



Garden Route Self Drive

Guideline cost : R 4515.00 per person sharing accommodation

Day 1 – Cape Town – Oudtshoorn

Take the N1 north to Paarl, regarded by many as one of South Africa's leading wine producing regions. It's also becoming something of a golfing destination and followers of the Royal and Ancient game will find themselves challenged and pampered at a number of first-class courses.

From Wellington, take the R44 via Hermon and Gouda to Tulbagh. Boasting the oldest wine co-op - and also the oldest flower show in South Africa, and set in a truly dramatic mountain setting, Tulbagh is steeped in 300 years of history and culture with an impressive selection of old Cape Dutch Buildings.

Named for the Roman Goddess of Agriculture, Ceres is appropriately one of South Africa's most beautiful fruit farming areas. A tradition of gardening has left the village with a legacy of beautiful tree-lined avenues which provide a dramatic display when the leaves turn in Autumn (April and May).

Drive south on the R301 for about 24 kilometres and you'll come to a turn-off onto the R43 to Worcester - the centre of the country's biggest wine producing region. Don't miss the Karoo National Botanical Garden and the local museum where outdoor displays preserve the old fashioned farming methods of the Cape. Worcester is also the home of the KWV Brandy Cellars, the largest brandy cellars in the world.



Continue via Ashton and the Cogmanskloof Pass to Montagu on the R62. This historic village is the Mountain Mecca of the Western Cape and its hot mineral springs provide a perfect way to relax after a hard day's hiking, climbing or, well - just relaxing. Not to miss is the tractor-trailer ride to the top of the Langeberg Mountains. The view of the Robertson Valley and the Karoo Valley is breathtaking.

Depart for Barrydale, a deciduous fruit growing area that's also known for its wild flowers, and for its top quality brandy. Further along the route, Ladismith is guarded by the Toorkop (2,197 m), a strangely shaped mountain which offers experienced climbers a real challenge. Ladismith produces top quality cheese and butter. These products are available at a number of outlets in the town.

About 20 km from Ladismith you'll come to the mission station of Amalienstein/Zoar and shortly thereafter you'll find a turning to your left to Seweweekspoort. This is a detour and it's a gravel road, so you should check conditions before you attempt it, but if you're up to the adventure you'll be treated to a spectacular crossing of the Swartberg Mountains. The road takes you to Laingsburg.

Continue on the R62 to Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. Visit an ostrich farm, explore the Cango Caves and spend an absorbing hour or two amongst the old vehicles and musical instruments at the local museum, where you'll also find the preserved interior of a Jewish synagogue dating back to the days of the ostrich feather boom.

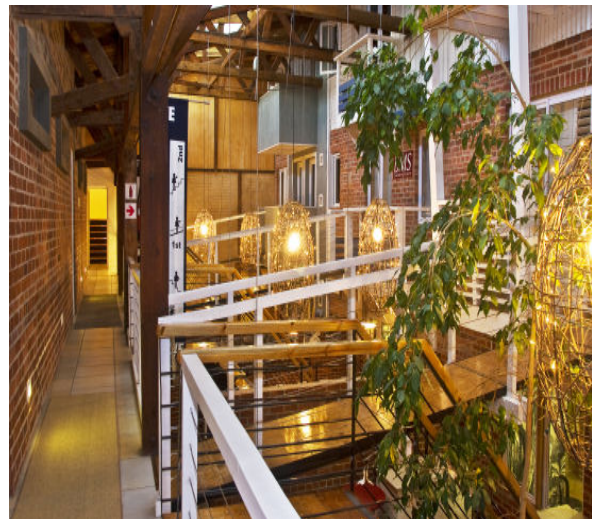
Overnight at La Plume Guest House (or similar) for the next 2 nights on a bed and breakfast (BB) basis.

La Plume is a 1902 Victorian homestead on a working ostrich, alfalfa and wine farm. Set in the tranquil Olifantsrivier Valley it demands spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountains. It is a place of rejuvenation. It is an unexpected oasis. .

Day 3 – Oudtshoorn – Knysna

From Oudtshoorn you will travel over the Outeniqua Pass to George, and then on to Wilderness and Knysna.

Knysna is a set around a large and beautiful river estuary, creating a playground with every manner of watersport on offer. The impressive sandstone heads loom large over the narrow mouth where the fresh water meets the sea rushing in. This incredible natural beauty is complimented by the charming town which has all the shopping one could need while on holiday, a waterfront, its own brewery, loads of pubs and restaurant and the its famous oysters. Knysna is the centre of the oyster industry and thus the place to spoil yourself. If you are staying in Knysna the best beach is at Buffalo Bay about 20 minutes drive away.



Overnight at The Lofts (or similar) for the next 2 nights on a bed and breakfast (BB) basis.

Hidden away in the Boatshed, on Thesen Islands, a mere couple of feet from the water's edge, you will discover The Lofts. These luxury Loft rooms offer the discerning guest a combination of luxurious living and breathtaking views over the scenic Knysna lagoon. Discover the ultimate in waterside living in one of South Africa's most sought after destinations

Day 4 – Departure

Travel to George Airport, where you will drop off your hired car and catch an onward flight home.

To book contact **Africa Bespoke** phone: +27 (0)21 674 5820 or email: info@africabespoke.com