

Updated 05/01/2009  
FOR ALL 2009  
DEPARTURES

# ACACIA AFRICA

## COAST TO CAPE TOWN – TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE CTC7

DURBAN – CAPE TOWN

7 DAYS

Tour Starts – **Pick up at 07:00 from joining hotel**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Wild Coast  
Addo Elephant Reserve – game drive  
Tsitsikamma National Park – forest walk  
Knysna  
Cango Caves  
Oudtshoorn Ostrich Farm  
Western Cape Winery  
Cape Town

Combine the little visited 'Wild Coast' and popular Garden Route and travel from South Africa's seaside 'playground' at Durban to cosmopolitan Cape Town. Rugged coastline, exotic wildlife, superb scenery and fine wines are just some of the attractions of this 7 day adventure.



### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary.

**Duration:** 7 Days  
**Countries visited:** South Africa

**DAY 1 – 2**  
**Wild Coast - Cinst**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin share/ en suite

We leave Durban early and travel through one of the less visited areas of South Africa, the Wild Coast. Formerly known as the Transkei, this area is sparsely populated but rich in culture and inhabited mainly by the Xhosa people. We have two nights in beautiful Cinst, the jewel in the Eastern Cape's crown. Situated on the beach we have a full day to enjoy a range of optional typically available in the area – e.g. surfing, horse riding, canoeing, day safaris to a local reserve. This is a delightful place to relax and enjoy South Africa natural beauty.

**DAY 3**  
**Addo Elephant Reserve**  
Bx1 Dx1  
Camping with facilities

Today we continue our journey south, making our way to Addo Elephant Reserve. The park has undergone considerable expansion in recent years and from its humble beginnings of less than a dozen elephants, the park now boasts over 400 individual elephants! We game drive – in addition to elephants Addo contains lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and as well as various bucks and antelope. Given the relative flatness of the park, coupled by well positioned waterholes, the likelihood of seeing a wide variety of wildlife is very good.

**DAY 4 - 5**  
**Tsitsikamma National Park, Knysna**  
Bx2 Dx2  
Twin Share/ en suite

Our last port of call in Eastern Province is Tsitsikamma National Park where you may like to take an optional hike along scenic mountain paths giving us great views over the Indian Ocean. There is the chance of spot wildlife in the dense forest and ocean alike. From the duiker, a small antelope, to dolphin and otter - the variety of wildlife attracted to this is a delight to everyone. The following day we enter the Western Province and the pretty seaside town of Knysna. There is a variety of many optional activities typically available here – or else simply relax, enjoy an oyster or two while trying some of South Africa's famous wines.

**DAY 6**  
**Oudtshoorn – Cango Caves, Ostrich farm**  
Bx1 Dx1  
Twin Share/ en suite

We venture inland today and visit the unique rock formations of the Cango Caves where one million year old stalagmites and stalactites compete for your attention. We also visit an ostrich farm to gain an insight in farming the largest bird on earth. The Oudtshoorn area has some 97% of the world's ostrich population and you have the opportunity to ride and feed these comical creatures.

**DAY 7**  
**Winelands, Cape Town**  
Bx1

Our last day on tour we visit a winery to learn more about some of South Africa's famous wines and enjoy some wine tasting. Finally we continue to South Africa's 'mother city', Cape Town where our tour finishes on arrival.

## TOUR INFORMATION

### TOUR STYLE

Acacia Small Group Safari

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, sleeping mat, meals as indicated, camping equipment, services of an English speaking driver and tour leader (or one driver/guide if group size is less than nine)

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, laundry, tips to driver & local guides, passport & visa fees & items of a personal nature.

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is mainly in twin share chalets/ cabins/ guest house or rondavels (bungalows) with en suite. Many are situated in comfortable and in picturesque locations with facilities including swimming pool, restaurant and bar, allowing you to relax at the end of the day. One night is spent under canvas in Addo Elephant National Park in dome tents with shared bathroom facilities – the chance to experience a night under canvas in Africa.

### TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus

### MEALS

Most meals on tour are prepared by the tour leader and group members are required to assist. We use fresh produce wherever available and are able to cater for special dietary requirements, providing you advise us in advance. Some meals may be taken at local guesthouses and restaurants at the tour leader's discretion.

