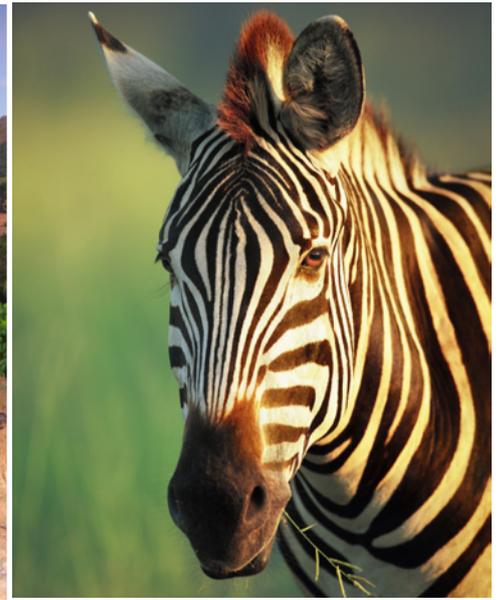
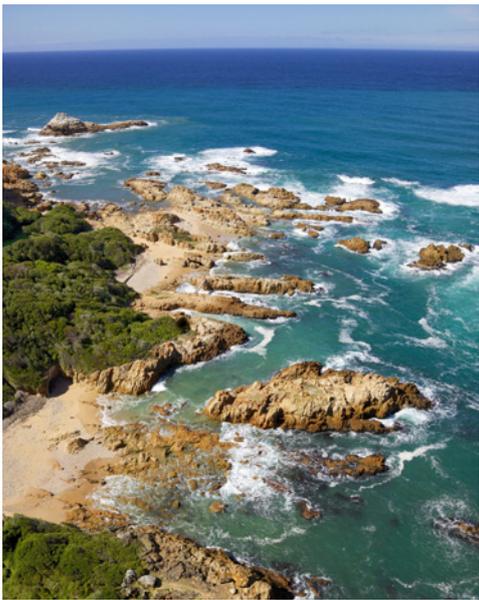


BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA



TRIP OVERVIEW

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. This tour offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore cosmopolitan Cape Town, discover the beautiful Winelands region, soak up the unforgettable scenery along Chapman's Peak Drive and see the Big Five on safari at the famous Kruger National Park.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

DAYS 1-2: UK to Cape Town B

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight via Johannesburg to Cape Town. On arrival the following day, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 3: Cape Town 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 of Good Hope Nature Reserve and then on to Cape Point where the mighty Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet in harmony amidst dramatic scenery. You will also visit the beautiful marine protected area of Boulders Beach where the sandy shores are home to a breeding colony of over 2,000 endangered African penguins.

DAY 4: Cape Town B

Enjoy a day in Cape Town at leisure, in which you can unwind upon its surrounding beaches, experience this city's lively cultural scene or undertake an excursion to get the most from Cape Town's unique location, including an opportunity to voyage upon the South Atlantic Ocean to spot great white sharks.

DAY 5: Cape Town to 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 6: The Cape Winelands to Knysna B/D

Departing The Cape Winelands, take a scenic drive into the heart of the gorgeous Garden Route and into the picturesque coastal town of Knysna. Spend the remainder of the afternoon relaxing at your hotel.

DAY 7: Knysna 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 8: Knysna to Port Elizabeth B

Depart for the Tsitsikamma National Park, a section of the Garden Route famed for luscious forests and dramatic coastlines. In the afternoon head to Port Elizabeth, a city known for its friendly residents, laidback coastal ambience and bold colonial architecture.

DAY 9: Port Elizabeth to Kruger B/D

Fly from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg, where you will be transferred to the town of Mpumalanga for the remainder of today. Your retreat within this idyllic space will serve as the perfect base from which to explore Kruger National Park.

DAY 10: 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.

DAY 11: Kruger National Park B

Today is at leisure to unwind within your hotel, alternatively optional excursions are available (at a fee), including a unique safari on elephant-back.

DAY 12: Kruger to Johannesburg B

Today, travel 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 in the city of Johannesburg.

