

# SOUTH AFRICA RAINBOW ROUTE South Africa



17 day small group safari  
(basic accommodation)

Encompassing the highlights of South Africa and its neighbouring kingdoms, this journey is a real treat. Game viewing in the Kruger, Hluhluwe and Addo National Park is followed by four days along the Garden Route and the Cape Winelands. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the Panorama Route, the outstanding Drakensberg Mountains and Tsitsikamma Forest. Cultural encounters also abound with time spent in eSwatini and Zululand, as well as the dramatic Wild Coast and vibrant Cape Town.





## Addo Elephant National Park



### Cost includes:

- transport in a custom-built truck with a maximum of 12 passengers
- services of two registered English-speaking guides
- 16 nights basic accommodation in chalets, guesthouses, lodges and permanent tents with en-suites
- 16 x breakfasts, 12 x lunches, 11 x dinners
- entrance fees to national parks and reserves
- Visits: Panorama Route, Kruger National Park, Malalotja Nature Reserve, Mbabane craft market, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park, Zulu village, Nelson Mandela Capture Site Museum, Drakensberg Mountains, Wild Coast beaches and villages, Addo National Park, Knysna, Tsitsikamma National Park, Storms River Mouth, Hermanus, Stellenbosch winery, Cape Point Nature Reserve, Boulders penguin colony, Table Mountain
- activities listed as included within the itinerary.

### Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- drinks, dining rooms tips, portorage
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- optional meals and excursions

**B - breakfast**

**L - lunch**

**D - dinner**

### Johannesburg to Cape Town

**Accommodation:** basic

**Departs:** selected Saturdays

**Group size:** maximum of 12

**Product code:** CWA17

### Itinerary overview:

- Day 1: South Africa, Kruger National Park - Makuwa Safari Lodge or similar
- Day 2: South Africa, Kruger National Park - Makuwa Safari Lodge or similar
- Day 3: South Africa, Kruger National Park - Kruger Park Rest Camp or similar
- Day 4: eSwatini, eSwatini highlands - Hawane Lodge or similar
- Day 5: Zululand, uKuwela wildlife conservancy - Zululand Lodge or similar
- Day 6: Zululand, uKuwela wildlife conservancy - Zululand Lodge or similar
- Day 7: South Africa, Drakensberg - Lotheni Chalets or similar
- Day 8: South Africa, Drakensberg - Lotheni Chalets or similar
- Day 9: South Africa, Wild Coast - Benmore Lodge or similar
- Day 10: South Africa, Wild Coast - Benmore Lodge or similar
- Day 11: South Africa, Addo N'Park - Addo Elephant Rest Camp or similar
- Day 12: South Africa, Tsitsikamma National Park - Lagoon Inn or similar
- Day 13: South Africa, Tsitsikamma National Park - Lagoon Inn or similar
- Day 14: South Africa, Hermanus - Chesham House or similar
- Day 15: South Africa, Cape Town - Sweetest Guesthouses or similar
- Day 16: South Africa, Cape Town - Sweetest Guesthouses or similar
- Day 17: South Africa, Cape Town - ends

## South Africa Rainbow Route

### Day 1: Greater Kruger National Park - 620km, 8 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

Departing from Johannesburg at 06:30am we head towards Mpumalanga where mountains, panoramic passes, valleys, rivers, waterfalls and forests characterise the landscape. We enjoy the views from God's Window and the Three Rondavels lookouts on the Panorama Route before descending the escarpment to our game lodge on the border of the Greater Kruger National Park. **Makuwa Safari Lodge - twin room with en-suite facilities (LD).**

#### Makuwa Safari Lodge

Located 20 kilometres from the Kruger Orpen Gate, Makuwa Safari Lodge is a bushveld retreat on a private game reserve that bustles with buffalo, plains game and bird activity. Accommodation is in the form of whitewashed houses with thatched roofs and broad patios offering sweeping views of the wilderness and the distant Drakensberg Mountains. Manicured lawns are dotted with acacia, marula and fig trees which surround the lodge, while all around the property untouched bushveld provides a perfect habitat for a wealth of predators, mammals and bird-life.

