



KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS

SOUTH AFRICA | Public & Private Gardens, Wine, Culture, History, & Nature

11 DAYS from \$4,750 | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: OCT–NOV, JAN–MAR

EXPERIENCE *the spectacular Cape Floral Region, a biodiversity hotspot and the only floral kingdom contained within one country. South Africa's botanic diversity exceeds that of even the Amazon, and 70% of it grows nowhere else on earth. Come admire a variety of botanical gardens such as legendary Kirstenbosch. Enjoy a thrilling wildlife safari. Taste exquisite vintages in the Cape Winelands. Trace apartheid's rise and fall in historic Johannesburg and beyond. And see for yourself why South Africa is described as "a world in one country."*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore four National Botanical Gardens including world-renowned Kirstenbosch.
- Seek out the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and Cape buffalo) and other wildlife during a safari at Kapama Reserve.
- See jaw-dropping scenery as you ride through the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.
- Take in spectacular Cape Town and ocean views while surveying the rich habitats of Table Mountain.
- Visit Stellenberg, a stunning private garden, and enjoy wine tasting in the Cape Winelands.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Specialist guide
- Private transportation
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offsetting



GIRAFFE AND OXPECKER BY STEVE SLATER



PENGUINS AT BOULDERS BEACH BY GRAEME CHURCHARD

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 1 | **Johannesburg**

Upon arrival at the Johannesburg International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and escorted to the Inter-Continental OR Tambo Hotel. This evening gather together with your fellow travelers for a Welcome dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Inter-Continental OR Tambo Hotel (D)*



Aloe succotrina ON TABLE MOUNTAIN BY ABU SHAWKA

Day 2 | **Cape Town**

After a relaxing morning, you will check in for your flight to Cape Town (cost of flight excluded from the tour cost). Upon arrival, after collecting your luggage, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. You will have the remainder of the day at leisure to explore your new surroundings. Your hotel is strategically located between the entrance to the Victoria & Albert Waterfront and the Cape Town International Convention Center. *Overnight at Southern Sun the Cullinan (B)*

Day 3 | **Cape Town**

This morning - weather permitting - you will begin your tour of Cape Town with a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain. It is a World Heritage Site, home to fynbos, a unique, yet endangered collection of shrubs and plants. Table Mountain is approximately 260 million years old, boasting the highest known concentration of plant species - 1,300 per 10,000 square km. The cable car takes visitors 704 m, from the lower station at 363 m above sea level, to the upper station, at 1067 m above sea level. After lunch at a local restaurant en route, you will next visit the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. The incredibly beautiful reserve is teeming with rich biodiversity to be explored. You will then visit the penguins at Boulders Beach, as you walk along the boardwalk on the beautiful, white beach of St. Simons. African penguins inhabit 27 different locations on the continent; most of these sites are inshore islands. The penguins are protected by the Southern African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds to ensure that they do not become endangered species. This evening you may wish to dine with the group or chose one of the many restaurants in the area. *Overnight at Southern Sun the Cullinan (BL)*

Day 4 | **Cape Town**

Following breakfast at your hotel, you will have the pleasure of visiting one of the finest Botanical Gardens in the world - Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. You will be given a guided tour, and then have the opportunity to explore the garden at your own pace. Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden lives up to its reputation as the most beautiful garden in Africa. Few gardens can match the sheer grandeur of the setting of Kirstenbosch, against the eastern slopes of Cape Town's Table Mountain. Kirstenbosch displays a wide variety of the unique plant life of the Cape Flora, also known as fynbos, including sugar bushes (*Protea* spp.), pincushions (*Leucospermum* spp.), and heaths (*Erica* spp.). Plants from all the diverse regions and biomes of southern Africa are also grown at Kirstenbosch, including a near-complete collection of *Encephalartos* spp. The Botanical Society Conservatory is a custom-built glasshouse to grow and display

plants from the arid regions that cannot survive outdoors. There are over 7000 species in cultivation at Kirstenbosch, including many rare and threatened species. The Centenary Tree Canopy Walkway is a new curved steel and timber bridge that winds and dips its way through and over the trees of the Arboretum. Look for *Ilex mitis*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Ocotea bullata*, *Olinia ventosa*, *Cunonia capensis*, and *Rapanea melanophloeos*, to name a few of the tree species found in the garden. The Walkway takes the visitor from the forest floor into and through the trees and bursts out above the canopy, giving spectacular panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains, Garden and Cape Flats. Enjoy a late lunch at the Kirstenbosch Tea Room. This evening, you will have another opportunity to try any one of the fine restaurants to be found on the waterfront, or perhaps you would like to relax and enjoy the restaurant at your hotel. *Overnight at Southern Sun the Cullinan (BL)*

