



Trip Dossier for South Africa – Garden Route & Cape Town

Trip Code: FSGR Issue date: 18 Sep 2009 Valid from: 01 December 2010

Discover the stunning Garden Route. See elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino and leopard at Addo (as well as the Southern Right whales and Great White Shark at Woody Cape – making the Big Seven). Tsitsikamma has a wonderful lagoon and forest to explore; perhaps on a tree-top canopy tour. At Knysna, you can whale and dolphin watching or try bungee-jumping. Then a change of scene as you visit an Ostrich Farm in the Klein Karoo and head to Cape Town, dramatically set between the Atlantic and Table Mountain.

Days 1 to 3 Fly overnight via Johannesburg and transfer to Eastern Cape and Addo Elephant Park

You depart from London and fly via Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth. The Eastern Cape is an area of stunning diversity ranging from the lush, evergreen Tsitsikamma Forest to the rugged Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area, the arid Great Karoo and the spectacular coastline, a paradise for water sports. You will be met at Port Elizabeth Airport and transferred directly to Addo Elephant National Park (1 hours drive). The next day is free to explore, the Park supports about 200 elephants and it's fascinating to watch the elephants silently emerging from a dense tangle of creepers and trees as they steer their young to the waterholes. They are notoriously difficult to see and so when they do appear it is often startlingly close to where you are. You may also see the rest of the Big Five (lion, leopard, black rhino and Cape buffalo). The Great White Shark and the seasonal Southern Right Whale in the Park's marine section, complete the Big Seven! **2 nights - Chalet with swimming pool (self catering)**

Days 4 to 5 Tsitsikamma National Park

After breakfast you begin your trip along South Africa's Garden Route and travel down the coast to the glorious indigenous Tsitsikamma Forest (3hrs drive). Deep gorges and lush vegetation hug the rugged coastline of cliffs and sandy beaches. Here is an abundance of indigenous flora, ancient yellowwood trees and magnificent fynbos plants, as well as prolific birdlife. Tsitsikamma National Park is situated on the Hilltop where the Storms River and the Indian Ocean meet in a turbulent crashing of surf. There are plenty of adventure activities (optional) for you and your children to try including the Swinging Bridge, a Canopy Safari through the treetops, white-water rafting on the Storms River, or you can just relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Your guide is on hand to advise on activities. **2 nights Chalet with pool (self catering)**

Days 6 to 7 Knysna River Club

Leave Tsitsikamma National Park and it is a short hop to Knysna (2 hours drive), a rather charming historic town set on a lagoon, surrounded by hilly forests that tumble down to the water. The lagoon, which is a protected marine reserve, is guarded from the ocean by a pair of sentinels known as the 'Heads'. You stay two nights at Knysna River Club in log chalets set among shady trees on the edge of the lagoon. There's a fantastic choice of optional activities such as bungy jumping, a trip to the Knysna Featherbed Nature Reserve, a visit to the Oyster Factory, and dolphin and whale watching tours. In the afternoon, discover the joys of the town's many art galleries, craft shops and coffee bars. **2 nights - Chalet with swimming pool (self catering)**

Day 8 Oudsthoorn

You leave the coast and drive through George to Oudsthoorn, known as the Feather Capital of the world on account of its local native, the ostrich. These extraordinary birds, which you will see running across the landscape, gave rise to two ostrich feather booms in the late 19th century as fashionable ladies insisted on ostrich feathers in their hats and boas. Feathers were sold for more than their weight in gold. Nowadays they are raised for their low-cholesterol meat! You stay in a working ostrich, alfalfa and vineyard farm, situated outside Oudsthoorn, in the beautiful Olifants River Valley with spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountains. In the afternoon visit one of the Ostrich Farms and perhaps ride an ostrich (optional) and then go underground into the famous Cango Caves to cool down, as it gets very hot in the Klein Karoo desert region. These caves are a series of dripstone caverns that open into vast halls of towering stalagmite formations. **Guesthouse with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 9 Winelands to Cape Town

Today you take Route 62, the wine route known for its dramatic scenery as it meanders through the Klein Karoo with majestic mountains, passes, rivers, vineyards and orchards. The elegant little town of Calitzdorp is renowned for its port. Then at Montagu the Breede River Valley merges with the Robertson and Worcester Wine Valleys, which produce some of South African's finest wines and brandies. We will make a stop at Kleinplasia Open Air Museum, a working museum depicting the lifestyle of early Cape pioneer farmers, with replica buildings and machinery dating back to the 17th Century. While the adults can taste Mampoer and Witblits (two homemade spirits) the children can join in the activities such as candle making, soap making, coffee roasting or enjoy donkey

cart rides. From here, we continue the journey via the spectacular Boland Mountains and wine region en route to Cape Town.

