

# SAMPLE ITINERARY



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## 6 Day Garden Route Tour (Code: ES6GRT)

### Day 1: Cape Town – Oudtshoorn

We depart from Cape Town/Stellenbosch early on Monday morning. We travel to Oudtshoorn in the Little Karoo, known as the Ostrich Capital of the World, via the spectacular Route 62, which is South Africa's longest wine route. We will have a lovely lunch and wine tasting at a local winery, before experiencing the subterranean beauty of the Cango Caves on a guided adventure tour.

Included meals:	Dinner
Included activities:	Cango Caves adventure tour Local wine tasting
Travel route, distance & time:	Cape Town – Barrydale – Oudtshoorn: +/- 422km +/- 5 hours
Overnight:	Oudtshoorn

### Day 2: Oudtshoorn – Knysna – Sedgefield

After breakfast we head over the marvellous Outeniqua Mountain pass where we will explore Wilderness National Park with some canoes. Enjoy a paddle up the Touw River through indigenous forest, enjoying the abundance of birdlife. After about 40 minutes, the canoes will be left for a 2km hike along a boardwalk, which will take us to a lovely waterfall and rock pools. After the canoeing, we will head to the famous town of Knysna via the lavish Lake District of the Garden Route. This up-market little town is filled with curios, restaurants and a waterfront, where you will be able to relax and do some shopping. After Knysna we will head to the Knysna Heads viewpoint for some magnificent views over Knysna River estuary and the Indian Ocean. Late afternoon you can spend exploring Sedgefield with its expansive views and beaches.

Included meals:	Breakfast and dinner
Included activities:	Canoeing and hiking in Wilderness National Park
Travel route, distance & time:	Oudtshoorn – Wilderness – Knysna – Sedgefield: +/- 144 km +/- 2 hours
Overnight:	Sedgefield

### Day 3: Sedgefield- Tsitsikamma- Addo

After breakfast, off to Tsitsikamma National Park. En route we will stop at Bloukrans Bridge to view the world's highest bungee jump bridge (216 meters). There is plenty of time for the adventure seekers among you to test their courage. The late morning will be spent in Tsitsikamma National Park with its unique combination of indigenous forest and beautiful Indian Ocean coastline. The park has a wide choice of activities for all, including hiking, crossing a suspension bridge and swimming. Early afternoon we will leave the Garden Route for Big 5 country, Addo.

Included meals:	Breakfast and dinner
Included activities:	Entrance to Tsitsikamma National Park
Optional activities:	216 M Bloukrans bungee jump, R1000 Treetop canopy tour, R660
Travel route, distance & time:	Sedgefield – Tsitsikamma – Addo area: +/- 320km +/- 4.5 hours
Overnight:	Avoca River Cabins, Addo area

#### Day 4: Addo – Wilderness/Mossel Bay

We will spend the morning exploring Addo Elephant National Park. We will spend up to 2-3 hours exploring the 28,000 hectare National reserve with approximately 600 elephant and some Cape buffalo, lion, black rhino, warthog, zebra, eland, kudu, hartebeest and many more animals. After an exciting morning of game viewing we will drive back to the heart of the Garden Route where we will overnight in Wilderness or Mossel Bay.

Included meals:	None
Included activities:	Entrance and 2-3 hour drive with tour vehicle through Addo Elephant National Park
Optional activities:	2-hour open vehicle game drive with Addo field guide, R370
Travel route, distance & time:	Addo – Port Elizabeth – Wilderness/Mossel Bay: +/- 415 km +/- 5 hours
Overnight:	Wilderness/Mossel Bay

#### Day 5: Wilderness /Mossel Bay – Cape Agulhas

After breakfast we will stop in Mossel Bay to spend some time on the spectacular beaches, hike the Cape St. Blaize trail along the cliffs overlooking the Indian Ocean, and visit the famous Diaz Museum complex, commemorating the first known European exploration around the tip of Africa. The more adventurous can try a 10,000 foot tandem skydive or sandboarding on the longest dune-ride in South Africa. In the afternoon we will drive on to Cape Agulhas, the most southern tip of Africa, where we visit a viewpoint known as the “real” place where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet.

Included meals:	Breakfast and Dinner
Included activities:	Entrance and 2-3 hour drive with tour vehicle through Addo Elephant National Park
Optional activities:	10,000 foot tandem skydive, R3000 (extra R600 for video) Sand boarding the longest dune-ride in South Africa, R500
Travel route, distance & time:	Wilderness/Mossel Bay – Cape Agulhas: +/- 338 km +/- 3.5 hours
Overnight:	Cape Agulhas/Struisbaai

#### Day 6: Cape Agulhas – Hermanus – Cape Town

We depart from Cape Agulhas after breakfast. We will visit the seaside resort town of Hermanus, famous for hundreds of Southern Right Whales during the whale season (July to November) and many shops, restaurants and markets. (Shark cage diving clients will be dropped off on Saturday morning and will miss the second half of the last day which includes a visit to the African Penguin Colony and Hermanus.) We finish off on the scenic coastal road, stopping at Betties Bay to view a colony of endangered African penguins.