Day 5 | Stellenbosch

This morning visit the private home and garden of Andrew and Sandy Ovenstone. They acquired the beautiful Stellenberg Home & Gardens in the early 1950s. The creation of the gardens, which Sandy lovingly worked on for many years, culminated in an exquisite masterpiece. Today, there are 16 distinct areas in the gardens to explore, where you will spot such species as *Quercus palustris*, *Verbascum chaixii*, *Agapanthus* spp., *Heliotropium* spp., *Myrrhis odorata*, and *Scabiosa* spp. You will also be given a tour of the nursery. After your time at the gardens, travel to Stellenbosch, the second oldest settlement in the Western Cape after Cape Town. It is located in a hilly area of the Cape winelands. Enjoy lunch in Stellenbosch before heading to Spier Hotel, located 20 minutes outside of Stellenbosch. The historic Cape Dutch homestead stands on the banks of the Eerste River with sweeping views of the Stellenbosch Mountains. Should you wish to first explore the town of Stellenbosch, your guide and driver will return to an appointed time and place to pick you up and take you to the hotel. Enjoy the evening at leisure. *Overnight at Spier Hotel (BL)*

Day 6 | Stellenbosch

Following breakfast take a guided tour of Stellenbosch University Botanical Garden, the oldest university botanic garden in South Africa. The garden is beautifully maintained and includes three glass houses (tropical, succulent, and karoo houses), a lotus lily/koi fish pond, Japanese garden, herb garden and arboretum. Look for *Oxalis* spp., *Pelargonium* spp., *Olea europaea* subsp. *Africana*, and *Sequoia sempervirens*, as well as their bonsai collection. The garden is widely regarded as an open-air laboratory and serves as a center for training, science, conservation, and recreation. For this purpose rare plants have been imported from all over the world. After your time in Stellenbosch, travel a short way to Franschoek and the exquisite estate, winery, and gardens of Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate. Enjoy lunch and a wine tasting, and take a tour of the estate and wine cellar. After your time at the estate, you will return to Spier Hotel. *Overnight at Spier Hotel (BL)*

Day 7 | Johannesburg

This morning you will be transferred to the Cape Town International Airport for your flight to Johannesburg (cost of flight excluded from the tour cost). Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide and driver. This afternoon, you will visit one of the prides of Johannesburg - the Apartheid Museum. The Apartheid Museum opened in 2001 and is acknowledged as the pre-eminent museum in the world dealing with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story. A series of 22 individual exhibition areas takes the visitor through a dramatic journey that tells a story of a state-sanctioned system based on racial discrimination and the struggle of the majority to overthrow this tyranny. For anyone wanting to understand and experience what apartheid South Africa was really like, a visit to the Apartheid Museum is fundamental. Have lunch at the museum's café (cost on own). After your time at the museum, you will be transferred to your hotel, 54 on Bath, ideally located in the heart of Johannesburg's trendy and vibrant suburb of Rosebank. 54 on Bath is classic and sophisticated; the accent is on understated elegance. The rooms are tastefully styled with views

over the garden or the abundantly green city skyline. *Overnight at 54 on Bath (B)*

Day 8 | Johannesburg

After breakfast, you will depart for a short tour of Soweto, the township that was once the home of Nelson Mandela and Bishop Tutu. Soweto came to the world's attention on June 16, 1976 with the Soweto Uprising, when mass protests erupted over the government's policy to enforce education in Afrikaans rather than their native language. The impact of the Soweto protests reverberated through the country and across the world. In their aftermath, economic and cultural sanctions were introduced

from abroad. Political activists left the country to train for guerrilla resistance. Soweto and other townships became the stage for violent state repression. Since 1991 this date and the children that lost their lives have been commemorated by the International Day of the African Child. After your tour of Soweto, travel to the Pretoria Botanical Garden, fifty hectares of which are devoted to developed gardens, using almost exclusively South African plants. All the flowering plant species to be seen, including 50% of the country's tree species, makes this garden a botanical tapestry. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the garden. You will then visit the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, which has been voted the best place to "get back to nature" in Gauteng for nine years in a row. The natural vegetation of the area is known as the "Rocky Highveld Grassland" and consists of a mosaic of grassland and savanna, with dense bush in kloofs and meandering streams. The variety of habitats accommodates over 600 endemic species. *Overnight at 54 on Bath (BL)*

