

CAPE COLLECTION

OF CLASSIC GUEST HOUSES



THE COMPLETE CAPE COLLECTION SAFARI (14 Days)

In this breathtaking nature and culture tour, we explore some of the most beautiful parts of South Africa, the Western Cape's Overberg and Garden Route, and parts of the Eastern Cape, while staying in the luxurious 4 and 5 Star Cape Collection of Classic Guest Houses. Not only does this region have rich scenic beauty, with its lush evergreen forests and rugged coastline, but it also teems with spectacular birds and other wildlife. The area incorporates the fynbos biome, with a diversity of plants greater than anywhere else on earth, as well as numerous National Parks and game reserves, some of which host Africa's Big 5 mammals. En route we visit a number of beautiful historical towns where you will be introduced to South Africa's fascinating and diverse cultural history. This tour has been designed to give you a taste of some of the best scenery and wildlife South Africa has to offer, and makes for a truly unforgettable nature and culture experience!

BASIC ITINERARY

Day	Accommodation	Star Grading
1 Cape Town	Jambo Guest House	★★★★★
2 Hermanus	Whale Rock Lodge	★★★★
3 Caledon	Rouxwil Country House	★★★★★
4 Swellendam	The Hideaway	★★★★★
5 Heidelberg	Skeiding Guest Farm	★★★★
6 Knysna	Augusta Bay Guest Lodge	★★★★★
7 Tsitsikamma	Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park	
8 Addo	Woodall Country House & Spa	★★★★★
9 Addo	Woodall Country House & Spa	★★★★★
10 Cradock	Die Tuishuise	★★★★
11 Cradock	Die Tuishuise	★★★★
12 Oudtshoorn	Mooiplaas Guest House	★★★★
13 Sutherland	Kambro-kind Guest House	★★★★

DAY 1: CAPE PENINSULA

Highlights: Kirstenbosch Gardens, Hout Bay, Chapman's Peak, Cape Point, Penguins at Boulders

We will collect you from your place of stay after breakfast and start the day by visiting the world-famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. These magnificent gardens, set on the slopes of Table Mountain, contain an amazing variety of indigenous plants and birds found on the Cape Peninsula. After a gentle stroll through the gardens, we take a scenic drive to Hout Bay (so-called 'Wood' Bay in Afrikaans due the dense indigenous forests once found there). We then travel via the awe-inspiring and rather perilous Chapman's Peak Drive (weather-permitting) and the misty cliffs of Scarborough en route to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

This nature reserve is recognised globally for its extraordinarily rich fauna and flora and its spectacular landforms – rugged cliffs that extend into the ocean. Animals seen here include Mountain Zebra, Bontebok, Eland (the largest antelope in Africa), Chacma Baboons and up to 250 species of birds! After lunch at Cape Point, we climb (or take a funicular) up to the lighthouse, where we will have spectacular views of False Bay and across the Atlantic. We then visit the Cape of Good Hope – the south-western tip of Africa!

We continue our tour to Boulders, a secluded section of beach that has become famous for its thriving colony of African Penguins. From just two breeding pairs in 1982, this penguin colony has now grown to about 3 000. From mating to moulting, breeding to bathing, the daily lives of these rare penguins are played out within a few metres of fascinated visitors. After watching and photographing these comical birds, we travel back through the coastal villages of Glencairn, Fish Hoek, Clovelly, Kalk Bay and St. James. As we journey through these quaint suburbs, we reflect on some of the interesting history of the early Cape. Finally, we will retire to the award-winning Jambo Guest House situated at the foot of Signal Hill.

Overnight: We will spend the night at **Jambo Guest House**, an award winning guest house situated at the foot of Signal Hill, with luxuriously decorated rooms and olde worlde charm.



DAY 2: CAPE TOWN TO HERMANUS

Highlights: Stony Point bird colony, Harold Porter Gardens, Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Whalewatching (seasonal)

