

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.

DAY 1 – 2

Wild Coast - Cinsta

Bx1 Dx2

Twin Share/ shared facilities

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 Cinsta, the jewel in the Eastern Cape's crown with time to enjoy a range of optional activities in the area – eg surfing, horse riding, canoeing, day-trips to one of the local reserves. This is a delightful place to relax and enjoy South Africa's natural beauty.

DAY 3

Addo Elephant Reserve

B D

Twin Share/ shared facilities

We continue our journey south-east, making our way to the Addo Elephant Reserve. This park has undergone considerable expansion in recent years and from humble beginnings now boasts over 400 individual elephants. We spend the afternoon in the park– in addition to elephant, Addo contains lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and as various types of buck and antelope. Given the relative flatness of the park, coupled by well positioned waterholes, the likelihood of seeing a wide variety of wildlife is normally very good.

DAY 4 - 5

Tsitsikamma National Park, Knysna

Bx2 Dx2

Twin Share/ shared facilities

Our last port of call in Eastern Province is Tsitsikamma where you may like to take an optional hike along scenic mountain paths affording views over the Indian Ocean. There is the opportunity of spotting wildlife in the dense forest and ocean alike - from duiker (a small antelope) to dolphin and otter - the diverse wildlife in this area is a delight. 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
Hermanus
B D

Twin Share Rooms/ Shared Facilities

We continue to Hermanus, another attractive and relaxed town on the coastal route, known particularly for dolphin and whale watching which whilst seasonal is often possible from the shore. At any time of year this is an ideal place to relax and enjoy a beautiful part of the coastline.

DAY 7
Winelands, Cape Town
B

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, meals as indicated, services of an English speaking driver / tour leader.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, laundry, gratuities, passport & visa fees, items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is mainly in twin share chalets/ cabins/ guest house or rondavals (bungalows) with shared facilities. Many are situated in comfortable and in picturesque locations with a pool, restaurant and bar; other accommodations are more simple yet still clean and secure.

TRANSPORT

Minibus or microbus. Maximum group size: 14 passengers.

PARTICIPATION

This is a participation tour and your help is needed (usually on a roster basis) with the various day to day chores - shopping, cooking and pitching and striking camp etc. But don't worry it's not all hard work, and it's a good way to meet local people and get to know your fellow travellers. This is part of your contribution to the success of the tour and most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment. Please come along with a sense of adventure and flexible attitude and we are sure you will have a wonderful time.

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, Glen Ashley

4051 Durban North

Tel: +27 (0)31 562 1591

Fax: +27 (0)31 572 7262

Tour start time:

07:00 on Day 1

NB The above is a guide only. Please check all visa requirements at least one month in advance of travel. Most nationalities do not need to obtain any of the above visas in advance. They are available at the border entry points and payable in US\$ cash.

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. Most spending will be in South Africa Rand (for incidental expenses along the way, optional activities, most additional accommodation before/after the trip) but it's a good idea to bring along some US\$ cash for any international airport taxes or visas.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in either South Africa Rand cash or US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can be exchanged into Rand on arrival. Your guide will give general guidance about spending during the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: South Africa Rand.
- **ATM machines** are found in Durban, Cape Town and most towns and cities.
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for larger optional activities although fees for use may be higher than you are accustomed to at home.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

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\$)
Wild Coast		Tsitsikamma National Park	
Surfing	\$27	Storms River Mouth Walk	\$10
Horse Riding	\$42	Knysna	
Sea Kayaking	\$10	Quad biking	\$30
Safari Trip	\$70	Boat Trip	\$58

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 help provide specialist travel insurance for this tour through our local operator. 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 complex social and political structure. The country has three capitals - the Administrative (Pretoria), the Legislative (Cape Town), and the Judicial (Bloemfontein). Having the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of its neighbours as an avenue for exports and a provider of electricity and high-tech products. An excellent network of roads and an abundance of high quality campsites (as well as beautiful scenery) make travelling in and around South Africa a rewarding experience.

Points of Interest

Durban

Best known for its beaches and the warm Indian Ocean, Durban offers sub-tropical weather all year-round. Surfing is a popular sport and Durban is 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, Campbell 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 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 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 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 abundant attractions. It has also become known 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 Karoo and definitely the ostrich capital of the world. Due to a large demand of ostrich feathers at the end of the 19th century, the ostrich farming industry began to boom. Today, ostriches are mainly bred for their meat and leather. Other places of interest are the Crocodile and Cheetah-land, the Cango Caves, the spectacular Swartberg Pass.

George – South Africa's sixth oldest town is located right between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and sometimes known as 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 is the Knysna Heads, the narrow channel to the ocean at the mouth of the Knysna River.

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 rounding the Cape of Good Hope could stock up with supplies, Cape Town today is South Africa's oldest city and one of its prime tourist destinations. It is also one of the most scenic cities anywhere with abundant sights and activities. The 'Mother City' has also has a highly diverse population with descendants from Indonesia, Malaysia, France, Holland, Britain and Germany, as well as the Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu. 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; predominately a Muslim area.

Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront – this complex of shops, restaurants and bars attracts over 20 million visitors per year; it also has an oceanarium where you can dive with sharks.

Robben Island – 11 kilometres from the coast, this World Heritage Site was the former prison of Nelson Mandela.

Company Gardens – the remains of the original fruit and vegetable gardens which provisioned ships which rounded the Cape. The gardens now host some interesting museums.




Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens – situated at the eastern side of Table Mountain, these gardens contain a wide variety of mostly indigenous flora; in summer concerts are held here regularly.

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 of the better known ones.

Townships – the townships of Guguleu, Langa and Kayelitsha offer insights into some of Cape Town's indigenous communities.

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

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.

<p>Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd 23A Craven Terrace London W2 3QH</p> <p>UK Tel. +44 (0)20 7706 4700 Fax. +44 (0)20 7706 4686 SA Tel. +27 (0)21 556 1157 Fax. +27 (0)21 557 5983</p> <p>Email: info@acacia-africa.com Website: www.acacia-africa.com</p>			
--	---	--	---