### Day 2: Greater Kruger National Park - ± 150km, 9 + hours (variable duration due to game viewing)

This morning we head out on a full day game drive within Kruger National Park in our touring vehicle. The establishment of a protected reserve here harks back to 1898 when Paul Kruger, president of the Transvaal Boer Republic, announced the establishment of the Sabie Game Reserve. He declared the reserve to be exempt from hunting, which ensured the park became the wildlife refuge it is today. We spend our day on a game drive inside the park with the chance to encounter abundant wildlife. **Makuwa Safari Lodge - twin room with en-suite facilities (BLD).**

### Day 3: Greater Kruger National Park - ± 100km, variable duration due to game viewing

This morning we take a walk in the lodge's surrounding bush to view the smaller animals and birds that inhabit this region, before returning to the national park for a second game drive in our tour vehicle and an overnight stay within the park. Should you wish to go on safari in an open game-viewing vehicle in the evening you may do so at an additional expense. **Kruger National Park Rest Camp – chalet or pre-erected tents (BLD).**

#### Kruger National Park rest Camp

The Kruger National Park operates a series of rest camps located in the best position for game viewing within the park. Facilities vary but often include lookouts, waterholes and some form of restaurant, bar or communal seating areas.

### Day 4: eSwatini - 200km, 4 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing, border formalities and road conditions

Today we cross the border into the mountainous Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), which is one of three monarchies in Africa and led by King Mswati III. You will explore the traditions and discover the culture of which the Swazis are so proud. Malolotja Nature Reserve in this mountainous kingdom is our next attraction. Renowned for a great variety of habitats from short grassland, to thick riverine scrub, bushveld and moist forest, we explore the reserve on foot to enjoy the scenic mountain views. We relax around a campfire dinner and stay in mountain cabins for the night in this stunning setting. **Hawane Lodge – chalet with en-suite (BLD).**



Touring vehicle







### Hawane Lodge

Hawane Resort is situated in the eSwatini highlands. The 23 thatched luxury en-suite chalets are an inspired blend of traditional Swazi materials and glass panelled front walls creating a combination of warmth and light. Waterways meander through the indigenous landscaped gardens enclosed by a serpentine braided wattle fence. The Taste of Africa restaurant offers African-fusion cuisine from north South Africa and eSwatini.

### Days 5-6: Zululand - 295km, 6 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing, border formalities and lunch

We visit a craft market near the capital Mbabane which has a range of handmade crafts and a local witchdoctor stall. From here we re-enter South Africa and drive to our lodge, which is located on a private game reserve situated on the Msinene Nature Reserve. Once settled-in our local guide will lead us on a walk through the bushveld and riverine vegetation of the Msinene River, bird watching and game tracking. Nyala, hippo and the elusive leopard are all found on the reserve. On our second day we enjoy a game drive in our tour vehicle in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi. This is the oldest game reserve in Africa and is a safe haven to both the endangered black and white rhino. We follow our game viewing with a visit to a local Zulu community where we learn about the modern day life of the Zulu and how it is still influenced by their traditions and tribal past. Relax in the late afternoon with a cold drink while enjoying the views over the reserve from the lodge. **Zululand Lodge – permanent tent with en suite (BLD).**

### Zululand Lodge

Zululand Lodge is a privately owned tented camp on the 800 hectare uKuwela wildlife conservancy north of Hluhluwe town and bordering Phinda Game Reserve, in northern KwaZulu Natal. The lodge is built on a slope with breath taking views of the Msinene River valley and surrounding bushveld. The camp offers nine tastefully decorated en-suite permanent canvas rooms. The elegantly furnished central lodge area allows you to relax in the open-air cushioned lounge area. Venture upstairs to the viewing deck which offers uninterrupted scenery, boasting spectacular sunsets for enjoying sundowners.

