

# The Garden Route

Prices start from £4,845

Fully escorted 16-day tour

## Tour highlights

- \* Travel in style through the heart of South Africa from Durban to Pretoria on the distinctive and elegant Rovos Rail – hailed as the most luxurious train journey in world.
- \* City tour of Cape Town and its surrounding beach resorts, including the Cape Peninsula and Boulders Beach penguin colony.
- \* Wine tasting and tour of the cellars at Groot Constantia Wine Estate.
- \* A delightful stay on the Garden Route at beautiful Plettenberg Bay, famous for its wild coastline.
- \* Experience the award winning 5 star Private Game Reserve of Shamwari with small party game drives and the opportunity to spot the Big Five in a malaria free setting.
- \* Relax at the Zimbali Resort on the Indian Ocean.
- \* Travel through the Zulu heartlands, with its classic landscapes of rolling hills, small traditional villages and farms, with excursions to the battlefields of Spion Kop and Nambiti Game Reserve
- \* A guided tour of Soweto including Mandela House, the Apartheid Museum and the Hector Pieterse Museum.
- \* A tour of Pretoria including the impressive hilltop located Voortrekker Monument and the imposing government Union Buildings.



## Tour itinerary

### Day 1 Departure from London Heathrow

On arrival at the airport your Tour Manager will be there to greet you and once checked in they will guide you through to the executive lounge before your South African Airlines flight to Cape Town.

Meals: in-flight

### Day 2 Cape Town

Following our morning arrival we will transfer into the city and take the cable car (weather permitting) up Table Mountain, for outstanding views and a splendid overview of the city and the coastline beyond. Continue to the Mount Nelson Hotel for a 3 night stay and enjoy a few hours of relaxation before we meet up for Afternoon Tea in the Windsor Table. Sip tea and perhaps sample the gingerbread and gianduja cake whilst we chat over what lies ahead.

Meals: Afternoon tea Hotel: Mount Nelson Hotel

### Day 3 Cape Town

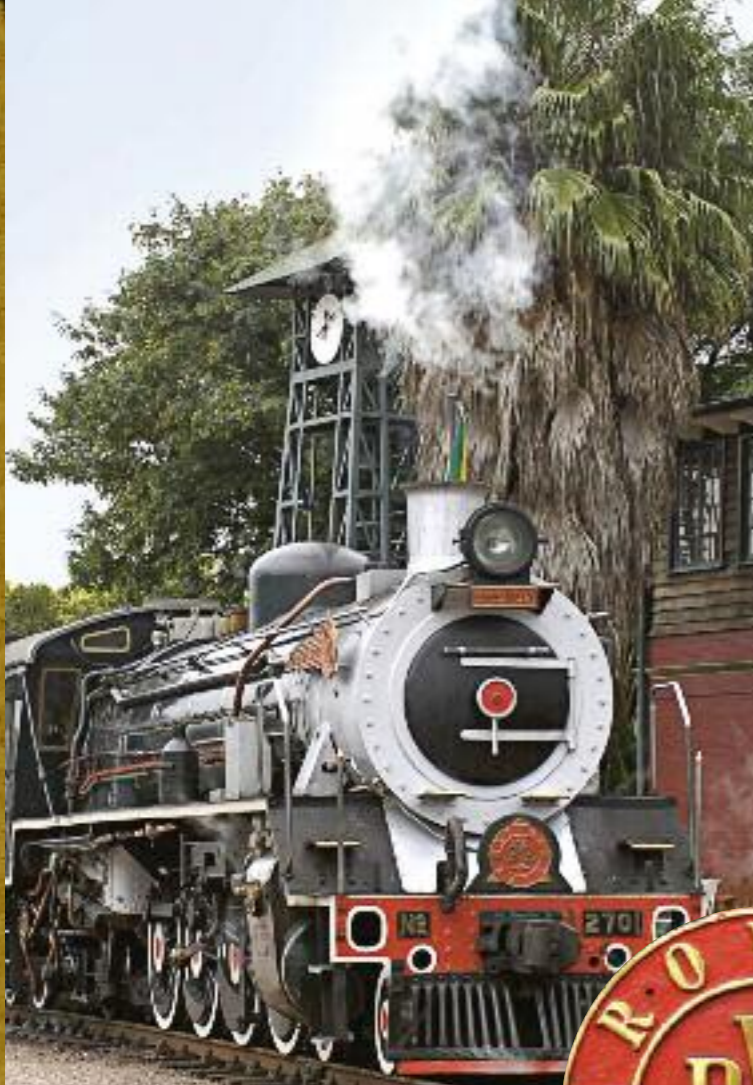
Today we introduce you to the various colourful districts of Cape Town. We begin our exploration in the Malay Quarter, along the slopes of Signal Hill. Continue to the lively city centre, see the Houses of Parliament and City Hall and visit the Castle of Good Hope. Our morning's sightseeing ends at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, where shopping and eateries are plentiful.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Mount Nelson Hotel

