

SOUTH AFRICA

JANUARY 2026



Day 0 – Sat, 17 Jan – Cape Town - arrival

Arrive in Cape Town (CPT). Wide variety of airlines have regular schedules (mostly overnight to arrive in the morning), directly or via Johannesburg (JNB) (easy, affordable and plentiful domestic connections. All local airlines are reliable if you are not travelling on tight connections):

Air France, KLM, Lufthansa, Swiss, BA, Virgin, Emirates, Turkish, Ethiopian, Kenya-Airways, Cathy Pacific, United, Delta and a few smaller ones.

Grab a SIM card at the airport. Cheap and easy. Can recharge data on the go.

Explore the [V&A Waterfront](#) in the afternoon and evening on your own if you want.

Overnight: Central Cape Town

*** TRIP STARTS ***

Day 1 – Sun, 18 Jan – Cape Town – high places

Cable car up [Table Mountain](#) in the morning (this may be swapped out to another day depending on wind, which is commonly strong in the summer, resulting in cable car services being suspended).

Afternoon visit the world-famous and elaborate [Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens](#), as well as [Rhodes Memorial](#) on the way back home for some spectacular photos

Overnight: Central Cape Town

Day 2 – Mon, 19 Jan – Cape Town – sun and sea

Leisurely drive South down the breathtakingly beautiful [Chapman's Peak Drive](#) on the Western Peninsula to [Hout Bay](#), and onwards to [Cape Point](#), which is popularly the point where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet.

Return via Simon's Town, visiting the [Boulder's Beach Penguin Reserve](#) on the way. Late lunch in Fish Hoek. Evening at leisure at [V&A Waterfront](#).

Overnight: Central Cape Town

Day 3 – Tue, 20 Jan – Robben Island and Cape Malay history

Catch the ferry across to [Robben Island](#), where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, and do a tour of the prison facilities.

Afternoon [Bo-Kaap](#) and [Cape Malay](#) food experience.

Drive to the charming university town of Stellenbosch to position the cars ready for a drunken drive-free day the next morning.

Overnight: Stellenbosch

Day 4 – Wed, 21 Jan – Franschhoek – wine

Visit the Winelands (focusing on the stunningly beautiful [Franschhoek](#) area) by bus. Using the [Wine Tram](#), we visit several wine farms, tasting and eating along the way.

Alternative activities will be available for those who do not wish to do winetasting.

Overnight: Stellenbosch

Day 5 – Thu, 22 Jan – Overberg - beach

Optional early morning hike in [Jonkershoek Nature Reserve](#) enjoying the fresh air and vistas.

Late morning, we check out and make our way to the [Hemel and Aarde](#) (Heaven and Earth) valley close to Hermanus, for lunch and a further bit of wine sipping.

Visit the lazy seaside village of [Hermanus](#).

Late afternoon beach and waves, with some snorkeling opportunities. Drive out to Gansbaai for dinner.

Overnight: Gansbaai

Day 6 – Fri, 23 Jan – Gansbaai – thrill

Early morning [shark cage diving](#) for those who want, also [slow horseback riding](#) available for those who prefer something less “exciting”.

Note: while shark sightings are quite likely, it is not guaranteed, and trips out to sea may be cancelled due to unfavourable weather.

Afternoon after lunch, drive out to [Cape Agulhas](#), which is the real Southernmost point of Africa for some Instagram photos.

Overnight: Gansbaai

Day 7 – Sat, 24 Jan – Hermanus and Calitzdorp

Saturday mornings in Hermanus is craft market day, spend some time and brunch around the marketplace for cool goodies and souvenirs.

Drive out into the semi-desert "Small Karoo" region to the Port wine capital of South Africa, Calitzdorp.

Overnight: Calitzdorp

Day 8 – Sun, 25 Jan – Oudtshoorn – wildlife and caves

Morning safari and giraffe walk, seeing a variety of African game (not the Big 5 – future trip), but still some awesome animals. Afterwards some driving around in the area to enjoy stunning views.

Visit the famous [Cango Caves](#), followed by a crocodile farm and ostrich farm.

Overnight: Calitzdorp

Day 9 – Mon, 26 Jan – Sutherland

Early morning [meerkat reserve](#) visit to see how these little creatures operate, followed by some port tasting around Calitzdorp and stock up for the evening at the telescope

After an early brunch/lunch, we take a 4 hour drive out to the [desert town Sutherland](#), which houses the biggest telescope in the Southern hemisphere (and is also the coldest place in South Africa in the winter).

Stargazing over dinner with port wine.



Overnight: Sutherland

Day 10 – Tue, 27 Jan – Sutherland

Visit the world-famous [SALT Observatory complex \(https://www.salt.ac.za/\)](https://www.salt.ac.za/) for an academic tour of the telescopes.

Afternoon visit to the planetarium in town and some more BBQ and stargazing in the evening.

Overnight: Sutherland

Day 11 – Wed, 28 Jan – Sandton (for Johannesburg extension)

Head back to Cape Town via [Matjiesfontein](#) (a ghost town) with lunch on the way and possibly a visit to [Butterfly world](#) if we have time.

Off to the airport for evening flights out or stay longer on your own. Many cool places within 3 hours self-drive from Cape Town - recommendations available if you need.

***** MAIN TOUR ENDS *****

Johannesburg extension

Book on www.flysafair.com, one of the following three flights (in order of preference): FA124 at 17:35, FA807 at 17:50 or FA217 at 18:05 (or other flights that arrive in Johannesburg between 19:30 and 20:00. Be careful of SAA – domestic flights may have 1 or 2 hours delay at times).

Overnight: Sandton

Day 12 – Thu, 29 Jan – Colonial legacy

Visit [Apartheid Museum](#) and Tour of [SOWETO](#) (South-Western Township).

Visit [Gold Reef City](#) to discover the early gold exploration history of Johannesburg, including an underground visit of a gold mine and a gold bar pouring.

Overnight: Sandton

Day 13 – Fri, 30 Jan – Archaeology

[Cradle of Humankind](#) and [Sterkfontein Caves](#) with lunch at the famous Carnivore restaurant (South African version of Churrascaria).

Overnight: Sandton

Day 14 – Sat, 31 Jan - Pretoria

Visit the [Voortrekker monument](#), erected in memory of the pioneers who expanded into the interior of South Africa from Cape Town (comparable to the expeditions into Western USA).

Visit the [Government Union](#) building and gardens.

Head back to Johannesburg for some final souvenir shopping and then back to the airport for your flight out in the evening.

***** SOUTH AFRICA ENDS *****

Nigeria extension

If continuing onwards to Nigeria (flying out on Sunday, 1 February), or you just want to stay longer and put off going back to winter, stay another night.

Overnight: Sandton