

6 Days Cape to Agulhas & Garden Route Safari

11 July to 16 July 2008

Friday 11th

The Whale Route, Hermanus, Birkenhead Brewery & Cape Agulhas

Departing Stellenbosch at 8:30 am, our exciting journey begins today as we join the world famous whale route in Gordons Bay for a stunning drive along the picturesque R44 mountain pass overlooking False Bay to the vibrant coastal town of Hermanus. After an opportunity to take some photographs and a picnic lunch on the seafront, we continue to the Birkenhead Brewery to sample some fine beers and wines before moving to the southernmost tip of Africa in Cape Agulhas National Park. After a visit to the lookout point we make our way to the harbour in Struisbaai where there is an option to embark on an exciting sundowner ski-boat cruise off Die Plaat, the longest beach in the Southern Hemisphere.

This day is designed to be a relaxing one, to get used to travelling in our vehicle and to settle into the comfortable routine of life on tour.

- Overnight in: Cape Agulhas Backpackers Lodge (Struisbaai)
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Dinner menu: A traditional potjie with salads and fire-baked pot bread. (Vegetarian and lamb)
- Included Activities: Free beer and wine tasting at Birkenhead Breweries
- Optional Activities: Sundowner ski-boat cruise R180

Saturday 12th

Ronnies Pub, Cango Caves, Cango Wildlife Ranch and Oudtshoorn

After breakfast, this morning we head north through rolling wheatfields to Swellendam where we enter the little Karoo through the beautiful Tradouws Pass. Shortly after Barrydale on the famous Route 62 we stop for lunch and a refreshing drink at Ronnies Sex Shop; an interesting; and now famous pub bearing no actual resemblance to a sex shop other than the hundreds of signed items of underwear donated by international travellers. You're welcome to leave your mark!

After lunch we take a leisurely drive through Ladysmith and Carlitzdorp to the Karoo town of Oudtshoorn. Known as the ostrich capital of the world, Oudtshoorn is situated in a beautiful valley between the Outeniqua and Swartberg Mountains. Here we'll embark on a 1-hour guided tour of the magnificent Cango Caves, with a wonderland of stalactite and stalagmite formations millions of years old, Cango is a world heritage site and one of the great wonders of the natural world. After the caves you will go on a guided tour of the Cango Wildlife Ranch where you'll have the opportunity to pet cheetah and tiger cubs as well as view jaguar, white Bengal tiger, pygmy hippo and many other rare and endangered animals.

- Overnight in: Backpackers Paradise (Oudtshoorn)
- Included Meals: Breakfast and dinner
- Dinner menu: Fire grilled ostrich steaks, potatoes and salad. (Vegetable kebabs for vegetarians)
- Breakfast menu: Muesli, cereals, yoghurt, fruit, juice, tea and coffee
- Included Activities: A guided tour of Cango Caves
A guided tour of Cango Endangered Wildlife Ranch
A free drink at Ronnies pub
- Optional Activities: Pet a hand-raised cheetah R135 including photos

Sunday 13th

Knysna Waterfront and Ferryboat Cruise & Tsitsikamma National Park

This morning we leave the Karoo and head for the coast through the magnificent Outeniqua Pass. Entering the Garden Route for the first time in George we take a leisurely drive up this beautiful coastline through the Wilderness Lakes region to Knysna. Rated South Africa's most beautiful town, here we visit Knysna waterfront before embarking on a 2-hour ferryboat cruise on the lagoon.

After our cruise we take a relaxing drive to the stunning Tsitsikamma National Park where a short 2km hike through dense indigenous forest brings us to the mouth of the Storms River, here we'll take a walk across the longest hanging bridge in the Southern Hemisphere.

Overnight in: Tube 'n Axe Backpackers Lodge (Storms River Adventure Village)
Included Meals: Breakfast and dinner
Dinner Menu: A la Carte menu
Breakfast Menu: Muesli, cereals, yoghurt, fruit, juice, tea and coffee
Included Activities: A 2-hour ferryboat cruise on Knysna Lagoon
Entrance to Tsitsikamma National Park

Monday 14th

Crags Elephant Sanctuary, Bloukrans Bungi Jump and Zipline Tour

Today is a day packed full of adventure! After breakfast we start the day with a visit to the Crags Orphaned Elephant Sanctuary for a truly wonderful close encounter wildlife experience. The 2-hour program begins with an 'up close and personal' educational session with the elephants and their African handlers, after this you will have the opportunity to both walk and feed these magnificent creatures. A memory you'll cherish for a lifetime!

After the sanctuary we take a leisurely drive to Bloukrans Bridge, this is the highest road bridge in the southern hemisphere and with a freefall of 216m this is also the site of the highest bungi jump in the world, for those wishing to take the leap, this is your opportunity!!

After lunch at the bridge we make our way to Tsitsikamma Falls Adventures where you will have an opportunity to do a waterfall and treetop zipline (cable slide) tour. There are a total of eight cable slides on the tour; the longest is a whopping 220 meters above a waterfall!

After a day full of fun and excitement we return to our accommodation where with the setting sun we toast to our shared adventures around a roaring campfire.

