



Cape Town

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA (REVERSE)

It's not surprising that South Africa has become one of the world's most exciting and popular touring destinations. The country offers vibrant and colourful cities, stunning and diverse landscapes, interesting heritage, an unparalleled abundance of wildlife and a sunny climate. What's more, with no jet-lag, the holiday begins as soon as you land.

Our leisurely 18-day tour covers all the country's major attractions with a perfect blend of included sightseeing tours and Freedom Days to spend as you please. Plus, you have the flexibility to choose a traditional two night safari in a game reserve, or join the luxurious Rovos Rail for an all-inclusive Durban Safari journey. With superb accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, the Spectacular South Africa tour really does offer exceptional value for money.



② = Number of nights



Table Mountain

TOUR HIGHLIGHT - Cape Town



During your five night stay, experience the vibrant culture, beautiful scenery and fascinating history of Cape Town. Visit Table Mountain, The Cape of Good Hope, wonderful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and so much more.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- ✓ Return economy class flights with South African Airways from London Heathrow
- ✓ Regional connections from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Manchester or Leeds Bradford available at no additional cost
- ✓ All domestic flights within South Africa
- ✓ Business Class upgrades are available (subject to availability) for a supplement

Carefully selected hotels

- ✓ Superior hotels in great locations, as detailed in the itinerary

Many meals included

- ✓ Daily breakfast included, worth up to £229pp
- ✓ Lunches after flight to Port Elizabeth and in Knysna and Cape Town

All-inclusive on the Rovos Rail

Durban Safari (if selected)

- ✓ All meals included
- ✓ Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included
- ✓ All sightseeing and game drives included

Included with the Ubizane Nature Reserve experience (if selected)

- ✓ All meals at Ubizane Lodge
- ✓ Evening game drive in Ubizane Wildlife Reserve
- ✓ Two game drives in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve
- ✓ Cruise the World Heritage iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Unforgettable experiences included

- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town
- ✓ Cape Point and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- ✓ Tour South Africa's world renowned Garden Route
- ✓ Visit a cheetah conservation project in Pretoria

We include even more

- ✓ Services of an experienced local Tour Manager and drivers
- ✓ All hotel portage
- ✓ All overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
- ✓ All airport charges, security charges and applicable fuel surcharges
- ✓ UK Air Passenger Duty
- ✓ No surcharge guarantee
- ✓ ATOL protection for your holiday

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA (REVERSE)

Days 1 to 6: UK - Pretoria - Ubizane Nature Reserve - Durban



Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow with South African Airways, bound for Johannesburg. Connecting flights with British Airways are available from a choice of regional airports at no extra cost: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Manchester or Leeds Bradford.

In-flight meals and drinks included

Day 2: Pretoria, 2 nights

Breakfast will be served prior to landing in Johannesburg, where our coach will take us to the Sheraton Pretoria Hotel, wonderfully located overlooking the Union Buildings. The rest of our day is at leisure until the early evening, when we shall gather for drinks so we may all be better acquainted for our forthcoming travels together.

Breakfast included

Day 3: Pretoria

This morning we take an included tour to visit the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Breeding Centre. Established in 1971, as the De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre, the centre has performed an important role in the preservation and protection of cheetahs over the last four and a half decades. This afternoon enjoy a tour around the City of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building - the seat of government and an architectural masterpiece, the Voortrekkers' Monument, Melrose House and Paul Kruger's House. We return to our hotel later in the afternoon.

