



CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Go Beyond Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 1

Johannesburg – Greater Kruger – Gqeberha – Knysna – Cape Town

Enjoy Christmas at the height of summer with a once-in-a-lifetime journey through South Africa's highlights! Witness the incredible wildlife of the Greater Kruger – where you'll spend a magical Christmas Eve and Day, traverse the scenic Garden Route with its picturesque coastline and charming towns, to finally immerse yourself in the cosmopolitan allure of Cape Town. This unforgettable adventure showcases the best of South Africa's diverse landscapes and experiences with a festive twist.

- Discover the wonders of the Panorama Route
- Seek the renowned "Big 5" in Kruger National Park
- Dare to cross the Storms River suspension Bridge
- Feed an Ostrich in Oudtshoorn
- Taste exceptional wines in picturesque surroundings
- Ascend Table Mountain for breath taking views

TOUR MAP



CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH AFRICA INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as specified
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward with unique culture, interactions with local people the experiences of a lifetime.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. Kruger to Cape Explored is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- The safari's will be taken in open-air 4x4 vehicles

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 15 days in duration including an overnight international flight in both direction as this is the most likely flight option from Australia.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.com.au so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

For 'Land Only': Join the tour on Day 2 in Johannesburg and end the tour on Day 14 in Cape Town. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrive Johannesburg

Meals: D

Fly to Johannesburg where you will be met on arrival and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel in Sandton. You have the rest of the day to relax or explore your surroundings.



Destination Information

Johannesburg - Johannesburg, known as Joburg or Jozi, is South Africa's largest city and a vibrant economic and cultural center. With a diverse population, it reflects the country's rich diversity. The city's history is linked to the discovery of gold, and today, it offers a blend of modern attractions, museums, art precincts, and nearby nature reserves.

Sandton - Sandton is an affluent suburb in Johannesburg, known for its upscale lifestyle, business district, and luxury amenities. It houses the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and offers high-end shopping and fine dining.

Day 3: Sandton to Graskop

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast visit Constitution Hill before travelling approximately 5.5 hours to Mpumalanga Panorama Route region. A charming and picturesque area surrounded by the majestic Drakensberg Mountains, waterfalls and canyons; it serves as a gateway to the famous Kruger National Park. After check-in you have the rest of the day at leisure.



Destination Information

Constitution Hill – A living Museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. There is no site of incarceration in South Africa, that imprisoned the sheer number of world-renowned men and women as those held within the walls of the Old Fort, the Women's Jail and Number Four. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Joe S'lovo, Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikezela-Mandel and Fatima Meer. They all served time here.

Panorama Route – A scenic region in South Africa connecting several cultural and natural points of interest. One of South Africa's most scenic drives explores the Mpumalanga highlands, or the north-eastern section of the Great Escarpment of the Drakensberg. Here you will experience the area where the plateau comes to an abrupt and dramatic end, falling steeply away into the Lowveld accompanied by incredible views out over the grasslands of the South African Lowveld region.

Day 4: Panorama Route

Meals: B, L, D

Today is Christmas Eve! Ride the Graskop Gorge Lift for its breathtaking views of the forest canopy, before continuing to God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes, a natural wonder of swirling pools and rock formations. Marvel at the Three Rondavels, a majestic rock formation resembling traditional African huts. Check in at the private game lodge and as the day draws to a close, indulge in a dusk safari with the chance to spot local wildlife. This evening, sit down to a delicious Christmas Eve dinner at the lodge to get you into the festive spirit. Today's sightseeing will last approximately 6 hours.

**Destination Information**

Gorge Lift – A thrilling and unique forest experience offering a breath-taking view of the gorge below. The lift consists of a glass-walled elevator that gently descends into the gorge, providing stunning panoramic views while at the base there is a network of suspended walkways to explore the forest floor, as well as the waterfall. The viewing lift takes visitors 51m down the face of the gorge into the indigenous forest below, where wooden walkways & suspension bridges make up a 600m trail. Interactive exhibits and interpretation boards enable visitors to explore the diverse life that thrives under the dense canopy of trees. Only the front of the lift is glass, from waist height upwards.

God's Window - Part of the larger Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, which is the third-largest canyon in the world. The name "God's Window" is derived from the local Tsonga people, who called it "Lisbona le khaleni," meaning "place of God." Standing on the edge of the cliff, visitors often feel as if they are at the edge of the world, looking out over a vast and untouched wilderness.