DAY 13: Johannesburg to UK or extension B

Enjoy a short sightseeing tour of the city, with a stop at the Apartheid Museum for a fascinating insight into South Africa's struggle which culminated in the country's first democratic elections. Later in the afternoon, head to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK or continue on to your Victoria Falls extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Hotel information

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

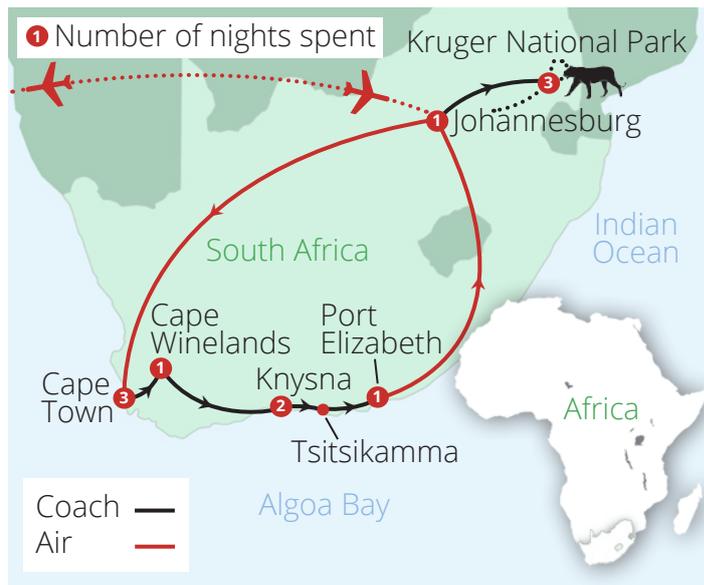
Stellenbosch (1 night): 4★ Devon Valley Hotel
Devon Valley Road, Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa
Contact number: 0027 21 865 2012

Knysna (2 nights): 3★ Knysna Hollow
5 Welbedacht Lane, Knysna, 6570, South Africa
Contact number: 0027 44 382 5401

Port Elizabeth (1 night): 4★ The Beach Hotel
Marine Drive, Port Elizabeth, 6000, South Africa
Contact number: 0027 41 583 2161

Mpumalanga, near Kruger (3 nights): 3★ Ingwenyama Lodge
Plot 64, White River, 1240, South Africa
Contact number: 0027 13 750 7000

Johannesburg (1 night): 4★ Indaba Hotel
William Nicol Dr, Johannesburg, 2021, South Africa
Contact number: 0027 11 840 6600



Accommodation

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 10 days 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 Cape Town 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
Telephone Number: 0027 11 326 4172

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Akilanga**

Contact telephone number:
Andre Laget (Office): 0027 11 326 4172
(Mobile): 0027 82 657 2224
Leila Aube (Mobile): 0027 82 651 9600

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

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 17 days
18-30 years	£27
31-50 years	£31
51-60 years	£33
61-64 years	£42
65-69 years	£69
70-74 years	£79
75-85 years	£135

(Worldwide 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.

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. You will need to ask them about the best anti-malarial medication to take before you travel as you will need this for the time you are in Kruger National Park. Any medicines you may need during your journey should be packed in your hand luggage. We suggest it is worth taking a few first aid supplies such as travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, mosquito repellent, antiseptic cream, aspirin etc, because these products can be more expensive abroad and familiar brands are not always available. 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. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival at each destination and will have a regional guide with you during your stay in each place, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. There will be two separate guides in total. You will be met on your arrival at Cape Town airport and this guide will remain with you until your departure from Port Elizabeth on Day 9. You will have a different guide who will meet you on arrival in Johannesburg on Day 9 and remain with you until the end of your trip.

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.

Group Size

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

Currency Exchange

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). It is 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.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger/spare batteries
- A plug adaptor
- Binoculars
- Mosquito repellent
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Long sleeve shirt and long trousers
- Swimwear

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Cape Town International Airport** via Johannesburg with **South Africa Airways (SA)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 2**.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Heathrow - Johannesburg	21:00	09:00	11 hours	SA237
Johannesburg - Cape Town	11:00	13:10	2 hours 10 minutes	SA327
Port Elizabeth - Johannesburg	08:35	10:10	1 hour 35 minutes	SA404
Johannesburg - Heathrow	19:55	06:25	11 hours 30 minutes	SA234

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times and numbers listed above are provided for guidance only and 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

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, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extra Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Personal Expenses

You will need extra money with you to cover any lunches or dinners which are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any extra drinks or snacks. Approximately £300-£400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

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.