## TOUR PREPARATION

### BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Durban and Cape Town are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

## JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in Durban:

### On the Beach Hostel

17 The Promenade, Glenashley  
4051 Durban North  
Tel: +27 (0)31 562 1591  
Fax: +27 (0)31 572 7262

Tour start time: 07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point **Cape Town:**

### The Backpack (Boutique Hostel)

74 New Church Street  
Cape Town 8001  
Tel: +27 (21) 4234530  
Fax: +27 21 4230065

Tour end time: Late afternoon on Day 7

## EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you spend the night before Day 1 in Durban and give yourself time in Cape Town at the end of the tour to enjoy everything the city offers. Acacia can help arrange any extra accommodation, usually booked on a direct pay basis. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (ZAR)	Description	Price (ZAR)
<b>Durban</b>		<b>Cape Town</b>	
Pre tour accommodation – twin per room/pn	R260-R320	Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	R465
Pre tour accommodation – single per room/pn	R400-R500	Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	R720
Pre tour accommodation – triple per room/pn	R600-R700	Post tour accommodation – Dorm pp/pn – B&B	R200

## WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack is ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (ie. fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be quite cool on game drives. Pack a light rain jacket. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets. You require a sleeping bag or sleep sheet if you intend to stay in a dorm room at the joining hostel.

## VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

**C** = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, \* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
S. Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## MONEY MATTERS

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-15

per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the Rand on arrival. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa – Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Johannesburg, Johannesburg airport and most towns and cities.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although there may be a fee for their use.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended you bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

#### LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the tour leader on arrival, at the start of the tour. It is used to pay for running costs on the road. Please note, travellers' cheques and credit cards are not accepted.

#### TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

#### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
<b>Wild Coast</b>		<b>Tsitsikamma National Park</b>	
Surfing	\$20	Storms River Mouth Walk	Free
Horse Riding	\$30	<b>Knysna</b>	
Sea Kayaking	Free	Quad biking	\$35
Safari Trip	\$60	Boat Trip	\$50

**NB** The above costs have been converted into approximate US dollars for convenience. Expect to pay for some of these in local currency.

#### INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

### Country Information – SOUTH AFRICA

#### Facts

Capital: Pretoria (official), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)  
 Size: 1 219 090 sq km / 470 693 sq miles  
 Population: 44,344,136 (Sept. 05)  
 Groups: African/Black, White (mainly of Afrikaner and British origin), Coloured, Indian/Asian  
 Languages: English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga (all 11 are official languages)  
 Local time: GMT + 2  
 Seasons: Western Cape: warm (September-April), cold and wet (May-August); East coast: humid all year; Northern provinces: wet (September-April), dry (May-August)  
 Currency: 1 South African Rand = 100 Cents  
 Telephone: Country code 27, international access code 09  
 Electricity: 220 V / 230 V / 250 V / 50 Hz, the plug fits a 15A socket with three round pins

South Africa is a country rich in minerals, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery; a land of beauty with a social and political structure that is anything but! A country having three capitals - Pretoria the Administrative, Cape Town the Legislative, and Bloemfontein the Judicial. Having by far the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of the neighbouring countries as an avenue for exports, and a provider of electricity and high tech products. A good network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites (as well as beautiful scenery) makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and very rewarding experience.

## Points of Interest

### Durban

Best known for its beaches at the warm **Indian Ocean**, Durban offers warm **sub-tropical weather** all year-round and the perfect **surf** conditions make just even more a perfect holiday destination. Home to one of the **largest Indian communities** outside India, it is also a good place for Indian food. Try the locally developed bunny chow!

Things to do in Durban include: Golden Mile beachfront, Indian Market, Traditional Healer's Market, Campell Museum, Apartheid Museum, Ushaka Island and plenty of casinos and shopping malls.

Since Durban is conveniently located in the heart of **Zululand**, is also a great base for experiencing Zulu culture.

### Wild Coast (formerly Transkei)

Formerly a homeland and birth place of Mandela, this secluded area has become South Africa's prime insider holiday destination. This rugged, remote and fairly unpopulated stretch of coast between East London and Port Edward offers rolling hills, jagged cliffs and a **wild, unspoilt coastline**. Best of all – it is still a well kept secret! The best places to visit along the Wild Coast are Chintsa (old spelling Cintsa) with its beautiful beach and Coffee Bay with the spectacular 5-day hiking trail to Port St. Johns.

### Addo Elephant Park

This 121 sq kilometres big park near Port Elizabeth started off as a **conservation project** in 1931 **for elephant**. Today, there are about 400 elephants sharing their terrain with black rhino, lion, spotted hyena, kudu, jackal, Cape Buffalo and the unique flightless dung beetle.

### Tsitsikamma National Park

South Africa's third most frequently visited National Park is located right in the centre of the Garden Route. The ancient Khoisan called the area Tsitsikamma which means 'place of much or clear water' and accordingly it became **South Africa's first marine national park**, comprising the 80 kilometres of magnificent Indian Ocean coast between Plettenberg Bay and Jeffrey's Bay. This mountainous region with valleys and deep river gorges leading down to the sea has **spectacular sea and landscapes**. One of the country's most renowned walks passes through the park, the famous **Otter Trail**. It is 42,5 kilometres long and takes about 5 days to complete. Other activities in Tsitsikamma include the **Bloukrans Bridge Bungy Jump (with 216 metres the highest in the world)**, the Tsitsikamma canopy tour, the Storms River gorge cruise and scuba diving.

