

CAPE TOWN

DAY 1: ARRIVAL JOHANNESBURG / CAPE TOWN



Upon arrival at Cape Town International Airport, guests will be met by Mercury80 representatives and escorted to the luxury, air-conditioned 44-seater coaches for the transfer to the hotel. The driving time to the hotel is approximately 20 minutes.

Private check-in and welcome drinks on arrival.

Depending on time of arrival dinner this evening either in the hotel restaurant or function room (suggested if a late arrival) or at Belthazar or Baia, both situated at the V&A Waterfront.

BELTHAZAR

Wine, wine everywhere, tempting wine-lovers with **the largest wine bar in the world**. A multi-purpose restaurant, grill, wine bar Belthazar brings a chic new concept in the culinary arts to Cape Town.

Experienced sommeliers expertly serve up to 100 of the Cape's finest wines by the glass and advise customers on a wine-list of up to 500 fine wines and sought-after rare vintages. All wines are stored in a designer Vinoteque with dual temperature and humidity controls for red and white wines, served table-ready in Riedel glasses that enhance the wine of ones choice.

Belthazar is a totally new experience in wining and dining. With a superb wine selection by single varietal, blend and style, the state-of-the-art wine-list at Belthazar highlights vintage ratings, critics' ratings, wine awards and taste indicators. They are the first retailer in South Africa to use innovative nitrogen-infused technology pioneered in the USA to keep uncorked wine in ideal condition, preventing oxidization while preserving all the aroma, colour and flavour.

Superb aged Karan beef, export quality Mozambican shellfish and the freshest South African seafood. A platter of boutique South African cheeses are perfectly paired with a selection of Cape port wines to complete the meal.

BAIA

An overnight sensation, Situated in THE prime location on the V&A Waterfront, the sophisticated restaurant and cocktail bar is the talk of the town among lovers of fine food and wine.

With sweeping terraces that offer spectacular views, Baia (meaning the Bay), lives up to its name in every way. Chic and contemporary, Baia is on the cutting-edge of the restaurant scene, serving signature seafood dishes and fabulous fare in a glorious setting that welcomes visitors to Cape Town in style.

Baia is a culinary destination, a gastronomic experience in the grand colonial Portuguese tradition. The menu will tantalise your palate with the mouth-watering flavours of the freshest Mozambican shellfish, freshly caught Cape lobster, west coast oysters and mussels, a traditional Portuguese seafood cataplana or line-fish in a classic beurre blanc sauce. For meat-lovers, there is a gourmet selection of grilled meat and poultry dishes.

Linger at tables laid in crisp, white linen, illuminated by the soft pink glow of hurricane lamps. The spacious interior brings the gorgeous colours and natural shapes of Table Bay inside, from the plush wavy couches to the white mosaic tiles in the timeless Mediterranean genre.

Overnight: CAPE TOWN

DAY 2: CAPE TOWN

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day tour to Cape Point.

Depart the hotel by coach traveling to the Naval Town of Simonstown. An opportunity to “paddle with the penguins” in rubber dingys at Boulders Beach. Boulders Penguin Colony is home to a growing colony of the vulnerable African Penguin. Wooden walkways allow visitors to view the penguins in their natural habitat however the group will have an opportunity to get up close and personal. After donning protective clothing and life jackets, paddle amongst the penguins in rubber dingys. A once in a lifetime opportunity to view these flightless birds up close.

OPTIONAL

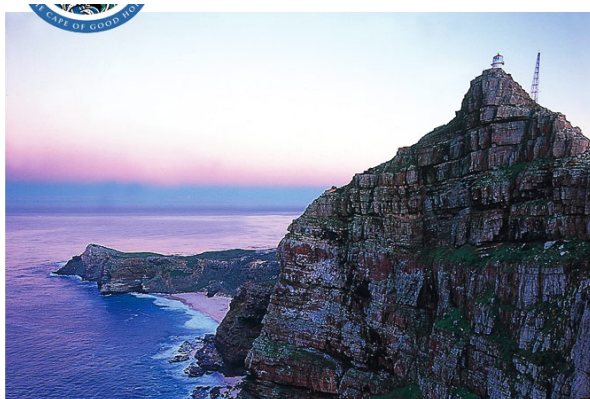
There were about 1.5 million adult African Penguins along the southern African coast in the 1930's. Human activities reduced this number by a staggering 90% in less than a century. The African Penguin, together with over a dozen other sea bird species found in South Africa, is considered to be threatened and vulnerable to extinction. You can help us to save a species by adopting an African Penguin.



