

THE GARDEN ROUTE & SAFARI

DATE:	24 October 2018 – 6 November 2018
DURATION:	14 days (+ Dubai)
DEPARTURE:	DUBLIN (other airports available)
TOUR ESCORTED BY:	Sharon Fleming
TOUR TYPE:	CULTURE
PRICE:	£2695pp sharing £3295 single



We take you along the Garden Route to Port Elizabeth enjoying breathtaking scenery, diverse landscapes and a safari experience. The memories of the landscapes, night skies and trips will stay with you forever.

The tour will be led from Dublin by Sharon Fleming, Director of Thompson Travel International who has over 23 years' experience in the industry and leading groups. You will be escorted in Africa by a fully qualified English speaking guide.



Overview

Accommodation	Destination	Nights
Southern Sun Waterfront	Cape Town	4
Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa	Franschhoek	2
Queens Hotel	Oudtshoorn	1
Premier Hotel Knysna The Moorings	Knysna	2
Kariega Main Lodge	Kariega Private Game Reserve	2

24 October 2018: Depart Dublin for onward journey overnight to Capetown

25 October 2018: Southern Sun Waterfront, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

Today you will be met on arrival in Cape Town International Airport and transferred to your hotel.

Cape Town

Cape Town is one of the world's most beautiful cities and a top international destination. Large numbers of tourists flock to Cape Town to enjoy this unique city with its fascinating history, interesting culture, natural beauty, award winning wines and laidback lifestyle. Whether you are a serious tourist or just want to lie on the beach and enjoy life, Cape Town will satisfy your needs.

Overnight: Southern Sun Waterfront

A total of 537 beautifully furnished rooms are offered at the hotel, catering to your needs with all the amenities expected of an establishment granted a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. Tea and coffee stations, DSTV, electronic safes, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi are par for the course, while our porter service and 24-hour room service are also on offer. In addition to double, queen and king rooms, smoking and wheelchair-accessible rooms can also be arranged at your request. As for the rest of the hotel's guest facilities, these are sure to make you feel even more at ease. Enjoy a truly unique dining experience at Yizani Restaurant, which lives up to its isiXhosa name that translates to 'come in... Welcome'. Stay fit with the help of our fully-equipped fitness centre, cool down at the outdoor pool, indulge

in decadent cocktails and fine wines at the hotel bar or take advantage of our world-class conferencing facilities that include two fully serviced meeting rooms. Being a short walk away from the famous V&A Waterfront and other Cape Town sights is just the start of this iconic accommodation landmark's appeal. Post-card views of the harbour and of Signal Hill are rivalled only by the stylish, inviting presence of the hotel itself. Step inside the impressive lobby, and you will soon discover why this hotel continues to snap up awards.



26 October 2018 Southern Sun Waterfront, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

Half day city tour with Table Mountain

Table Mountain ticket (weather dependant)

Drive by Parliament, City Hall & Slave Lodge

Visit Bo Kaap & Malay Quarter

Complimentary diamond-cutting tour

Afternoon at leisure

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.



Cape of Good Hope

Part of the Table Mountain National Park that extends from Signal Hill in the north all the way to Cape Point in the south, the Cape of Good Hope is not the southern tip of Africa, despite lying at the south-west corner of the Cape Peninsula, just a little south of Cape Point on the south-east corner.

Cape Agulhas, roughly 150 kilometres southeast of here, holds this title instead. The Cape of Good Hope, however, remains a significant headland in the sense that from here one travels more eastward than southward, and it is not hard to imagine that rounding of the cape in 1488 was a major achievement.

This said, the Cape of Good Hope is one of two world-renowned landmarks within the Table Mountain National Park, the other is Table Mountain. These two familiar attractions are what draws thousands of visitors to Cape Town, not a new attribute to the Cape of Good Hope that functioned as something of a beacon for sailors for years and is still widely referred to as 'The Cape' by sea farers. the Cape Peninsula, just a little south of Cape Point on the south-east corner.