Included meals:	Breakfast
Included activities:	Penguins at Betties Bay
Optional activities:	Whale watching boat trip (in season, July- November), R800 Shark Cage Diving R2380
Travel route, distance & time:	Cape Agulhas – Hermanus – Cape Town: +/- 248 km +/- 3 hours

## ROUTES

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*Please note that this tour can operate in two different orders, as described below. The routes are called the Overberg Route and the Klein Karoo Route. Both routes include the exact same destinations and attractions, but are conducted in a different order to avoid overbooking the accommodation establishments.*

- Day 1: Cape Town – Hermanus – Cape Agulhas
- Day 2: Cape Agulhas – Oudtshoorn
- Day 3: Oudtshoorn – Knysna – Sedgefield
- Day 4: Sedgefield- Tsitsikamma- Addo
- Day 5: Addo – Wilderness/Mossel Bay
- Day 6: Wilderness /Mossel Bay- Cape Town

## INCLUDED

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- ✓ Professional tour guide/ driver
- ✓ Pick up and drop off
- ✓ Air-conditioned transport
- ✓ 5 nights accommodation (backpacker or guesthouse options)
- ✓ Dinners and breakfasts (except Day 4)
- ✓ Local wine tasting
- ✓ Cango Caves adventure tour
- ✓ Canoeing and hiking in Wilderness National Park
- ✓ Game viewing safari in Addo Elephant National Park
- ✓ Hiking in Tsitsikamma National Park

## EXCLUDED

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- ✗ Drinks and meals not specified
- ✗ Lunches

## OPTIONAL EXTRA'S

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- Bloukrans Bungy (216m) (from R1000)
- Tree-top canopy tour (from R650)
- 2-hour additional Addo game drive (open vehicle, early morning) (from R370)
- Tandem sky diving (10,000 feet) \*R600 extra for photos & video (from R3000)
- Sand boarding (from R500)
- Shark cage diving (From R2380) - *Shark cage diving clients will be dropped off on Saturday morning at the shark diving offices for their dive. This is where they will bid farewell to the rest of the group as the shark company will be the one to transfer them back to Cape Town in the late afternoon. They will therefore miss the second half of the last day.*
- Whale watching boat trip (in-season, July - November) (from R800)
- We try to keep this updated but prices may change without notice.

## TOUR NOTES, TERMS & CONDITIONS

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### Pick up and drop off

We will pick you up on Monday at the location of your choice in Cape Town central (central business district, Camps Bay, Sea Point, Green Point, Observatory, Rondebosch), the airport, or Stellenbosch. Unfortunately we cannot pick up in areas further from the city, such as Hout Bay, Muizenberg, Constantia, Bloubergstrand, or Milnerton. Please contact us if you need to arrange a central meeting point outside of our pick up areas – we would be glad to help you arrange a taxi.

Pick up time is generally between 6:00 – 8:00 am in Cape Town, and around 8:30 in Stellenbosch. We will get in touch with you the weekend before your tour to arrange a specific pick up time. Please allow 15 minutes before an after your designated pickup time, as Monday morning traffic can be unpredictable!

Should a flight delay cause you to miss your pick up, contact us and we will arrange for you to meet up with the group at an additional charge. Unfortunately, we cannot be held liable for travel delays. Your guide will wait for up to 15 minutes after your arranged pick up time, but after that will depart out of fairness to the rest of the guests.

We will drop you off at the end of tour at the same locations (Cape Town central, the airport, or Stellenbosch). Tours typically return between 5:00 – 8:00pm on Saturday evening. Please contact us before booking outward flights on Saturday evening.

## Accommodation

We will arrange all accommodation along the way, at locations we have selected over the years for their cleanliness, unique setting, and atmosphere. Guests have a choice of backpackers lodges, in which mixed dorm rooms (ranging in size from 4-12 beds), private rooms, and private en suite rooms are available; or guesthouses, in which all rooms are private en suite. Single, double, and twin rooms are available at both the backpackers and guesthouses. All bedding and towels will be provided. Please note that heating and air conditioning is not standard in the backpackers or the guesthouses (because it is generally not necessary in South Africa). Please ask for a fan or for extra blankets if you need them!

Backpackers have more of a social vibe, and are better for younger clients looking for a bit of atmosphere. They usually have a bar or bonfire area. Although backpackers offer a budget price, the standard of backpackers in South Africa is generally very high. Guesthouses are a more private, quieter, luxurious experience. \*On Day 4 of tour, both backpackers and guesthouse clients stay in the same location – a working citrus farm near Addo. This is a unique location, which isn't really a backpacker or guesthouse, but we feel is a special experience worth having.

## Internet access

Wi-Fi is generally available at most accommodation locations in the common areas (not necessarily in the bedrooms).

