



SOUTH AFRICA

If you've never visited South Africa's Cape, you might assume that this picture had been 'touched up' in photoshop. It hasn't been – nor has any other picture in this brochure!

The Cape can really be like this: clear skies and perfect temperatures combine with stunning scenery and unique flora. It's an amazing place for a holiday.

This shouldn't surprise us, as this has been a favourite destination for European travellers since the 17th century – resulting in historic towns like Stellenbosch with buildings dating back to the 1700s. Now getting there is quicker, but no less magical.

If you haven't discovered it yet, don't wait – it's only an overnight flight away!

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South Africa is vast, but note from the start of this section that Expert Africa doesn't offer trips to the whole country. Instead, we concentrate only on the area that we know really well: The Cape.

Stopping for lunch at a boutique vineyard, where a table under a shady tree is temptingly spread with fine food and chilled wine, it is difficult to believe that this is Africa. Yet the gourmet offerings, clear air and spectacular scenery are all intrinsic Cape qualities.

Whether you're seeking to relax, explore or escape, South Africa's Cape has much to offer. The more adventurous can hike through unique mountain fynbos in the craggy Cederberg Mountains or search for wild, black-maned lion in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, but most come here seeking the good life on a gentle coastal trip: idyllic landscapes, comfortable hotels, good food and fine wine. For them the range is endless, from old manor houses to top hotels throughout the wine region and the length of the Garden Route.

With a family run B&B or luxury hotel around every corner, the Cape has a greater range of accommodation than anywhere else that we feature in Africa. To help you choose, we have carefully handpicked a selection of excellent hotels and small guesthouses that



we know from experience, and are confident in recommending.

With these we've included some interesting game lodges. These can't offer an experience to compete with those in Botswana or further north, but do make for very comfortable introductory safaris which, being malaria-free, are a favourite with young families.

The Cape is a great destination to self-drive and we recommend that you drive yourself to get around. It offers ultimate flexibility allowing you to explore this beautiful area at your own pace, whilst taking in the destinations that appeal most to you. The road network is comprehensive and

signposts are all in English: driving here is usually incredibly easy. We'll organise a rental car for you and plan a route based on your interests – we'll chat through the best places to stay to suit your style and budget – there is something for everyone in South Africa!

It's easy to combine a few days in South Africa's Cape with a trip to Namibia, Botswana or even Mozambique. The more adventurous might use Cape Town and Windhoek as gateways for longer fly-drives, flying in to one and leaving from the other – the choice is entirely yours.

In recent years the South African rand has weakened steadily, so at time of going to press, trips here are better value than ever!



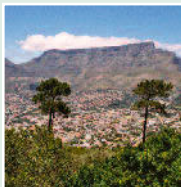
“ This was our first trip to South Africa and the support and advice we received from Claire at Expert Africa was excellent.

Nothing was too much trouble and our queries were always answered promptly.

Altogether a great experience and we will definitely be returning, both to Africa and to 'Expert!' ”

Mr and Mrs L, Cheshire,
April 2015

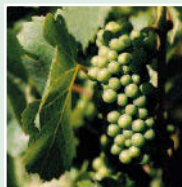
Highlights



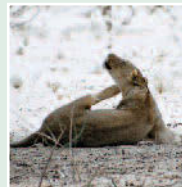
Explore Cape Town with its stunning backdrop of Table Mountain, along with Kirstenbosch Gardens, beaches and more (pages 70–71)



Watch southern right whales cavort directly from the cliff tops or by boat from the small town of **Hermanus** (page 75)



Taste world renowned wines in the oldest wine region in South Africa – the Cape **Winelands** (pages 72–73)



Self-drive in the remote **Kgalagadi** for a real sense of freedom; black-maned lion, cheetah and meerkat are highlights (pages 84–85)

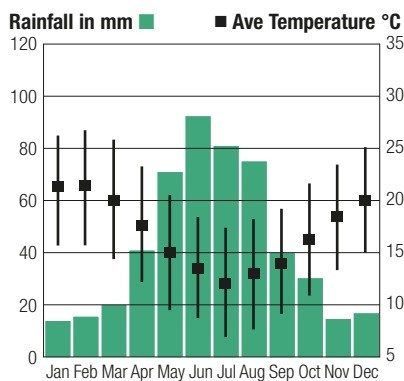


Game-viewing in the **Eastern Cape** offers a convenient and malaria free safari experience. (pages 82–83)



Take a **walk** along a deserted beach or rugged coastal path, in **Tsitsikamma National Park** (page 80)

South Africa Climate – Cape Town



South Africa often combines well with...

- **Namibia** (pages 28–63) With dramatic deserts and great wildlife Namibia is a beautiful country of immense contrast and lies right on South Africa's doorstep.
- **Mozambique** (pages 170–181) During the South African winter, when the Cape's beaches are cool and windswept, Mozambique with beautiful beaches and great diving is at its best.
- **Botswana** (pages 86–113) For a serious wildlife experience in a unique and unspoiled environment it's hard to beat Botswana.



Explore the giant rock pools and pristine inter-tidal zone at **De Hoop** (page 76)



Enjoy fine food, wine and comforts in one of the stunning lodges on the **Garden Route** (pages 78 – 81)



Facts

- **Currency:** South Africa's currency is the rand; at time of printing GB£1 = ZAR 21.3 and US\$1 = ZAR13.8. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks. Credit cards are widely accepted.
- **Visas:** Travellers with British/US passports do not need visas at the time of writing.
- **Health:** Always talk to your doctor before you travel. Several vaccines are sensible (typhoid, polio and tetanus), though none is required. Malaria is normally restricted to Mpumalanga and the northern and eastern sections of South Africa.
- **Language:** English is one of South Africa's main languages, and is widely spoken.
- **Time Zone:** GMT +02:00. During daylight saving time South Africa is GMT +01:00.
- **Electricity:** Three large round-pin South African style plugs.

Want to find out more?

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