After breakfast, we will make our way eastwards, along the beautiful False Bay Coast. We have a chance of seeing a variety of marine birds and mammals along this route, including Cape Gannets, Cape Fur Seals, dolphins and whales (seasonal). Our first stop will be at Stony Point - a great place to see the rare African Penguin as well as four cormorant species (two of them endangered southern African endemics) and several other marine bird species. We then continue our tour to the spectacular Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, with

its amazing variety of flowering plants and birds. Here, we will observe and discuss pollination, seed dispersal and germination - there is always something happening and a story to be told. This area forms part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, the richest place on earth for plants. We then make our way to the coastal town of Hermanus for lunch. Hermanus is a stunning town nestled between a quiet bay and rugged, fynbos-clad mountains. Here we plan to have lunch at a restaurant, which is actually set inside a coastal cave, overlooking the bay! Depending on the time of year, this bay, well-known as one of the best land-based whale watching spots in the world, may be teeming with Southern Right Whales. Rock hyraxes and other wildlife are also usually present to entertain us. In the afternoon, we visit the Fernkloof Nature Reserve for a gentle walk through some of the pristine vegetation found here. This predominantly fynbos reserve provides very easy access to some of the region's special plant and bird species. In whale season, this area also provides a good vantage point from which to spot sea mammals further out to sea. We will then retire to our guest house where you can enjoy sundowners on your balcony before a relaxing dinner at one of Hermanus' fine restaurants.

Overnight: We will spend the night at the tranquil **Whale Rock Lodge**, situated within sight and smell of the sea, and close to the centre of Hermanus.



DAY 3: HERMANUS TO CALEDON

Highlights: Hemel en Aarde Valley, Winetasting, Fynbos Walk, Birdwatching

After breakfast, we depart for a morning of tasting this region's widely acclaimed wines and cheeses. We will explore the beautiful Hemel-en-Aarde Valley (meaning "Heaven and Earth" in Afrikaans), with its magnificent vineyards and rugged mountains. Here we will visit the internationally-acclaimed Bouchard Finlayson and Hamilton Russell Vineyards, particularly renowned for their superb Pinot Noir and Chardonnay cultivars, as well as a local cheese farm for some cheese tasting. We then plan to stop at Mogg's Country Cookhouse, housed in a renovated farm labourer's cottage, for a traditional country-style or Mediterranean lunch made with some of their home-grown ingredients. After lunch we make our way inland to Rouxwil Country House, nestled between rolling wheatfields and the majestic mountains of the Overberg. Rouxwil is a working sheep and wheat farm and there is abundant birdlife in the area including the majestic Blue Crane, South Africa's national bird, and a pair of resident Barn Owls. In the afternoon we will enjoy a relaxing walk in the nearby renosterveld followed by a traditional "braai" (a barbeque on an open fire). After our braai we will embark on a brief night drive where we hope to spot some small, yet interesting, night creatures such as porcupines, genets and owls.

Overnight: We will spend the night at **Rouxwil Country House**, with its luxurious suites, magnificent mountain views and traditional fare.



DAY 4: CALEDON TO SWELLENDAM

Highlights: Farm Tour, Bontebok National Park, Swellendam Historical Museum

After breakfast we will embark on a farm tour to gain insight into the cultivation of wheat and orchards as well as dairy farming. The fruit-picking season is from January to April. We then continue our drive eastwards to the historical and beautiful town of Swellendam, situated at the base of the high Langeberg Mountains. Swellendam was established in the early 1700s and is the 3rd oldest town in South Africa. In Swellendam, we will visit the local Drostdy Museum (the seat of the first Magistrate, or *Landdrost*, built in 1747) where we will be given insight into the early way of life of the settlers here. We will then make our way to the nearby Bontebok National Park, where we will see a variety of interesting plants, birds and other wildlife. This park is home to two mammals brought back from the verge of extinction – the Cape Mountain Zebra and the Bontebok (or "*Pied Antelope*" when translated from Afrikaans) as well as other interesting species such as the Bat-eared Fox and the Agulhas Clapper Lark, with its bizarre springtime courtship display. We will then retire to the beautiful and serene Hideaway, to relax and enjoy the sounds of nature before dinner.

Overnight: We will spend the night at **The Hideaway**, with suites overlooking a magnificent rose garden. Furniture at The Hideaway is handmade from indigenous woods.



DAY 5: SWELLENDAM TO HEIDELBERG

Highlights: Grootvadersbos indigenous forest, Farm tour

After breakfast we make our way to the pristine Grootvadersbos where we will be taken on a guided forest walk. Here we will be introduced to the large and ancient indigenous trees and hope to see some spectacular birds such as the Narina Trogon and Knysna Turaco. This forest is home to numerous endangered species, including numerous rare birds, frogs and butterflies. We then continue our drive to Skeiding, a working ostrich farm situated near Heidelberg, with panoramic views of the Langeberg mountains. Here we will embark on a tour of the farm followed by a traditional South African farmstyle dinner.