Overnight in: Tube 'n Axe Backpackers Lodge (Storms River Adventure Village)
Included Meals: Breakfast and dinner
Dinner menu: A traditional South African braai (barbeque) with fresh vegetables salad etc
Breakfast menu: Muesli, cereals, yoghurt, fruit, juice, tea and coffee
Included Activities: Elephant Sanctuary educational, feeding and walking.
Optional Activities: Elephant Riding R345
Bloukrans bridge bungi-jump R580
Bloukrans Bridge walking tour R50
Tsitsikamma waterfall & treetop zip-line. R300

Tuesday 15th

Plettenberg Bay activities, Wilderness Beach and Mossel Bay

This morning our first stop for the day is in Plettenberg Bay, a vibrant holiday town renowned for its superb beaches here there will be time to explore the town and beach, do some shopping or go sea kayaking.

After an early lunch we continue down the Garden Route stopping occasionally to take photographs of anything we may have missed on our way up. We'll stop for a walk and a swim on beautiful Wilderness beach before moving on to our accommodation for the night in Mossel Bay. A small harbour town with a big heart, Mossel Bay boasts 24km of long, sandy beaches and an even longer history. It was here that Bartholomeu Dias, the first European navigator to round the cape landed, in 1488.

Overnight in: Park House Backpackers Lodge (Mossel Bay)
Included Meals: Breakfast and dinner
Dinner menu: Spaghetti Bolognese with salads and garlic bread. (Vegetarian pasta for vegetarians)
Breakfast menu: Muesli, cereals, yoghurt, fruit, juice, tea and coffee
Optional Activities: Plettenberg Bay Sea Kayaking (2hrs) R250

Wednesday 16th

Return to Cape Town via Swellendam and Sir Lowry's Pass

Today is the last day of our tour, after lunch on the road and a scenic drive via Swellendam and Sir Lowry's Pass; we arrive back for drop off in Stellenbosch or at the airport at 2pm in the afternoon.

CAPE TO ADDO TOUR REMARKS

"After one week back to Berlin, I have still all these pictures of our Cape to Addo Tour in my mind! Whenever I feel stressed now, I just close my eyes and see those graceful dolphins again, coming so close to our boat at Cape Alguhas. For me, the tour was something like the perfect mix of laid-back travelling in stunning landscapes and accommodations at some of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. I really enjoyed sitting around the fireplace at night with a few beers, just chatting about the next day, the world, or life in general. Thank you!"

(Jens Plath, 31, Berlin, Germany)

"A brilliant trip and definitely a better alternative to organising the whole week by myself. Although the days were structured, it was flexible enough so that everyone was happy. I did so much this week that I'd never have done otherwise! Thank you Cape to Addo..."

(Emma Cordrey, 22, England)

"The best tour ever... I have seen so much this week and the accommodation was fantastic, every place was great in its own way. These were all places which I'd never have found on my own. I will recommend this tour to everyone..." **(Janne Norgaard, 19, Denmark)**

"A real taste of South Africa! This trip fulfilled all my requirements... great accommodation, food, company and jaw dropping scenery, a very memorable excursion. Thanks Cape to Addo Safaris, 'till next time..."

(Phillip Banks, 33, Yorkshire, England)

"This trip was fantastic! A perfect mix of everything, adventurous and relaxing... I wish I could go for another week right away! This was by far the best week of my stay in South Africa. Life is good, keep rockin'!"

(Jule Schwagereit, 21, Germany)

"A perfect way of exploring SA. The tour was easy going and relaxed and although we saw so much there was NO stress. The accommodation and food were perfect! Thank you for a wonderful week, your tour has really enriched my stay in SA..." **(Lena Gustafsson, 36, Sweden)**

"I came, I saw, and now I don't want to go back! Wish we had another week! Going home with some cracking photos and great memories of an excellent trip. Cheers Keith." **(Sue Ridgeon, 27, Devon, England)**

"This tour was just super, the best tour I've had, the best accommodation, attractive places, awesome ocean views, beaches and wild animals, delicious food and Oh! So romantic with beautiful scenery. Thank you Cape to Addo, you're the best!" **(Innocent Tomeo, 24, Blantyre, Malawi)**

"Truly the Ultimate Garden Route Experience! Exclusive accommodation at the best spots, an experienced guide that can cook! I enjoyed every second of this amazing journey, definitely the best way to experience SA!"

(Ute Blaurock, 23, Germany)

"I had an ace time! I saw sights and did things I never thought possible. Thank you for everything you did for us – the food, the safe driving and entertainment... Long live Cape to Addo Safaris!" **(Sophie Farrow, 19, England)**

"A very nice trip! The best guide, accommodation, food and perfect places... It was fantastic!"

(Paloma Marquez, 21, Brazil)

"Fantastic organisation, nice accommodation, great activities and the price is unbeatable! Thank you Cape to Addo for an unforgettable week and for the whole experience..." **(Dr Claudia Raue, 26, Germany)**

"We got to see so many things and places that we wouldn't have seen if we'd done it on our own! The tour included so much but I never felt any stress. I liked the flexibility of the tour so that we could go elephant riding... The variation of the accommodation was great. Thank you." **(Annika Eschner, 26, Sweden)**

"This tour was amazing and our guide is a legend! I had so much fun and saw some incredible sights and every day was so well organised that the entire experience was just phenomenal... Thank you!"

(Tami Russel, 20, England)

"I had a great time on an excellent trip (despite not being a very adventurous person!) Nice scenery reminded me of home! Loved the group setting and the flexibility of the activities." **(Kirsty Morgan, 20, Scotland)**

"I had so much fun! All of the accommodations were lovely. Everything was well organised and the flexibility was great. Thank you for a lovely experience!" **(Kaitlin Mc Gann, 22, USA)**