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.



South African Parliament

The South African Parliament Buildings are beautifully situated on the edge of the Company Gardens. Tours are offered and you can book a place in the public gallery.

Cape Town City Hall

The City Hall was built in 1905 and is one of Cape Town's architectural landmarks. It was also the site of Nelson Mandela's post release speech, when he addressed two hundred thousand people squashed into the Grand Parade.



Slave Lodge

The Cape Colony was built on the backs of slaves and the Slave Lodge was where Dutch East India Company used to lock up the slaves who worked in the Company Gardens. Today it is a national monument and a museum documenting the history of slavery in South Africa.



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.



Day Itinerary

Day at leisure

28 October 2018: Southern Sun Waterfront, Cape Town

Day Itinerary

Full day Peninsula tour

Drive by Clifton, Camps Bay & Llandudno

Short stop at Hout Bay (Seal Island cruise optional)

Chapman's Peak Drive

Cape Point

Funicular

Lunch at Bertha's Restaurant in Simon's Town

Penguins at Boulders Beach

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

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.



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.



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.



Chapman's Peak

Chapman's Peak Drive winds its way between Noordhoek and Hout Bay. Situated on the Atlantic Coast, at the south-western 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.



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.



Bertha's Restaurant

In the heart of Simons Town, you'll find Bertha's Restaurant on the absolute waters edge - fronting the old Town Pier and boasting magnificent views across False Bay, the Naval Harbour as well as the Yacht Marina. Bertha's extensive menu features South African fare, fresh seafood and an impressive selection of wines. Emphasis is on flavour and

presentation, and you're never left disappointed. Only the freshest and finest ingredients are used in the delectable dishes prepared by a team of skilled chefs.



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.



Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

On the lower slopes of Table Mountain, the beautiful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens showcases some of the Cape's rich flora. Taking centre stage here is the unique 'fynbos' vegetation. Those who work up an appetite while exploring this garden paradise can visit the restaurant or tea room, which are fully stocked with delicious meals, yummy treats and

refreshing beverages. In summer, Sunday music concerts provide sunset entertainment. Kirstenbosch is rated as the seventh best of its kind in the world.



29 October 2018 Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa, Franschhoek

Franschhoek

Idyllically situated in the Cape Winelands, this peaceful country retreat is one of the oldest towns in South Africa. The town was named Franschhoek, meaning “French Corner” as it was founded by French Huguenots settlers who fled the inquisition in Europe and were seeking a secluded little hide-out. They found it in the remarkably fertile valley of Franschhoek and this fascinating heritage is showcased at the Huguenot Memorial Museum. The Cape Dutch architecture in much of the village remains remarkably well preserved as restrictions were placed on the extent of renovations and new construction in order to preserve the aesthetic of the original settlers. The town’s ideal summer weather and towering snow-capped peaks in winter have turned this once sleepy little village into a popular tourist attraction. Its proximity to Cape Town allows for pleasant day trips during which visitors can explore the area’s many world-class wine estates, indulge their taste buds at the impressive range of excellent restaurants or simply browse the quaint, upmarket boutiques strewn along the town’s lovely tree-lined avenues.

Overnight: Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa

Located in the Gourmet Capital of South Africa, Le Franschhoek Hotel and Spa has become one of the ultimate getaways in its class. Capturing the essence of 4-star luxury, the impeccably appointed hotel offers unparalleled views of the mountains and is the perfect setting for a taste of the legendary Cape Wine Routes.

Le Franschhoek retains its elusive charm with a contemporary Cape Dutch feel. Features include Camelot Spa and an ideal destination for team building, corporate functions or even a fairy tale wedding, boasting 5 world class conference venues, seating from 20 to 120 delegates.

