

Our itinerary for the tour. Subject to change daily. Any changes to this itinerary will be communicated the evening before. Whatsapp will also be utilized to communicate and changes of departure time.

Our tour day will generally begin at 9:00 each morning, end by 5:00 PM.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

5:05 PM Depart Seattle late afternoon for Dubai

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

6:40 PM Arrive Dubai. We'll need to complete the tourist visa application upon arrival in Dubai. I am told this can take some time, depending on the number of arrivals. Transfer to our Emirates Hotel on Dubai Creek. We'll have a late, light dinner at the hotel. Overnight Dubai (D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

9:20 AM We've got a local guide and transportation for a full day of touring Dubai. Meet in the lobby no later than 9:15 to meet our guide. The morning will be a walk through the old town. Following a light lunch, we'll travel downtown to take in the modern architecture that has made Dubai the business center it is today.

We'll end the day at Dubai Miracle Garden. Wander inside the world's largest natural flower garden home to 150 million flowers, with a rotating display of characters and themes, designed with flowers. Dinner will take place at Vivaldi, the Italian restaurant at the Sheraton. Overnight Dubai (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:00 AM This morning is largely on your own to explore the city. I plan to take the tram to the Burj Khalifa just after an early breakfast before the crowds swell. You can decide then if you want to ride to the top of the tallest tower in the world. Desert rides are a big tourist attraction here. You may want to consider this an option to book on this this free day. We'll depart from the hotel about 4:30 PM for the marina and a two-hour sunset

cruise on the waterfront. You'll have a few hours to rest up before we take our shuttle to the airport later that night/morning at 1:30 AM. (BD)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

1:30 AM You'll have access to your room this evening until we depart for the airport and our flight to Cape Town at 1:30 AM. Our Emirates flight departs at 3:50 AM for Cape Town and we're less than 20 minutes by car to the airport. As always, I prefer to have ample time to check in for an international flight in a strange airport.

We arrive in Cape Town shortly before noon. After meeting our driver and guide, we'll proceed to our hotel near the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. On the way we'll enjoy a short driving orientation of the city. You've got some free time to explore this water front area or just rest up in your room. Dinner will be provided in the early evening near the hotel. Overnight Cape Town (BD)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

We depart the hotel a little before 9:00 AM this morning to catch the first ferry to Robben Island for a guided tour of the island and its 500-year history, most notably the site of Nelson Mandela's imprisonment. We'll break for lunch upon our return to the mainland, then arrange for our transportation to the Cable Car that ascends to the top of Table Mountain. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the waterfront and downtown area.

Both of these tours are weather-dependent, so fingers crossed for clear skies and no wind. We'll adjust if the weather interferes with plans. When I visited a few years ago, I dined in Camps Bay at a great seafood place. We'll travel by cab to The Cod Father for dinner with outstanding views of the Atlantic. Overnight Cape Town (BD)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

A slight change to the itinerary this morning. [Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden](#) is one of the 10-best in the world, and one of a few gardens in South Africa with a focus on indigenous plants. This will be our first visit of the day with a guided tour. We'll have lunch on our own in one of the garden restaurants. I was fortunate to get a tour of [Stellenberg](#) private garden nearby. They're generally closed on the weekend, but has decided to welcome our group for a tour mid-afternoon. We should arrive in Franschoek about 5:00 PM that afternoon. We'll check into the hotel and you're free for the evening. Dinner is on your

own at one before journeying on toward Franschhoek. We're traveling by coach to wine country shortly after breakfast. Our destination is the town of Franschhoek, a French-founded village in the heart of the Cape Winelands. Winery(BD)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Depart the hotel shortly after breakfast for a tour of the gardens and wine tasting at the Vergelegen Winery. We'll break for lunch on your own in Stellenbosch. The afternoon will include an early afternoon visit to Old Nectar Gardens for a short introduction to their estate and gardens. You'll have time to wander the grounds and sample wine. We've got tickets for a piano & cello recital with local musicians at the winery with food and drink that starts at 4:00 PM. Return to Franschhoek for free time in the village. Overnight Franschhoek (B)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Originally convinced the wine tram would be a good idea today, I've opted for a group tasting at two of the most impressive wineries in the region. The tram takes more time and it's hit or miss as to whether you taste the wine you want. In a limited span of time, I decided to book the coach again for the day.

