

LESOTHO & GARDEN ROUTE

Lesotho & South Africa

13 day group tour
(overland camping)



This camping tour explores the highlights from Durban to Cape Town. Hike the Drakensberg mountains, view ancient rock art, visit a Basotho village and game drive in Addo National Park. Then enjoy the Garden Route, including wilderness walks, pristine beaches, limestone caves and wine and chocolate pairing. Accommodation is in self-erected dome tents at campsites with shared ablutions.





Cost includes:

- transport in an custom-built over-land truck with a maximum of 20 passengers
- services of a registered English-speaking driver and guide
- 12 nights in domed tents (some nights are in rooms with en-suites)
- 12 x breakfasts, lunches and dinners
- entrance fees to national parks
- Drakensberg hiking and lookouts, Lesotho village visit and hiking, game drive Addo Elephant National Park, trekking in Tsitsikamma National Park, Storms River Mouth, Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Cango Caves tour, Hermanus whale watching (in season), African penguin colony visit, Stellenbosch chocolate and wine pairing
- still mineral water on board vehicle

Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- meals and drinks not listed
- dining rooms tips
- personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- optional 4WD safaris & excursions

B - breakfast
L - lunch
D - dinner

Durban to Cape Town

Accommodation: self-erected dome tents with shared ablutions

Departs: Wednesdays and selected Sundays

Group size: maximum of 20

Product code: NDC

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: South Africa, Drakensberg - Monks Cowl or The Nest

Day 2: South Africa, Drakensberg - Monks Cowl or The Nest

Day 3: Lesotho, Malealea - Malealea Lodge or similar

Day 4: Lesotho, Malealea - Malealea Lodge or similar

Day 5: South Africa, Graaff-Reinet - Profcon Resort or similar

Day 6: South Africa, Addo N'Park - Kudu Ridge Lodge or similar

Day 7: South Africa, Addo N'Park - Kudu Ridge Lodge or similar

Day 8: South Africa, Tsitsikamma - Tsitsikamma Cottages or similar

Day 9: South Africa, Tsitsikamma - Tsitsikamma Cottages or similar

Day 10: South Africa, Knysna - Gooderson Knysna or similar

Day 11: South Africa, Oudtshoorn - Kleinplaas Holiday Resort or similar

Day 12: South Africa, Hermanus - Windsor Hotel or similar

Day 13: South Africa, Cape Town - ends

Pre-tour accommodation in Durban and post-tour accommodation in Cape Town can be arranged prior to departure on request.

Lesotho & Garden Route - camping

Day 1: Durban, Drakensberg

Depart from South Beach in Durban to explore the scenic wonders of the Drakensberg Mountains. Running the length of the Kwazulu-Natal province, the Ukuhlamba Drakensberg Park is a UNESCO recognised world heritage site. Whether you go by the Zulu name uKhahlamba, meaning 'barrier of spears', or the Afrikaans name Drakensberg, meaning 'dragon mountains', these towering mountains will be our backdrop for the next two nights. On our way we make a short stop in Durban to stretch our legs before continuing to view the scenic Howick Falls and a visit to the nearby site that marked the capture of South Africa's most famous man, Nelson Mandela. **Monks Cowl or The Nest – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (D).**

Day 2: Drakensberg

We set out this morning for a day of hiking to explore the mountains of the Drakensberg, along our way we will have the opportunity to view examples of San rock art with a local guide at Battles Cave. While we encourage everyone to make the most of the day in mountains, we may offer separate options depending on the activity level of the group. With a number of trails available we can ensure that we cater to every need, the most important aim is to ensure everyone enjoys this mountain paradise at their own pace. **Monks Cowl or The Nest – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 3: Lesotho, Malealea

Our journey today begins with a mountain pass and an opportunity to visit a Vulture restaurant where we hope to view these fascinating birds. Our route winds its way through the magnificent cliffs off the Golden Gate National Park before we enter Lesotho in the afternoon, we pass the capital city of Maseru as we continue the climb to our base high amongst the mountain peaks. **Malealea Lodge – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 4: Lesotho, Malealea

We explore the mountains on foot where our hike concludes with a village visit and the opportunity to gain an insight into the local mountain community. The Basotho are famous for their traditional hats, blankets and their sturdy ponies. Basotho ponies are renowned for their sturdy nature. Try an optional pony trek this afternoon to experience this first-hand. **Malealea Lodge – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 5: Graaff-Reinet

Returning to South Africa, we descend the mountains and travel across the Great Karoo. The semi-arid Karoo represents the heartland of rural South Africa and presents a stark contrast to the mountains we leave behind. Our overnight stop is set in the historic town of Graaff-Reinet, the fourth oldest town in the country. We cross the Gariep River today as we journey through the vast countryside of the Karoo. This evening you will have the opportunity to join a sundowner excursion to the Valley of Desolation. This unique valley offers a panoramic view over the town and the wide-open plains stretching out below. (During the winter months, this activity will become a sunrise excursion to the Valley of Desolation the following morning.) **Profcon Resort – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 6: Addo Elephant National Park