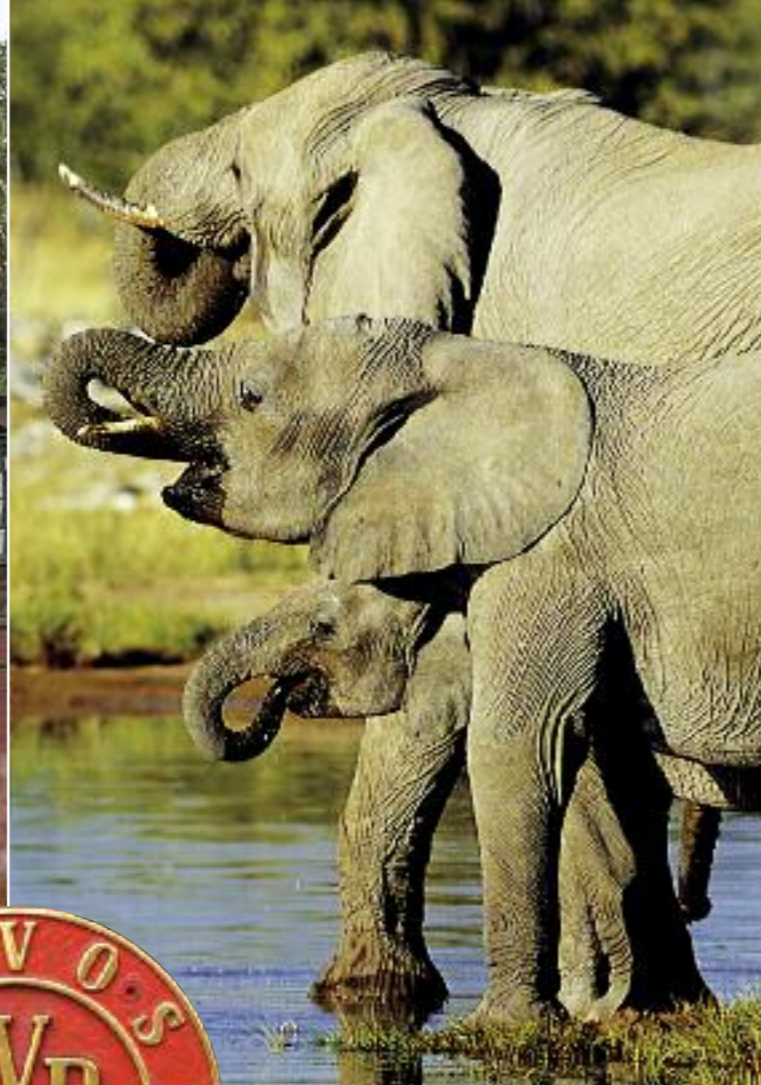
### Day 4 Cape Town

We head out of the city and along the coast of the stunning Cape Peninsula. Our first stop is Hout Bay to board a boat to Seal Island. We then travel on the coast road to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and the spectacular Cape Peninsula. Our route back takes us via Simon's Town to see the delightful Boulders Beach penguin colony. We end today with wine tasting and a cellar tour at the historic Groot Constantia Wine Estate, one of the finest surviving examples of traditional Cape Dutch architecture.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Mount Nelson Hotel



