

# Garden Route Self Drive

## 6 days | Port Elizabeth to Cape Town



Drive along South Africa's beautiful Garden Route, from cosmopolitan Port Elizabeth to captivating Cape Town. Stop en route to explore the rugged Tsitsikamma Forest, the beautiful beaches of Plettenburg Bay, Knysna lagoon and Oudtshoorn, famous for its ostriches.

the Trip Notes for full inclusions and exclusions relating to car hire

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities
- Car Hire One Way Drop Off Charge - Approx US\$100-120. To be paid locally.

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Port Elizabeth

On arrival at Port Elizabeth Airport, head to the Avis Car Hire depot to collect your hired car and drive to your Port Elizabeth hotel. This major sea port and tourist destination is renowned for its sunshine and sandy beaches. Conditions in Port Elizabeth are ideal for sailing, swimming and scuba diving. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore the town or enjoy time at the beach.

**Accommodation:** The Beach Hotel or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, bar & restaurant) **Overnight - Port Elizabeth**

#### Day 2 : Tsitsikamma National Park



Port Elizabeth - Tsitsikamma. After breakfast depart Port Elizabeth and drive along South Africa's southern coastline, known as the Garden Route. You will experience a scenic drive towards the Tsitsikamma Forest. The protected and indigenous forest of Tsitsikamma contains an amazing array of vegetation, birds and wildlife and a wonderful winding board walk through the forest leads to the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma Mouth. Explore the coastal bush and rocky shoreline and if you are more adventurous plunge off the world's highest bungee jump at the Bloukrans River.

Distance: 185 km

Accommodation: Tsitsikamma Village Inn or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, restaurant and brewery) **Overnight - Tsitsikamma National Park (B)**

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Port Elizabeth - "the windy city"
- Tsitsikamma National Park and Storms River Mouth
- Knysna - a picturesque coastal town
- Oudtshoorn - Ostrich Farm and Cango Caves (optional)
- Cape Town - "The Mother City"

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 5 nights standard/superior accommodation (alternative hotels available upon request)
- 6 days car hire - Avis Group B vehicle (VW Polo or similar in manual - auto also available at an additional charge) with Premium insurance cover. Please read

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## Days 3-4 : Knysna



Tsitsikamma - Knysna. Continue your journey along the Garden route via Plettenberg Bay, where you can stop and relax at a stunning beach before making your way to the picturesque town of Knysna which is nestled between lush forests and a peaceful estuary. There's plenty of activities and attractions in Knysna to keep you entertained.

You may like to take a trip to the nearby Monkeyland, where you will get taken on a monkey safari in the forest to learn about these fascinating creatures, ranging from the Gibbons of Asia to the Lemurs of Madagascar. Next door is Birds of Eden, a free flight bird sanctuary, complete with a canopy walk, mysterious ruin and walk behind waterfall. Of course the main attraction is the 220 species of birds that inhabit the aviary.

Distance: 95 km

Accommodation: The Rex Hotel or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, restaurant)  
**Overnight - Knysna (B:2)**

## Day 5 : Oudtshoorn



Knysna - Oudtshoorn. This morning continue your journey to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. Explore the historical Klein Karoo at your own pace and partake in some activities available. You can tour the famous Cango Caves, where you'll discover mysterious limestone formations in a subterranean wonderland.

Distance: 115 km

Accommodation: La Plume Guest House or similar (rooms with en-suite bathrooms, swimming pool, restaurant) **Overnight - Oudtshoorn (B)**

## Day 6 : Cape Town



Oudtshoorn - Cape Town. Depart Oudtshoorn after breakfast this morning and head to Cape Town via Route 62, the longest wine route in the Western Cape, where magnificent landscapes and towering cliffs abound. Upon arrival into Cape Town you can drop off your hire car in the city or at Cape Town International Airport.

With Table Mountain as its iconic backdrop, a bevy of beautiful beaches, the famous Victoria and Albert Waterfront, wonderful shops, restaurants and more, Cape Town is an essential stop so why not extend your stay to explore the city. We can book additional accommodation and activities upon request.

Distance: 420 km Departure: 08h00(B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### The Beach Hotel

The spacious and individually decorated bedrooms are well-equipped with conveniences including satellite TV, tea/coffee making facilities, in-room mini safes and WiFi connection. Some of the rooms have views of the sea from a private balcony. Guests can dine in three different restaurants

- enjoy breakfast at The Crest, soak up the views of the Indian Ocean from the Verandah or feast on steak and seafood dishes at The Ginger Restaurant. Sunbathe by the pool, relax out on the sun terrace or enjoy a selection of cocktails at the bar. The Beach Hotel is located along Port Elizabeth's beachfront.



### Tsitsikamma Village Inn

Established in 1946, the Tsitsikamma Village Inn is a village style accommodation close to Tsitsikamma National Park. The 49 guest rooms are all individually decorated in a number of free standing buildings. All are decorated in the colonial style famous on the Garden Route. The Inn is home to the relaxed Hunter's Pub which serves a good range of refreshing beverages. There is also a beautiful outdoor pool - perfect for an early morning dip. This accommodation is well located at the end of the Garden Route, in beautiful Tsitskamma.



### Rex Hotel

The Rex Hotel in Knysna offers the best in self-catering comfort with a choice of five standard hotel rooms and luxury studio apartments with open plan lounge and kitchenette. The chic urban ambience of contemporary decor and rich fabrics is complimented by the range of amenities. The Rose Cafe offers a casual atmosphere in which to enjoy superb cuisine inspired by the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East, beautifully presented and using only the freshest of ingredients. The outdoor terrace is an ideal spot to unwind with a good coffee and light snack.

