



6 Days Garden Route and Oudtshoorn - Cape Town to Cape Town

In brief

This is a tour of contrasts, with a range of wonderful activities. Setting out from Cape Town into the dry but beautiful heartland of the Western Cape, we overnight in the lovely town of Oudtshoorn. From there we visit a protected meerkat colony, truly a unique and special experience.

Then it is on to the lush green environs of the famous Garden Route, to explore the town Knysna, and onwards west along the coast to the southernmost tip of Africa. From here we spend a night in the famed village of Hermanus, the land-based whale-watching capital of the world (NB: only during whale season - May-September usually).

Finally we finish back in the beautiful Cape, where our journey began.

Tour details

Tour starts:	Cape Town, South Africa
Tours ends:	Cape Town, South Africa
Tour style:	Accommodated
Tour price:	R 15 300
Single Supplement:	R 1 050
Meals included:	5 breakfasts
Countries visited:	South Africa

Included highlights

Wine tasting, Montague
Guided meerkat tour
Rivercat boat cruise, Knysna
Southernmost point of Africa
Cape Agulhas Lighthouse entry
Stony Point Penguin Colony

Optional activities

Cango Caves

Itinerary

Day 1: Cape Town to Oudtshoorn

We set off today after breakfast taking the beautiful inland Route 62 to Oudtshoorn, the 'ostrich

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capital'. En route we will stop at Montagu, famous for its incredible rock formations, fruit orchards, vineyards, herbs and hot mineral springs. Montagu is the gateway to the 'Klein', or Little Karoo, and is a tourism destination in itself. We will stop here for lunch (own account) and a spot of wine tasting from the celebrated Robertson Wine Valley and Klein Karoo Wine Route.

On arrival in Oudtshoorn we will settle in at De Zeekoe lodge. A delicious dinner will be enjoyed at the restaurant on site (own account) when we arrive back.

Overnight	De Zeekoe www.dezeekoe.co.za/
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Included activity	Wine tasting
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Distance travelled	430 km
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Day 2: Oudtshoorn

We rise early today, while it is still dark, in preparation for our Meerkat tour (weather permitting). You will need to wear **comfortable shoes and warm clothes** so please be sure to pack these in. Don't forget your camera; this is a very rare opportunity to spend time with wild Meerkats in their natural environment.

After our walk we return to the lodge for breakfast. Next you will have the option to experience the thrills of exploring the Cango Caves (own account).

Finally we return to the lodge for dinner (own account).

Meals	Breakfast
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Overnight	De Zeekoe www.dezeekoe.co.za/
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Included activity	Meerkat tour
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Optional activity	Cango Caves
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Distance travelled	60 km
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Day 3: Oudtshoorn to Knysna

After a delicious breakfast today we will travel from the relatively dry interior of the Western Cape to the coastal town of Knysna, part of South Africa's lush and beautiful Garden Route. Along the way we will pass the scenic, green village of Wilderness, and the quiet and attractive town of Sedgefield.

On arrival in Knysna we will have time to explore the delightful boutique shops of the Knysna Waterfront, and a enjoy delicious lunch at one of the many restaurants (own account).

After settling in to our hotel we will head back out for a 4pm cruise on the Three Legs Ferry. This journey, lasting 75 minutes, will take us into the Knysna Heads between cliffs (ocean conditions permitting), visiting Otter Cove, Island Rock and passing the Beachcomber Caves. We will be taken back to a time when Knysna was a port, and regaled with the stories of the town's eventful past. The boat is an open ferry with a sun-deck or shaded seating, and contains a cash bar with a snack menu.

After our cruise we will find a place for sundowner drinks and dinner (own account). If you haven't tried the seafood, now is your chance!

Meals	Breakfast
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Overnight	Wayside Inn knysnawayside.co.za/
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Included activity	Rivercat boat cruise (75 mins)
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Distance travelled	130 km
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Day 4: Knysna to Arniston

After enjoying a lovely breakfast, we will travel to the southernmost point of Africa, Cape Agulhas. With its wildly beautiful seascapes, Agulhas is the meeting point of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

This is the southernmost tip of Africa, and you will have the opportunity to have your photo taken at the stone plaque that marks the point.

We will then visit the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse, an iconic landmark that was built at a time when shipwrecks were frighteningly common along this treacherous stretch of coastline, whose waves can reach up to 30 metres! Although it has been out of commission for 50 years, the lighthouse was restored in 1988 and the view from the top is well worth the climb - although be warned, some of the steps are little more than ladders! Should you wish to forgo the climb, the lighthouse museum is also worth a visit.

We will then head on to our destination for the night, the delightful seaside town of Arniston Bay, to check in to our hotel. The Arniston Hotel restaurant offers a lovely selection of seafood and Cape Malay fare (own account).

Meals	Breakfast
Overnight	Arniston Spa Hotel www.arnistonhotel.com
Included activity	Southernmost point of Africa Cape Agulhas Lighthouse entry
Distance travelled	425 km

Day 5: Arniston to Hermanus

Leaving the lovely Arniston after a buffet breakfast, we will head towards Hermanus, the foremost land-based whale watching location in the world.

Although it has grown remarkably, Hermanus still retains a sense of the quaint charm of the fishing village it once was. A walk along the Old Harbour gives a glimpse into the village's past, while a stroll along the cliff path may well yield a Southern Right Whale sighting. Whale season runs from June to December, and the Hermanus whale crier - the only whale crier in the world - does his rounds daily at 10am and 4pm during these months.

There are plenty of restaurants in which to enjoy lunch (own account). After spending some time in town, we will check in to our hotel. Dinner can be enjoyed in one of the many fine restaurants in town (own account).

Meals	Breakfast
Overnight	Windsor Hotel www.windsorhotel.co.za/
Distance travelled	110 km

Day 6: Hermanus to Cape Town

After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel, we will start our journey back to Cape Town, stopping along the way to enjoy a final attraction, the Stony Point Penguin Colony.

A breeding ground for the African or Jackass Penguin - so called for the braying noise the penguins make, Stony Point is an ideal viewing place to see these fascinating birds in their natural habitat. A

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wooden walkway passes along the edges the breeding area, with views of the rocky penguin swimming pools on one side, and the vegetation among which the penguins make their nests on the other.

After spending some time viewing these sweet and comical creatures, we will commence our transit to Cape Town. Your tour will end in Cape Town.

Meals	Breakfast
Included activity	Stony Point Penguin Colony
Distance travelled	145 km