Overnight: We will spend the night at **Skeiding Guest Farm** with its true country-style living and hospitality, in a picturesque and tranquil setting.



DAY 6: HEIDELBERG TO KNYSNA

Highlights: Aloe Ferox Factory, Knysna Waterfront, Forest Walk, Paddlesteamer Cruise

After breakfast, we continue our journey eastwards towards the Garden Route, with its spectacular coastline, rich evergreen forests, high mountains and pristine lakes. As we approach Albertinia, we are entering "Aloe country". Our next stop will be at an aloe factory, where a myriad of products (with many useful and healing properties) are made from the *Aloe ferox* plant. We will join a brief tour of this factory, where we will be given insight into the production process from the Aloe leaf to each of the raw products, followed by a light lunch. After lunch, we continue along the Garden Route along the foothills of the Outeniqua Mountains. This is a region of incomparable beauty, which encompasses lakes, rivers, lagoons, forests, fynbos and pristine white beaches. We will enjoy a light lunch at the Knysna waterfront, situated on the edge of the Knysna lagoon. Knysna is a legendary South African town, famed for its fresh water oysters and its elusive forest elephants (now virtually extinct). After lunch, we will make our way to the nearby "Garden of Eden" for a gentle forest walk, where we hope to see several localised forest birds such as Knysna Woodpecker, Narina Trogon and Knysna Turaco, as well as identify some of the giant trees of the forest. In the evening, we will join a sunset cruise on the Knysna "Paddle Cruiser", where we will enjoy sundowners and a relaxing dinner as we explore the Knysna Lagoon. A highlight of this cruise will be seeing the spectacular cliffs called the "Knysna Heads", where the Knysna Lagoon enters the sea.

Overnight: We will spend the night at Cape Collection's **Augusta Bay Guest Lodge**, with its spectacular views from the heads and private swimming pool.



DAY 7: KNYSNA TO TSITSIKAMMA

Highlights: Forest tree walk, Monkeyland, Bungy Jumping (optional)

We begin our day with another beautiful forest walk – this time at the spectacular Harkerville Forest, with its densely wooded coastal cliffs descending to azure waters below. We then make our way to Monkeyland, the world's first free roaming multi-species primate sanctuary. Here we will join a guided walk through the indigenous forest, where we can see some of the world's small primates, including lemurs, roaming freely in the trees. We will have lunch at either Monkeyland or in the picturesque coastal town of Plettenberg Bay. After descending into Nature's Valley, a pristine stretch of coastal evergreen forest, we will stop briefly at Blaauwkrans River Bridge to watch or participate in (if you are really daring - optional), the highest bungee jump in the world – an incredible 217m! This area forms part of the renowned Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park. Tsitsikamma, meaning *"place of many waters"* in the indigenous Khoi-San language, is an area of unmatched beauty with a wild rugged coastline, aquamarine breakers and an abundance of marine life. In the afternoon we will again seek new plant, mammal and bird species along the forested "Loerie Trail", situated close to our log chalet in the Park. At the viewpoints along this 1km trail, we will hopefully be able spot whales and dolphins out to sea. After supper at the National Park restaurant, overlooking the moonlit bay, we will take a relaxing stroll where we hope to see owls, fireflies (seasonal) and other night creatures.

Overnight: Tonight we stay in log chalets at **Tsitsikamma Coastal National Park**, nestled in indigenous forest with spectacular views over the wild Indian Ocean.



DAY 8: TSITSIKAMMA TO ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

Highlights: Boat Cruise, Game viewing, Bird watching, Plantlife, Spa (optional)

After breakfast, we will set out on a boardwalk through the forest to the impressive (and somewhat dizzying!) pedestrian swing bridge over the spectacular Storms River Mouth. On this route, we may see Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, African Paradise Flycatcher, Chorister Robin-chat and many other birds. If we are fortunate enough, we may even encounter a Cape Clawless Otter feeding on the shore. After the walk, we will either join a boat trip up the steep-sided Storm's River gorge (weather permitting) or snorkel in one of the quiet bays or rock pools, with an abundance of marine life. We then continue our journey eastwards to Humansdorp, where we plan to stop for lunch and some great coffee at *Le Chameleon*, an eccentric, yet stylish restaurant offering some tantalising local cuisine. After lunch we continue eastwards to the renowned Addo Elephant National Park. This park, set within the dense bushveld of the Eastern Cape, is sanctuary to over 400 elephants, numerous buffalo, black rhino, lion and leopard, as well as many antelope species. We will enjoy an evening game drive in the park followed by an exceptional dinner at our lodge.

