

BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA

Itinerary:

3 night – Pineapple House Boutique Hotel
2 nights – Buffelsdrift Game Lodge
2 nights – Turbine Hotel
1 nights – No 5 by Mantis Boutique Hotel
2 nights – Oyster Box
1 night – Biyela Lodge
1 night – Royal Swazi Hotel
3 nights – Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge
1 night – Fairlawns Boutique Hotel

Minimum – 2 pax – Maximum 12pax

Departs – Daily – Available all year round

Day 1 – Cape Town – Pineapple House Boutique Hotel

Arrival at Cape Town International Airport. Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport, meet & greet from one of our representative, and transfer to your hotel.

Pineapple House Boutique Hotel is a charming boutique hotel featuring nine beautifully appointed bedrooms; each with its unique character. Pineapples are considered an expression of “welcome” and symbolize assets we are invested in at our hotel – friendship, hospitality, and warmth. With decadent fabrics and thoughtful artwork, blended effortlessly with modern, luxurious amenities, this will be a stay to remember.

Overnight at Pineapple House Boutique Hotel

Day 2 – Cape Town – Pineapple House Boutique Hotel – Breakfast,

Breakfast will be at the hotel. Full Day Cape Point / Penninsula Tour

Our journey to Cape Point takes us along the scenic Atlantic seaboard coastal road. We pass the pristine beaches of Clifton and Camps Bay with their soft white sand and azure blue water. The formidable 12 Apostles Peaks rise above the road on one side, while sheer cliffs and incredible rock formations drop into the icy Atlantic Ocean on the other side. There is no doubt the coast of the Cape Peninsula offers magnificent scenery with its great biodiversity.

We arrive at the quaint fishing village of Hout Bay with its imposing Sentinel where you are offered a boat trip to Seal Island or shop for souvenirs at the craft market at the harbour. Our tour continues over Chapman’s Peak which offers amazing photo opportunities, and onto the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point. This area is home to magnificent ‘fynbos’, many species of buck and birds, the Cape Mountain Zebra, and mischievous baboons. Enjoy splendid views of False Bay. Take the funicular to the lighthouse for an even better vantage point of the two Oceans.

Lunch will be at a restaurant in Simon’s Town.

We visit Boulders Beach to see the African penguins (included) before arriving at the naval base of Simon’s Town.

Depart the hotel +/- 08:00am to +/- 06:00pm

Included: Cape of Good Hope nature reserve gate (Cape Point) / Chapman's peak drive/ Penguins at Boulders Beach and Cape point Funicular.

Overnight at Pineapple House Boutique Hotel or similar

Day 3 – Cape Town – Pineapple House Boutique Hotel – Breakfast

Breakfast will be at Hotel. Full Day Winelands Tour.

We head north towards the scenic winelands for a cellar tour and a cheese and wine tasting. We make our way to Paarl and then onto Franschhoek with a photo stop at the Groot Drakenstein Prison where Nelson Mandela was

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released in Feb 1990. The picturesque village of Franschhoek is surrounded by magnificent mountains and vineyards. After a short drive through the town, a second wine tasting will take place in, followed by a lunch stop (lunch included in the rate), and maybe a chance to try some of Franschhoek the fresh trout that Franschhoek is known for.

Dinner at the Gold Restaurant including drumming, dancers & singers.

Guests at GOLD Restaurant cannot help but be swept up in the excitement of archetypal African stories told through our live entertainment. This includes praise singing to welcome you, Mali puppetry, and dancing to the rhythms of the marimba percussion and djembe drums. As community is everything in traditional African culture, at the end of the evening, all the staff voluntarily join in the festivities. It is their way of coming together as a family, to celebrate with you, and to wish you well until you see you again. Feel the heartbeat of Africa with our pre-dinner interactive djembe drumming session every evening at 18:30.

Overnight at The Pineapple House Boutique Hotel or similar

Day 4 – Oudtshoorn - Buffelsdrift Game Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast will be at the hotel. City Tour and Table Mountain & proceed to Oudtshoorn.

Transfer to V & A Waterfront for pick for Cape Town City Cycle Tour

Depart at 10am from the V&A Waterfront Clock Tower, our city cycle tours, led by our experienced *local* guides, make cycling the only way to really experience this incredible city. Learn about Cape Town's rich heritage while riding from the vibrant Waterfront to the bustling inner city, getting up close and personal with the city and its inhabitants. From the historic city centre, we cycle into the colourful Bo-Kaap and then make our way towards Green Point before heading back to the Waterfront along the Atlantic Seaboard.