Our first winery visit of the day is at [Stonybrook](#). We'll have a tasting of five of their wines. The second visit today will be at [Boschendal Wine Estate](#) for a premium wine tasting with cheeses, charcuterie, and local breads. Both of these wineries are making award winning wines. (BL)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

We depart the hotel a little after 9:00 AM this morning, traveling the short distance to Cape Town Airport for a short flight to Port Elizabeth. We meet our transportation upon arrival, traveling about 90 minutes to Settlers Drift, in the heart of the [Kariega Game Preserve](#). This evening we'll take part in an evening game drive immediately following dinner. Overnight Settlers Drift (BD)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

You are free to choose your activities today at the game reserve. Our group occupies the entire camp. Our accommodation includes 2 game drives, river cruise or walk per day in

addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner (local beverages, as well). Overnight Settlers Drift (BLD)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

If you took an afternoon game drive on Wednesday, I suggest you mix it up with a river cruise today. You can also canoe or fish in between dining at the camp. Overnight Settlers Drift (BLD)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Say goodbye to our luxurious Tented encampment this morning as we leave the preserve for the coast of the Garden Route. We'll meet our local guide in Port Elizabeth and drive to our home base on Plettenberg Bay for the next three nights. En-route today we'll stop for lunch on the water at Jeffreys Bay, then an opportunity to walk the Storms River Suspension Bridge. We'll arrive at our beach front hotel late afternoon to provide some free time before we travel into town for dinner. Overnight Plettenberg Bay (BD)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Today we're sticking close to the sea with a free morning to enjoy the beach, nature reserve, and town in Plettenberg Bay. In the afternoon we'll drive the short distance to the coastal community of [Knysna](#). We'll have an opportunity to take a [whale watching](#) excursion before return to the hotel. We'll stop for dinner on our way back this evening. Overnight Plettenberg Bay (BD)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Sightseeing today enjoying the majestic scenery of the Garden Route. We will spend the afternoon at the [Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary](#) and the [Birds of Eden Free flight Bird Sanctuary](#). Return to Robberg Beach late this afternoon for free time before dinner, which is on your own this evening. Overnight Plettenberg Bay (B)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Today is one of our long drives as we travel along the coast to the old fishing town of Hermanus. We'll make a long stop on our way west to Hermanus in [Mossel Bay](#) on the coast. You'll have plenty of free time here to grab lunch, spend time on the beach, visit the [Bartolomeu Diaz Museum](#), or shop in town. One final stop will take place in Stanford to

whet our whistles for a wine tasting before arriving in Hermanus late in the afternoon. Dinner is on your own at one of the many restaurants near the hotel. Overnight Hermanus (B)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:00 AM Depart the hotel this morning for a visit to the [Stony Point Penguin Colony](#) at Betty's Bay. Next stop is the nearby [Harold Porter Botanical Garden](#), where we've got a guided tour arranged by one of the staff. Break for lunch in Betty's Bay.

Following lunch, we'll visit the Bouchard Finlayson Winery, just a short drive away. Whale watching season along the coast runs from June to December. You'll have free time in town this afternoon to relax, shop, or search for the Southern Right Whale just off the coast. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight Hermanus (B)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Depart the hotel shortly after breakfast this morning. We have a garden tour arranged at The Cellars/Hohenhort Hotel. From there we'll enjoy a wine lunch at the nearby Groot Constantia Winery.

This day was changed a bit to accommodate our departing flight, which was moved up 3 hours from the first go-around. Originally plans were to visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden today. That was moved to earlier in the week.

We will arrive at Cape Town Airport by 4:00 PM for our 6:25 PM departure to Dubai and on to destination airports.

Here's a link to the hotels we'll occupy on this tour:

[Sheraton Dubai Creek](#)

[The Old Foundry Hotel Cape Town](#)

[Protea Hotel Franschoek](#)

[Settlers Drift at Kariega Nature Preserve](#)

[Robberg Beach Lodge at Plettenberg](#)

[Misty Waves Boutique Hotel at Hermanus](#)

Links to visited sites and communities on this tour...

[Hermanus](#)

[Harold Porter Botanic Gardens](#)

[Stony Point Penguins](#)
[Cape Point Drive](#)
[Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden](#)
[Cape Town](#)
[Table Mountain](#)
[Robben Island](#)
[Settler's Drift](#)
[Storms River Suspension Bridge](#)
[The Garden Route](#)
[Plettenberg Bay](#)
[Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary](#)
[Birds of Eden Avian Sanctuary](#)
[Mossel Bay](#)
[Knysna](#)
[Franschhoek](#)
[Groot Constantia](#)
[Stellenberg Gardens](#)
[Babylonstoren Garden](#)
[Rustenberg Wine Estate](#)
[Kanoncop Wine Estates](#)
[Karoo National Botanical Garden](#)
[Old Nectar Gardens](#)
[Vergelegen Wine Estate Gardens](#)
[The Cellars/Hohenhort Hotel](#)