Accommodation

This luxury Hotel features 79 en-suite, elegantly finished rooms and suites, two lavish villas, eight double and eight single bedroom villas. Each boasts breath-taking views over either the towering Franschhoek Mountains or manicured gardens. Room facilities include complimentary amenities, an espresso machine with a supply of fragrant coffee pods, Air-conditioning, under floor heating, direct dial telephones, remote controlled television with selected DSTV channels, hairdryers, electronic safes and Wi-Fi provided for your convenience and enjoyment.

Formal Restaurant

DISH:

This elegantly portrayed fine dining eatery. Offers diners an opportunity to indulge in a scrumptious a' la Carte menu, complimented by warm service and picturesque placement.



30 October 2018: Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa, Franschhoek

(walking tour included)

Stellenbosch – Orientation Tour with visit to Taal Monument at Paarl/Cheese Tasting at Fairview Estate

A blend of historical architecture, student life, epicurean delights and oak-lined avenues, Stellenbosch is a picturesque university town surrounded by mountains and vineyards. A walking tour of the town centre allows visitors to take in its beautifully preserved Cape

Dutch and Victorian architecture, as well as the many enticing art galleries, craft shops, clothing boutiques and gift stores, while foodies may prefer indulging in mouth-watering cuisine and fine wines at one of the chic restaurants or buzzing bistros. Stellenbosch is also the ideal base from which to explore the renowned local wine route, boasting a high proportion of the country's leading wine estates.



31 October 2018: Oudtshoorn Overnight, Oudtshoorn

Oudtshoorn

Oudtshoorn is famous for its ostriches and the magnificent Cango Caves. Located along the renowned Route 62, which takes motorists past one awe-inspiring sight after another, Oudtshoorn is known as the Ostrich Capital of the World: these huge birds are almost as common as people in this charming town. Other than ostriches and the wonderful feathers and meat they provide, the Oudtshoorn area also boasts the spectacular Cango Caves; the largest show cave system in Africa, permeated with sparkling stalactites and stalagmites and captivating rock formations.

Overnight: Oudtshoorn Overnight - Tour to Cango Caves

Route 62

Route 62 might market itself as the longest Wine Route in the world, but that's definitely not all there is to it. Lush greenery and fertile valleys form a stark contrast against the semi-desert of the Klein Karoo while towering mountains and their rivers and streams provide an awe-inspiring backdrop throughout. Some of the renowned attractions visitors will spot as they follow the route are the winelands of the Breede River Valley, the majestic Swartberg

mountains, the Congo Caves and ostrich farms of Oudtshoorn, and the fruit orchards of the Langkloof Valley.



1 November 2018: Premier Hotel Knysna The Moorings, Knysna

Knysna

Nestled between the imposing Outeniqua Mountains and the Indian Ocean and surrounded by world-renowned forests, Knysna offers a wealth of activities for visitors. The beautiful lagoon and more than eight beaches provide opportunities to swim, surf, canoe, yacht, jet-ski, boat, fish, walk on soft sand and take ferry rides. Various markets offer organic goods, delicious food, indigenous plants and a social atmosphere. Mountains, valleys, lakes, forests and streams are ready to be explored. The region isn't known as the "Garden of Eden" for nothing! A birding route is available for avid bird watchers. World class golf courses are at your doorstep. And of course the area is famous for the Knysna Heads and delicious oysters.

Overnight: Premier Hotel Knysna The Moorings

Premier Hotel Knysna - The Moorings welcomes you to idyllic natural surroundings in the Western Cape. This new addition to the Premier Hotel & Resorts portfolio offers the traveller luxury accommodation with up-market furnishings and the lifestyle conveniences of a modern home.

With air-conditioning, secure off-street parking, business and conference facilities, restaurant and sparkling swimming pool, Premier Hotel Knysna – The Moorings will surpass all your needs, whether it be for business or pleasure.

The hotel is situated on the secluded banks of the Knysna Lagoon in the midst of enchanting woodland gardens. The area offers an abundance of outdoor leisure activities such as

fishing, swimming, boating or bird watching while Knysna is only minutes away where guests can enjoy a wide variety of shopping malls, restaurants, pubs and historical attractions.



