakfast, client will depart the Cape Winelands area and return to Cape Town via a Half day City Orientation Tour - to learn all about Cape Town's rich history and vibrant cultures. Some of the highlight stops will be the beautiful Company Gardens and the Castle of Good Hope, a historical fort which is the oldest building in the country. You will also visit the colourful Bo Kaap area, previously known as the Malay Quarter, situated on the slopes of Signal Hill this is the spiritual home of Cape Town's Muslim community and one of Cape Town's most popular stops for Instagrammers.

We then take a trip up Cape Town's landmark and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Table Mountain. A 5-minute cableway ride takes you to the top of the mountain from where you will enjoy uninterrupted views over the city bowl and across the peninsula.

***Please note, this activity is weather permitting and an alternative will be arranged by the guide should the cableway be closed.**

The remainder of the day can be spent at the Hotel or at leisure at the vibrant V&A Waterfront, where clients can do some shopping, have a meal, soak up the exciting atmosphere, take a trip on the observation wheel, visit the aquarium or perhaps do the Robben Island excursion... the choices are endless! Alternatively, clients may want to return to their hotel and enjoy the quietness and comforts provided.

This evening clients can enjoy either a local dinner or an Indian dinner (optional) at My Favor8 Restaurant in the city centre. The opulent setting offers a welcome retreat to the hustle and bustle of Cape Town CBD. An early or late dinner can be arranged as per the clients' preference before returning to their accommodation prior to curfew (if this is in place).

Activities

Table Mountain
Company Gardens
Bo Kaap
Signal Hill
Camps Bay

Greenmarket Square

Optional

Castle of Good Hope

Table Mountain

Without a doubt it is Table Mountain that makes Cape Town the unique city it is. Rising up over 1000m above sea level, it is the icon that makes Cape Town instantly recognizable. It is a symbol, a playground, a spiritual retreat and a big draw card for tourists. So intertwined with the identity of Cape Town is Table Mountain that a visit to the city isn't complete without having walked or taken the cable car to the top.



Company Gardens

The Company Gardens is a treed haven in the middle of the city and is surrounded by museums and fascinating buildings - St Georges Cathedral, the Salve Museum, The National Art Gallery and the Jewish Museum to mention a few.



Bo Kaap

The colourful suburb of Bo Kaap was exclusively for coloured Muslims during the Colonial and Apartheid times and today, this group still makes up the majority of residents. The quaint cobbled streets, the museum, the authentic purveyors of Cape cuisine and Cape Town's oldest spice emporium are all worth a visit.



Signal Hill

For awesome views of Table Mountain, the City, the harbour, Waterfront, 2010 Stadium, the suburbs of Green Point & Sea Point and sunsets.



Camps Bay

Camps Bay is a wealthy coastal suburb located just ten minutes from the city bowl. Set on the slopes of Table Mountain, it overlooks a series of beautiful sandy bays and the Atlantic Ocean beyond. Camps Bay is home to Cape Town's most glamorous beach.



Greenmarket Square

In the heart of Cape Town's business district, you'll find Greenmarket Square. The square has quite a reputation, it has been a slave market, a fruit and vegetable market and, during the 1950s, a humble parking lot. These days it's just the place to look for clothing, glassware, hand-painted fabrics, footwear, music, sunglasses and curios from all over Cape Town and Africa.

Greenmarket Square is more than a flea market, not only will you find a wide range of goods to buy, there is also entertainment in the form of buskers, mime artists and jugglers, especially on Saturday mornings and other busy times. The market is a big success there are loads of coffee shops and restaurants in the vicinity, so take time out to sit at a sidewalk table and watch the world go by.



Castle of Good Hope

The Castle of Good Hope is the oldest surviving building in South Africa. Built between 1666 and 1679, this pentagonal fortification replaced a small clay and timber fort built by Commander Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 upon establishing a maritime replenishment station at the Cape of Good Hope for the Dutch East India Company, better known as the VOC (Verenigde Oos-Indische Compagnie).