Historic and modern landmarks of our tour include:

- Adderley Street
- The Bo-Kaap
- The Company Gardens
- St. George's Mall
- Green Point Stadium and Eco-Park

Drop off will be at V & A Waterfront. Guests to the Table Mountain cable station. Table Mountain is one of New 7 Wonders of Nature. You have the option of admiring the views from the lower cable station or you can go on a cable (included) to reach the summit (weather permitting).

Depart Cape Town and head north over the spectacular Du Toit's Kloof Mountain pass en route to Worcester. From Worcester we continue along the R62 (Route 62 is the longest wine route in the world) through Montagu. You can stop for a wine tasting and delicious lunch (**at own account**). Karusa is a family operated and managed wine and fruit farm. The word "Karusa" is a Khoi San word meaning: Land with little water, a scarce resource in the semi-arid plateau of the Klein Karoo. Karusa is situated at the foothill of the majestic Swartberg in the tranquil and scenic Cango Valley settlement of Schoemanshoek. The farm is en route to the world famous Cango Caves. It is situated 12km north of Oudtshoorn which the capital of the Klein Karoo region is also, and ostrich capital of the world. Karusa is the first and only Premium Private winery in Oudtshoorn.

Proceed to check in at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge.

Unique, understated elegance in luxury tent accommodation. With mountains as backdrop and a magnificent waterhole at your doorstep, it's the closest you will get to the wild of the Klein Karoo. With 25 free-standing luxury tents, simply and stylishly decorated, they not only offer you a true bushveld experience, but all the creature comforts of luxury accommodation. Buffelsdrift Game Lodge opened its doors in October 2005 and it has really made its mark on the national & international market. In this short space of time it has been voted the top Game Lodge in the Southern Cape by Professional Management Review.

Dinner will be at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge or similar

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Day 5 – Oudtshoorn - Buffelsdrift Game Lodge – Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast will be at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge. Buffelsdrift has a volunteer programme that guests can participate in for the day (8hrs)

Many people hold the opinion that only specialists can be conservationists, while at the lodge they believe that the biggest contributor to conservation is the many small actions by lots of ordinary people – small actions which will result in the preservation of our precious earth for generations to come. The foundation is a starting point, to empower you to live a conservation lifestyle for a better tomorrow. For the duration of the stay, the volunteer is allocated to a qualified facilitator. The Buffelsdrift programme is designed to expose you to as many facets as possible. The programme is therefore flexible, and it might include the following:

Wildlife Activities:

- Identify and recognise different animals
- Identify animal behaviour
- Rehabilitate and release wildlife
- Work with a team of volunteers and coordinators
- Prepare and maintain animal housing
- Prepare animal food and monitor feeding
- Monitor and maintain animal health
- Capture, restrain and assist in moving animals
- Care for young animals.

By taking on this volunteering challenge you will increase confidence in your unique ability to make a difference. You will gain leadership teamwork and relationship skills. Learn about self-management and learn to apply the skills you already have, more efficiently. You will also meet people from different walks of life, get the opportunity to make lifelong friends and enjoy the benefits of communal living. Ultimately, we dream that you will gain a conservation mindset.

Overnight at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge or similar.

Day 6 – Knysna - Turbine Boutique Hotel – Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast will be at Buffelsdrift Game Lodge. Check out & proceeded to Cango Caves.

Cango Caves

29km outside Oudtshoorn, you will come across the picturesque Cango Valley, where a spectacular series of tunnels and chambers welcome visitors to guided tours. Known as the Cango Caves, these chambers and tunnels exhibit breathtakingly complicated stalagmites and enormous stalactites, all lit up with different mood lighting and explained by professional guides.

From Cango Caves proceed to Turbine Boutique Hotel.

The Turbine Boutique Hotel and Spa was an ambitious project which transformed the old power station into a unique 5-star boutique hotel on the Garden Route with a massive wow factor. The Turbine Hotel is surrounded by water on three sides. The Hotel comprises of the Island Café & Tapas Bar as well as twenty-four individually themed suites of the highest standard. The Amani Spa offers the ultimate escape for pure self-indulgence. Cal'cacchio Pizzeria offers al fresco dining on the water's edge and kids play area with activities on offer that include kayaking and bicycles. We have two state-of-the art conference venues – each can seat 20 boardroom and 40 cinema style which are inter-leading for larger events.