### Days 7-8: Drakensberg - 500km, 7 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

Moving further inland, we spend the next two nights in the heart of the Drakensberg Mountains, with a stop en-route at the Nelson Mandela Capture Site Museum to pay our respects to this great man. The park is part of another world heritage site, namely the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. The main features of the park are the Drakensberg Amphitheatre, a rock wall 5 km long by up to 1200 m high, Mont-Aux-Sources peak where the Orange and Tugela rivers have their source, and the 947 m Tugela Falls, the world's second highest waterfall. Time will be spent exploring this scenic area on guided walks. **Lotheni Chalets – chalet with en-suite (BLD).**

### Lotheni Chalets

Lotheni is situated in a remote and secluded part of the southern section of the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. Lying as it does, deep in the scenic Drakensberg range, Lotheni and its picturesque resort offers comfortable and attractive self-catering chalets, cottages and campsites. Lotheni Resort is well known for its surrounding scenery and tranquil atmosphere. It overlooks the clear, tumbling waters of the Lotheni River which provides several attractions for visitors.

## South Africa Rainbow Route

### Days 9 -10: Wild Coast - 600km (day 9), 9 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing and road conditions

The Wild Coast remains a relatively untouched paradise with unspoilt stretches of dramatically beautiful coastline, open spaces and pristine forest areas. We stay overnight in Kei Mouth. The next day is free to explore the area, meet local villagers or spend time at the beach. **Benmore Lodge – twin room with en-suite (BLD).**

#### Benmore Lodge

Benmore Lodge is situated above Kei Mouth, in rugged, steep, bushveld countryside. It nestles in typical Transkei rural scenery with scattered dwellings in the distant rolling Transkei hills. Game viewing features eland, impala, bontebok, kudu, bushbuck, wildebeest, zebra and many others. Benmore Farm, on which Benmore Lodge is situated, is a delight to explore on foot, from a short stroll to the Strelitzia fields to an adventurous circle route on foot and boat via the Kei River to the village of Kei Mouth.

### Day 11: Addo Elephant Park - 350km, 5 + hours driving (variable duration due to game viewing)

Today we continue on to one of South Africa's most popular national parks. A benchmark conservation success, Addo Elephant National Park offers a unique wildlife habitat, famous for the Addo elephants and the remaining population of flightless dung beetle. We spend the afternoon on a game drive in our tour vehicle in search of elephant, black rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard. Additional game drives conducted in open vehicles are available at an extra expense. An evening spent at the floodlit waterhole allows us to watch the nocturnal animals and listen to their calls. **Addo Elephant Rest Camp - chalet with en-suite (BD).**

#### Addo Elephant Rest Camp

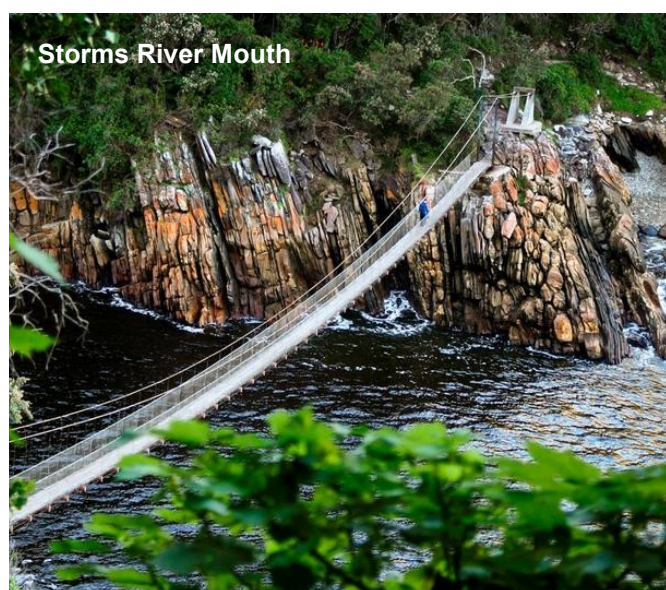
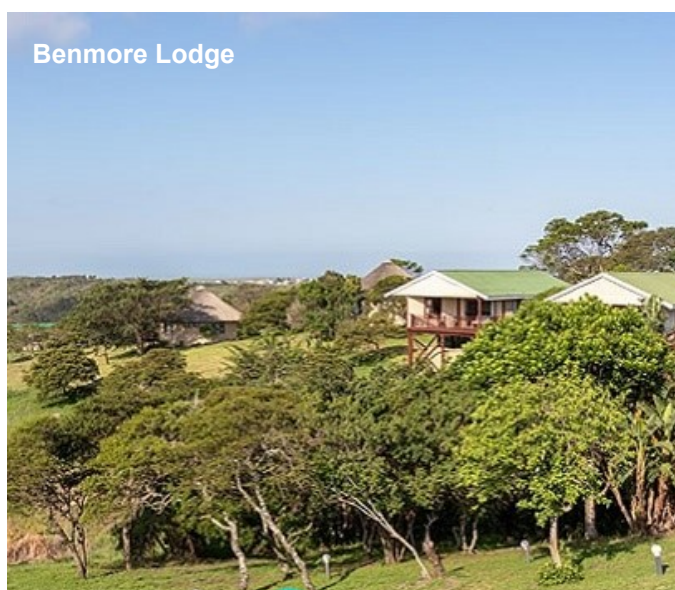
The third largest national park in South Africa, Addo Elephant National Park has expanded to conserve a wide diversity of landscapes, fauna, and flora. Addo covers about 180,000 hectares and includes the Bird and St Croix Island groups. The Addo Main Camp offers travellers a selection of comfortable bungalows and cabins, along with a shop, restaurant, and bar.