### Garden Route

Stretching **between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth**, this **most scenic stretch of coastline** is named after its wealth of forests. It is one of South Africa's most visited places as has plenty of attractions. It has also become a main destination for **adventure sports** with almost every place along the route offering a wide variety of sports possibilities.

Places of interest along the Garden Route:

**Oudtshoorn** - the centre of the Klein Caroo and definitely the **ostrich capital of the world**. Due to a large demand of ostrich feathers at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a large ostrich industry started to boom here. Today, the ostriches are mainly bred for their meat and leather. One of the highlights here is to visit an ostrich farm where you can also ride one of these large birds. Other places of interest are the **Crocodile and Cheetahland** and the **Cango Caves** which are full of fascinating stalagmite and stalactite formations. Nearby is the spectacular **Swartberg Pass**. The most fun way to explore Oudtshoorn and its surroundings is on a mountain bike tour.

**George** – South Africa's sixth oldest town is located right in the middle between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and therefore often called the capital of the Garden Route. The famous Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe train to Knysna departs from here

**Knysna** – a laid back resort on a scenic lagoon. Its most striking feature are the Knysna Heads between which the sea pours into the lagoon at the mouth of the Knysna River. It is also famous for oysters and artists

**Plettenberg Bay** – called 'Bahia Formosa' (beautiful bay) by the Portuguese explorers, 'Plett' is a fast developing holiday destination for well-heeled South Africans and foreigners alike. It is surrounded by nature and marine reserves and its beach is perfect for any type of water sports

## Cape Town

Founded in 1666 as a place where trading ships going round the Cape of Good Hope could stock up, Cape Town today is **South Africa's tourist destination No.1**. It is one of the **most beautiful cities** in the world with plenty of sights and outdoor activities. The natural beauty of the place is defined by mountains (esp. famous Table Mountain) and sea (and not only one, it is here the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean meet).

The '**Mother City**' has also has one of the most diverse populations including descendants from such diverse people as Indonesian, Malay, French, Dutch, British & German settlers, the local Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north. It is one of the most tolerant and relaxed cities in Africa. Places of interest in and around Cape Town:

**Table Mountain** – Cape Town's trade mark towers 1086 metres above sea level and is accessible by cable car or by several trekking routes (Platteklip Gorge being the most frequented one)

**The Castle** – Cape Town's oldest remaining building

**Bo-Kaap** – the old Malay quarter is a predominately Muslim area coined by Malay slaves who were brought in by the Dutch; take a walk among the colourful houses

**Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront** – this complex of shops, restaurants and bars attracts over 20 million visitors every year; it also has a massive oceanarium where you can dive with sharks and the (still working) port

**Robben Island** – 11 kilometres from the coast, this World Heritage Site features a former prison of Nelson Mandela where he spent 18 years

**Company Gardens** – the remains of the original fruit and veg gardens to provide the ships, these gardens now host many interesting museums

**Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens** – situated at the eastern side of Table Mountain, these gardens contain a wide variety of mostly indigenous flora with the mountain as a backdrop; in summer concerts are held here every Sunday afternoon

**Beaches** – Cape Town has a great many beaches on both the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean: the 4 beaches at Clifton, Camps Bay and Bloubergstrand on the Atlantic and Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Fishhoek on the Indian Ocean, to mention just a few

**Townships** – the townships of Guguleu, Langa and Kayelitsha offer great insights into Cape Town's black communities

**Cape Peninsula** – a day tour around the Cape Peninsula will lead you to Hout Bay Harbour with its Cape Fur Seal colony on Duiker Island, to Boulders Beach with its jackass penguins and to the Cape Point Nature Reserve where the south-western most point of Africa is to be found

**Winelands** – the world-renowned wine region around Stellenbosch has some of the oldest and most beautiful wineries in South Africa. Visit the beautiful buildings and sample some excellent wines.

## ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS

### FOOTBALL'S COMING TO AFRICA

**In line with the 2010 Football World Cup, in Cape Town, Acacia's keeping its eye on the ball. We've got together with the charity Footballs for Fun to spread some goodwill and love for the beautiful game across the continent.** In 2008 all our trucks will carry footballs which can be bought and donated to children in the local towns along our route. The footballs are a perfect ice breaker and a game with locals is a great way to make friendships despite language differences. And all the profit (at least £2 from each ball) goes straight back into Africa, helping support a selection of AIDS charities and children's homes. Make a difference, get kicking and buy a ball when you're next on one of our trucks.



### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

## PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

**If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you.** If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to [acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com](mailto:acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com)

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

**Legalities:** You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

**For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)**

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