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Table Mountain (return cableway tickets)
 - Company Gardens
 - Bo-Kaap
 - City Hall
-

Day 3: Cresta Grande Cape Town, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

After breakfast today your clients will head out for a full day tour of the scenic Cape Peninsula travelling along the Atlantic Seaboard to Hout Bay, passing magnificent beaches and the wealthy coastal suburbs of Clifton, Camps Bay and Llandadno. From Hout Bay Harbour they have the option to proceed on a boat trip to Duiker Island (not included), to see the thousands of Cape Fur Seals living on this rocky outcrop. Hout Bay Harbour is a busy fishing harbour sure to keep them entertained and their cameras snapping. Browse for souvenirs at the Hout Bay Craft Market or take a walk on the beach and paddle their feet in the sea.

The tour continues over Chapman's Peak, known as one of the most spectacular scenic drives in the world, all the way along the Peninsula to the southern tip at Cape Point. An invigorating walk takes them to the two lighthouses at the top and bottom of the headland, from where they will enjoy extraordinary views of the cliffs and the ocean below. Alternatively, they could take a short funicular ride to the top (for own account). Take a photo down at the most south western point of the African continent at the Cape of Good Hope Beach.

Lunch will be enjoyed at a seaside restaurant (for own account) before travelling along the False Bay coastline to the Naval village of Simon's Town. They will visit the delightful African Penguins of Boulders Beach and then the drive takes them back via Cape Town's coastal and southern suburbs for a final stop at the beautiful Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens (time permitting and for own account).

This evening clients can enjoy an Indian dinner (optional) at Vintage India Restaurant, at a time that is convenient for them. The Restaurants' soothing ambience is complemented by attentive service and an outstanding menu delicately planned by an executive chef from India, giving the taste of Indian culinary delights. Again, those clients who would prefer to sample some local cuisine or dine at a non-Indian restaurant, this is easily arranged.

Camps Bay

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Clifton

A series of four idyllic beaches separated by massive granite boulders. Clifton is protected from the wind by the mountains and is the best place to be when the Cape's notorious South Easter is blowing.



Hout Bay

The originally small fishing village of Hout Bay is now a popular suburb of Cape Town. Over and above being a lovely family beach, it has many tourist attractions which include the World of Birds, a township tour to the vibrant Imizamo Yethu, arts and crafts, boat rides out to Seal Island and some great, casual restaurants where you can relax and enjoy the surroundings.



Seal Island Hout Bay

Trips departing from Hout Bay Harbour ferry passengers across to nearby Duiker Island – also known as Seal Island – where thousands of Cape Fur Seals can be seen in their natural habitat. The boat trip provides beautiful views of the bay, the harbour, The Sentinel and Chapman's Peak.



Chapman's Peak

Chapman's Peak Drive winds its way between Noordhoek and Hout Bay. Situated on the Atlantic Coast, at the southwestern tip of South Africa, it is one of the most spectacular marine drives anywhere in the world. The 9km route, with its 114 curves, skirts the rocky coastline of Chapman's Peak. The drive offers stunning 180° views with many areas along the route where you can stop and take in the scenery or sit down for a relaxing picnic.



Noordhoek

Set on the hill overlooking the beach, Noordhoek village is home to a peace-loving crowd of hippies, families and young professionals with a passion for nature. With its beautiful views and relaxed atmosphere, the town offers a laid-back, alternative lifestyle to those living there and a scenic, peaceful experience to visitors from other suburbs.



Cape Point

Cape Point is a spectacular sight, covered in endemic fynbos and home to breathtaking bays, beaches and rolling green hills and valleys, just 60km outside of Cape Town. Cape Point falls within the Cape Floral Region, a World Heritage Site. The Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants in the world – it is home to nearly 20% of Africa's flora. Cape Point is open daily and is a must-see.



Cape Point Funicular

The Flying Dutchman funicular takes visitors at Cape Point up to the lighthouse, where there is an outstanding view of the point and ocean. The funicular is named after a ghost ship whose destiny it is to sail the oceans forever. More information can be found at the museum.