Rovos Rail, Capital Park Station, Pretoria



African elephants



Table Mountain



Afternoon tea, Rovos Rail



Cape vineyard

**Day 5 Cape Town to Plettenberg Bay**

This morning we head out of the city and drive east towards the Garden Route. The verdant plant life and stunning scenery has given this region its name and our journey takes us along the Indian Ocean on one side and the Outeniqua and Tsitsikamma Mountains on the other.

We stop at Mossel Bay for lunch and visit the Post Office Tree – this 500 year old milkwood tree is a national monument. We then arrive in Plettenberg Bay and check in to our hotel, with sweeping views across the bay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Plettenberg Hotel

**Day 6 Plettenberg Bay**

Today we take to the sheltered waters of Plettenberg Bay on a boat trip, where seals and dolphins can often be seen. Between July and November an optional whale watching cruise can be arranged. We also make time for exploring the bay town itself with its beautiful beach and variety of shops, including colourful Plett Market.

Alex Helsby, JOD Travel Advisor says: "The views over Plettenberg Bay are breathtaking, with white sandy beaches and blue seas."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Plettenberg Hotel

**Day 7 Plettenberg Bay to Shamwari Game Reserve**

Our journey takes us to Tsitsikamma National Park, a coastal reserve along the Garden Route – prepare to enjoy 80km of beautiful scenery as well as man made attractions such as the Storms River suspension bridge.

Our final destination today is the Shamwari Private Game Reserve. Here adventure and conservation sit in perfect harmony. The reserve is located half way between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown along the Bushman's River and offers 25,000 hectares for the Big Five to roam free. The game reserve is malaria free and boasts many much sought after awards, including Africa's leading conservation company. Long Lee Manor is our home for 3 nights. This restored Edwardian Manor House offers exceptional comfort and a colonial feel.

We waste no time in getting our first sight of African game as we go out on a late afternoon game drive. All drives are in open viewing vehicles which contain no more than 6 people.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Shamwari Private Game Reserve

**Day 8 Shamwari Game Reserve**

We start before sun up with an early morning game drive led by your personal game ranger. These drives are between three and four hours, offering ample time to enjoy spotting and observing the wildlife. We return to the manor for a sumptuous breakfast, a laze in the sun or perhaps learn more about what the partnership with Shamwari and the Born Free Foundation is achieving at the Born Free Foundation Animal Rescue and Education Centre. Early evening it is off on a drive again.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Hotel: Shamwari Private Game Reserve

**Day 9 Shamwari Game Reserve to Durban**

Before we leave this inspirational place, we take one last look at the animals on a morning game drive, a time when the wildlife is at its most active. Then after breakfast it is off to Port Elizabeth for our flight to Durban. Once here we transfer to your beautiful resort hotel.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Fairmont Zimbali Resort

**Day 10 Durban**

The day is yours to do with as you so please. Relax and enjoy the facilities in this 5 star hotel – perhaps book in for a pampering spa treatment or for the more energetic you may wish to take in Durban, perhaps have a stroll down the Golden Mile.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Fairmont Zimbali Resort

**Day 11 Durban to Rovos Rail**

After breakfast we climb aboard the Rovos Rail for a journey to recapture the romance and style of the golden age of travel. Relax in the distinctive wood panelled coaches as you travel in style through the heart of the South African countryside to Pretoria on a 2 night journey. With carriages offering panoramic windows, you will have uninterrupted views of the rolling landscape of kwaZulu-Natal, its picturesque river valleys, mountains and traditional villages. Our first destination is Lions River Station, where we disembark at the Ardmore ceramics gallery with an equestrian display and tea overlooking the river. Back on board lunch is served as we traverse the Valley of a Thousand Hills and enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Train: Rovos Rail

