



## ET1: South African Surprise Escorted Tour (14 nights)

[Highlights: Kruger Park, Swaziland, St Lucia, Durban, Drakensberg, Garden Route, Cape Town]



### TOUR SUMMARY:

<b>No of days / nights:</b>	15 / 14
<b>Tour starts:</b>	Johannesburg
<b>Tour ends:</b>	Cape Town
<b>Includes:</b>	Tour in air-conditioned mini or midi buses, English-speaking guide
<b>Accommodation:</b>	Standard
<b>Best time to visit:</b>	September - May
<b>Set departures:</b>	Approx. 2 departures a month over High season (September to April, excl. December) and one departure per month over Low Season (May to August)

### DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY:

#### Day 1 (Sun) Johannesburg

Upon arrival you will be met and assisted to your shuttle transfer service to the hotel. You are under own arrangements until 19h00 when we all meet at the hotel reception for a briefing on the tour and a chance to meet up with your fellow travellers. *Accommodation: Protea Hotel OR Tambo or similar*

#### Day 2 (Mon) Johannesburg / Hazyview (BB, BD)

This morning we leave for Mpumalanga, dropping several hundred feet into the lush subtropical region of the Lowveld. Travel along the circular Panorama Route via Graskop, visiting the view sites of the Blyde River Canyon, one of the natural wonders of Africa; gasp at the glory of God's Window, with a boundless view of mountains and fertile plains and finally a visit to Bourke's Luck Potholes before heading to Hazyview. *Accommodation: Hippo Hollow Country Estate or similar*

#### Day 3 (Tue) Kruger National Park (PB)

A bright and early start to the day in order to enjoy the wonders of exploring the Kruger National Park in your closed vehicle. Enter the park and keep a lookout for the wonderful flora and bird life that abounds. The Kruger National Park is an internationally renowned game reserve of nearly 2 million hectares and supports the largest variety of wildlife species on the African continent. Spend the day in search of game before returning to your hotel. *Accommodation: Hippo Hollow Country Estate or similar. Optional full day open safari vehicle game drive in Kruger National Park available.*

#### Day 4 (Wed) Hazyview / Swaziland (BB)

This morning after breakfast, check out and depart on your journey to Swaziland. We proceed south through to Malalane and then onto Swaziland. Visit the Swazi National Museum before arriving at the hotel for overnight stay. *Accommodation: Lugogo Sun or similar*

#### Day 5 (Thu) Swaziland / St Lucia and surrounds (BB)

This morning we journey through Swaziland into Zululand stopping en route to bargain for curios and souvenirs at the roadside markets. Our journey continues into the Kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal where ancient traditions and modern cultures of both Zulu and Settler have combined into a vibrant society living in peace and harmony. The World Heritage Site of St Lucia offers the opportunity of sighting many hippos, crocodile and bird life. *Accommodation: Protea Hotel Umfolozi or similar. Guests have the option to purchase an exciting afternoon open safari vehicle game drive in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park available.*

#### Day 6 (Fri) St Lucia and surrounds / Durban (BB, D)

Guests have the option to lie in or take an optional morning open safari game drive (own account) before heading off later in the morning towards Durban. We visit the Botanic Gardens and continue with a city centre orientation tour before arriving at our hotel late afternoon. *Accommodation: Docklands Hotel or similar. Optional morning St Lucia Boat Cruise available.*

## DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY CONT'D:

### **Day 7 (Sat) Durban / Drakensberg (BB, BD)**

Today we head into the majestic Southern Drakensberg Mountains. We proceed on a visit to the 300 feet Howick Falls, continuing through the Southern Midlands Meander Route, arriving at our hotel mid afternoon. Your afternoon is at leisure to soak up the surroundings, or go fishing, hiking and even horse riding in clean mountain air. *Accommodation: Drakensberg Gardens Hotel or similar*

### **Day 8 (Sun) Drakensberg (BB, BD)**

Full day at leisure to soak up the surroundings of the magnificent Southern Drakensberg Mountains. *Accommodation: Drakensberg Gardens Hotel or similar. Optional 4x4 Adventure tour up Sani Pass and into Lesotho available (passport and light jacket required).*

### **Day 9 (Mon) Drakensberg / East London (BB)**

This morning we depart and continue south to East London. En route we first stop at Umtata to visit the area where our most famous citizen, Nelson Mandela, was born and grew up. After visiting the museum dedicated to the life and achievements of this incredible man, we continue and arrive late afternoon in East London, the only river port in Southern Africa. Check in for your overnight accommodation. *Accommodation: The Kennaway Hotel or similar*

### **Day 10 (Tue) Port Elizabeth (BB)**

After breakfast, check out and travel through East London for a short orientation tour. Continue through 'Settler Country' via Port Alfred towards Grahamstown. Visit the 1820 Settler Memorial before continuing onto Port Elizabeth. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Port Elizabeth's beaches are magnificent and justifiably world famous. *Accommodation: The Paxton Hotel or similar*

### **Day 11 (Wed) Port Elizabeth / Knysna (BB)**

Today our journey continues towards the Cape. Visit the Tsitsikamma Forest, which provides scenic walking opportunities. A short walk to the Storms River Mouth offers some magnificent views of the gorge and river below. Arrive in Knysna late afternoon for check in at our hotel, our base for the next 2 nights. *Accommodation: Knysna Hollow Country Estate or similar*

### **Day 12 (Thu) Oudtshoorn (BB, D)**

After breakfast, we travel inland over the spectacular Outeniqua Pass to Oudtshoorn, known as the 'feather capital of the world' because of its ostrich industry. Visit the famous Cango Caves and an Ostrich Farm where you have the opportunity of riding one of these giant birds. Return to Knysna for overnight. *Accommodation: Knysna Hollow Country Estate or similar*

### **Day 13 (Fri) Knysna / Cape Town (BB)**

Today's journey ends in Cape Town. On the way we stop off in Mossel Bay to visit the famous Post Office Tree, the Bartholomeus Diaz Museum and Shell Museum. We drive via Swellendam, Worcester and through the Huguenot Tunnel before arriving in Cape Town in the late afternoon. *Accommodation: Protea Hotel Sea Point or similar*

### **Day 14 (Sat) Cape Town (BB)**

Enjoy a day of leisure in the 'Mother City' and a visit to the V&A Waterfront is recommended. *Accommodation: Protea Hotel Sea Point or similar. Optional full day Winelands or Peninsula tour is available.*

### **Day 15 (Sun) Checkout (BB)**

This morning after breakfast, check out of the hotel by 11h00 after which the remainder of the day will be under your own arrangements.

