

Cape Town, South Africa

Since the Western Cape population is such a mixture of different cultures, it is a very interesting destination. It is one of the most multicultural cities in the world and we have the opportunity to meet people of various backgrounds and ethnicities giving us more understanding of this part of the world and its culture.

Activities

This sampling of activities is subject to revision.



- We will visit Cape Town's historic city center with its long history starting from the 16th century. The Castle of Good Hope, built in 1666, is the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa. The 100-year-old City Hall features mock-Baroque architecture. We will visit the Mayor there. Our drive through the City Centre also takes you past the Houses of Parliament, the Grand Parade and City Hall from where Nelson Mandela first addressed South Africans after his release in February 1990. The colorful Bo-Kaap region, settled by Malay slaves, influenced the culture, food and aesthetics of this beautiful city and its people. There are many gardens, including Company Gardens located in the heart of the central business district where we may walk and visit the South African Museum – with ancient exhibits and natural history.

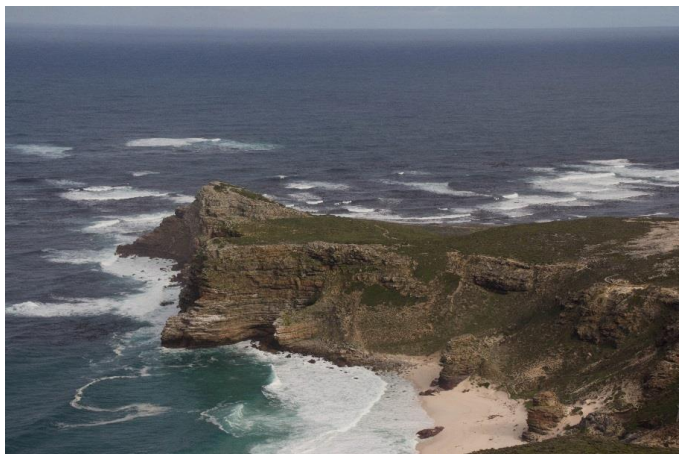


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- We will visit Table Mountain National Park for spectacular views over the region. Ascent to the 3,558-ft summit is via cable car. As you slowly ascend, look down at the lush nature of the mountain, including beautiful wild flowers. From the mountain peak, you can look out at sprawling views of the gorgeous coast and the surrounding area.



- We will visit Kirstenbosch botanical gardens, and a home for disabled children.
- With a rugged coastline, African game and native vegetation, you can discover the natural wonders of the Cape peninsula - sweeping views of the coastline, the sight of roaming wild animals, charming shoreline towns. Jutting into the ocean is Cape Point—a rocky headland protected by national park status with much to see. Beaches at Llandudno, Hout Bay and a quaint fishing port are backed by mountains.



- With the variety of the many wine estates in the area, there are many options. We may enjoy a drive to tastings at estates in Stellenbosch, a historical, hilly, and picturesque area with traditional white-washed Cape Dutch homesteads - one of South



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Africa's greatest winemaking regions - or the Franschhoek Valley—a region settled by French Huguenot settlers in the late 1600s where we can soak up the local history at the Huguenot Memorial Museum.



- We will journey past the ideal swimming beach at Boulders Beach near Simon's Town to see local inhabitants—African penguins in the thousands. They are the only penguins found on the continent - from southern Namibia all the way around the South African coast to Port Elizabeth - but few places offer as remarkable a viewing point as Boulders Beach.

Options

- On Sunday (our free day) we can enjoy an optional ferry trip across the bay to Robben Island. From the 17th to the 20th centuries, Robben Island served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment. Today it is a World Heritage Site and museum, a poignant reminder of the price paid for freedom by Nelson Mandela and others.
- A safari to northern Botswana will be offered later in the year with 6 nights in safari camps in the Okavango Delta and a night at Victoria Falls (Zambia or Zimbabwe).

We will depart from Victoria Falls to Johannesburg for our flights home or elsewhere.