Day 9 | Kapama Private Game Reserve

This morning you will be transferred to the Johannesburg International Airport for your flight to Hoedspruit (cost of flight



GRANDE PROVENCE HERITAGE WINE ESTATE BY SANDY SCHMIDT

excluded from the tour cost). On arrival at Hoedspruit Airport, you will be met and transferred to Kapama River Lodge, a five star safari lodge located on a bend of the seasonal Kapama River. You will have time to get comfortable in your suite before your afternoon game drive. Accompanied by a skilled ranger and tracker, guests can expect to encounter a diverse range of animal and bird species on game drives. Since this is a Big Five reserve, seeing lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo is possible over a two-day safari in Kapama Private Game Reserve. *Overnight at Kapama River Lodge (BD)*

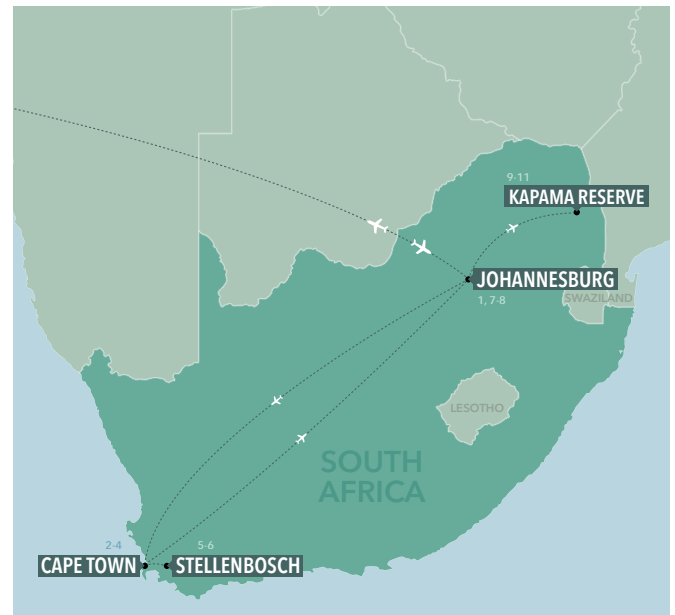


Day 10 | **Kapama Private Game Reserve**

The day starts with an early wake-up call between 5am and 5:30 am. Tea, coffee, and rusks are enjoyed together before heading out at first light. While seeing big game is always exhilarating, there are many other smaller species that are also captivating, and birding enthusiasts will be delighted at the approximately 350 species of birds recorded on the reserve. Halfway through the game drive, there's a stop for hot drinks and snacks, before returning to the lodge at around 9 am for a full breakfast. Throughout the day, it's likely you will see wildlife around the lodge - nyala antelope and vervet monkeys are frequent visitors, though seeing some of the Big Five is also not uncommon. At approximately 3:30 pm, everyone gathers for a decadent high tea, before heading out with your ranger and tracker for the afternoon game drive through the reserve. En route, you'll stop for a sundowner drink and will have a chance to stretch your legs as you watch the sun set over the distant peaks of the Drakensberg Mountains. As darkness falls, the nocturnal animals of the bush come out. The skilled tracker will scan the landscape using a spotlight, which illuminates animals' eyes. A variety of completely different species can be seen on the night drive back to the lodge. Arrival at the lodge is usually around 7 pm, allowing time to freshen up before enjoying a sumptuous dinner. *Overnight at Kapama River Lodge (BLD)*

Day 11 | **Depart**

After your morning game drive and breakfast, depart Kapama for Hoedspruit Airport for your flight to Johannesburg (cost of flight excluded from the tour cost). You will then check-in for your International flights back to your home city. (B)



LAND PRICING

\$4,750 per person, double occupancy, based on 18 participants (plus 1 complimentary from Los Angeles, single occupancy). *Single supplement: \$1300.*

Cost includes: Accommodations, meals as indicated, specialist guides, transportation, gratuities for guides & drivers, activities per itinerary, carbon offset, bottled water on bus.

Cost does not include: International & internal airfare, items of personal nature, optional activities.

Price valid until Dec. 2018.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure. Travel/ trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. Whether you are seeking a tried-and-true experience or a garden expedition customized to your needs, Holbrook is adept at combining your specific interest in gardens with a multitude of cultural, environmental, or adventure-based activities.

