



13 days SOUTH AFRICAN Essentials

Travel with a Purpose

Discover all the essentials and classic experiences that best South Africa has to offer, from finding the 'Big 5' in the Kruger National Park, to the Winelands of the Cape. In between, explore iSimangaliso Wetland Park, as well as the beauty of the Garden Route.



Trip Highlights

- Johannesburg and Soweto experience
- Kruger National Park 'Big 5' game viewing
- Game viewing in a World Heritage Site
- See and hear Mandela's story
- Wild Coast scenery and villages
- Wine tasting on the world's longest wine route
- Cape Point

Guests travelling on this tour support **GREEN SEAT** to conserve South Africa's



Group size

30 guests per vehicle

Departure details

Time: Selected Mondays
Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika ±13h00
Collection time based on the optional tour departure

Departure Days:

Tour Language:	German	English
Departure days:	MONDAYS	MONDAYS
2020		
November	02, 16, 30	09
December	-	07
2021		
January	18	25
February	01, 15	08
March	01, 15	08
April	05, 19	12
May	03	10
June	07	21
July	05	19
August	02, 16	09
September	06, 20	13
October	04, 18	11

Inclusions

Accommodation: 3 and 4-star hotels
Meals: 12 breakfasts and 2 dinners
Entrance fees: Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, Wonder View, Kruger National Park conservation fee, Garden Route National Park conservation fee (Storms River Bridge)
Excursions: River cruise
Green Seat: SANParks Honorary Rangers, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Trees for Tourism

Exclusions

Travel insurance, flights, visa fees, airport transfers, portorage, 13 lunches, 10 dinners, optional excursions, gratuities, and personal expenses

Optional experiences en route

Optional Excursion Package: Not sold separately to TIRB guests.

- Full day game drive in an open safari vehicle in the Kruger National Park on day 3
- Ostrich farm tractor tour
- Cango Caves heritage tour
- Full day tour of Cape Point

Other Optional Excursions

- Afternoon tour of Johannesburg and Soweto
- Full day game drive in an open safari vehicle in the Kruger National Park on day 4
- St Lucia Estuary boat cruise
- Cheese and wine pairing
- Cellar tour
- Morning tour of Cape Town City and Table Mountain

Private guided tour

- Itinerary available on a private basis departing on selected days
- On request and subject to availability (not available on Freesell)
- Departure on any other day is subject to availability and a surcharge may apply
- Public attractions will not be private
- Other language tour guides available on request

Self-drive tour

- Available on freesell departing on the scheduled dates
- Excluding most entrance fees and excursions
- Other day departures are subject to availability and a surcharge may apply

Modular tours

The South African Essentials Tour | TIRB, is a 13 day modular coach tour from Johannesburg to Cape Town

- The vehicle may be required to drop-off and/or collect guests on day 6 at Umhlanga/Durban hotels
- The vehicle may be required to collect guests on day 9 at a Port Elizabeth hotel

Day 1 | Monday
DAY OF ARRIVAL (±30km)

Guests enjoy the day at leisure or alternatively take an optional, guided afternoon tour of Johannesburg (own account) and Soweto highlights. Return to the hotel late afternoon. Guests are met by the tour guide for a tour briefing at 18h30. Guests enjoy dinner (own account) either at the hotel or at one of the many restaurants in Sandton.

Overnight at Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika or similar – Breakfast.

Day 2 | Tuesday
JOHANNESBURG to HAZYVIEW via PANORAMA ROUTE (±500km)

After breakfast, guests depart for the Panorama Route en route to Hazyview. The Blyde River Canyon and the Three Rondavels is the world's largest green canyon, and is the first stop along the Panorama Route. Guests visit Bourke's Luck Potholes and Wonder View, the highest viewpoint on this route. Guests stop for lunch (own account) in Graskop, arriving in the late afternoon at the overnight accommodation on the fringe of Hazyview. Relax prior to a leisurely dinner (own account) at the hotel.

Overnight at Casa do Sol Hotel & Resort or similar – Breakfast.

Day 3 | Wednesday
FULL DAY IN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±250km)

Leaving the hotel after an early breakfast, guests travel to the iconic Kruger National Park. They enjoy a guided closed vehicle game drive. The Kruger National Park supports a staggering variety of fauna and flora including some bird species rare and endemic to the area. Enjoy lunch (own account) at one of the park's rest camps, before continuing on the bush adventure. An optional full day safari in an open safari vehicle is available (own account and excluding lunch). Guests exit the Kruger National Park and head back to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy pre-dinner drinks (own account) before dinner (own account).