Bourke's Luck Potholes - A series of cylindrical rock formations created by centuries of erosion caused by the meeting of the Treur and Blyde rivers. The swirling whirlpools formed by the two rivers carried sand and rocks, slowly carving out these potholes in the bedrock. The name "Bourke's Luck" is a legend derived from the early gold rush days in the region. A man named Tom Bourke had a claim in the area but was unsuccessful in finding gold, unaware that he was quite close to a fortune. However, while he did not find gold, he did stumble upon this stunning geological marvel, and the name "Bourke's Luck" stuck.

Three Rondavels - The name "rondavel" originates from the traditional African hut, which is a circular-shaped dwelling with a thatched roof. The Three Rondavels were named because their rock formations resemble these traditional huts. The geological formations are made of quartzite and shale, and they stand proudly at the edge of the Blyde River Canyon. The first "rondavel" is named Makhonjwa, the second is named Modjadji, and the third is called Maseroto.

Days 5-6: Greater Kruger National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Merry Christmas! This year you'll be celebrating in a completely different way, spending Christmas Day and Boxing Day on exciting game drives, the primary way to explore the park. These guided tours are conducted in open 4x4 vehicles, allowing you to get close to the animals while staying safe. Experienced safari guides lead the drives and are skilled at spotting wildlife and sharing their knowledge about the animals and their habitats.



Christmas dinner on the 25th will be a cheer-filled affair served under the stars in the lodge's atmospheric boma. It'll be followed by an African drumming class where you'll not only learn traditional beats but about its rich cultural history and how stories, songs and traditions have been passed down through the universal language of rhythm and dance.

Safaris take place during the early morning and late afternoon to maximize your chances of spotting wildlife, as many animals are more active during these cooler parts of the day.

A typical day while on safari is:

- Wake Up Call at 05h00
- Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate Served with Rusk's in the Main area
- Morning Game drive commence at 05h30 and return to the lodge at 08h30 - 09h00 for breakfast
- Lunch is Served 13h00 – 15h00
- Afternoon Game Drive commence at 16h00 and return to the lodge at 19h00 -19h30
- Dinner is served

*** Timings are between 30 minutes – 1 hour later in Winter **
Please see Park Rules at the end of this document*

Destination Information

Greater Kruger National Park - One of Africa's premier and most renowned game reserves. It is in the northeastern part of South Africa, bordering Mozambique to the east and Zimbabwe to the north. Covering an immense area of approximately 19,485 square kilometres the park is larger than some countries and is considered one of the largest and oldest national parks on the continent. This region incorporates a great number of private reserves also adding to the conservation area of the region. Kruger National Park's primary purpose is to protect and preserve a wide variety of wildlife species and their natural habitats.

Day 7: Travel to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)

Meals: B, L, D

This morning after breakfast you will depart for Johannesburg, travelling about 5 hours to the airport. Board your 2 hour flight to Gqeberha where upon arrival you will check into the hotel before dinner.

Please note: You will travel with one national guide from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth and a different guide from Port Elizabeth onwards.

**Destination Information**

Gqeberha – Previously called Port Elizabeth and often referred to as PE, is a coastal city in the Eastern Cape province and a major seaport and tourist destination known for its beautiful beaches, pleasant climate, and diverse range of attractions. Gqeberha (pronounced as "gqe-ber-ha") is derived from the isiXhosa language, which is one of the official languages of South Africa. The name change is intended to honour and acknowledge the Xhosa heritage and the historical significance of the region.

Day 8: Gqeberha to Knysna

Meals: B, L, D

Depart this morning for Knysna and enroute you will visit Oudebosch Protea Farm, learning about the country's national flower. Continue further to Tsitsikamma National Park a protected area renowned for its stunning coastal and forest landscape. Further south you will arrive in the picturesque town of Knysna, that boasts a beautiful lagoon, the Knysna Heads and has a vibrant waterfront. Today's sightseeing will last approximately 8 hours.

**Destination Information**

Oudebosch Protea Farm – Learn about proteas and how they are propagated and enjoy a tour through the packing shed where the flowers are prepared, mainly for export.

Tsitsikamma National Forest - Protected area along the Garden Route with highlights that include its coastal beauty, Storms River Mouth with a suspension bridge and ancient indigenous forests.

Day 9: Knysna

Meals: B, L, D

Today's highlight is The Featherbed Eco Experience, an enchanting adventure that takes visitors on a scenic boat cruise across the Knysna Lagoon. Afterwards a guided tractor ride leads you to the top of the western head, offering breathtaking views of the lagoon, ocean, and mountains. A gentle nature walk through the coastal forest provides insights into the area's unique flora and fauna and enjoy a delicious lunch in this picturesque setting. This amazing experience will last approximately 3-4 hours.



