



CLASSIC ROUTE SOUTH AFRICA

The CLASSIC ROUTE covers the **highlights of South Africa**, the southernmost country of Africa with an area of 1,233,404 km² that offers cosmopolitan cities, stunning (natural) panoramas and world-class wildlife watching to the visitor.

Itinerary: Johannesburg – Mpumalanga (Panorama Route) – Kruger Park – Swaziland – Zululand – Durban – Port Elizabeth – Garden Route – Oudtshoorn – Cape Town

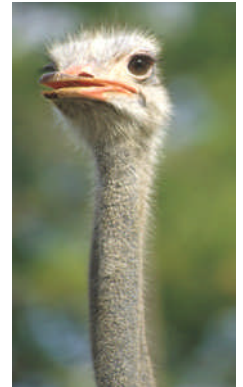
- Day 1** Arrival in **Johannesburg** in the morning, collection of your rental car or meeting with your guide. During the day you can explore the surroundings of “Jo’burg”, the great big beating heart of South Africa. We recommend a half day guided tour of **Soweto**, the township with the most political and historical meaning of the world, which has embarked on a journey of self-discovery where tourists can now frequently visit. Visit one of the many vast shopping centres with an abundance of restaurants, shops and cafés and/or a casino. **Overnight in Johannesburg**
- Day 2** In the morning visit **Pretoria**, the “Afrikaner Jerusalem”, site of the presidential inauguration of Nelson Mandela and known as the laid-back city in Gauteng. It carries a remarkable amount of history and there a numerous sights and attractions like the Voortrekker Monument, Church Square, the Paul Kruger House, the Union Buildings and the Museum of Anthropology. In the afternoon continue into the heart of Mpumalanga. **Overnight in Mpumalanga**
- Day 3** Full day exploration of the **Panorama Route** with its majestic **Blyde River Canyon**. This 26 km long canyon is one of South Africa’s most impressive natural feature. Visit one of the water falls, the “Three Rondavels (huge cylinders of rock), the Bourke’s Luck Potholes (bizarre cylindrical holes) and God’s Window (a fantastic view point). **Overnight in Mpumalanga**
- Day 4** You will enter the famous **Kruger National Park** today, a huge area larger than the size of Israel, with huge tracts of acacia, sycamore figs and bushwillow interrupted by open savanna, rushing rivers and some rocky hills. Here live lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, buffalos, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, warthogs and many antelope species as well as a very rich and diverse bird population. **Overnight in/around the Kruger Park**
- Day 5** Full day at the **Kruger Park**. It is one of the world’s most famous protected areas, known for its size, history of conservation, diversity of wildlife and where you can go on your own gamedrive. The park has an excellent infrastructure, from tarred to gravel roads in good condition to 4WD tracks, mountain bike and hiking trails. **Overnight in/around the Kruger Park**
- Day 6** Exit the park during the morning and continue into the **Kingdom of Swaziland**, one of the smallest countries in Africa, but with a rich culture and heritage and relaxed ambience. Here you find stunning mountain panoramas, lively traditions, superb walking and high-quality handicrafts. **Overnight in Swaziland**
- Day 7** Drive into the wild landscapes and tribal rhythms of **Zululand**, in the beautiful swathe of **KwaZulu Natal**, with its widespread sugar cane plantations, fine coastline and mist-clad hills. Here you can visit the **Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park**, which is known as one of the most beautiful parks in South Africa. Apart from its hilly landscape, it also boasts the “Big Five” and is especially known for its conservation of black and white rhinos. **Overnight in KwaZulu Natal**
- Day 8** Drive along the beautiful north coast of KwaZulu Natal to **Durban**, South Africa’s top holiday city and equally sophisticated and sinful as well as ever-changing. The third-largest city stretches along a swathe of butter-yellow sand and offers a lively seaside holiday with stylish cafés, good shopping and cultural offerings. **Overnight in Durban/surroundings**
- Day 9** Catch a flight in the morning from Durban to Port Elizabeth and continue into the **Addo Elephant National Park**. It is only 72 km north of Port Elizabeth, near the Zuurberg Mountain Range and it encompasses ca. 120,000 ha of malaria-free top wildlife viewing (lots of elephants, but also the rest of the Big Five as well as zebra, eland, kudu, warthog, hyenas and myriad birds). **Overnight in/near Addo**