2 November 2018: Premier Hotel Knysna The Moorings, Knysna

Featherbed Nature Reserve – day trip

Featherbed is a privately-owned, registered Nature Reserve and a South African Heritage Site, No.59. It is a pristine piece of paradise situated on the Western Head of Knysna and is accessible by ferry only. In order to protect the splendour of the natural beauty, access to the Reserve is controlled. Numbers are limited and visits are only permitted in the company of the Reserve's specialist guides. This 4-hour excursion departs daily and reservations are essential. It is a wonderful outing for all ages and fitness levels. Good walking shoes are recommended and remember to bring your camera, hats, and sunblock in summer and a warm jacket for the ferry trip in winter. The nature reserve offers Knysna adventure activities not to be missed. A perfect outdoor family holiday activity to be enjoyed by both young and old.



3 November 2018: Kariega Main Lodge, Kariega Private Game Reserve

Kariega Private Game Reserve

As a family owned and operated private game reserve, Kariega Game Reserve offers a warm and friendly environment where guests can experience a real connection with all that Africa has to offer, including its rich culture. Local cuisine, traditional braaivleis (barbeque), and outdoor dining in the African boma are all part of the authentic African journey at Kariega. Of course, your African safari would not be complete without the big game experience offered at Kariega. Comprising 10,000 hectares of rich biodiversity and lush landscapes, Kariega is a malaria-free safari destination home to the Big 5 (lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, cape leopard) and much more. Twice daily game viewing from open game vehicles is the centre of your safari experience but other safari activities on offer include walking safaris, river cruises, canoeing and fishing. Also available is a tranquil health spa, and a well-equipped gym.

Overnight: Kariega Main Lodge

Kariega Main Lodge is nestled in the thickets and bushveld of the Eastern Cape landscape and offers guests panoramic vistas of the green river valley below. This authentic safari lodge is the ideal location from which to enjoy your African safari at Kariega which include twice daily game drives on the private reserve, experiencing close up viewing of lion, elephant, rhino and other big 5 African game. Kariega Main Lodge is comprised of 21 log chalets, a vibrant restaurant, bar and living area as well as pool, curio shop, gym and health spa.



Game Drives

The Kariega Game Reserve safari experience is centered around twice daily game drives. Guests will be delighted with close up viewing of a diversity of wild African game including

lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo, hippo, giraffe, zebra, a host of antelope species, and much more including a myriad of exquisite birdlife. Skilled and knowledgeable game rangers will spend time unraveling some of the secrets of the African bush, will see to any specific requests, and ensure that all your questions are answered.

Guided Walks

At Kariega Game Reserve there are a number of walking trails that guests can enjoy with their ranger. Guided safari walks allow guests to experience the feel of the African bush and enjoy watching wildlife and birds on foot.

Health Spa

The Kariega Wellness Centre is a great place to unwind and relax, offering luxurious treatments and therapies.

4 November 2018: Kariega Main Lodge, Kariega Private Game Reserve

Full BOARD AT KARIEGA with 2 GAMES DRIVES PER DAY

5 November 2018: Departure from game reserve

Breakfast at Game Reserve. Approximate transfer time: 2 hours.

6 November 2018: Arrival to Dublin

Price Includes:-

- Meet & Greet at airports as specified. The group will be escorted by Sharon Fleming, Director.
- Accommodation, meals, day tours and activities as specified.
- English speaking guide on transfers, day tours and overland until drop off at Port Elizabeth airport for the entire itinerary.
- Hotel and airport portorage for the main tour.
- Bed & Breakfast/Full board in Game Reserve/3 lunches.

Price Excludes:- Evening meals except in game reserve, Personal insurance , Drinks, Gratuities (approx. £65 collected with balance), Items of a personal nature, any trips over those included in itinerary

ASK US ABOUT THE OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO DUBAI

THE PLACES ON THIS GROUP ARE LIMITED.