Overnight at Casa do Sol Hotel & Resort or similar – Breakfast.

Day 4 | Thursday
HAZYVIEW to MALELANE via KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (±200km)

Guests enjoy an early breakfast before spending a second day on a guided closed vehicle game drive in the Kruger National Park. An optional full day safari in an open safari vehicle is available (own account and excluding lunch). Guests spend the day finding the 'Big 5' and many of the fauna and flora. Lunch (own account) at one of the park's rest camps. Exit the park at Malelane Gate.

They arrive in the late afternoon at the overnight accommodation, situated on the border of the famous park. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks (own account) on the deck overlooking the Crocodile River, before dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at Pestana Kruger Lodge or similar – Dinner and breakfast.

Day 5 | Friday
MALELANE to HLUHLUWE via ESWATINI (±420km)

Guests depart the hotel after an early breakfast and travel to Hluhluwe via the Kingdom of Eswatini. Ezulwini Valley is commonly known as the 'Valley of Heaven' and contains a number of notable wildlife sanctuaries and craft markets. Enjoy lunch (own account) en route. Guests re-enter South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal en route to Hluhluwe. Arrive early evening at the hotel in time for a Zulu cultural show and dinner (own account).

Overnight at ANEW Hotel Hluhluwe & Safaris or similar – Breakfast.

NOTE: When entering the Kingdom of Eswatini, guests must ensure that they are in possession of a valid passport and for nationals of applicable countries, multi-entry visa regulations apply.

Day 6 | Saturday
HLUHLUWE to PORT EDWARD via ST LUCIA (±480km)

After breakfast, the tour heads for St Lucia, where guests can enjoy a boat cruise on the St Lucia Estuary (own account). View rare wildlife and birdlife, mangrove swamps and vegetated sand dunes that make for an interesting and educational cruise. The tour departs for Port Edward on the South Coast, with lunch en route (own account). Enjoy dinner out (own account) at one of the many resort's restaurants.

Overnight at Wild Coast Sun or similar – Breakfast.

NOTE: The vehicle may be required to drop-off and/or collect guests at a hotel in Umhlanga and in Durban

Day 7 | Sunday
PORT EDWARD to MTHATHA (±280km)

Guests enjoy the morning at leisure before departing for Mthatha, stopping for lunch en route (own account). The Mandela Route takes a scenic drive on the N2 highway to Mthatha. Once there, guests can follow in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela, a South African icon. Arriving at the hotel in the late afternoon, guests freshen up before enjoying dinner at the hotel (own account).

Overnight at Garden Court Mthatha or similar – Breakfast.

Day 8 | Monday
MTHATHA to PORT ALFRED (±365km)

Guests enjoy an early breakfast and depart from Mthatha to the marina town of Port Alfred via Qunu, where Nelson Mandela was laid to rest and is still recognised as his family home. Guests continue south and enjoy lunch en route (own account), and arrive late afternoon at the hotel in the heart of the Sunshine Coast. Enjoy refreshing drinks (own account) before savouring the delightful local cuisine.

Overnight at The Royal St Andrews Lodge or similar – Dinner and breakfast.

Day 9 | Tuesday
PORT ALFRED to PLETTENBERG BAY via EASTERN GARDEN ROUTE (±380km)

After an early breakfast, guests enjoy a boat cruise (weather permitting) along the scenic Kowie River before travelling inland along the Garden Route. The Garden Route derives its name from the ecologically diverse vegetation of the area found between the Indian Ocean and the Tsitsikamma mountains. Guests enjoy lunch in Tsitsikamma (own account) and take a short walk to the suspension bridge of the Storms River Mouth. Guests arrive at the hotel in Keurboomstrand and enjoy time at leisure. Guests enjoy the ocean's ambience and dine at the resort restaurant (own account).

Overnight at The Dunes Hotel & Resort or similar – Breakfast.

NOTE: The vehicle may be required to collect guests at a Port Elizabeth hotel.

