Mercury Holidays

BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Kruger National Park & Cape Town

With landscapes stretching from the majestic plains of the savannah to the breathtaking coastline of the Cape and wildlife, arguably unsurpassed anywhere on earth, the claim that South Africa is a 'world in one country' seems completely justified. The tour offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Big Five on a safari at the famous Kruger National Park, soak up the unforgettable scenery along the Garden Route, explore Cape Town and discover the beautiful Winelands region.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to South Africa. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1-2: UK to Johannesburg B
Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Johannesburg. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel with a short tour of the city and visit to Soweto, Africa's most famous township.

DAY 3: Johannesburg to Kruger B/D
Journey to Kruger National Park along the magnificent Panorama Route, one of South Africa's most stunning scenic drives. With awe-inspiring vistas, the route follows the impressive Blyde River Canyon, passing plunging waterfalls, spectacular natural landmarks and old mining towns before arriving at your hotel in Mpumalanga.

DAY 4-5: Kruger National Park B
Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour awaits today; a guided safari drive in Kruger National Park. One of the biggest, oldest and quite simply one of the best wildlife parks in the world, Kruger boasts the greatest variety of animals including the famed Big Five. On day five enjoy a day at leisure to relax.

DAY 6: Kruger to Cape Town B
Returning to Johannesburg, fly to Cape Town where you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel.

DAY 7-8: Cape Town and Cape Point B
Embark on a fantastic full day tour around the Cape Peninsula. Joining one of the most spectacular coastal drives in the world, Chapman's Peak Drive, travel to the World Heritage Site of The Cape Point Nature reserve where the mighty Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet in harmony amidst dramatic scenery. You will also visit the beautiful marine protected area of Boulder's Beach where the sandy shores are home to a breeding colony of over 2,000 endangered African Penguins. En-route back to Cape Town a stop will be made at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the beautiful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, one of the most highly acclaimed botanical gardens in the world. Enjoy day eight at leisure to explore Cape Town at your own pace.

DAY 9: Cape Town to Knysna B/D
After breakfast, transfer to Knysna in the heart of the gorgeous Garden Route to spend the afternoon relaxing at your hotel.

DAY 10: Knysna and Featherbed Nature Reserve B/L
This morning, take a ferry across Knysna lagoon to the Featherbed Nature Reserve. Stopping at some magnificent viewpoints, your guide will describe the area's fauna, flora, history and shipwrecks, followed by a leisurely guided walk around the area.

DAY 11: Knysna to the Cape Winelands B
Departing Knysna, take the scenic drive to the Cape's beautiful Winelands region. Arriving late afternoon, your hotel is located on the valley slopes, commanding far-reaching views of the surroundings.

DAY 12: The Cape Winelands B/D
Today tour the breathtakingly beautiful Cape Winelands, first stopping at the town of Franschoek, then to elegant Stellenbosch, home to South Africa's most prestigious university. Take some time to explore this delightful town before enjoying a cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate.

DAY 13: The Cape Winelands to the UK or Extension B
Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight home, or continue on to your Victoria Falls extension.

Your hotels

Johannesburg (1 night): 4★ Indaba Hotel - William Nicol Dr, Johannesburg, 2021, South Africa. Contact number: 0027 11 840 6600
Mpumalanga, near Kruger (3 nights): 3★ Ingwenyama Lodge - Plot 64, White River, 1240, South Africa. Contact number: 0027 13 750 7000
Cape Town (3 nights): 4★ Strand Tower Hotel - Strand Street, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Contact number: 0027 21 431 7500
Knysna (2 nights): 3★ Knysna Hollow - 5 Welbedacht Lane, Knysna, 6570, South Africa. Contact number: 0027 44 382 5401
Stellenbosch (2 nights): 4★ Devon Valley Hotel - Devon Valley Road, Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa. Contact number: 0027 21 865 2012

All accommodation is 3★ or 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating, TV and coffee making facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner where stated will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotels. International meals will also be available.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Johannesburg you will be met by a representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/South Africa representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Akilanga
343 Surrey Avenue
Johannesburg
2194
South Africa
Contact number: 0027 11 326 4172

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Akilanga

Contact	Telephone number
Manuela Conz	Office: 0027 11 326 4172
	Mobile: 0027 79 597 6858
Andre Laget	Mobile: 0027 82 657 2224

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to South Africa. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135

Prices are for worldwide insurance, excluding the USA. For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. If you have an existing policy with another company, please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour. An English speaking tour guide will be with you on your trip starting in Johannesburg on day 1 ending back to Johannesburg on day 6. Then a new tour guide will join you in Cape Town.

Tipping

It is customary to tip both your driver and guide approximately £6 (100/120 ZAR) per person per day in total and £6 (100/120 ZAR) per person per day for the ranger. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour. Tipping for restaurants (recommended 10%) and the porters at your hotels will be at your discretion. Tips are accepted in the local currency, US dollars, Euros and British pounds.