Travel Plug Adaptor

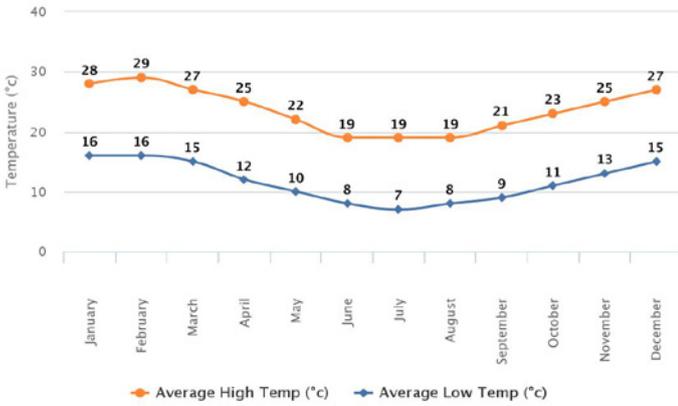
The voltage in South Africa is 220 Volts with plugs and sockets having 3 round pin connections.



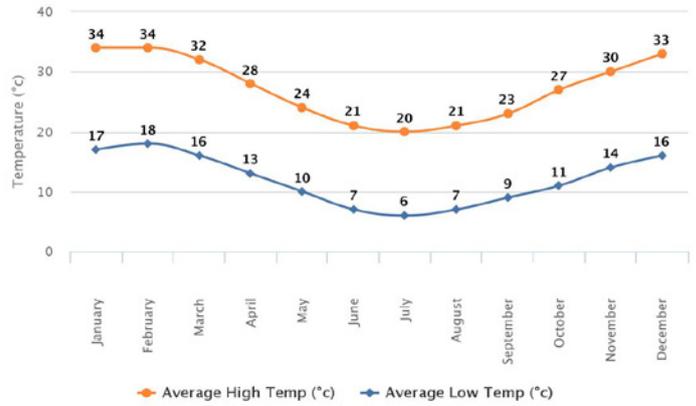
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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

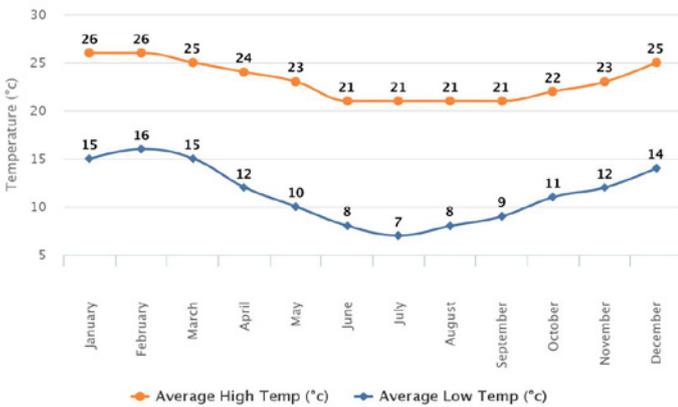
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Cape Town



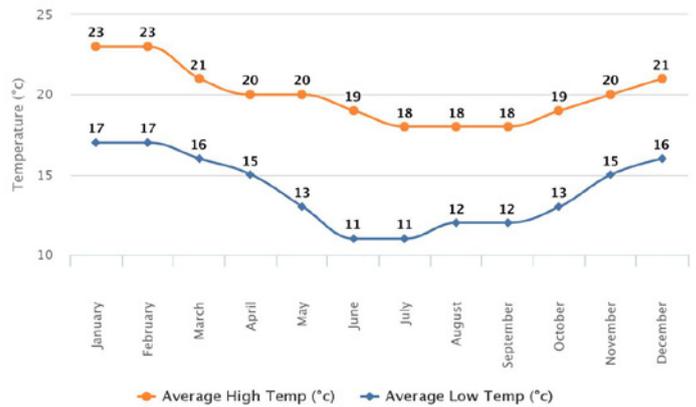
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Stellenbosch



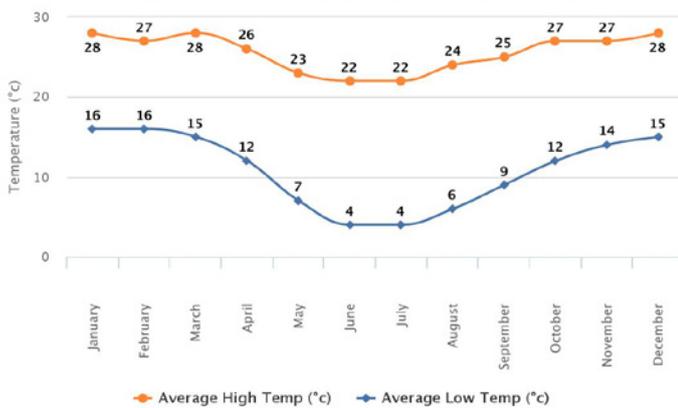
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Knysna



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Port Elizabeth



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Mpumalanga



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Johannesburg