Breakfast included

Day 4: Ubizane Nature Reserve, 2 nights

After breakfast, we drive to Johannesburg and board our flight to Richards Bay. We then travel to Ubizane Nature Reserve situated in the heart of Zululand. With a history spanning more than 50 years, Ubizane is one of the oldest reserves in the area, with a longstanding heritage. Upon arrival we check into our individual lodges, which are built on stilts and set under a canopy of the Fever Tree Forest. Later in the afternoon we take to our open jeeps for our first game drive around the reserve. Ubizane is teeming with wildlife including giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, hyena and white rhino, as well as over 450 different bird species. After a thrilling afternoon we return to our lodge in time for dinner.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 5: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve



This morning we take a short drive to the oldest proclaimed game reserve in Africa: the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve. South Africa's third largest game reserve is home to 'The Big Five', so keep a look out for elephants, lions, buffalo, rhinoceros and leopards. Following breakfast we return to our lodge where

you are free to relax until the heat of the day subsides later in the afternoon. Perhaps watch for wildlife from the comfort of your own personal viewing deck or take a swim in the pool at the adjacent Safari Lodge. Later in the day we return to Hluhluwe in our four-wheel drive vehicles for another game drive prior to dinner.

This evening enjoy an African bush experience, eating dinner under the stars, next to a roaring fire in the lodge's boma - a wonderful experience providing memories to treasure for ever.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 6: Durban, 3 nights

After our breakfast this morning, we leave Ubizane as we make our way to St Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The St Lucia Estuary is one of South Africa's longest and was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1999. It is estimated the estuary is home to approximately 1,200 Nile Crocodiles, 800 hippos and an abundance of bird life. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for African Fish Eagles looking for an easy meal. After a thrilling cruise and lunch we drive to the superior Elangeni Hotel, ideally situated on Durban's esplanade.

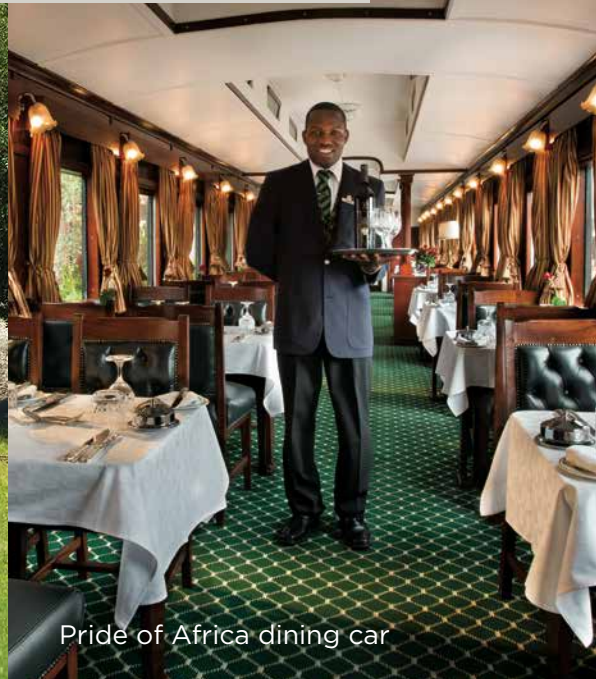
Breakfast and lunch included

DURBAN SAFARI WITH ROVOS RAIL

Days 4 to 6: Rovos Rail Durban Safari - Durban



Observation car, Rovos Rail



Pride of Africa dining car



As an alternative to the two night safari in Ubizane Nature Reserve, you have the option to recapture the romance and atmosphere of a bygone era, whilst joining Rovos Rail on an all-inclusive two night 'Durban Safari'. Dubbed 'the most luxurious train in the world', step aboard to find lovingly restored, wood-panelled coaches with period Edwardian features, and enjoy fine cuisine in five-star luxury.

The coaches have all been remodelled and refurbished to pristine condition. Our accommodation is in Pullman Suites; with 76 square feet of space, these private, air conditioned sleepers feature a comfortable sofa, which converts into twin or double beds by night. Each suite enjoys an en-suite shower, wash basin, toilet and all modern amenities. A team of enthusiastic chefs produce excellent cuisine, which is served with a selection of great South African wines in the charming atmosphere of the dining cars. Guests will enjoy the added elegance of meals served on fine china, with crisp white linen and silver, and are encouraged to dress accordingly in the evenings. Whilst on board, all meals are included, along with a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

If choosing the Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari', days 4 - 6 of your itinerary will be as follows. Please note that your Tour Manager will not accompany you on the train. Instead you will be well looked after by the Train Manager and their excellent crew.