Health and Vaccinations

It is strongly recommended that you check the latest health recommendations for travel to South Africa with your GP at least 4-6 weeks before travel. It is not advisable to drink the tap water.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and a maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 passengers booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to your should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). Therefore, it is very important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any lunches and dinners where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £200-£400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

What to Pack

- Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the electricity in South Africa is 220 volts and is a 3 round pin plug
- Leave plenty of space in your case for shopping

Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Johannesburg with South African Airlines (SA), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 2.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Heathrow - Johannesburg	19:00	07:15	11 hours 20 minutes	SA235
Johannesburg - Cape Town	17:00	19:10	2 hours	SA357
Cape Town - Johannesburg	15:50	17:50	2 hours	SA352
Johannesburg - Heathrow	19:50	06:25	11 hours 35 minutes	SA234

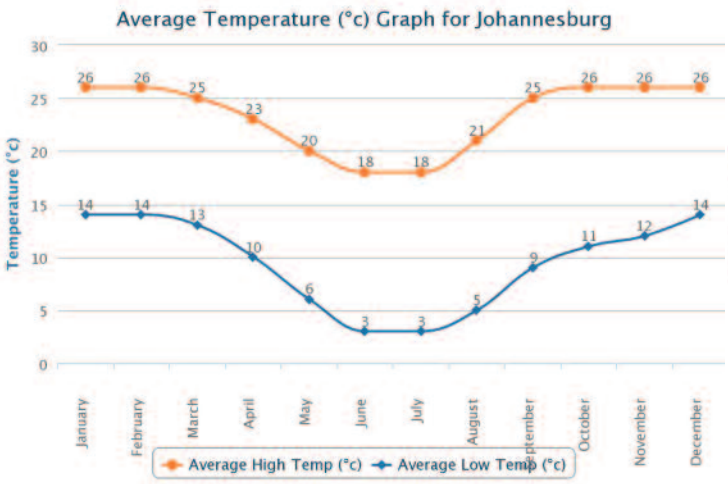
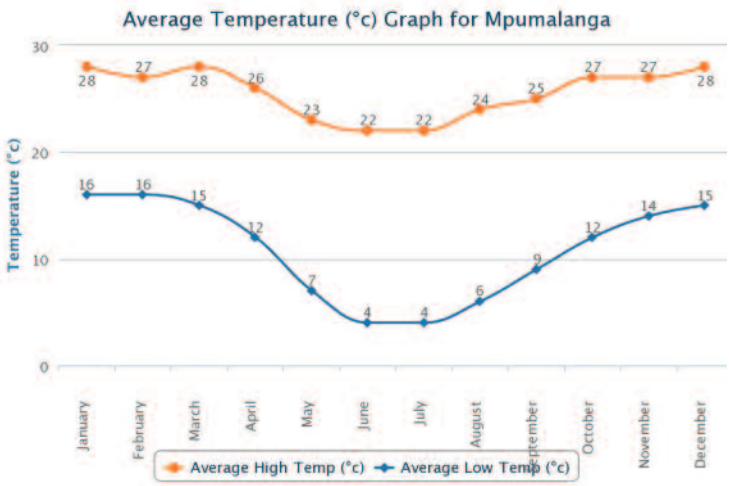
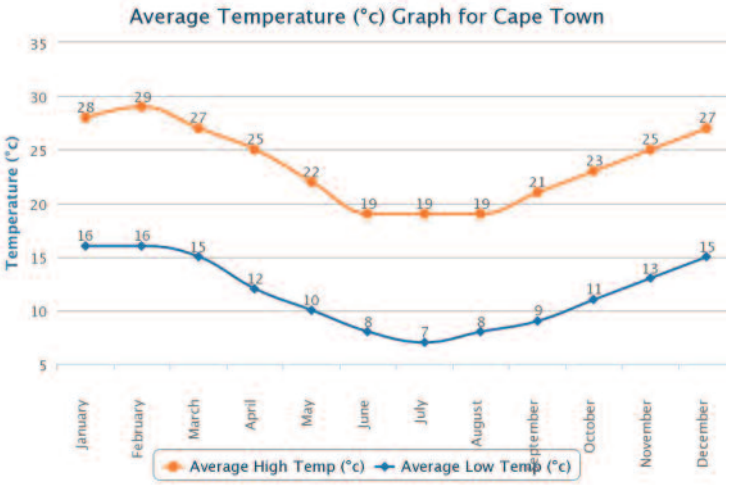
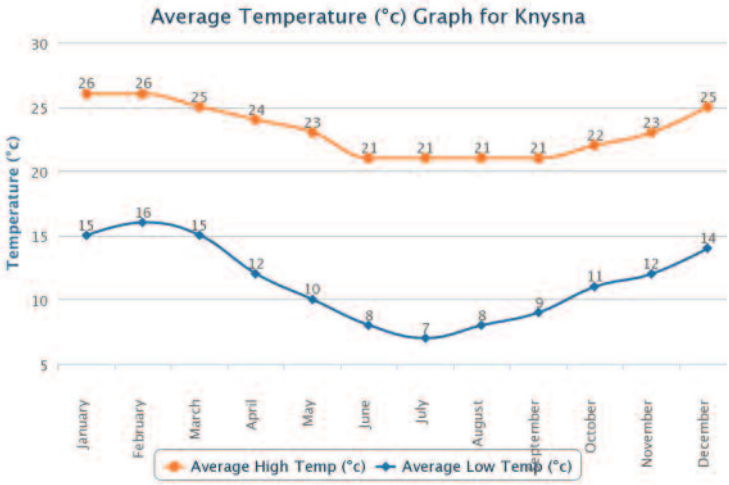
IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 8kg - 56cm/36cm/23cm) in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check – in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.