



Elephant at the Amakhala Game Reserve. Photo credit: John Hickey-Fry

Table Mountain. Photo credit: South African Tourism

South Africa is a country of great contrasts. It is a land of endless beauty, yet its people endured one of the great struggles of our time in overcoming Apartheid. In February, the best time of year to visit South Africa, go on escorted game drives to see Africa's Big 5—elephants, lions, Cape buffaloes, leopards, and rhinos—at the Amakhala Game Reserve. At Addo Elephant National Park, have another chance to see amazing animals, including whales, and learn about animal conservation. Drive along the scenic Garden Route, a corridor along the southern coast lined with fabulous views. Then spend seven days around Cape Town. Tour Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. See one of Africa's only two remaining colonies of penguins. Enjoy a cable car trip up Table Mountain and a visit to Kirstenbosch botanical gardens. Experienced (and fun) tour leaders Len and Mary Friesen have led several groups to South Africa over the years.

Itinerary

Fri., February 14 Amakhala Game Reserve

Arrive in South Africa and transfer to the Amakhala Game Reserve to meet your fellow travellers.

Sat./Sun., Feb. 15/16 Amakhala Game Reserve

The Addo region is perhaps the top region in the southern Cape for seeing African game. Spend two days on escorted game drives, and stay in a highly regarded safari lodge. Hopefully see most if not all of Africa's "Big 5" animals. Your experienced guides will show you the wealth of flora and fauna around you. As for relaxation, think pools, a full-service wellness centre, evening conversations by firelight, and night skies that explode with stars.

Mon., Feb. 17 Mossel Bay

Visit Addo Elephant National Park, one of South Africa's newest National Parks, boasting Africa's "Big 6"—the Big 5 plus whales. During a game drive, learn about animal conservation and natural regeneration. Stop at the historic village of Uitenhage, then continue to Mossel Bay, a small harbour town and the first place Europeans set foot in southern Africa. Learn about the sailors and settlement, and perhaps visit a replica of the ship used by the Europeans on their voyages. Consider

the initial points of contact between them and the indigenous peoples of the Cape region. Or wander the shoreline, dip your feet in the Indian Ocean and consider how your geographic reference points here are Australia and India, not North America!

Tues., Feb. 18 Cape Town

Travel at a relaxed pace to Cape Town, South Africa's Mother City. Enjoy the drive along the scenic Garden Route, a landscape of restorative beauty. At Cape Town, unpack for almost a week. The hotel is ideally situated to explore the city safely on foot. It is also a good place to learn about the region's history. Surprisingly, there is an old and thriving Islamic population located not far from your hotel. It won't take long to see how cosmopolitan this city is.

Wed., Feb. 19 Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch

Take the cable car up Table Mountain for unforgettable views. Learn about the history of the area, or just gaze at the unbelievable sights! Then visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, a stunning paradise that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Buy souvenirs made in community-based projects that improve the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Thurs., Feb. 20 The Cape of Good Hope

Get up close and personal with the Cape of Good Hope, right beside Cape Point. It really does feel like you're standing at the bottom of Africa. Ride the funicular to the top of Cape Point and stare out into the distance—next stop, Antarctica. Take the Chapman's Peak Drive, considered one of the engineering marvels of Africa. Have a late lunch in Simon's Town and learn about its important history. Expect to see baboons today and maybe the great eland (an antelope) and even perhaps whales in this natural wonderland.

Fri., Feb. 21 Robben Island, V&A Waterfront

Confront the story of South Africa's Apartheid years with a visit to the former prison of Robben Island. Tour the place where Nelson Mandela was confined for more than a decade, with a guide who will likely be a former prisoner there. Return to the refurbished Victoria & Alfred Waterfront for lunch. Then enjoy free time, which can be down time or one of many options from your tour leaders.

Sat., Feb. 22 Betty's Bay, Cape Winelands

Head to Betty's Bay to see one of only two remaining colonies of penguins in Africa. This is also a good day for whale watching. Then head to

the winelands. Tour a winery, learn about the history of this region and even its connection to Mennonites, and have lunch at one of its historic sites. A highlight will be to stroll in the heart of historic Stellenbosch. Stop at Cape Town's Signal Hill on our way back for views of Table Mountain.

Sun., Feb. 23 Cape Town

On your last full day, you can return to one of the sites visited previously, go souvenir hunting, or wander the heart of Cape Town. Perhaps visit St. George's Anglican Church, where Desmond Tutu proclaimed a challenge to Apartheid. You could also go on a township tour, which takes you on a journey through history from 1652 to present day Democratic South Africa, including visits to Bo Kaap, the District Six Museum, and the townships of Langa. At a farewell dinner, expect live music as our group gathers one more time, by now more a community of travellers than a group of strangers.

Mon., Feb. 24

Depart for home full of rich encounters and conversations. If you wish to stay on in South Africa, Len and Mary will be happy to make suggestions in advance of places to visit.

Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$6,819; Single Supplement \$1,860

USD: Double Occupancy \$5,275; Single Supplement \$1,439

Fare includes

- All land transportation within the tour
- Group airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations & portage
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- 6 game drives, incl. night drives & guided walks
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Fare excludes

- International airfare, private airport transfers
- 7 lunches, 7 dinners, and additional beverages
- Additional activities and transportation
- Optional township tour
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 01/20. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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