Setting course for the coast once again, we pass through the open plains of the Karoo and the wildlife charms of the Addo National Park. Upon arrival in the greater Addo region, we set up camp and head to the national park to enjoy an afternoon game drive in our tour vehicle in search of the famous elephants that call Addo home. **Kudu Ridge Lodge – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**



Drakensberg mountains



Overland truck

Addo Elephant National Park



Day 7: Port Elizabeth, Addo Elephant National Park

This morning we make the short drive to the bay-side city of Port Elizabeth, before heading into the lower regions of Addo Elephant National Park for an afternoon game drive. Recent expansion has seen Addo grow to become the third largest of South Africa's National Parks. The unique vegetation of Addo supports a wide variety of wildlife and we spend the afternoon in search of wildlife. **Kudu Ridge Lodge – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 8: Jeffreys Bay, Tsitsikamma National Park

Setting out early this morning we make a brief visit to the surfing mecca of Jeffreys Bay. Most famous for its great surf waves this little town is also home to a small surfing museum. We then turn west to the Tsitsikamma region where we stay for the next two nights. **Tsitsikamma Cottage or Tube n Axe – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 9: Tsitsikamma National Park

Tsitsikamma National Park is one of South Africa's premier marine reserves and this morning we set out to explore the rugged coastline on foot. Our hike along the Waterfall Trail sees us cover the first section of the Otter Trail. This is not an easy hike and those who prefer a more leisurely option can make use of the boardwalks to the Storms River Mouth. We return after our hike and you will have the opportunity to book the Woodcutters Journey in the afternoon where you experience the uniqueness of the Tsitsikamma biome and learn about the history of the area and its indigenous fauna and flora (own expense). **Tsitsikamma Cottage or Tube n Axe – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 10: Knysna

The garden route is a treasure trove of beautiful beaches, forest walks and an exciting menu of optional adventures. While our morning is set aside for an exploration of Nature's Valley, this beautiful village offers us a chance to enjoy a hike or simply relax on the pristine beaches of the Keurbooms Lagoon. Today offers a number of optional activities. Your guide will assist you with a plan to get the most out of your day. **Gooderson Knysna – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 11: Oudtshoorn

We travel over the Outeniqua Mountains into the Little Karoo to the town of Oudtshoorn. We tour the famous Cango Caves, with their impressive ancient stalagmites and stalactites before we overnight in the ostrich capital of South Africa. **Kleinplaas Holiday Resort – twin dome tent with shared ablutions (BLD).**

Day 12: Hermanus

Travelling through the valley of the Klein Karoo, we follow the winding tarmac of Route 62. Road trips in South Africa are an exploration of the rural highlights that dot the lesser known byways of the land. No journey would be complete without sampling the offerings of a "Padstal" along the way. These small farm stalls offer a selection of homemade treats and bakes and are an important cog in the economies of rural towns. **Windsor Hotel – room with en-suite (BLD).**

Day 13: Cape Town

Made up of a collection of villages, farms, rivers, bays, coves and valleys, the Cape whale coast is a pristine stretch of the South African coastline which runs from the town of Rooiels for roughly 150km, to the east. Beginning early, we will have a short time to stroll along the boardwalk in Hermanus in search of the southern right whales that frequent the shores in the months of July to November.

Lesotho & Garden Route - camping

Next, we stop at the largest breeding colony of the African Penguin, Stony Point Nature Reserve, before travelling along the coast to a wine farm in the Stellenbosch region to sample pairings of chocolates and wine. Our journey comes to an end upon arrival in mother city of Cape Town. **(BL)**.

Important 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 campsites and 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 air-conditioning or toilet onboard the overland truck. Convenience stops are made along the way at regular intervals.
- A mattress is provided, however passengers must bring their own sleeping bag and towels.
- Meals are prepared by the crew with assistance from passengers on washing-up duties .
- 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 15kgs.
- 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.
- A single supplement is not compulsory if you are happy to share with a fellow passenger, however a single supplement does apply if you want your own tent.
- Some participation is required on tour with camp chores, eg taking turns to assist with washing-up duties, putting up and taking down your tent and loading your bags into the vehicle.
- Children between 16 – 18 years are accepted on this tour but they must be accompanied by an adult. Children between 8 – 16 years are only able to travel on a request basis. Children under 12 years of age are not permitted on several activities included in the itinerary.
- Passengers over 65 years are required to complete a medical form, which is then assessed by the tour operator to ascertain suitability of the client to the tour.