Day 4: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Rovos Rail, 2 nights

This morning, we make our way to Rovos Rail's dedicated terminal in Capital Park, in time for our magnificent overland rail journey to Durban in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Enjoy a relaxing lunch as we traverse the gold mining areas of Gauteng (literally translated as Place of Gold), and climb into the Drakensburg Mountains on our journey south. In the evening, relax in the comfort of the Lounge Car with a pre-dinner drink, and dine with new-found friends along with some fine South African wines. Our train arrives into Elandsplaagte late in the evening, where we stay overnight.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included

Day 5: **Nambiti Private Game Reserve & Spionkop**

This morning, following an early wakeup call and a light breakfast, we disembark for a morning game experience in Nambiti Private Game Reserve. Nambiti has an incredible biodiversity including savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacia trees. Enjoy your open-jeep four wheel drive safari in search of 'The Big Five'. Nambiti is also home to over 40 other species of game including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, hyena, impala, eland and zebra. We return for a sumptuous brunch as our train departs for Escourt. In the afternoon you have a choice of

included excursions. The first option is to take an open jeep game drive in the Spionkop Game Reserve, boasting a rich selection of wildlife including white rhinoceros, giraffe and a variety of plains and bushveld antelope. Alternatively, you may wish to join the Spionkop battlefields tour. Relive a story on which the sun never sets. Britain marched into the South African war in the spring of 1899, confident that it "would all be over by Christmas!" The war lasted three years and was to become the most costly Britain had ever fought. Back on board, it's time for a lovely farewell dinner in the charming surroundings of the dining car.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included

Day 6: **Durban, 3 nights**

This morning, we have a relaxed breakfast before an excursion takes us to the fascinating Ardmore Ceramics Gallery. Ardmore Ceramics is a story about the Zulu people whose sense of rhythm, colour, dance and song, as well as the spirit of the African imagination, can be seen in the artwork produced in the gallery. Returning to the train, enjoy lunch on board as we travel through the stunningly scenic Valley of a Thousand Hills en-route to our final destination, Durban. All good things must come to an end as we bid farewell to the friendly crew of Rovos Rail and transfer to the superior Elangeni Hotel, ideally situated on Durban's esplanade.

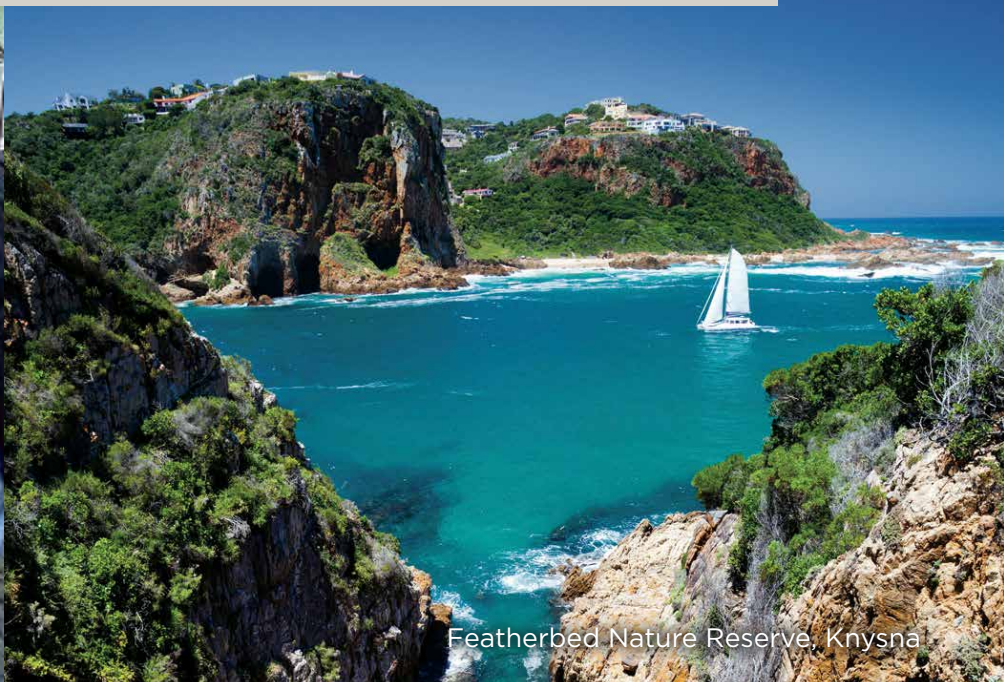
Breakfast and lunch PLUS selected on-board drinks included