Overnight at Turbine Boutique Hotel r Similar

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Day 7 – Knysna – Turbine Boutique Hotel – Breakfast, Lunch

Breakfast will be at Turbine Boutique Hotel. At 10h00 your driver/guide will drop you off at Featherbed Ferry Terminus on Remembrance Drive off Waterfront Drive for The Featherbed Nature Reserve experience.

After the 2017 fire, and Featherbed is looking glorious! Our indigenous fynbos and coastal forests are flourishing like they haven't done for ages, and the birds, the insects, and the small animals are back at work with a will. In truth, we didn't need to do much to ensure this success - nature has wonderful mechanisms for restoring itself after fire. Plants from other areas - trees, shrubs, grasses - will become invasive in a new environment if they don't meet enemies there (bugs, fungi, and so on) that slow their rate of reproduction. This leaves the locally indigenous vegetation unable to compete for space, air, and water - which is exactly what happened at Featherbed, beginning in the 1960s: an Australian wattle (*Acacia cyclops*, which South Africans call rooikrans) established itself here, and although we've always had a programme of cutting them down by hand, it seemed at times that we were fighting a losing battle. But the fires reduced about 95% of the rooikrans on the reserve to ashes - which gave us an invaluable opportunity to restart with a clean slate.

The Featherbed Nature Reserve, situated on the Western Head in Knysna, is the premier eco-experience on the Garden Route.

- Return ferry trip on the Knysna Lagoon to the Western Head.
- 4x4 vehicle & trailer drive up the headland onto the Reserve, stopping at spectacular viewpoints.
- Specialist guide giving information on history, fauna & flora.
- Optional guided 2.2km walk through coastal forest and fynbos into ancient sea caves.
- World renowned buffet lunch at an outdoor restaurant setting under a canopy of Milkwood trees.
- Wonderful family outing, suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Late after at 17h00 guests will be dropped off by your driver / guide at Featherbed Ferry Terminus at Cruise Café Restaurant, Remembrance Drive for a John Benn Sunset Cruise.

The John Benn is a double-decker floating restaurant offering daily Lagoon cruises to the Knysna Heads. A memorable family activity on Knysna Lagoon. One of the best floating restaurants in Knysna.

- Cruise to the Knysna Heads, on a boat steeped in history, named after a legendary pilot of a bygone era.
- Comfortable and cosy with a classic wooden finish.
- Friendly and hospitable service.
- Optional a la carte and tapas menu available on board with fresh Knysna oysters, local beer & sparkling wine
- Special group menus, wine and dine whilst cruising.
- Two full bars on upper and lower deck.
- Fully enclosed - not dependent on the weather.
- A wonderful function and wedding venue.

Overnight at Turbine Boutique Hotel or similar

Day 8 – Port Elizabeth – No 5 by Mantis Boutique Hotel – Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast will be at Turbine Boutique Hotel. Check out & depart from Knysna heading to Port Elizabeth. En-route you will pass through Tsitsikama National Park. It's approximately an 1hrs (96km) from Knysna to Tsitsikama National Park.

The Tsitsikamma Section of the Garden Route National Park was declared in 1964 and encompasses a marine reserve made up of over 80km of coastline. The Storms river Mouth rest camp of the Tsitsikamma Section of the Garden Route National Park is very scenic and a must-visit. A number of short hiking trails (2-6km) allow you to explore the coastal bush and rocky shoreline. Storms River Mouth offers the visitor magnificent scenery, a small beach, restaurant and shop. The famous Storms River Suspension Bridge spans the river mouth and this walk is the most popular. The Park conserves a considerable portion of the natural biota (all living organisms) of the Garden Route. The primary

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vegetation biomes consist of Mountain Fynbos, Coastal Fynbos, Afro-montane Forest and the Marine herb-land-, inter-tidal-, and sub-tidal zones. This is one of the largest single unit 'no take' (including fishing) Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the world, conserving 11 percent of South Africa's Temperate South Coast rocky shoreline and provides a 'laboratory' for fisheries baseline research on endangered line fish species. In 1964 when it was proclaimed, it became the first Marine National Park to be proclaimed in Africa.

