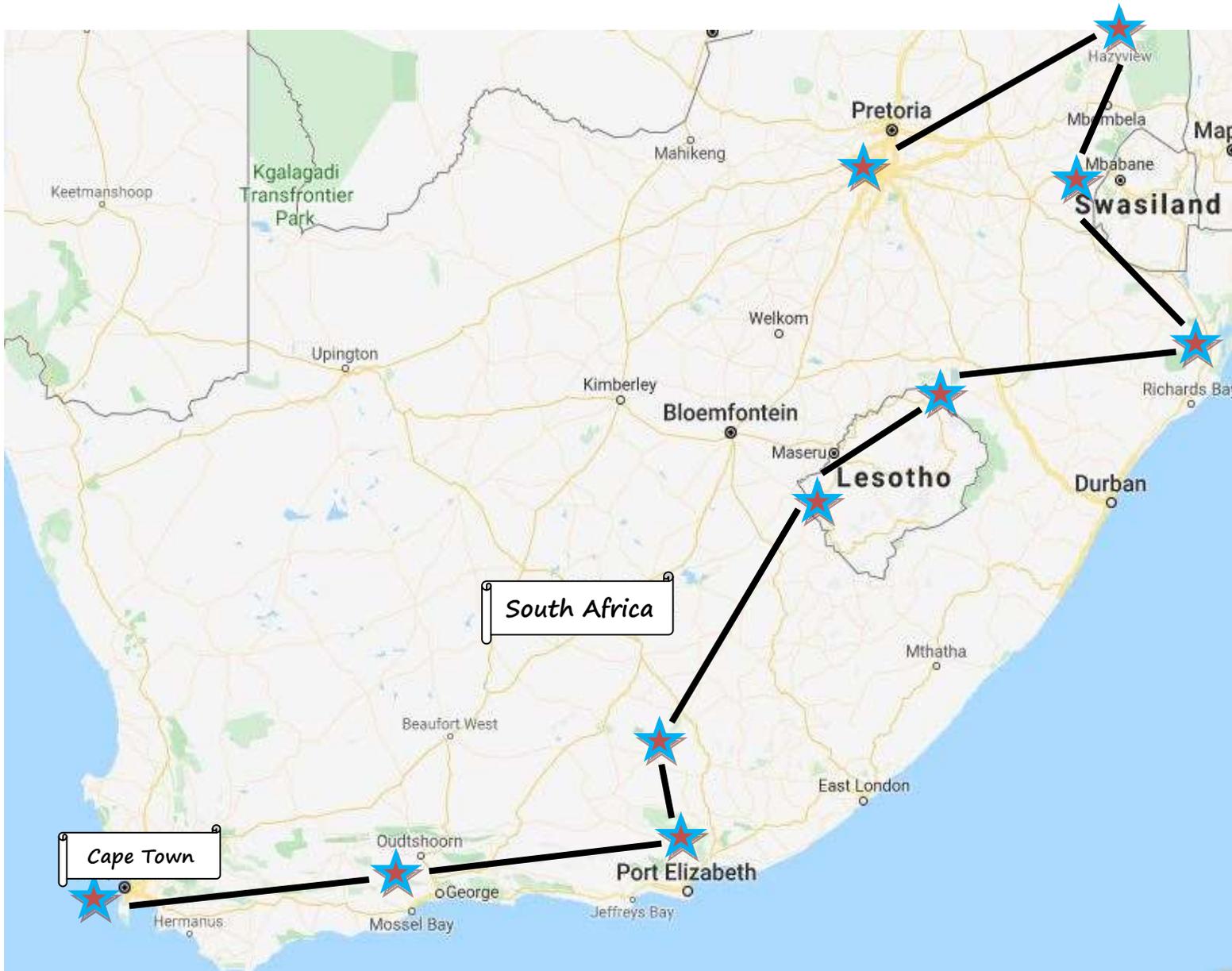


Experience South Africa

23 Days to the desired date



Total distance: +- 3650 kilometres or +- 2280 miles

This is South Africa – Experience it



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Day 1: Johannesburg – Pilgrim’s Rest

- ❖ Today we will meet at the Airport in Johannesburg and drive directly to Pretoria, whose cityscape is characterized by 100.000 Jacaranda trees (flowering time: late September till middle of November). After a short City Tour through South Africa’s Capital City we continue our journey to Pilgrim’s Rest.