Travel to Oudtshoorn where you will have the rest of the day at leisure.

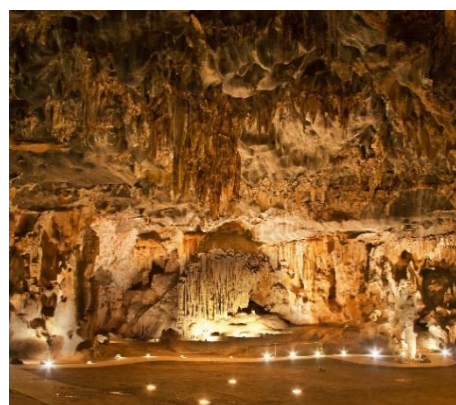
Destination Information

Knysna - A stunning coastal town with two striking sandstone cliffs that form a narrow entrance lagoon. Both offer panoramic views with the Eastern Head being inhabited while the Western Head is unpopulated and is a privately-owned nature reserve called Featherbed.

Day 10: Oudtshoorn to Cape Town

Meals: B, L

Today in Oudtshoorn, you will explore the fascinating Cango Caves, a subterranean wonder with impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations.. From there, head to an ostrich farm for a tractor tour and enjoy a scrumptious lunch featuring ostrich delicacies. Continue the drive to Cape Town. Today's journey and sightseeing will last approximately 8 hours.

**Destination Information**

Cango Caves - Formed millions of years ago through to slow dissolution of underground rock by water. Learn about the real discoverers and inhabitants of the cave with a comfortable walk through the most majestic of the cave chambers.

Oudtshoorn – Experience the world's only Tractor Tour of an Ostrich Farm while you get up close and personal with the world's largest bird. Drive inside the breeder bird camps and also to be seen are the second largest birds, the emus.

Day 11: Cape Town

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the final day of the year exploring Cape Town's highlight in the sunshine! The day begins with an orientation tour into the rich history and vibrant culture of this magical city. Drive past Castle of Good Hope, Company Gardens and Houses of Parliament. Lunch is an experience as you ascend Table Mountain (weather permitting) via the cableway for breathtaking panoramic views. Today's exploration will be approximately 8 hours.



Dinner this evening will be in a restaurant on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront where you'll see in the New Year with great company, delicious food, and entertainment in a vibrant atmosphere. As the clock chimes midnight, cheers with your travel companions and enjoy a show of lights and pyrotechnics. What a place to start the new year!

Should Table Mountain be closed due to weather, a drive-up Signal Hill, for a photo opportunity, will be provided.

Destination Information

Table Mountain – An iconic natural wonder standing proudly at over 1,000 meters above sea level, the flat-topped mountain offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city, the surrounding coastline, and the majestic Atlantic Ocean.

Day 12: The Peninsular

Meals: B, L

The New Year begins with a thrilling 45-minute sea island cruise, where you can witness playful seals in their natural habitat. Weather permitting, embark on a breathtaking drive along Chapman's Peak, boasting sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. Discover the rugged beauty of Cape Point, where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet, and visit the historic Cape Point Lighthouse for panoramic vistas. Finally, enjoy a stop at Boulders Beach, famous for its resident African penguin colony, where you can observe these charming creatures up close. Touring this magnificent peninsular lasts for approximately 8 hours.



Dinner tonight will be at the hotel, where you will be joined by Christo Brand – Nelson Mandela's friend and prison warden – who will share his unique perspective on his experience during Mandela's imprisonment.

Destination Information

Sea Island Cruise – A wondrous ocean safari to see seals, a variety of birds and beautiful landscapes. On occasion you will see majestic whales, joyful dolphins and various other sea life. All vessels have a fully licensed bar, state-of-the-art sound system as well as full toilet facilities for ladies and gents. The Nauticat also has glass bottom windows which make for incredible underwater viewing.

Chapman's Peak - Chapman's Peak is a spectacular coastal road and mountain pass offering breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, rugged cliffs, and the picturesque coastline. The drive is renowned for its stunning scenery and unforgettable panoramic vistas.

Boulders Beach – Famous for its adorable colony of African penguins. The beach's picturesque setting, with granite boulders and clear waters, makes it a serene spot to relax and observe the penguins in their natural habitat.