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA (REVERSE)

Days 7 to 11: Durban - Garden Route - Knysna



Durban markets



Featherbed Nature Reserve, Knysna

Day 7: Durban

Today we enjoy a tour of Durban. Visits include Victoria Embankment and City Hall and the bustling African-Indian Markets. We also explore the impressive Durban Botanical Gardens, founded in 1849 and home to a fine array of African, Asian and American trees. Your afternoon is at leisure, with the option of taking a journey to the Valley of a Thousand Hills, following the Umgeni River valley, which has been home to the Zulu people for many centuries.

Breakfast included

Day 8: Durban Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to help with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Why not take a full day optional excursion to explore the 19th century Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift? Learn about the fascinating history of the battles that took place in January 1879 and then see the landscape on which the fighting occurred. Alternatively embark on an immersive day trip to the tiny country of Lesotho. Set off from Durban in a 4x4 vehicle in order to cross Africa's highest pass: the 9,435-foot-high (2,876 metres) Sani Pass, to enter this intriguing landlocked kingdom. Once inside, pay a visit to a Sotho village to experience how the locals live.

Breakfast included

Day 9: The Garden Route & Knysna, 3 nights

This morning, we make our way to Durban Airport in time for our flight to Port Elizabeth. We journey westward along the Garden Route via Tsitsikamma National Park and Plettenburg Bay, stopping en-route for some of the finest photographic opportunities to be found in this part of the world. After lunch, we continue to Knysna, and spend our next three nights at the superbly located Rex Hotel.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 10: Featherbed Nature Reserve

This morning, we have included an excursion to The Featherbed Nature Reserve, a unique 150 hectare private nature reserve, which encompasses the whole of the Western Head of Knysna, and is one of South Africa's Natural Heritage Sites. We cruise on Knysna Lagoon, spending time enjoying the spectacular coastal scenery. After lunch, your afternoon is free to relax or stroll around Knysna's pretty waterfront.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 11: Knysna Freedom Day

On our Freedom Day, we will have the opportunity to join an optional tour to Oudtshoorn, South Africa's ostrich capital. The day begins with a drive over the visually stunning Outeniqua Pass as we make our way to the beauty of the semi-arid Klein Karoo. Enjoy a tour of the Cango Caves, a vast series of magnificently colourful limestone caverns, even now only partially explored. This is followed by a guided tour of an ostrich farm, tracing the ostrich from egg to adulthood. Finally, visit the laid-back country town of Oudtshoorn, with its pretty Victorian buildings. Later in the day we return to Knysna.

Breakfast included

We recommend: Oudtshoorn & the Cango Caves



Featuring spectacular mountain landscapes, majestic caves and a tour of a working ostrich farm, this is a tour not to be missed.

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA

Days 12 to 15: Cape Town - Cape Point - Kirstenbosch



Boulders Beach



Stellenbosch wine region

Day 12: The Garden Route & Cape Town, 5 nights

We say goodbye to Knysna today, as we make our way along the western part of the Garden Route.

Our journey takes us westward through undulating countryside and peaceful villages to Mossel Bay, where we visit the Post Office Tree - a place 16th and 17th century sailors left their letters for returning ships to carry to Europe. From Mossel Bay we continue through Swellendam, a one-time rebel republic's capital, and Bonnievale to Worcester in the Hex Valley. On climbing 820 meters above sea level, we cross the breathtaking Du Toit's Kloof Pass and the spectacular Cape Town and its surrounds comes into view. We continue to the Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel, ideally situated close to Cape Town's fashionable Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, which will be our home for the next five nights.