As you arrive in Cape Town, you will immediately be awed by the stunning beauty of this city, dominated by Table Mountain with the Atlantic Ocean on one flank and the Indian Ocean bathing the coves on its eastern side. The distinctive Cape Dutch gabled colonial architecture in Constantia sits alongside Muslim minarets and English Victorian terraces. Contemporary redevelopments of its harbours and waterfront offer thriving shopping and eating areas. You stay in the trendy suburb of Tamboerskloof at the foot of Table Mountain and conveniently located for the beach, the V&A Waterfront, and city centre. **3 nights - Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 10 Cape Town

On your first full day in Cape Town there will be an orientation tour of the city of Cape Town. Highlights include a ride in the funicular to Table Mountain (weather permitting) otherwise a visit to Signal Hill. Signal Hill's main attraction is the battery with the Noon Gun positioned just below the mountain top. Here a cannon-shot is fired every day at 12 o'clock noon on the dot, to uphold an old Capetonian tradition and all people in the city look at their watches and smile. We continue the tour with a visit to the Castle of Good Hope, Freedom Square (where Mandela appeared for the first time after being released from prison), St Georges Cathedral and Greenmarket Square. In the afternoon, there is an opportunity to visit the Two Oceans Aquarium at the V&A Waterfront (entrance fee extra), or take a boat trip to Robben Island (optional at extra cost). The evening can be spent at the V&A Waterfront, there are numerous of cafes and restaurants to choose from, returning to the hotel at your leisure.

Day 11 Free Day: optional day trip to Gansbaai and Hermanus

On your second day is free, to explore Cape Town, go shopping or visit the Aquarium, or take an optional excursion to Gansbaai to watch the whiteshark operations. This optional tour departs early in the morning and drive to Gansbaai, for the brave hearted to partake in a cage dive with the sharks if you have the nerves (optional). The minimum age for this activity is 10 years old, and children from 6 years and up are allowed on the boat to observe. In the afternoon, take an orientation tour of Hermanus and Whale watching in Walker Bay. Hermanus is the best land based whale watching area in the world. Drive from Hermanus via the beautiful Coastal St Clarence drive. Visit Somerset beach, Gordon's Bay and Harold Porter botanical gardens, returning to Cape Town late afternoon.

Day 12 Tour of Cape Point and transfer to Airport

On your last day we conclude the holiday with a visit to Cape Point to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. We start with a visit to Sea Point, Clifton Beach and Camps Bay, Hout Bay Harbour; time permitting take a boat trip to Seal Island. Then onto Constantia Valley, visit the Big Five Curio Market, Cape of good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point through Simon's Town to see the Jack Ass Penguins, stopping for lunch en route (own expense). Then it is time to bid farewell to South Africa and drive to Cape Town International Airport to board your overnight return flight to London.

Day 13 Arrive London

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.

Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

Two-tour combination: Kruger & Coast plus Garden Route & Cape Town

You can extend your stay in South Africa by combining this tour with our 'Kruger & Coast' trip. Please see our separate Trip Dossier for a fuller description. Outline itinerary given below.

Days 1 to 2 Fly overnight to Johannesburg. Trip to Soweto Township and Gold Reef City. Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 3 to 4** Hazyview & Blyde River Drive across the Highveld to Hazyview. Visit God's Window, Blyde River Canyon and Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Lodge with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 5 to 6** Kruger National Park Game drives in Kruger National Park in the morning and afternoon,



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with the possibility of a further drive at sunrise or sunset (optional). On your second day your rest camp lies on the banks of the Sabie River Bungalow (breakfast, lunch and dinner) **Day 7** Swaziland Drive into Swaziland to the Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. Optional riding and mountain biking. In the evening you are entertained by tribal dancers. Traditional Hut with swimming pool (self catering). **Day 8** Hluhluwe-Imfolzi Reserve Leaving Swaziland you cross back into South Africa and through Kwa-Zulu Natal to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park in the heart of Zululand, Africa's oldest game park. Optional walking safaris. Bungalow (breakfast). **Day 9 to 11** St Lucia & the coast Visit Cape Vidal, optional excursions to see hippos and crocodiles or whales and turtles. Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast). **Days 12 to 13** Transfer to Durban, Fly to Port Elizabeth & transfer to Addo Elephant for game viewing. Chalet with swimming pool. **Days 14 to 15** Tsitsikamma National Park. At leisure in Tsitsikamma National Park, optional wild water rafting trip on the Storm River. Chalet with swimming pool. **Day 16 to 17** Knysna River Club. Optional Activities include Bungy jumping, a trip on the Knysna Featherbed and a visit to the Oyster Factory, as well as dolphin and whale watching tours. Chalet with swimming pool. **Day 18** Oudsthoorn, Feather Capital of the World, visit to Ostrich Farms and Cango Caves. Guesthouse with swimming pool. **Day 19** Winelands to Cape Town via the winelands of the Western Cape. Hotel with swimming pool. **Days 19 to 20** In Cape Town. Orientation tour of the city of Cape Town, optional visit Gansbaai to watch the white-shark operations, cage dive with the sharks and orientation tour of Hermanus and Whale-watching. (own account). Hotel with swimming pool. **Day 21** Fly to London. **Day 22** Arrive London