Day 10 Your journey takes you to the **Garden Route**, the most internationally renowned South African destination! Within a few hundred kilometers, the range of topography and vegetation is breathtaking. **Overnight at the Garden Route**

Day 11 During your stay at the Garden Route, you can hike in old-growth forests, bike through wildlife reserves, commune with monkeys and/or **with cheetahs**, chill out on superb white beaches, canoe in lagoons, cruise the Knysna Lagoon, visit the Featherbed Nature Reserve, go whale and dolphin watching and/or shark diving, visit museums etc etc. **Overnight at the Garden Route**

Day 12 From a waterbased landscape to the near desert-like surroundings of **Oudtshoorn**, the self-proclaimed “ostrich capital of the world”. These birds have been bred here since the 1870s and at the turn of the 20th century fortunes were made from the fashion for ostrich feathers. The so-called “feather barons” built the grand houses (“feather palaces”) that lend the town its distinct atmosphere today. In Oudtshoorn we recommend a visit to the Cango Caves, the Cango Wildlife Ranch (cheetah research) and of an ostrich farm. **Overnight in Oudtshoorn**



Day 13 Drive through the fascinating landscape of the Little Karoo along the famous **Route 62**. Breathtaking mountain passes and intensively cultivated valleys, perfectly preserved 18th-century towns and vast stretches of semi-arid plains dotted with ostriches provide eye-candy, while delectable wine, country cafés and a hot-springs resort (Montagu) enchant the palate and relax the body. Arrive in **Cape Town** later in the afternoon. **Overnight in Cape Town**

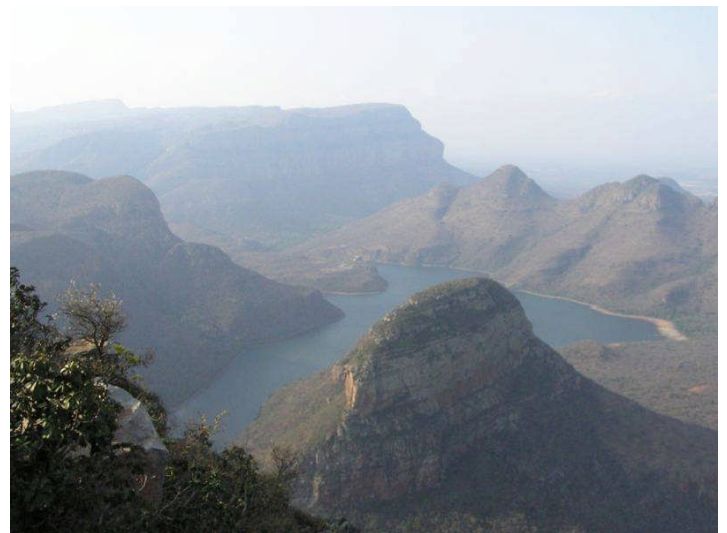
Day 14 You have to, at least, spend two days in **Cape Town**. Extensions are, of course, possible and are recommended. The “Mother City occupies one of the world’s most stunning locations, with an iconic mountain slap-bang in its centre. As beautiful as the surrounding beaches and vineyards may be, as cosmopolitan and lively as its cultural scene, it’s the rugged wilderness of **Table Mountain**, coated in a unique flora, that is the focus of attention. Complementing this natural beauty is Cape Town’s eye-catching way with design and colour: from the brightly coloured façades of the Bo-Kaap (Malay Quarters) and the Victoria bathing chalets of Muizenberg, to the contemporary Afro-chic décor of the many excellent guesthouses, restaurants and bars. The city’s multi-ethnic population is proof of South Africa’s **rainbow nation** and a visual record of the city’s tumultuous recorded history of over 350 years. **Overnight in Cape Town**

Day 15 An excerpt of activities in/around Cape Town: Table Mountain (ascent by the Cableway or on foot), Robben Island & Nelson Mandela Gateway, V&A Waterfront, lots of museums in the city centre, Clifton and Camps Bay beaches, seal island cruises, Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and the **winelands** (Stellenbosch, Paarl, Franschhoek).

Day 16 In the afternoon departure from Cape Town (or extension – recommended)



Drive towards Cape Town city centre and Waterfront



Blyde River Canyon



Johannesburg panorama