Day 2: Pilgrim’s Rest – Blyde River Canyon

- ❖ After breakfast and a short walk through the small gold mining town, where time seems to have stopped (OR where time seems to be frozen?) we drive via God’s window, Burkes Luck Potholes on the Panorama Route to Blyde River Canyon. During a 45min hike we will discover the wonder world of the Blyde River.

Day 3: Kruger National Park

- ❖ Today we go to the Kruger National Park. We take a lot of time to experience the fascinating variety of Wildlife. This huge park with a size of 2 million hectares (half the size of Switzerland) is one of the great Wildlife Parks in Africa and we will see many different types of game during the daily Game Drives.

Day 4: Kruger National Park

- ❖ Our day starts before sunrise, we will set off for a wilderness hike of several hours, led by Kruger National Park Trails Guides. After a late breakfast and a rest at lunchtime, we will go on a Game Drive in the afternoon.

Day 5: Kruger National Park – Swaziland

- ❖ After a morning Game Drive and breakfast we leave Kruger National Park and drive to the Kingdom of Swaziland. Our goal is the Hlane Game Reserve. The Reserve is known for its Wildlife, mild temperatures and more than 280 native bird species.
In the afternoon we take a 2 – 3 hour hike, on which a lot of game will cross our way.

Kingdom of Swaziland:

In Swaziland you can experience an original and traditional Africa. We cross Swaziland to the Mbabane the Capital City. The head of state has been King Mswati II since 1986. The House of Lords has a long tradition. The Kingdom was founded in 1815 under Sobhuza I.

Day 6: Swaziland – St. Lucia

- ❖ After an early Game Drive and a hearty breakfast we drive to the World Heritage Site of St. Lucia on the Indian Ocean. In the afternoon we take a boat trip on Lake St. Lucia to see many Hippos, Nile Crocodiles and an impressive variety of Birdlife.

Day 7: Hluhluwe Umfolozi National Park

- ❖ The Game Reserves of Umfolozi and Hluhluwe were declared as a Nature Reserve in 1895 and are thus amongst the oldest Game Parks in the whole of Africa. The rolling hills represent a piece of original African Savannah. Hluhluwe Umfolozi National Park is home to the “Big 5” and many other animal species. A network of gravel roads leads us through the Nature Reserve.

Day 8: St. Lucia - Drakensberge

- ❖ After breakfast we leave Zululand and drive into the Drakensberg-Region. Drakensberge – South Africa's highest Mountain Range and the natural border between South Africa and Lesotho. We cross municipal farms and pastures along the impressive mountain landscape. Particularly outstanding are the sandstone cliffs and rocks coloured by the setting sun. In the late afternoon we reach our camp with a great panoramic view of (onto) the Drakensberge. We stay in beautiful mountain chalets, on the edge of the steepest peak.

Day 9: Drakensberge: Day of hiking

- ❖ Today's full-day hike shows the overwhelming beauty of the Drakensberg Mountain Range. We hike the Tugela Gorge, a magnificent valley full of flowers and wild mountain streams with a magnificent view of the "Amphitheatre" Mountains.

Drakensberg Mountains: Up to 3480m high and about 1000km long.

Day 10: Drakensberge - Lesotho

- ❖ Today we drive along the Mountains through the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. This unique park along the border of the Orange Free State protects 4,900 hectares of sandstone highlands with an incredible variety of rock formations and colours. After stops in Clarence and Ladybrand we drive across the border to Lesotho, the Kingdom of the Sky with over 30,000 km², the size of Belgium. No point in Lesotho is below 1,400 metres of altitude. Our goal today is the 2,000 m high little village of Malealea, consisting of a shop and a simple but cosy lodge.

Day 11: Lesotho: Day of hiking

- ❖ Our lodge, an original trading base, is the best starting point to experience Lesotho. Today we will be on a horseback trail or explore Lesotho on foot through the mountainous landscape and deep gorges, past the Botsoéla waterfall and local Basotho villages. In the evening the Malealea Children's Choir sings for us.

Day 12: Lesotho - Mountain Zebra National Park

- ❖ Today we leave Lesotho and drive through the dry Karoo to the Mountain Zebra National Park. Where the survival of the mountain zebras was assured. This national park is one of the most visited in South Africa, not only because of its unique wildlife, but also because of the charming landscape scenes. In addition to the mountain zebras, there are large herds of eland antelopes, springboks, white-tailed wildebeest, kudus, duckers and cow antelopes. The high plateau with the wide view over the Karoo is a paradise for all photographers.