Day 13: The Winelands

Meals: B, L, D

Embark on a delightful Winelands tour exploring these renowned regions, starting in Stellenbosch. Tour the town before making your way to Franschhoek. Boschendal Wine Estate awaits with its picturesque vineyards and rich history. Taste exquisite wines and savor a delicious lunch at Haute Cabriere, offering magnificent views of the valley. Discover the art of winemaking and sample their finest vintages. End this day with an unforgettable dinner at Gold Restaurant. You will enjoy approximately 7 hours discovering this picturesque region.



Destination Information

Winelands Region – A wine lover's paradise and a feast for the senses. With its picturesque vineyards, historic estates, and stunning landscapes, it offers a memorable escape from city life. Indulge in wine tastings, explore charming towns with Cape Dutch architecture, and savor delectable cuisine at top-notch restaurants.

Gold Restaurant - GOLD Restaurant in Cape Town offers an authentic African experience. So much more than just an African restaurant, a night at GOLD is an immersive experience that will take you on a 14-dish taste safari paired with traditional Mali puppets and entertainment. Dinner is accompanied by interactive entertainment, and one cannot help but be swept up in the excitement of archetypal African stories told through the live entertainment, which includes praise singing to welcome you, Mali puppetry, and dancing to the rhythms of the marimba percussion and djembe drums. Feel the heartbeat of Africa with our pre-dinner interactive djembe drumming session.

Days 14 - 15: Depart Cape Town

Meals: B

Today is at leisure for you to explore or shop as you please. The waterfront offers a wide variety of activities, dining, and entertainment experiences, from boat trips, aquarium to The Eye, you will have plenty to keep you busy.

Later you will transfer 1 hour to the airport for your flight home, arriving the next day.



CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Eating in South Africa is a diverse and flavourful experience, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and its blend of indigenous, European, Asian, and African influences. The cuisine is influenced by the country's history and various ethnic groups. You'll find traditional African dishes, Dutch, British, Indian, and Malay-inspired foods, among others. The iconic braai, a barbecue feast of meats and traditional sauces, embodies communal gatherings. Biltong and droëwors offer savoury snacking options, while dishes like bobotie, a fragrant blend of spiced meat and custard, showcase Cape Malay influences. Indian-inspired samoosas and the unique bunny chow add further dimension to South African dining. From pap and wors, a staple pairing of maize porridge and sausages, to seafood harvested from the extensive coastline, the culinary scene is a celebration of diversity. Wine regions like Stellenbosch and cultural festivals highlight the country's love for wine and food. South African cuisine varies by region and cultural background, so there's a wide range of flavours and dishes to explore.

Ultimately, South African cuisine tells a story of cultural fusion and community, inviting locals and visitors alike to savour its distinctive flavours. Restaurants in South Africa offer good value. In every city you'll find fine restaurants with imaginative menus. Generally, restaurants are licensed (sell alcohol) except for Muslim establishments serving Cape Cuisine which don't sell alcohol at all. In big cities such as Cape Town, continental-style cafes are popular. Service is good and friendly. In addition to fine dining, South Africa has a string of franchise restaurants including popular Wimpy, Spur, Nando's, and KFC.

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and South Africa. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met. Please be aware that there are security measures carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

PARK RULES:

Game Drive Rules:

Guests should always remain seated.

Refrain from talking loudly when viewing animals.

Always keep arms and legs within the confines of the game drive vehicle.

Do not grab onto any branches or leaves whilst the vehicle is moving.

No feeding of animals.

Guests should note that game drive vehicles are open to the elements:

Ensure to wear comfortable / neutral colouring clothing.

Sun Hats and Sun Glasses are advisable.

Bring a light jacket with as it tends to be chilly during the early morning and once the sun sets on afternoon drives.

Warmer jackets, beanies and scarves are advisable for winter months.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South Africa is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides, drivers, trackers and rangers) throughout your tour. The amount is

designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants, restaurant staff or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in Japan. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

GROUP SIZE:

The group size on our Go Beyond Tours is on average 10-15 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in South Africa have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in South Africa have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Public Transport: South Africa does not have a well-developed public transport system. All the cities have a municipal bus service, which runs according to an established schedule, but only until a certain time of night. The service is infrequent and even more limited over the weekends and public holidays. Towns do not offer a municipal bus service. It is not recommended that tourists use public transport.