Boulders Beach

Boulders Beach in Simon's Town is ideal for kids as immense boulders shelter the cove from currents and large waves - but please always take care. It is a rare pleasure to swim with the penguins but don't touch or feed them. They might look cute and cuddly but their beaks are as sharp as razors and if they feel threatened they have no qualms about nipping the odd finger or nose.



Simons Town

Simon's Town (sometimes spelled Simonstown, is a town near Cape Town, which is home to the South African Navy. It is located on the shores of False Bay, on the eastern side of the Cape Peninsula. For more than two centuries it has been a naval base and harbour (first for the Royal Navy and now the South African Navy). The town is named after Simon van der Stel, an early governor of the Cape Colony.



Muizenberg

For many years Muizenberg was Cape Town's favourite resort. Today it is regarded as a wonderful swimming beach with plenty for the whole family to do. Good facilities are complemented by super slides, mini golf, miles and miles of sandy beach and the perfect conditions for learning to surf.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Visit to Hout Bay
 - Scheduled Seal Island Cruise (optional and weather permitting)
 - Entrance and drive along Chapman's Peak
 - Entrance to Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point
 - Visit to Simon's Town
 - Visit to Boulders Beach Penguin Colony
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Day 4: Garden Route Game Lodge, Albertinia



The little town of Albertinia is synonymous with the Aloe plant. Here, this pre-historic looking plant is harvested commercially and processed to produce a range of natural products that are said to be beneficial for the skin. There is a factory shop where you can see the amazing array of products on offer.

Day Itinerary

After breakfast, clients will depart to Garden Route Game Lodge set against the backdrop of the majestic Langeberg mountain range.

Check in at the Lodge is at 14:00 but clients are welcome to arrive earlier and enjoy a light lunch (optional) while taking in the views of the game reserve. Once checked into their room clients may want to stretch their legs and take time to explore the surrounds, relax by the pool or on their own their own private deck. The evening safari starts between 16:00-17:00 (dependent on season) in a open Landrover with an experienced game ranger who will bring them sightings of lion, elephant, white rhino, buffalo and cheetah, The game reserve is also home to giraffe, zebra and numerous antelope species. After the game drive clients will return to the lodge to enjoy a complimentary refreshment around the fire at the Boma after which dinner is served in either the Boma or Serengetis Restaurant, After Dinner clients are welcome to relax in one of the lounges in front of the roaring fire or retire to their room.

Overnight: Garden Route Game Lodge

Set against the backdrop of the majestic Langeberg mountain Range, the Garden Route Game Lodge guards the entrance to South Africa's world famous Garden Route Coast.

Only 3½ scenic hours drive from Cape Town, this malaria free, family owned and operated private game reserve is home to an abundance of animal and birdlife including the Big 5.

Visitors to the Garden Route Game Lodge can enjoy game viewing in open Landrovers, luxury accommodation and a memorable dining experience in one of our African style restaurants. Our friendly staff and management are there to anticipate your every need to complete your unforgettable stay.



Game Drive - Garden Route Game Lodge

Departure Times: 11AM and 2PM

Enjoy a 3hr Safari game Drive in the beautiful Garden Route Game Lodge Reserve. And experience the stunning wildlife and flora in this area.



Basis

Half Board Plus - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Activities

Included

- Sunset Game Drive
- Dinner at the Lodge

Day 5: La Plume Boutique Guest House, Oudtshoorn



Located along the well-known Route 62 in South Africa's beautiful Klein Karoo, the charming town of Oudtshoorn is known as the ostrich capital of the world. It is surrounded by numerous ostrich farms and the golden arid landscape of the Karoo. Visitors can enjoy the locally produced wine and port; sample ostrich meat and biltong; learn about the ostrich feather boom at the C.P. Nel Museum; and visit the world-renowned Cango Caves, the largest cave system in Africa featuring ancient rock formations and sparkling stalactites and stalagmites. Other popular activities include: mountain biking, paragliding, horse riding, and taking a day trip to the quaint town of Prince Albert over the scenic Swartberg Pass.