No 5 is a showcase of authentic South African art and a masterpiece of comfort and opulence. Ten guests complimented by a restaurant, fine dining cellar, whiskey and cigar lounge, boardroom, private cinema, Camelot Spa, gym and pool. By placing emphasis on our physical address, Number 5 Brighton Drive in Summerstrand Port Elizabeth, as well as the 5-star service which makes our boutique hotel stand as a beacon of luxury boutique accommodation in Port Elizabeth. More so, the number 5 in a numerological sense is known as the most dynamic and energetic of all the single-digit numbers. It is unpredictable, always in motion, constantly in need of change and yet surprisingly loyal. With nothing demure or submissive in its nature the number 5 is a risk taker and adventurer. No wonder the spiritual meaning of number 5 also deals with travel, adventure and motion, a testament to the discerning travellers and guests that frequent our hotel. No 5 is host to a privately-owned art collection and world class facilities thoughtfully completed to enhance the art decor theme introduced by its townhouse facade.

Dinner at the Hotel. Overnight at No 5 by Mantis Boutique Hotel or similar

Day 9 – Durban – Oyster Box – Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast will be at No 5 by Mantis Boutique Hotel

Transfer from Hotel to Port Elizabeth Airport. Today you will say goodbye to your driver/ guide. Commercial flight Port Elizabeth to Durban is included in the rate. Arrive in Durban at King Shaka International Airport. Meet your new driver / guide who will be with you for the rest of the trip. Transfer from airport to Oyster Box, this is approximately 15mins drive (depending on traffic)

Standing majestically on Umhlanga's beachfront just 15 minutes from the airport, overlooking the Indian Ocean and the iconic lighthouse, we are South Africa's most cherished hotel and a national treasure. Discover our timeless elegance and enjoy a multitude of dining options, including our famous curry feast and High Tea, and indulge in our award-winning spa amid tropical gardens.

Overnight at Oyster Box Hotel or similar

Day 10 – Durban – Oyster Box – Breakfast

Breakfast will be at Oyster Box. Today clients will experience the Shakaland Tour

Shaka, legendary King of the Zulus! Experience traditional Zulu culture and customs at the largest Zulu kraal in all of Zululand, look into the future with an iSangoma or traditional healer...all this and more, packed into one exhilarating day. We've laid on some traditional Zulu beer for you to sample, while the craftsmen and community who make the spears, shields, beadwork, pots, and their huts, open their doors so you can witness their skills and artistry. The Zulu dancers will thrill with their grace and energy, and we've made sure you're treated to a most satisfying lunchtime feast! Come live a day in the life of a traditional community – you'll find it informative and a far cry from anything you've ever experienced!

Overnight at Oyster Box or similar.

Day 11 – Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park – Biyela Lodge – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Breakfast will be at Oyster Box. Depart Durban & head for Biyela Lodge. The driver is approximately 2hrs 30 mins.

Biyela Lodge is nestled low on a spectacular ox-bow lagoon on the White iMfolozi River. On the other side of the river are dramatic cliffs which are used by vultures in the early morning to launch to the skies upon thermals. On the banks of the river, the scarce sighting of wild dog has been noted amidst the steady stream of animals that come to quench their thirst. To the right when on the viewing deck is another set of cliffs mark the entrance to the valley where on of King Shaka's most rebellious commanders, Mzilikazi, and his clan hid from the wrath of the King. Crocodiles and hippos

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rule the waters and the roar of lions punctuate the wilderness night. In this heady symphony of natural wonders, a privileged few can luxuriate in private stand-alone suites, with access to a central lodge with a pool, restaurant, bar and viewing decks.

Overnight at Biyela Lodge or similar

Day 12 – Swaziland – Royal Swazi Spa Resort – Breakfast

Breakfast will be at Biyela Lodge. The drive from Biyela Lodge to Royal Swazi ia approximately 5hrs (390km)

As one of only three remaining monarchies in Africa, the Kingdom of eSwatini (also known as Swaziland), is a landlocked country that borders South Africa and Mozambique. One of Africa's best-kept secrets, King Mswati III, invites you to experience the majestic wonder of his country and the warm hospitality of all its people. Set in the tranquil surrounds of the Ezulwini Valley, the Royal Swazi Spa Valley Resort, which comprises the Lugogo Sun and the Royal Swazi Spa hotel. With expansive views overlooking the Ezulwini Valley, the 4-star Royal Swazi Spa offers everything guests could ask for in one convenient location. Situated within walking distance from the resort's facilities and attractions, the hotel consists of 149 rooms – each equipped with their own balcony or patio, air-conditioning, minibar, satellite TV and en-suite bathroom.