**Day 12 Rovos Rail**

Decision time today as there is the opportunity to take a game drive in the Spionkop Nature Reserve or visit the Spionkop Boer War battlefield led by a world class historian. As we enjoy lunch the train continues its journey to Elandsplaagte where our game drive awaits us at Nambiti Private Bush Retreat. An excellent three course dinner is served on board as we travel through the beautiful scenery.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Train: Rovos Rail

**Day 13 Arrival in Pretoria to Johannesburg**

Wake this morning to more unforgettable views and enjoy a freshly prepared breakfast. We travel onwards and relax on board as we pass through Heidelberg, traverse Majuba Hill and arrive at our final destination late this afternoon, the private Capital Park station in Pretoria, which has been restored by Rovos Rail in the colonial style of a bygone era. We disembark and transfer to Johannesburg to stay at the Westcliff Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Hotel: Westcliff Hotel



Rovos Rail – an unforgettable journey into the heart of the African Bushveld



Observation car

Luxury, romance and nostalgia are embodied in possibly the world's most exquisite classic train journey from Rovos Rail, the Pride of Africa. The furnishings and décor may be from an enchanting bygone era but the facilities and service are exceptional.

Your 3 day journey takes you from Durban to Pretoria through kwaZulu-Natal, with stops at the Nambiti Conservancy bush retreat, a visit to Ardmore Ceramic Art centre to learn of the Zulu people and an option to visit the Spionkop battlefield. All along the way you will have uninterrupted views from the observation car and all meals present you with the finest of cuisine.



Double bedroom

**Day 14 Johannesburg**

Today we take a guided tour of Soweto – steeped in history and emotion, our tour will stir many conversations. We visit sites of Nelson Mandela's former residence, the excellent Apartheid Museum and the Hector Peterson Memorial. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure and a farewell dinner this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Westcliff Hotel

**Day 15 To Pretoria & return flight**

Before our evening flight we make time to take a tour of Pretoria including the Kruger House, Voortrekker Monument and a drive past the Union Building. We then transfer to Johannesburg airport to board our South African Airlines flight back to the UK

Meals: Breakfast

**Day 16 Arrive London Heathrow**

Morning arrival at London Heathrow

Meals: In-flight

**Your tour hotels**

For full details of all the hotels featured on this tour please see pages 36-39.

**Departure dates & prices**

Garden Route and Rovos Rail

Departure date	Price per person
2011 16 September	£4,845
14 October	£5,395
28 October	£5,475
2012 17 February	£5,545
02 March	£5,425

Prices per person, based on double/twin share.

Single supplement: £2,245

Flight upgrades

Supplements for South African Airways Business Class are available on request

Independent arrival – see page 4 for details

Deduct £540 from the tour price above

**Your 16-day tour includes:**

- \* The services of your JOD Tour Manager
- \* Return scheduled flights on South African Airways
- \* Invitation to the executive lounge at London Heathrow
- \* Quality hotels and game lodges throughout – hand-picked for location and high standards
- \* 13 breakfasts
- \* 6 lunches
- \* 5 dinners including 2 dinners on board Rovos Rail in the luxurious dining car
- \* Guided tours of Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria
- \* A full programme of activities at Shamwari with expert game rangers
- \* Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach, internal flights and safari vehicles and private train
- \* 2 nights 3 days on Rovos Rail luxury train journey based on Pullman Suite
- \* Luggage service throughout
- \* All local and state taxes
- \* Airport taxes including air passenger duty

Flying time

London to Cape Town 12 hours

Johannesburg to London 11 hours 30 minutes

Time difference

GMT + 2 hours

Average monthly temperatures

Cape Town

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
26°	26°	25°	23°	20°	18°	17°	18°	19°	21°	24°	25°

Johannesburg

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
26°	25°	24°	22°	19°	17°	17°	20°	23°	23°	25°	26°