Day Itinerary

After breakfast clients will check out and depart to Oudtshoorn, the Ostrich Capital of the world, and is just one of the many attractions in this area of exceptional contrasts and natural beauty. On arrival in the town .

The first stop is Safari Ostrich Show Farm, where your clients will learn more about these giant flightless birds and the history of their farming in the area. Lunch will also be enjoyed here and they cater to all dietary requirements.

Clients will check in at La Plume Guest House which is nestled amidst lushes green grass terraces with vibrant gardens and spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountains and the Olifants River Valley. La Plume welcome guests to a rejuvenating oasis offering an escape from the busy everyday life and crowded spaces on this sustainable ostrich, alfalfa & cattle farm.

The last stop for the day will be to Cango Wildlife Ranch, a unique world-class facility which strives to provide wildlife conservation through education by means of various projects, initiatives and informative guided tours.

This evenings dinner (optional) can be enjoyed at the hotel or one of the many local restaurants in the area,

Overnight: La Plume Boutique Guest House

La Plume is a Boutique Guest House with Spa on a working ostrich, alfalfa, and cattle farm offering spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountains and the Olifants River Valley. A warm welcome awaits you at this charming 1902 Victorian homestead with its tranquil surroundings where old-world charm is combined with modern comforts to ensure extraordinary service and personal attention.

La Plume offers stylish luxury with a diverse range of accommodation from a Cottage, Private Farm Villa, Luxury Rooms to Luxury Junior Suite, Honeymoon and Superior Suites. With private entrances, sunny verandas and elegant, comfortable antiques, each of the 20 individually furnished air-conditioned units offer satellite television, free WiFi, minibar and abundant comforts.

The restaurant serves a full English Breakfast Buffet, lunch menu, picnic baskets, cheese platters and for dinner enjoy a Four Course Buffet with exceptional local wine in the candlelit dining room of the 1902 Victorian homestead.

Join the owner for an informative tour of this working ostrich, alfalfa and cattle farm. Learn about the day to day activities in the life of a full-time farmer and one of the few experts on the ostrich industry.

“Our philosophy is exclusivity and exceptional comfort with warm, personal attention in an environment conducive to the art of gracious living. La Plume welcomes you.”



Oudtshoorn

Located along the well-known Route 62 in South Africa's beautiful Klein Karoo, the charming town of Oudtshoorn is known as the ostrich capital of the world. It is surrounded by numerous ostrich farms and the golden arid landscape of the Karoo. Visitors can enjoy the locally produced wine and port; sample ostrich meat and biltong; learn about the ostrich feather boom at the C.P. Nel Museum; and visit the world-renowned Cango Caves, the largest cave system in Africa featuring ancient rock formations and sparkling stalactites and stalagmites. Other popular activities include: mountain biking, paragliding, horse riding, and taking a day trip to the quaint town of Prince Albert over the scenic Swartberg Pass.



Cango Wildlife Ranch

The Cango Wildlife Ranch promotes awareness and conservation of endangered species, while encouraging supervised interaction – making this a wonderful destination for children of all ages. Housing the oldest and largest cheetah contact centre worldwide, visitors can view these powerful, speedy cats in a natural bushveld environment from elevated walkways. From predators of the land to predators of the water, visitors can then move on to the crocodile and alligator enclosures to study more of the world's most dangerous beasts.



Safari Ostrich Showfarm

The Safari Ostrich Showfarm is an ostrich farm located in Oudtshoorn, Garden Route, South Africa. The farm is approximately 1800 hectares in size and boasts a beautiful old homestead build with sandstone called a "Feather Palace".

This is the first ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn and South Africa where the Kenyan Red and Zimbabwe Blue Ostriches can be seen. Visitors will also get to see White Ostriches and the second biggest bird in the world, namely the Emu from Australia.