Optional Extras

Knysna – Bungy Jumping	£60.00
– Dolphin and whale watching (two hours)	£40.00
– Oyster Factory (according to consumption – A la carte menu)	
– Featherbed Nature Reserve (including lunch)	£25.00
Cape Town - Two Oceans Aquarium	£6 adult / £3 child
- Robben Island	£13.50 adult/£7 child
Day trip to Gansbaai, Hermanus and Gordon's Bay	£160.00
- cage diving in Gansbaai (min age 10yrs)	£100.00
Johannesburg Township & Gold Reef City Tour	£70.00
Kruger Sunset or Sunrise Drive	£10 - £13
Swaziland – Game Drive	£12.00
– Sunrise Drive	£12.00
– Guided Walking/Driving/Cycling Tour per hour	£3.50
– Children's horse ride	£5.00
– Adult horse ride	£10.00
Hluhluwe – Walking safari	£14.00
Cape Vidal – entrance per day	£3.50
– Hippo and Crocodile Tour	£10.00
– Whale & Turtle Tour	£45.00

Please note these prices are a guideline only and are subject to change.

Is this right for your family? A varied itinerary with an emphasis on the natural world – mountains, wildlife, forests, coast and marine life. Accommodation is comfortable and mostly organized on a self-catering basis. Some activities are included, others not, to give you more choice. This area is malaria-free. Transfers by road are usually in 14- or 22-seater buses.

Lone Parents Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Climate Cape Town and the Garden Route are favoured with a Mediterranean-style climate with pleasantly warm dry summers and cool winters. Cape Town is washed by the cool Benguela current and so the water temperature is quite cold on the Atlantic coast. Along the Garden Route humid sea-winds from the Indian Ocean bring rain from April to September.



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Average monthly climate in Cape Town

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	26	26	25	22	19	18	17	18	18	21	23	24
Min °C	16	16	14	12	9	8	7	8	9	11	13	14
Rainfall (mm)	15	8	18	48	79	84	89	66	43	31	18	10

Accommodation is in hotels, guesthouses and chalets, mostly self catering on the Garden Route & Cape Town trip. If you do the extension tour to the Kruger & Coast you also stay one night in a traditional hut, and two nights in a bungalow, and meals are included as indicated in the itinerary above. The mention of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

Food and Drink Meals are included as per the itinerary. Much of the food in South Africa is international in nature. However there are local favourites which include *Boerekos*. This "farm food" stems from the Boer settlers and is characterised by hearty meals with a lot of meat. *Potjiekos* is lamb or any other meat, stewed for hours with lots of vegetables in a round cast-iron pot on three legs over a fire. And of course there is the ubiquitous *braai*, a form of barbeque loved by all South Africans. Beer is the preferred drink but South African wine is increasingly popular and relatively cheap. Please remember to drink plenty of bottled water during your trip.

Currency The South African currency is the Rand (ZAR). At the time of writing (Sep 2009) £1 = 12.15 ZAR. Banks and ATMs can be found nearly everywhere, except the most remote villages where you will need cash. Travellers' cheques are widely accepted. It is a good idea to carry your money and cards securely in a money belt or something similar under your clothes.

Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.90
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£1.65
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.75
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.00
A bottle of beer	£1.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£2.50
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£5.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£10.00

*Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.

Tipping is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline expect to tip 10 to 15% in restaurants and taxis, and leave something in your room for the hotel staff.

Language The predominant language in South Africa is English although there are ten other official languages including Afrikaans which you will certainly encounter on road signs and official forms. The other nine languages are African which are split into four groupings.

Time South Africa is s GMT +2 hours

Safety Although you are unlikely to encounter problems in the well policed tourist areas it is wise to take sensible precautions. In the evenings don't go for walk through parks or along the beach; don't enter townships; keep your handbag closed when walking through markets or shopping malls; don't stop if someone suspicious indicates they need help in case it is a trap. If out on your own, travel with your mobile switched on, if possible.

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"

Clothing & Equipment List for Garden Route & Cape Town

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend.

It is a good idea to wear muted colours while on safari as animals and birds can see bright colours from a long way off.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Walking Shoes	1 pair (optional)		Soft-sided bag 50 – 80 litres	
Trainers or Strong Sandals	1 pair – all purpose wear		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Waterproof Jacket	1 lightweight		Sunglasses	
T-Shirts	3 +		Personal First Aid Kit	
Long Trousers or Skirt	2 +		Sunscreen	
Shorts	2		Insect Repellent with high DEET content	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Torch and Batteries	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Camera and Memory Card	
Warm jacket	1		Washing Kit	
Thin Fleece or Sweatshirt	1		Wet wipes & dry anti-bacterial hand wash are useful in your day pack	
Warm hat, scarf and gloves	Recommended on early morning game drives		Guide Book & map	
Swim Wear	1		Towel or Sarong	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Money/Travellers Cheques		Small Calculator	
Cash Cards/Visa		Binoculars – optional	
Insurance Documents		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, books, colouring pencils old toys	
Money Security Belt/Pouch			

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit www.baa.com