### Days 12-13: Tsitsikamma National Park and Knysna - 350km, 5 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing

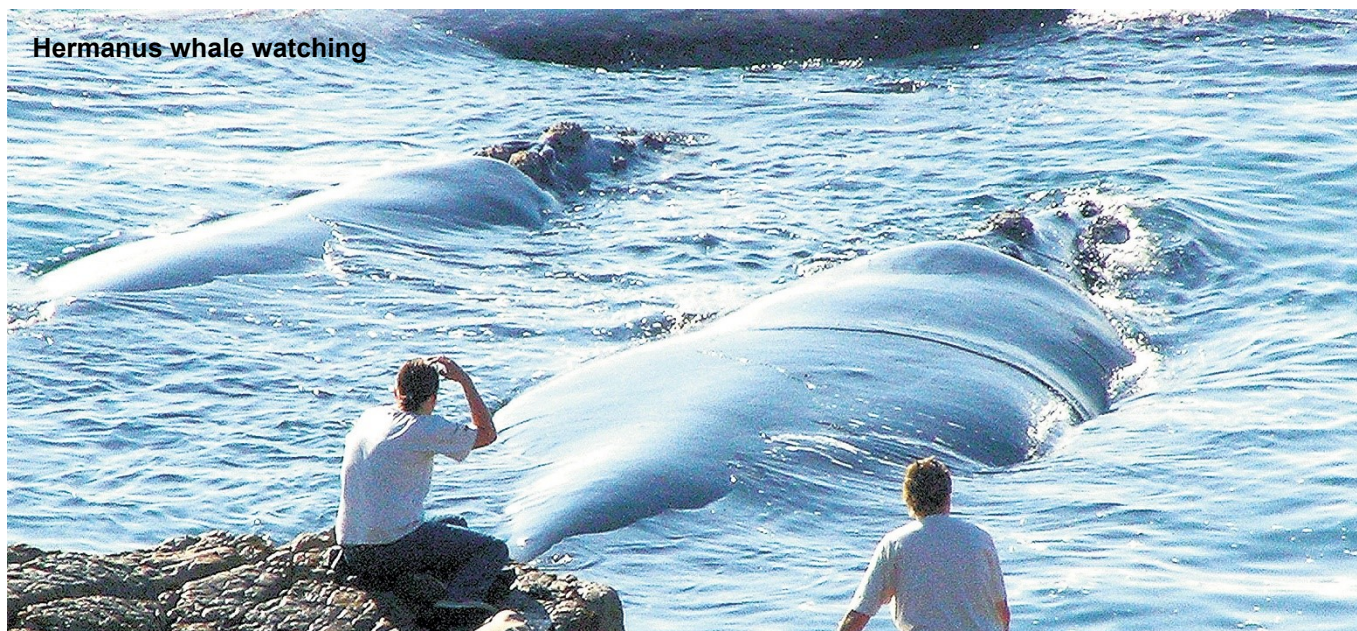
This morning after breakfast our journey takes us to a region of startling beauty along South Africa's southern coastline known as the Garden Route, where we spend two nights in the lagoon front town of Knysna. Our day is spent in the heart of the Tsitsikamma Forest. We take a leisurely hike along one of the short trails, which allows you to explore the coastal bush and rocky shoreline and cross the bridges of Storms River Mouth. Our evenings are spent in Knysna where we can enjoy fresh seafood dinners at the coastal meccas waterfront marina restaurants (own expense). **Lagoona Inn – room with en-suite (B x 2, L x 1).**