The tour also consists of a visit to the Incubator Room where chicks are hatched inside incubators. The room is fitted with a “Spy-Camera” which allows for a real close and personal perspective of the hatching process.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Visit to Safari Ostrich Show Farm, including standard tour
- Visit to Cango Wildlife Ranch for a guided tour and opportunity for optional animal encounters.

Day 6: Blackwaters River Lodge, Knysna



Sandwiched between the towering Outeniqua Mountains and the Indian Ocean, Knysna is known as the ‘Garden of Eden’. It is surrounded by world-renowned forests, lovely lagoons and pristine beaches. Visitors can look forward to an array of markets offering delicious food and organic locally-made goods, explore the town’s picturesque waterfront and wander the quaint streets, adventure through the lush forest, skip over streams and catch a glimpse of the multicoloured Knysna Loerie, take a ferry trip to the famed Knysna Heads and sample the local oysters. Don’t miss the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of exciting activities including: surfing, swimming, yachting, jet-skiing, boating, fishing, and golfing.

Day Itinerary

After breakfast clients will check out and visit the famous Cango Caves where clients can experience a guided Heritage Tour - an easy walk through the largest and most spectacular chambers of these limestone caverns, to marvel at the stalactite and stalagmite formations.

Thereafter clients will transfer to the coastal town of Knysna where they will spend the night at Blackwaters River Lodge, a magical piece of paradise, tucked away in a beautiful valley on the banks of the Goukamma River. Set on

several hectares of pristine gardens, it is surrounded by indigenous forest and offers peace, tranquillity and the opportunity for complete relaxation. Activities available on the property: mashie golf course and canoes for hire.

Today clients will end the evening with a visit the popular Knysna Waterfront, which boasts some boutique shops, a range of restaurants and a superior marina. Clients will depart on a John Benn Sunset cruise on the lagoon, the perfect ending to this day. Dinner (optional) can be enjoyed at any one of the local restaurants serving a variety of cuisines, or back at the hotel, which makes delicious pizzas.

Overnight: Blackwaters River Lodge

“Explore & feel our place of magic”

Blackwaters River Lodge is a 4 star graded country lodge situated on the banks of the Goukamma river with 20 beautifully decorated rooms surrounded by indigenous forests. This magical piece of paradise is centrally and conveniently situated on the N2 between the quaint towns Knysna and Sedgefield and 10 minutes away from Buffalo Bay, one of South Africa’s Blue Flag beaches

Our beautiful “place of magic” offers so much more to guests when booking with us - Par 3 Golf Course, canoeing and stand up paddling on the river, freshly made meals in our Earth & Fire Dining Facility, river picnics, wine tastings and a bird lovers paradise - experience the Knysna Turaco in its natural environment. All luxury units overlook the river and forest and classic units are situated in the gardens overlooking the Par 3 golf course. All our units have fridges, baths and showers with private patios and the luxury units have extra length beds

Al La Carte all day menu for golfers and in house guests to enjoy and Set Menus for dinner time. Guests can enjoy a relaxing day around the pool or have a drink in the Ladies Bar in the lounge.



Cango Caves

The spectacular Cango Caves are a subterranean wonderland of magnificent stalactite and stalagmite rock formations that attracts thousands of visitors annually. They extend more than two kilometres into the Swartberg Mountains and visitors can take guided tours that wind through narrow passageways and steep stairways linking the massive caverns.



Featherbed John Benn

The John Benn is a double-decker floating restaurant offering daily lagoon cruises to the Knysna Heads. A memorable family activity on Knysna Lagoon. One of the best floating restaurants in Knysna. The John Benn is a fully enclosed

luxury ferry, beautifully appointed with her upper and lower decks constructed from Yellowwood sourced from the Knysna Forest.

This legendary floating restaurant is for eating, drinking and having fun! The galley team onboard the vessel is young and energetic, serving tasty food made from the freshest local selection.

Eating out in Knysna can become a whole new experience as a family activity.

This wonderful floating restaurant offers a wide dining selection from the a la carte menu, has a bar on each of the upper and lower decks and is fully enclosed. The John Benn is an ideal venue for corporate functions, staff parties and weddings, or simply to have a good time!