Taxi's: There are mainly two types of taxis in South Africa. Metered taxis are more expensive and to be found mainly in the cities although some small towns may have a limited number. They cannot be hailed from the street and must either be ordered by phone or at the taxi ranks, which are scarce. Minibus taxis are the cheapest but also the most uncomfortable. Violence connected with minibus taxis and a relatively high accident rate makes this the least preferable mode of transport.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When traveling to South Africa, especially in warm and sunny climates, it's advisable to pack light and comfortable clothing made from cotton in light colours to stay cool. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers can provide protection from the sun and insects. Carrying a lightweight waterproof jacket is also a good idea in case of unexpected rain. A sturdy pair of trainers or hiking shoes is essential for exploring various terrains comfortably. To shield yourself from the sun, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses are important items to have. Don't forget to capture the stunning landscapes and experiences with a camera, and make sure to bring along chargers and spare memory cards. A lightweight flashlight can be handy for navigating in low-light conditions. Prioritize your well-being by packing a medical kit that includes essentials like first aid supplies and any personal medications you might need. If you're visiting malaria-prone areas, remember to take appropriate anti-malarial precautions. With these essentials in your luggage, you'll be well-prepared for a memorable and comfortable adventure in South Africa.

WEATHER:

Warm temperate conditions are typical of South Africa, making it a popular destination for sunshine-seekers. South Africa is renowned for almost seven months of sunshine. From May to August, temperatures drop. However, April and May are the most temperate months. In certain areas, however, notably the hot, humid KwaZulu-Natal coast, Mpumalanga and the Northern Province, June and July are the ideal holiday months. The wide expanses of ocean on three sides of South Africa have a moderating influence on its climate.

More apparent, however, are the effects of the warm Agulhas and cold Benguela currents along the east and west coasts, respectively. While Durban (east coast) and Port Nolloth (West Coast) lie on the same latitude, there is a difference of at least 6 degrees centigrade in their mean annual temperatures.

Temperatures

Despite a latitudinal span of 13 degrees, average annual temperatures are remarkably uniform throughout the country. Owing to the increase in the height of the plateau towards the Northeast, there is hardly any increase in temperature from south to north, as might be expected. There is a striking contrast between temperatures on the east and west coasts. Temperatures above 32°C are fairly common in summer, and frequently exceed 38°C in the lower Orange River valley and the Mpumalanga Lowveld.

The average temperatures in degrees Celsius are:

City	Province	Summer	Winter
Cape Town	Western Cape	24°C	22°C
Port Elizabeth	Eastern Cape	25°C	20°C
Johannesburg	Gauteng	24°C	18°C
Pretoria	Gauteng	27°C	22°C
Nelspruit	Mpumalanga	28°C	23°C

Rainfall

South Africa has an average annual rainfall of 464 mm, compared with a world average of 860 mm. About 20% of the country has a total annual rainfall of less than 200 mm, 48% between 200 and 600 mm, while only about 30% records more than 600 mm. Only the Western Cape experiences winter rainfall whilst the rest of the country has summer rains.

Caution

South Africa has one of the world's highest sunshine rates and everyone should take extra care, especially between 11h00 and 15h00. Sunscreen lotion with a protection factor of at least 20 is advised against the high UV rating.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Safety guidelines when:

At the hotel:

- Never leave your luggage unattended
- Store valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box
- Keep your room locked, whether you're in it or not
- If someone knocks, check who it is before opening the door
- Leave your keys at the reception desk when leaving the hotel

In the street:

- Avoid ostentatious displays of expensive jewellery, cameras and other valuables
- It's definitely not advisable to carry large sums of money around
- At night, steer clear of dark, isolated areas
- Do not walk around the city looking like a tourist
- It's better to explore in groups and to stick to well-lit, busy streets
- Plan your route beforehand
- A policeman or traffic officer will be glad to direct you if you get lost
- If you want to call a taxi, your hotel or the nearest tourism information office can recommend a reliable service.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP for advice on vaccinations and travel health.

The risk of contracting malaria is often a concern when visiting the Kruger National Park. The Kruger is one of the two South African National Parks that are situated in **malaria risk areas**. It is important to note that the risk of malaria is usually low, even in the summer months. The highest risk period is between November and April - the end of the summer rainy season.

Malaria

Malaria within South Africa's borders is only prevalent in a few areas. It is encountered mainly in northern and eastern Mpumalanga, northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, and the border areas of the Northern and North West Provinces. Should you be visiting these areas malaria precautions are advised. Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of acquiring malaria are reduced.

Anti malaria prophylactics are advisable year round. Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported. Please remember that the best insurance is the preventative kind: avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally. Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings. If staying in a bungalow or tent, spray with an insecticide like Doom to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into your room. Mosquito coils are effective.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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