#### Lagoona Inn

Lagoona Inn is ideally situated in the picturesque town of Knysna in the Garden Route, South Africa. The ambience is a unique international blend of superb hospitality, cuisine and service. The sparkling lagoon surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains and forests creates a wonderful natural canvas. Every one of the bedrooms and apartments enjoys spectacular panoramic views of Knysna. Accommodation is modern, en-suite, with sliding doors and sun shutters which open onto your private balcony or garden frontage.







#### Day 14: Hermanus - 420km, 6 + hours driving, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

We make our way towards Cape Town with an overnight stop at Hermanus. This picturesque village is full of friendly cafes, craft shops and seafood restaurants with views across the ocean. It offers some of the best land-based whale watching in the world. From June to November Southern Right whales come up from the southern oceans to calve and mate in the shallow waters around the Cape. In whale season we will take a walk along this beautiful coastline. In the summer months we will explore the flowering fynbos in Fernkloof Nature Reserve. We enjoy an evening meal out at a local restaurant (own expense). **Chesham House – room with en-suite (BL).**

#### Chesham House

Chesham House is a comfortable, family style bed and breakfast well known for its informal atmosphere and great location. It has eight rooms and can accommodate up to 16 guests. Chesham House itself is on Millionaires Mile, only a few metres away from the ocean. It lies opposite one of the famous whale watching sites in the region, called "Die Gang" (The Passage). Also close by are several well-known cliff paths, mountain trails and the Hermanus Golf Course.

#### Days 15-16: Cape Town - 150km per day, 2½ + hours driving per day, excluding stops for sightseeing and lunch

En-route to Cape Town we visit the Cape Winelands university town of Stellenbosch, where we enjoy a wine tasting and a cellar tour. Once in Cape Town the afternoon is at leisure. We spend time visiting Cape Point Nature Reserve, home to the Cape of Good Hope, with a stop en route to view the penguin colony at Boulders Beach. On our second day we visit Table Mountain in the morning with the afternoon at leisure to explore the many attractions the 'Mother City' has to offer. **Sweetest Guesthouse - standard room with en-suite (B).**

#### Sweetest Guesthouses

The guesthouses are individually decorated houses located near the popular Sea Point. Tour group passengers may be spread amongst any of the houses, which are within easy walking distance of each other. The tour group will all enjoy breakfast in the same house. All rooms are twin with en suite facilities.

#### Day 17: Cape Town

In the morning we climb Table Mountain, offering panoramic views over Cape Town reaching out into the bay and Robben Island. Having explored the highlights of the 'Rainbow Nation' we take a last look at Cape Town and catch up on curio shopping in the afternoon before the tour ends at 6:00pm at the guest house. **(B).**

#### Passenger information:

- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator. On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability, or if local conditions restrict accessibility.
- The tour operator has the right to use an alternative or replacement vehicle if necessary.
- There is no toilet onboard the overland truck. Convenience stops are made along the way at regular intervals.

## South Africa Rainbow Route

### Passenger information continued:

- Bedding is provided and most accommodation establishments provide towels, however we suggest you bring a small towel for use at the beach or swimming pool.
- Suitcases are unsuitable for overland safaris due to limited space. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive barrel style bags or soft sided bags not exceeding 12kgs.
- This tour includes some long days of road travel which are necessary in order to visit all the listed regions.
- Prices for flights, airport taxes, park fees and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- Those wishing to share a room/tent will be matched with another same-gender traveller. If you don't wish to share, a single supplement applies for a single room or tent.
- Passengers over 65 years are required to complete a medical form, which is assessed by the tour operator to ascertain suitability of the client to the tour.
- It is the responsibility of the client to have all documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates.
- An essential part of this safari is some participation. From carrying your own bag, to packing the truck in the morning – its all part of the adventure. There are some long days with early starts so everyone needs to get involved to make the trip run efficiently. Where the tour leaders provide meals, clients are asked to help (on rotation) with the washing up.