Breakfast included

Day 13: Cape Town city tour

A morning tour of South Africa's Mother City takes us around Cape Town's most important buildings and monuments. Experience first-hand the vibrant cultures and history and enjoy the city's wonderful scenery. Weather conditions permitting, we shall take a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain, followed by a drive through the colourful Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap, Green Market Square and District Six. We continue with a walk through Company Gardens, and drive via the Houses of Parliament, City Hall, the Castle of Good Hope and Slave Lodge before returning to our hotel, where the rest of our day is at leisure.

Breakfast included

Day 14: Cape Point and Kirstenbosch

Today we venture out of the city to explore the spectacular landscapes surrounding Cape Town. Our day begins with a scenic drive through the pretty seaside suburbs of Sea Point and Camps Bay. We continue via Hout Bay, a charming fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views, before driving along Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breathtaking coastal drives. We reach the Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans were once said to meet. Later, we visit Simon's Town and Boulders Beach, home to a colony of endangered African Penguins. Following lunch, we visit the superb Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. These gardens were founded in 1913 to preserve the country's unique flora and they are world-renowned not only for their beauty and diversity, but also for their magnificent setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 15: Cape Town Freedom Day

Today has been left free for us to spend as we please and so we might wish to explore a little more of the surrounding area. Perhaps take a journey to discover the winelands of the Western Cape. The tour will take us through the valleys and vineyards of Paarl and Franschhoek and includes a cellar tour and winetasting in one of the region's fabulous wineries. The scenery as we drive across the Hellshoogte Pass to Stellenbosch is spectacular, and in Stellenbosch we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest settlement in South Africa. The town's oak tree-lined streets and white-washed Cape Dutch-style buildings

make this a delight for exploration on foot, and there are many lovely cafés to enjoy a spot of lunch and watch the world go by. We return to the hotel later in the afternoon.

Breakfast included

We recommend: Western Cape winelands



A full day excursion including a cellar tour, wine tasting, quaint towns and stunning scenery.

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AFRICA

Days 16 to 18: Cape Town - UK



Sunset, Cape Town

Day 16: Cape Town Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day where you may choose to relax by the pool or possibly take an optional trip to Robben Island. Once reserved for high profile prisoners of the apartheid regime, today Robben Island is a monument recognising the iconic struggle of heroes such as Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. The island was brought to the world's attention when Nelson Mandela was released from prison in the early 1990's after serving more than two decades for the crime of speaking out against the apartheid government. Today, Robben Island is a World Heritage Site - acting as a museum as well as a reminder of the price Nelson Mandela paid for the freedom of democracy. In the evening, you have the option to experience a menu of typical Cape Malay and African cuisine, accompanied by traditional African entertainment at Cape Town's excellent Gold Restaurant.

Breakfast included

Day 17: Depart Cape Town

The day is yours to spend as you please prior to our departure to the airport later in the day. Late in the afternoon, we board our South African Airways flight bound for Johannesburg and our onward connecting flight to London Heathrow.

Breakfast and in-flight dinner and drinks included

Day 18: Arrive UK

In the morning we arrive into London Heathrow where our African adventure reaches its conclusion. Connecting flights with British Airways are available to a choice of regional airports at no extra cost: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Newcastle, Manchester or Leeds Bradford.

In-flight meals and drinks included

WHY NOT ADD ON A STAY AT VICTORIA FALLS?

Three nights for only £895 per person

Victoria Falls is the world's largest waterfall and a World Heritage site. The town of Victoria Falls is just over an hour and a half away from Johannesburg by air, so your Spectacular South Africa tour offers the perfect opportunity to add on one of the planet's great natural wonders. Please note, if you are following this altered itinerary and wish to book a stay at Victoria Falls, this will be done prior to the start of the tour, rather than at the end.

Staying in the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, you will be able relax in luxurious surroundings, with easy access to the falls.