Day 13: Mountain Zebra National Park - Addo Elephant National Park

- ❖ This morning we start our day before sunrise to enjoy the landscape and Wildlife in the best light. After breakfast we continue our journey to the Addo Elephant National Park, which was declared in 1931 to protect the last elephants in the Cape region. For many years now, the Addo Elephant Park is home of the "Big five" and other big game species of South Africa. We spend the rest of the day in the 14,500 hectare Addo Elephant National Park, which is a home to more than 600 elephants.

Day 14: Addo Elephant National Park – Tsitsikamma National Park

- ❖ After an early morning Game Drive and a short city tour through Port Elisabeth, we continue to Tsitsikamma National Park. The Tsitsikamma Forest is a rugged, densely covered region with ferns, many native flowers and very old tree species such as Yellowwood, Blackwood and many more.

Day 15: Tsitsikamma National Park

- ❖ After a hearty breakfast we hike today over a rocky coastal path to a beautiful waterfall. This 4 hour hike follows the "Otter Trail" along the coast. Our goal is a waterfall that plunges with several cascades into a natural rock pool where we can enjoy a swim. With a bit of luck we see whales, seals, dolphins and otters today. After lunch we take a walk through the coastal forest to the suspension bridges at the mouth of the river.

Day 16: Tsitsikamma National Park – Knysna

- ❖ After breakfast, our journey leads us along the Garden Route. Between the 1,875m high Outeniqua mountains and the Indian Ocean, through the Blaukrantz Pass and Nature Valley. Passing wild and beautiful coastal areas and through numerous all-year-rounds visited resorts we drive to Plettenberg Bay. Today's hike takes us to the Robberg Nature Reserve. This hike is for us one of the most beautiful half-day hikes along the Garden Route.

Day 17: Knysna

- ❖ After a late breakfast we take a boat trip on the Knysna lagoon. The afternoon will be free.

Day 18: Knysna – Oudtshoorn

- ❖ Today we drive to Oudtshoorn in the Little (Klein) Karoo and visit the Cango Cave-System. Large halls gather here for a 1km long passage. Then we visit an ostrich farm. During a guided tour we will learn amazing things about the bird that can't fly. After the tour we enjoy an ostrich steak on the farm.

Day 19: Oudtshoorn – Cape Town

- ❖ Our journey leads us today through the fantastic backdrop of the dry Karoo and then along the coast through Kleinmond, Betty's Bay and Gordons Bay until we reach Cape Town, the oldest European settlement in southern Africa. Cape Town, between mountains and the Atlantic Ocean, is rightly known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. A world of entertainment, recreation and attractions opens up for the visitor. Tonight we will have a stroll through the waterfront.

Day 20: Cape Town: Winelands

- ❖ Today we explore Wine areas of Paarl, Stellenbosch and Franschhoek. We visit some of the old wineries and enjoy the day with a cellar tour & wine tasting and get to know something of the South African way of life. We taste fine cape wines, locally produced cheeses and stroll through Stellenbosch, the second oldest city in South Africa and the pretty French-inspired village of Franschhoek, where we will enjoy a lunch on a wine farm.

 **Day 21: Cape Town: Table Mountain / Robben Island**

- ❖ Today we take the cable car up to the top of the 1,086m High Table Mountain. There we have enough time to enjoy the view in all directions. From here we can see almost the entire peninsula, the city and the Prisoner Island of Robben Island. The afternoon is at your disposal. Recommendation: Boat trip to Prisoner Island known as "Robben Island".

 **Day 22: Cape Town: Peninsula Tour**

- ❖ We leave Cape Town in a southerly direction, driving along the False Bay coastal road to Simons Town to visit the Penguin Colony. We continue our tour to the Cape of Good Hope, where you have time to explore. Walk to the lighthouse or choose the convenient way with the "flying Dutchman" to the highest point of the Cape Peninsula. We leave the nature reserve at the Cape and drive via Kommetjie, Noordhoek and the popular surfer's spot "Long Beach" to Chapman's Peak Drive. Chapman's Peak Drive, this coastal road, known for its impressive route between granite and sandstone, is a feat of engineers. Via Hout Bay, Llandudno, Camps Bay and Clifton and past the millionaire villas we drive back to Cape Town.

 **Day 23: Cape Town: Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden**

- ❖ After a leisurely breakfast we visit the Botanical Garden in Kirstenbosch and afterwards you have the opportunity to do some last shopping tour at the Victoria & Alfred (V/A) Waterfront. Then we make our way to the Airport.