Overnight: Tonight we stay at **Woodall Country House and Spa** with its private underground cellar, steam room and vitality studio.



DAY 9: ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

Highlights: Big 5 Game viewing, Bird watching, Plantlife, Spa (optional)

Addo Elephant National Park offers visitors a genuine safari experience – where you can see the Big 5 in their natural habitat! We will spend the early morning exploring this fascinating and diverse reserve, including some of its bird hides and waterholes. One of the unique features of this reserve is that it contains five out of South Africa's seven major vegetation zones. Not only are we likely to encounter some of Africa's large game, but we will observe the various vegetation types and numerous bird species associated with them. In the afternoon, you will be able to enjoy relaxing and personal rejuvenation at the Woodall Spa. After supper, we will join a night drive in the Addo Reserve, where we hope to spot interesting creatures that only emerge after dark, including springhares, porcupines, genets and polecats.

Overnight: We will again spend the night at **Woodall Country House and Spa**.

DAY 10: ADDO TO CRADOCK

Highlights: Historical town walk, Sundowners, Karoo Dinner

After a relaxing breakfast, we make our way further inland to the historical town of Cradock. In the afternoon, we will enjoy an historical walk through the town, stopping at curio and antique shops and historical buildings on our way. We will enjoy sundowners on a nearby hill or "koppie" where we will further be introduced to the town's history and geology. We will then retire to our guest house for a delicious glass of sherry followed by a traditional and wholesome Karoo dinner. We will be entertained by a Xhosa singing performance.

Overnight: Tonight we will stay at Die Tuishuise, an award-winning guest house situated in typical restored Victorian Karoo houses.



DAY 10: CRADOCK

Highlights: Mountain Zebra National Park, Succulent and indigenous plant walk, Egg Rock, Story telling evening

We will embark on an early morning game drive in the Mountain Zebra National Park, a scenic game reserve of more than 30000 ha, with herds of zebra, eland, springbok, kudu, black wildebeest, blesbok, cape buffalo, rhino and red hartebeest as well as the more elusive African Wild Cat, Bat-Eared Fox and Aardwolf and over 200 bird species. After lunch in Cradock, we will embark on a relaxing succulent and indigenous plant walk followed by a visit to Egg Rock, a peculiar egg-shaped monolith of 10m in height. After our walk we will retire to our guest house for dinner and an evening of story telling about local history and fossils.

Overnight: We will again spend the night at **Die Tuishuise**.

DAY 12: CRADOCK TO OUDTSHOORN

Highlights: Spectacular scenery, Valley of Desolation, historical towns, ostrich show farm

After breakfast we make our way through the Great Karoo to The Valley of Desolation, the historical town of Graaff-Reinet, the fourth oldest town in South Africa, situated on banks of the Sundays River. We will stop en route at "The Valley of Desolation", where cliffs and columns of Dolerite rise 120m from the valley floor. Graaff-Reinet has over 220 buildings that have been declared national monuments, the highest proportion anywhere in the country. We plan to have lunch at Coldstream Restaurant before continuing our journey westwards towards the "Little Karoo". The Little Karoo, like the Great Karoo, is a semi-desert bordered by majestic rugged

mountains with some spectacular passes. We drive via the intriguing and picturesque town of De Rust towards Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world and the heart of the Little Karoo. During the ostrich feather boom, this town became extremely wealthy, but hit hard times after World War I, when the feather industry collapsed. Ostriches are still ranched here in large numbers for meat, leather and eggs, and we will visit an Ostrich Show Farm to find out more about these large flightless birds. After the ostrich tour, we will retire for the evening to our guesthouse.

Overnight: We will spend the night at the **Mooiplaas Guesthouse**, a working ostrich farm, where we will enjoy a three course dinner including ostrich cuisine, served by romantic candlelight. The country cooking at Mooiplaas is superb and is accompanied by some of South Africa's best wines.