Penguin adoptions are quite simple. Each year during our busy winter season (June-November) we photograph each rehabilitated penguin before it is released back into the wild. Each bird receives a metal flipper-band before it is released. The medical history of the bird corresponds to the number on the band and this information is captured onto our database. To adopt a penguin, we look up its number and provide you with:

- *a letter of adoption - including a brief medical history (where the bird came from, what was wrong with it, how much it weighed on admission and release etc.)*
- *a photograph of your penguin*
- *a certificate of adoption*

The documents are then posted to you and your bird can never be adopted by anyone else.



Visit Cape Point by funicular before proceeding to the town of Hout Bay.

Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope (ruled by a very arrogant troupe of Baboons)! From the highest point you can see the glorious Hottentots Mountains and False Bay on one side and the ever-changing Atlantic on the other – truly the meeting of 2 oceans!

In Hout Bay a delicious seafood lunch at Mariners Wharf restaurant **OR** a private beach party at Buffels Bay. Whilst feasting on a braai (bbq) of crayfish and other seafood delights, relax under the shade of large beach umbrellas. Beach Olympics including volleyball, Frisbee etc can be arranged.

Return to the hotel driving over Chapmans Peak, one of the world's most scenic coastal roads.

Dinner this evening at Pigalle.

PIGALLE

From the moment you enter Pigalle you'll know you are set for an extraordinary experience. About midway through any given evening the band emerges and plays soft jazz standards, the perfect antidote to a relaxed and classy meal.

Custom-made Art-Nouveau chandeliers light the vast dining area, while diners are seated on three levels curving around a bandstand and dance floor, where top performers such as Ian Smith, Onyx Phillips and others have performed.

Deep ruby walls provide the backdrop for the large oversized paintings, while others are painted a simple white; chairs are upholstered in a dramatic red or black resting on luxurious thick carpeting.

A menu of culinary delights focuses on seafood and elegant Portuguese food, offering up the freshest piscine creatures, prime beef cuts and other fine dining fare. And while the slant is on elegant, think also straightforward and unfussy where the accent is on freshness and quality.

Overnight: CAPE TOWN

DAY 3: CAPE TOWN

Breakfast at the hotel.



Depart on a full day tour with the first stop being at Cape Town's landmark, Table Mountain (weather permitting). Travel by revolving cablecar to the summit where views stretch for over 70km's. Guests have the opportunity to explore the various viewpoints, and maybe encounter some of the mountain residents – dassies (rock rabbits), a close relative of the elephant!

Continue on to the winelands of the Cape. An opportunity to visit several wine estates for wine tastings, cheese tasting as well as olive oil tasting.

Lunch in the winelands at either a traditional Cape Dutch Manor House **OR** an African feast at Moyo situated at the Spier wine estate **OR** a private luncheon on the lawns of one of the historic manor houses.

Lunch will be followed by a visit to the quaint town of Stellenbosch.

Before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon and option to visit Van Rijns for an opportunity to sample fine brandy and speciality chocolates.

PRIVATE DINNER



As a surprise, **vintage cars** will be waiting for guests at the lower cableway station. Transfer in these vehicles The Castle of Good Hope is approximately 20 minutes.

The Castle of Good Hope

The origin of the "Fort de Goede Hoop" dates back to Jan van Riebeeck. The Dutch merchant landed in Table Bay in 1652, together with 72 men and 8 women. On instruction by the Dutch-East India Trading Company the pioneers set up a port of call for their ships to stock up their provisions. Van Riebeeck immediately started to erect a fort, surrounded by earth walls and trenches. Initially it was made of loam and wood. Construction of the building in stone was only started in 1666. It took about 30 years to complete. The stone blocks that were used were brought in from Holland.

The Castle is the oldest surviving and occupied building in South Africa. Built between 1666 and 1679, this pentagonal fortification, with its stately gateway, was constructed out of timber brought from Hout Bay, stone quarried on Robben Island and lime burnt from seashells.



On arrival at the Castle of Good Hope, the guests disembark the vehicle and are escorted along a red carpeted pathway and welcomed by ceremonial guards as they pass through the large wooden doors.

This is a black-tie affair where participants will enjoy a plated dinner at one long wooden table, set with spectacular crystal glasses, porcelain crockery and silver cutlery. White rolled serviettes with silver serviette ring detail will be placed on silver base plates at each setting. The simple yet effective centrepieces of roses will be enhanced by flickering candelabra.

A String or Jazz Trio will entertain during dinner. Guests will coach transfer back to the hotel after dinner.

Overnight: CAPE TOWN

DAY 4: CAPE TOWN

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Cape Town International Airport for the onward scheduled flight **OR** coach transfer to the next destination.