14-Night Gourmet and Garden Tour of "The Fair Cape"

NOVEMBER

Celebrate fourteen days of lions, wine and roses! A second Spring for the year in the richest floral kingdom of the world, South Africa.

Join us for a garden safari of the senses! Gardens that are a feast for the eyes; gourmet and local food to make your taste buds water; exquisite wines and a wildlife safari – shoot the Big-5 with your camera!

Highlights:

During your 10-nights in the "fairest" Cape, expert local guides will take you through some of the finest gardens in the world; Kirstenbosch, Vergelegen, Babylonstoren, Rustenburg, and some smaller private gardens, and a guided tour of the "Fynbos" (fine bush) of the Cape. While in Cape Town, you'll enjoy ocean views from the top of Table Mountain, a gourmet tour through the Mother City sampling local foods, a scenic Cape Point drive and a visit to the penguin sanctuary at Boulders. Visit the stunning winelands of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, where some of the world's best wines and cuisine can be found. A drive over the mountains once again brings you to the Cape coast which at this time of the year will afford some whale watching. After bidding farewell to the Fair Cape, a flight up to the eastern Kruger National Park brings on a Big-5 safari; spend the next few days in the bush.

Included in the cost of the tour:

- All accommodation in 4-star boutique hotels and lodges on a bed and breakfast basis
- All land transport and domestic flights within South Africa
- Entries to all historical sites, gardens and prescribed excursions as listed in the itinerary
- Lunch on 13 days, three of which are gourmet lunches
- Gourmet Dinner on 6 evenings
- Tips for guides and restaurants included

This is an intimate and personalized tour, limited to a maximum of 12 guests only (minimum of 6 guests). If you're keen on joining us on this exciting trip, please contact Denise Best for availability and a booking form. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the tour.



GARDEN-GOURMET-WINE-SAFARI TOUR ITINERARY

Flight departure from the US to Johannesburg, South Africa

DAY 1

Arrive into Johannesburg International Airport. Overnight at your airport hotel.

DAY 2 to 5, CAPE TOWN

An early flight departure from Johannesburg to Cape Town, with four days in Cape Town.

During your stay in Cape Town, you will visit the following sights:

- The world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with a private guide.
- A wine tasting at Groot Constantia, the oldest wine farm in South Africa, dating back to 1685.
- Experience some of the best views in the world from the top of Table Mountain, accessed by cable car. For the more
 adventurous and active guest, you have an option to do a hike to the top of Table Mountain, taking in some
 dramatic views along the way whilst experiencing the indigenous flora all around you. Descend by cable car after
 having explored the top of the mountain.
- A private guided tour on foot of Cape Town city center, focused on the culture and sampling the amazing foods that define this rainbow nation.
- A full day peninsula tour through Hout Bay, Cape Point, and Boulders Penguin Sanctuary and punctuated with lunch at a famous harbor restaurant.
- Guided tour of Cape Town's viewpoints of Signal Hill and Lions Head and time to visit the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront shopping district.
- There is also an option to visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated, which can be arranged separately from this itinerary.

DAY 6 and 7, SOMERSET WEST

We say farewell to Cape Town to make our way to Stellenbosch to visit the gardens and wine estate of Rustenburg. An afternoon olive oil tasting at the Morgenster Wine Estate, brings you to your next two nights in Somerset West.

Your second day in Somerset West includes a visit to Vergelegen Wine Estate, one of the oldest wine estates in the country, for a wine and garden tour and a picnic of note under the 300-year old camphor trees.

DAY 8 and 9, CAPE AGULHAS

An easy drive to Hermanus, where the whale crier will alert you to whales coming into the bay and harbor. You'll have the opportunity of seeing Southern Right Wales bringing their young into the bay right in front of your eyes. After lunch we'll make our way through the quaint villages of Napier and Bredasdorp toward Cape Agulhus, the southern-most tip of Africa! Where you'll overnight for two nights with gourmet dinner each night.

On your second day in the region, you'll be taken on a private guided tour of the indigenous flora called "Fynbos" (or fine bush) in the De Hoop nature reserve.

SOUTH AFRICAN GARDEN TOURS - sample itineraries



GARDEN-GOURMET-WINE-SAFARI TOUR ITINERARY (Cont)

DAY 10 and 11, FRANSCHHOEK

After a scenic drive over the mountains, you'll arrive in the village of Franschhoek, established by the French Huguenots in the 1680's and renowned for its amazing wines and gourmet food. A relaxing lunch on the slopes of the mountain at La Petite Ferme and a private visit to the gardens and winery of Boekenhoutskloof (famous for its Chocolate Block wine) will bring you to the end of your first day in the wine country.

Your second day in the wine region starts with a visit to the gardens of Babylonstoren. These gardens are based on the original Dutch founding gardens planted in Cape Town in the 1650's. Your garden visit will be followed by a wine and chocolate pairing at Spice Route Winery in Paarl. A gourmet dinner this evening, so eat lightly at lunch.

DAY 12 to 14, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

An early flight from Cape Town to Nelspruit and a short road transfer brings you to your luxury lodge on the banks of the Crocodile River and the Kruger National Park, home to the Big-5 (Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard and Rhinocerous). Daily safaris and a night drive in the Kruger Park affords you the opportunity of shooting — with your camera only! — the abundance of wild animals that roam the park during the day and night. Enjoy gourmet meals and sundowners on the deck while watching the animals come to the river to drink at the end of a hot day.

DAY 15

"Best Tours" will say farewell to you after your flight to Johannesburg International Airport for your evening international flight connection to the US.

EXTENDED VISIT TO BOTSWANA AND/OR VICTORIA FALLS

Please enquire on additional pricing should you wish to extend your safari to visit Victoria Falls (2-nights) or visit both Botswana and Victoria Falls (3-nights in Botswana, 2-nights at Victoria Falls)