## Luggage

We have space for each passenger to have one suitcase and one "carry-on"-sized piece of luggage – a laptop bag, backpack, or similar. Suitcase size is limited to the dimension of 67cm (26in) by 45cm (18in), and carry on is limited to the dimension of 48cm (19in) by 32cm (13in). There are generally not porters or staff available to assist with luggage – your luggage should be of a size and weight you can comfortably manage yourself. Hard or soft suitcases are fine. If you have more or bigger luggage than this, please contact us in advance to make alternative arrangements, as our luggage trailers are specifically designed to fit one suitcase per person, not exceeding above dimensions.

## Vehicles

The vehicles that we will be touring in are fully air-conditioned and can comfortably seat 8 adults including driver/guide or 14 adults including driver/guide. The seats in our 14-seater vans are comparable in size to an airplane seat – if you are uncomfortable in that set up, please enquire about a private tour, so we can arrange a different vehicle. All vehicles have valid operating licences to convey paying customers.

## Tour style

This is an active tour. It is best suited towards those who like to be on the move, and can comfortably walk, carry luggage, get in and out of the vehicle frequently, etc. The group is almost always a mix between backpackers and guesthouse clients, and ages can range from 18 to...we don't set an upper age limit, but generally about 65. We can accept guests as young as 14 on group tours, as long as they are traveling with a parent or legal guardian. Our average age is 33. Our groups range between 4-12 people, with most guests hailing from Europe, America, Canada, and Australia. The group tour is perfect for the solo traveller, small groups of friends, or couples, as you will have the opportunity to travel with a diverse group of people from all over the world.

## Meals

We are "foodies", and good food is an important part of our tour. Breakfasts are included every day except Day 4, and typically include fruit, muesli, eggs, toast, yogurt, and cereals. Dinners are also included every day except Day 4, and are traditional South African meals, such as potjie (stew) and braai (barbeque). Please advise us of any special dietary requirements in advance. We are able to cater for vegetarian diets, but not strict gluten-free, lactose-free, vegan or halal diets. Lunch and drinks are on guests' own account. Dinners for all clients, including those staying at the guesthouse, usually take place at the backpackers.

## General etiquette

All tours are conducted in English. We ask that while you are in the group, you make an effort to speak English, so that everyone can be included in the conversation.

Attitude is important – "one rotten apple can spoil the bunch". We ask that you bring a positive, interactive, and easy-going spirit to tour, to make it a good experience for all. Our tours run on a tight schedule. Please do your best to be on time, all the time.

## Guides

All guides are well trained, experienced and South African born. By law we are required to use CATHSSETA registered and qualified guides with professional drivers licences. The company makes use of only the best guides that will make sure you get a fun, relaxing, informative and safe trip.

## Photography

Most guests come away with incredible photos of their week, and share those photos among the group. We like to use tour photos in social media and promotional materials. If you do not wish for your photo or image to be used in this way, please let us know in advance.

## Attire

Please wear clothes that you are comfortable in. This tour includes several hikes and walks, so comfortable shoes are essential. No special hiking boots are needed. A small backpack would be useful on the hike. A rain jacket is a good idea, as well as a sweater or jacket for the cool evenings by the sea. Bring a hat; the African sun can be intense! If you plan on participating in the early morning Addo game drive, bring a hat & gloves – the open game-viewing vehicle can be quite chilly in winter.

## Malaria

Our tours take place in a malaria-free area, so no anti-malaria precautions are necessary. You are however advised to bring insect repellent during summer.

## Weather

The Garden Route has a Mediterranean climate, which is pleasant to visit all year round. It gets rainfall throughout the year, mostly at night (you can imagine why it's called the Garden Route!) Temperatures in winter range between 6-21 degrees C, and summer temperatures range between 17-30 degrees C. This tour also goes into the Eastern Cape and the Little Karoo, where temperatures can get as high as 40 C in summer.

## Insurance

It is strongly recommended that you hold comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard you against possible unforeseen emergency and theft. The company has comprehensive passenger and public liability insurance, but this does not cover the theft of guests' personal belongings.

## Exclusion of liability

The company, or its employees and agents shall not be responsible for and shall be exempt from any liability in respect of loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or inconvenience to any person or their luggage or other personal property under any circumstances whatsoever whilst on tour.

## Optional activities

The optional activities are not included in your tour because these are activities that not everybody would like to do! Optional activities are a great way to add more adventure to your experience. Our tours are designed so that it is not necessary to do the optional activities to have a good time – there are always plenty of things to see & do.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

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It takes time and resources to schedule activities and staffing when arranging your activity/tour. The following cancellation fees will apply should you wish to cancel. Please note we will charge a cancellation fee of 20% on total value of booking if you should cancel 31+ days before activity/tour:

- 31+ days prior to your activity/ tour departure – refund less 20% cancellation fee of total value of booking.
- 0-30 days prior to your activity/ tour departure – no refund whatsoever, full amount will be payable.
- No refunds will be given by the company for no-shows or late arrivals.
- No refunds will be granted should you not complete the activity/ tour.