DAY 13: OUDTSHOORN TO SUTHERLAND

Highlights: Sunrise Meerkat Tour, Cango Caves, Swartberg Pass, Stargazing

This morning we will get an early start in order to join a local meerkat (suricate) specialist for a sunrise tour where we can watch and learn about meerkats in their natural environment - amongst the world's cutest and most comical small mammals. This is one of the best places in the wild for getting close views of these fascinating little creatures. Following our tour we will enjoy a hearty farmstyle brunch at Mooisplaas, served in the sunny breakfast room or on the front porch overlooking the Swartberg Mountains. We then make our way to the nearby Cango Caves, one of South Africa's most famous natural wonders. These caves, formed over millions of years within a thick limestone layer, extend as far as 5.3km into the Swartberg Mountains. You will have the option of either touring the main caverns, with their spectacular stalactite and stalagmite formations, or doing the extended adventure tour, which includes climbing and crawling through tight, narrow passages. After the cave tour we travel via the spectacular Swartberg Pass to Prince Albert, a quaint historical town with numerous art galleries and coffee shops. After exploring the town, and a brief stop for coffee we continue to Sutherland, the stargazing capital of South Africa! Here we will visit the Sutherland Astronomical Observatory for an evening night tour, where we will have the opportunity of viewing interesting celestial objects through two visitor telescopes and visit the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) - the largest single optical telescope in the southern hemisphere (Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat only; weather permitting). If the observatory is closed or fully-booked we will enjoy an evening of stargazing at our guesthouse, making use of Kambro-kind's 8 and 11 inch telescopes.

Overnight: We will spend the night at Kambro-kind Guesthouse, renowned for its welcoming Karoo hospitality.



DAY 14: SUTHERLAND TO CAPE TOWN

Highlights: Largest telescope in southern hemisphere, Historical town, Geology, Karoo vegetation, winelands

If we were unable to visit the observatory the previous evening, we will embark on a morning tour. Alternatively, we will make our way to the interesting town of Matjiesfontein, which we can explore on foot. We then continue our drive towards Cape Town, during which we will observe some of the fascinating geological formations en route, until we reach the beautiful Hex River Valley. This extensive valley, surrounded by awesome, rugged mountains, is a patchwork of jewel-green vineyards in the summer and a multitude of autumn shades in winter. We will then visit the Karoo Desert National Botanical Gardens (time-permitting), the only truly succulent garden in the southern hemisphere. This garden contains over 400 naturally occurring species, and in spring, it comes alive with thousands of annuals and brightly coloured vygies. Up to 70 bird species have been recorded in this garden, as well as numerous small mammals. After a gentle walk in the gardens, we will enjoy a light lunch and wine-tasting at the Du Kloof Estate, with its awe-inspiring views of the mountain and river. After lunch, we will take the scenic Du Toit's Kloof pass, with its pristine mountain fynbos, on our way back to Cape Town. On the other side of Du Toit's Kloof we will soon see Paarl Rock, a huge granite outcrop that resembles a large round pearl (hence its name in Dutch) and the Afrikaans Language Monument. Soon Table Mountain will become visible as we approach Cape Town, the 'Mother City' that we left two weeks ago. We will return you to your guest house in the early evening.

If you would like us to transfer you to the airport (either in the evening or the following morning), or arrange accommodation for you in Cape Town, we would be happy to do so.

For tour bookings contact:

Tel/ Fax: +27 (0)21 685 7562

Cell: +27 (0)082 479 9688

Email: info@natureuncut.com | inco.ecoist@mweb.co.zaWebsites: www.natureuncut.com | www.eco-ist.co.za**CAPE COLLECTION OF CLASSIC GUEST HOUSES****Jambo Guest House**

Green Point, Cape Town

jamb@iafrica.comwww.jambo.co.za**Rouxwil Farm**

btw Caledon & Franschoek

rouxwil@intekom.co.zawww.rouxwil.co.za**Skeiding Guest Farm**

Heidelberg

skeiding@sdm.dorea.co.zawww.skeiding.co.za**Woodall Country House**

Addo

miller@woodall-addo.co.zawww.woodall-addo.co.za**Mooiplaas Guesthouse**

Oudtshoorn

info@mooiplaasguesthouse.co.zawww.mooiplaasguesthouse.co.za**Whale Rock Lodge**

Hermanus

wrl@hermanus.co.zawww.whalerock.co.za**The Hideaway**

Swellendam

info@hideawaybb.co.zawww.hideawaybb.co.za**Augusta Bay**

Knysna

ian@augustabay.comwww.augustabay.com**Die Tuishuise**

Cradock

tuishuise@eastcape.netwww.tuishuise.co.za**Kambrokind Guest House**

Sutherland

info@sutherland.co.zawww.sutherlandinfo.co.za/kambrokind.htm