Overnight at Royal Swazi Spa Resort or similar

Day 13– Kruger National Park – Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Breakfast will be at Royal Swazi Spa & Resort. Transfer from Royal Swazi to Sabi Earth Lodge is approximately 4hrs 15mins (Including boarder crossing procedures) via White River & Nelspruit (309km) .

Earth Lodge is a sanctuary symbolising a new era in luxury South African safari lodges. Sculpted into a slope of the earth, almost invisible in the landscape, the lodge uses texture, light and space to present a lodge like no other. Taking its cue from the surrounding environment, it has been described as the most environmentally sensitive lodge in Africa. Earth Lodge reveals itself in a series of sensory revelations. On arrival a hidden corridor leads you down on a journey to a unique and unforgettable experience. The unexpected entrance opens to a panorama of uninterrupted bushveld. As in nature everything at Earth Lodge exists in harmony and you are immediately aware of a sense of calm and a restoring spirit. Home to 13 ultra-luxurious suites including the Amber Presidential Suite, the lodge breaks with traditional bush lodge style to create a masterpiece of artistry and innovation. Each of the suites at this luxury lodge features individually designed furniture, private plunge pool, en-suite glass fronted bathroom and indoor and outdoor shower. The natural wooden sculptures by renowned South African artist

Geoffrey Armstrong add a powerful magic

Overnight at Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge or similar

Day 14 & 15 – Kruger National Park – Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Two safaris per day - morning and afternoon/evening - 3 hours each with a morning and afternoon coffee/sundowner stop. A walking safari with your rangers is optional and takes place after breakfast, with your ranger.

Community Tour

We offer a Community Tour, available to Sabi Sabi guests after breakfast each day. This is to be pre-booked at an additional charge, (payable direct) and these funds are invested back into the community. The tour focuses on an authentic experience, and you will have the chance to view life from the perspective of our staff, as the majority of our staff are from the local communities of Lilly dale, Justicia and Huntington

Overnight at Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge or similar

Day 16 – Johannesburg – Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Breakfast will be at Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge

Depart Sabi Sabi & head for Johannesburg. Transfer time is approximatel 5hrs 20mins (451km) depending on traffic.

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Soweto Tour

You know the name. It's a legend. SOWETO, acronym for South Western Township, is home to over 2 million people, who, despite living in crowded and chaotic conditions, have a tangible sense of community, one which ironically, the ordered, walled, elitist northern suburbs lack. Inside Soweto, we visit the Hector Pieterse Museum, and discover the cause of the tragic riots which led to his death; we pass Mandela House and give you time to visit this fascinating little museum. Our journey continues to Regina Mundi Church, site of many secret underground meetings of the then banned political parties. Finally, we take you past the largest stadium in Africa, Soccer City, host of the 2010 FIFA World Cup opening and final matches. This magnificent stadium, also known as 'The Calabash' has a seating capacity of almost 95,000. Soweto is unlike a suburb you've ever seen or been to, yet the history of struggle encapsulated here is a cornerstone of the South African story.

Before Fairlawns became a boutique hotel in 1997, it was originally a ten-acre family home, owned by the Brenthurst Trust Oppenheimer fame, sporting stables, a training ring, a cow (just one), geese, dogs and two teenage children. In 1994 the eastern section bounding on Bowling Ave was sold to developers and the residential estate known as Camelot was built on the site, An offer from developers for the western section took a bit more soul-searching before being sold as it meant losing not only an historical cottage, but the lunge rink and grazing, which in effect meant parting with the horses. It was only once the family had left with the remaining three acres and the original homestead that Mr. Thacker decided to realise his dream of having a 'country hotel' – albeit in the heart of Sandton, the new CBD of Johannesburg. The original accommodation block comprised of 12 suites, each uniquely decorated. Apart from the African Suite, they are mostly euro-centric in their decorating with high ceilings, elaborate cornicing, tall doors and sumptuous fabrics.

Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa - Grand Chateau Suites or similar

Day 17 – Departure – Breakfast

Breakfast will be at Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa. Transfer from Hotel to OR Tambo International Airport in time for outbound flight.

Inclusions:

- 16 night's accommodation
- Meals as mentioned above
- Full Day Game Drive in Etosha in 4 x 4 Vehicles
- All services as listed above
- English Speaking Driver / Guide
- Suitable vehicle as above or Similar including fuel
- Porterage's & Water
- Passenger Liability Insurance
- Entrance Fees and activities as mentioned above

Exclusions:

- International flights, All expenses of a personal nature
- All other activities, entry fees & dinners
- All other services not listed above & Travel Insurance

END OF SERVICES