Day 10 | Wednesday
PLETTENBERG BAY to OUDTSHOORN via CANGO CAVES (±160km)

After a hearty breakfast, guests depart for Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo, via Knysna. This morning's excursion gives guests the opportunity to photograph the Knysna Lagoon and the Knysna Heads. Travelling inland to the ostrich capital of the world, Oudtshoorn, driving over the Outeniqua Pass, the tour arrives in time for lunch (own account) at an ostrich farm on the outskirts of Oudtshoorn, where a tractor tour (own account) introduces guests to the ostrich industry.

In the Cango Valley guests discover the spectacular subterranean world of the Cango Caves (own account). Arriving at the hotel, guests enjoy the afternoon at leisure, and have the opportunity to explore the charming country setting and enjoy dinner (own account).

Overnight at Protea Hotel by Marriott Riempe Estate or similar – Breakfast.

Day 11 | Thursday
OUDTSHOORN to CAPE TOWN via CAPE WINELANDS (±450km)

After breakfast, the tour journeys westwards, along Route 62 and via the Cape Winelands, to Cape Town. Route 62 is an iconic route with intoxicating and ever-changing landscapes and is possibly the world's longest wine route. Lunch en route (own account). Guests visit a wine estate for a cheese and wine pairing followed by a guided cellar tour in the Robertson Wine Valley (own account).

Arrive at their hotel in Cape Town. This evening's dinner can be enjoyed at the hotel (own account), or one of the many world-class restaurants located in close proximity to the hotel.

Overnight at StayEasy Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast.

Day 12 | Friday
FULL DAY AT LEISURE in CAPE TOWN

Cape Town boasts a smorgasbord of delights, including an impressive mountain range, an inviting night life, extensive shopping venues, world-class art and cultural events. After breakfast, guests spend the morning at leisure discovering the Mother City or join an optional, guided full day Cape Point tour (own account) including Cape Point, Boulder's Beach (entrance fee for own account) and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Dine out or at the hotel (own account).

Overnight at StayEasy Cape Town City Bowl or similar – Breakfast.

Day 13 | Saturday
DAY OF DEPARTURE – MORNING AT LEISURE in CAPE TOWN

Guests enjoy breakfast at the hotel before spending the last day of the tour at leisure. Guests can select an optional Table Mountain and City Tour (own account). Table Mountain is a unique conservation area and affords its visitors the best views of Cape Town. Guests can enjoy the revolving cable car ride up the mountain (weather permitting; ticket to be pre-purchased online and for own account). Other stops include the Malay Quarter, city centre, Company Gardens, the Castle of Good Hope (time permitting) and Diamond Works at the V&A Waterfront. Discover the history of the diamond and gold trade in South Africa and witness the art of diamond cutting and the careful craftsmanship of jewellery manufacturing by skilled experts during a sparkling tour.

Modular tours

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TIRB	Day 1 to 13	JNB to CPT	
TISD 04	Day 1 to 6	JNB to DUR	drop-off in Umhlanga / Durban en route to Port Edward
TISD 11	Day 6 to 13	DUR to CPT	pick-up in Umhlanga / Durban en route to Port Edward
TISD 20	Day 9 to 11	PE to CPT	pick-up in PE en route to Plettenberg Bay

RECOMMENDED PRE/POST ACCOMMODATION

Guests booking the modular tours are advised to book pre-and/or post nights

- Johannesburg | Not required as the tour package includes a night at Protea Hotel by Marriott Balalaika
- Umhlanga | Protea Hotel by Marriott Durban Umhlanga
- Durban | Protea Hotel by Marriott Durban Edward
- Port Elizabeth | Protea Hotel by Marriott Marine or Kelway Hotel
- Cape Town | Not required as the tour package includes 2 nights in Cape Town

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF LOCATIONS AND ESTIMATED TIMES

The tour guide will contact guests the day before departure, to confirm collection time and obtain the guests' contact details in case of an emergency.

TIRB DAY	TOUR	CITY	PICK-UP / DROP-OFF HOTEL	PICK-UP / DROP-OFF TIME
Day 6	TISD 11	Umhlanga	Protea Hotel by Marriott Umhlanga	±15h30
Day 6	TISD 11	Durban	Protea Hotel by Marriott Edward	±16h00
Day 9	TISD 20	Port Elizabeth	Protea Hotel by Marriott Marine Kelway Hotel	±11h30 ±11h30

TIRB 13 Day South African Essentials

TISD 04 6 Day Kruger to Coast Essentials

TISD 11 8 Day Wild Coast and Garden Route Essentials

TISD 20 3 Day Garden Route Essentials