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Heritage Tour of the Cango Caves (1-hour guided experience)
- Scheduled John Benn Sunset Cruise

Day 7: End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

After breakfast and check out, you will be met by your driver and be transferred to George Airport for your departure flight.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Travel Information



One of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth, South Africa, fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', boasts 11 official languages, and its inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures. Discover the gourmet restaurants, impressive art scene, vibrant nightlife, and beautiful beaches of Cape Town; enjoy a local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township; browse the bustling Indian markets in Durban, or sample some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotting the Cape Winelands. Some historical attractions to explore include the Zululand battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, its untamed wilderness is astonishing: wildlife roams freely across massive unfenced game reserves such as the world-famous Kruger National Park.

Banking and Currency

Currency

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

Banking

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays (Closed Sundays and Public Holidays). Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs). Several international banks have branches in the main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they are not informed.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Travelling around South Africa is relatively easy by air, road and rail.

Several airlines operate domestic routes with regular links between Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, George, Nelspruit and Port Elizabeth and relatively frequent flights to several smaller towns and cities too.

An extensive tarred road system makes travelling in South Africa by vehicle convenient and easy. You will find gravel roads in rural areas though. Please note that a valid international driver's licence is required. We drive on the left-hand side of the road. Most global car hire firms have branches in South Africa and Uber is available.

Another means of getting around South Africa are inter-city bus services. Metrobus buses are available for in-city transport. Metered taxis must be ordered by telephone. There is the popular MyCityBus system in Cape Town as well as a hop-on-hop-off tourist bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The rail system includes the long-haul, inexpensive Shosholoza Meyl Metrorail trains and some more luxurious options are available. There is also the Gautrain rapid transit railway system in Gauteng Province.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Standards of hygiene in relation to food health and safety in South Africa, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, and put ice in your drinks. South Africa's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

Restaurants are subject to South Africa's food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to ensure hygienic standards are maintained.

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centres and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

Climate and Weather

South African temperatures, which are measured in centigrade, average at highs of 28°C to average lows of 8°C in the summer months while winter temperatures range from 1°C at night to around 18°C in the day. Average annual rainfall is on the low side at under 500mm a year, making the country somewhat dry. Much of the rain falls in the Western Cape in the winter, differing from the rest of the country, which experiences summer rainfall. On the plus side, the South African climate boasts more than its fair share of sunshine, recording an average of 8.5 hours a day.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Summer

Bring clothes that are cool, light and comfortable because summer temperatures can get well into the 30 - 40 degree Celsius range in some areas. Also bring an umbrella or raincoat during summer as this is when most of the country gets its rain, but don't forget a swimming costume (bathing suit).

Winter

The winters are generally mild, comparing favourably with European summers. But there are days when temperatures dive, especially in high-lying areas such as the Drakensberg, so be prepared with jerseys and jackets. Cape Town gets its rain during the winter season so it's advisable to bring rain gear along.

General

Always bring a hat, sunglasses and sunblock as the sun can be strong even in the winter months.

Walking shoes are a good idea all year-round, with warm socks in the winter.

If you are doing business in the country, business attire (suit and tie) is generally called for in the corporate sector, but media for example generally dress more casually.

For game viewing, a couple of neutral-toned items will be useful, but there's no need to go overboard. A good pair of walking shoes is also advisable.

For the evening, if you are dining at an upmarket restaurant or seeing a show, smart-casual attire is recommended.

Internet Availability

Most accommodation offer Wifi (free or paid) in their business centres, rooms or restaurants. Internet cafes are found in most business areas and shopping malls. In addition, some South African restaurants offer WiFi access (free or paid).

There are also outlets such as PostNet that offer internet, fax and postage facilities.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets in the Republic of South Africa are Type M (SABS-1661). If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all types.

Electrical sockets in South Africa usually supply electricity at 230 volts AC / 50 Hz frequency. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 230 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. If your appliance isn't compatible with 230 volts, a voltage converter will be necessary.

Tours to **South Africa**

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