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### La Plume Guest House

La Plume is a 1902 Victorian homestead on a working ostrich, alfalfa and vine farm. The charming rooms feature antique furniture.



### Transport

**Avis Car Hire, group B (VW Polo Vivo or similar).**

**Premium insurance includes:** theft and collision damage waiver, personal accident insurance, unlimited mileage, location surcharge, third party liability insurance, general public liability insurance, tourism levy, VAT and claim admin fee, tyre, rim and hubcap damage, windscreen damage/repair, sandblasting damage, water and undercarriage damage.

**Excludes:** fuel, refundable rental deposit, rental contract fee, one way drop off charges, delivery and collection fees, traffic fine administration fee, additional driver, child safety seats, GPS navigation, additional spare tyre rental and deposit

Option to upgrade your car hire upon request at time of booking.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

#### Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go.

#### Booking Your Flights

When booking your departure flight you should allow time at the end of your African safari for any unexpected delays. We recommend that you book your onward flight no earlier than 24 hours after the end of your safari. In the case of our longer overland camping safaris (22 days or more) we advise against making any firm arrangements for at least 48 hours after the scheduled departure date. Your tour leader can help to arrange post tour accommodation locally upon request.

#### Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will be done to accommodate everyone, sometimes the choice available is limited as your cook may be making the best of very limited availability, so some flexibility may be required when encountering something you're not particularly fond of or have chosen not to eat as a lifestyle choice. Should you possess allergies which will result in a medical emergency or a life threatening situation then please ensure you speak to your cook on arrival so you can discuss the options available whilst en-route. This will ensure also that they are fully aware of what you can or cannot eat and make adjustments.

### South Africa Country Guide

#### Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months

from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Australian, USA and Canadian citizens do not require a tourist visa for South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Since 16th January 2017 all New Zealand passport holders have been required to obtain a visa prior to travelling to South Africa.

Nationalities who don't require a visa are able to get an entry stamp at the border on entering South Africa. Please contact your local South African embassy to find out if you require a visa prior to entering SA. If you are subject to visa requirements, you must apply and receive your visa before your departure for South Africa, visas are not issued at South African ports of entry.

The border crossings we use in South Africa include:

Noordoeuw (South Africa/Namibia border)  
Groblersberg/Martin's Drift (South Africa/Botswana)  
Lebombo (South Africa/Mozambique)  
Oshoek (Swaziland/South Africa)

#### Under 18s Travelling To Or Through South Africa

Parents travelling with children (under 18) into or out of South Africa, or transiting in South Africa will be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate which lists the child's details and both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's details won't be accepted. Uncertified copies of birth certificates or copies of the parents/guardians identification will not be accepted. A parental consent affidavit (PCA) must have a certified copy of the parent's/guardian's identification (ie passport) attached to it.

Where only one parent is accompanying a child, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (eg an affidavit from the other parent or – if applicable – a death certificate) is required and there are other requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents.

If you are travelling with children (under 18) it is essential that you contact the

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South African High Commission or the South African Department of Home Affairs for further information relating to these regulations. If you do not carry the correct documentation you will not be allowed to enter the country. Obtaining the correct paperwork is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

**Please note: From the 11th November 2019, only a valid passport will be required for foreign minors travelling to South Africa.**

## Health & Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to South Africa from your local health practitioner and ensure that all you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A (for stays over 4 weeks) and hepatitis B (for stays over 3 months) are recommended.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one, coming from infected areas.

A low malaria risk occurs in northern parts of Mpumalanga (as well as Kruger National park, northern and northeastern parts of KwaZulu-Natal). If travelling to these regions and/or the countries north of South Africa, where there is a high malaria risk, we strongly recommend that you take anti-malaria medication. Precautionary measures to take to prevent contact with mosquitoes include: insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and wear long sleeve clothing and long trousers in the evenings.

## Currency

The currency in South Africa is Rand (ZAR; symbol R)

1 Rand = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of R200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of R5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

Obtaining local currency within South Africa is very easy. ATMs are widely accessible and very reliable and offer the best rates of exchange. International credit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and game reserves.

Bureau de changes offer a quick and commission free service but are only found in the main centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg. Travellers cheques can be changed at banks. These should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Please note that proof of identity may be requested in some instances, so it's useful to carry a passport or some form of photo identification. Travellers cheques can be difficult to exchange and tend to attract high commission fees.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1530, Sat 0830-1100.

Rand can be used in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, so if you are travelling on one of our overland safaris ample money for these three countries can be obtained prior to beginning your trip in Cape Town or Johannesburg. The Rand and Namibian dollar are tied to each other on an equal level and can be used interchangeably in Namibia. The Rand can also be easily converted to Pula in Botswana at good rates.

## Time & Voltage

Time Zone - South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed

Standard voltage is 220-230V. Primary sockets require a 'Type M' - South African, electrical plug which has three thick circular pins. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances.

## Climate

Climatic conditions generally range from Mediterranean in the south western corner of the country to temperate in the interior plateau, and subtropical in the northeast. A small area in the northwest has a desert climate. Most of the country has warm, sunny days and cool nights. Rainfall generally occurs during summer (November-March), although in the southwest, around Cape Town, rainfall occurs in winter (from June-August). Temperatures are influenced by variations in elevation, terrain, and ocean currents.

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