

A D V E N T U R E S



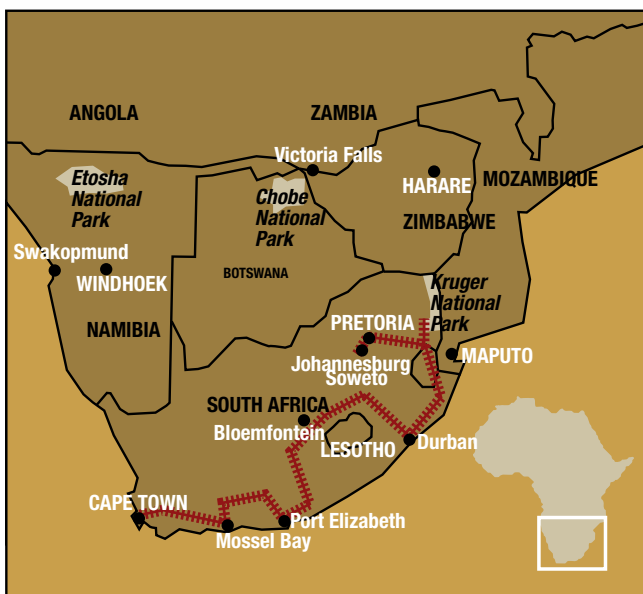
Shongololo operates three 16-day Adventures, each traversing great stretches of southern Africa to let you experience the wonderful topographic, social, historic, floral and wildlife diversity of these distinctive areas - south and west coast - the central and southern regions - and the northern and north-eastern areas of this richly endowed sub-continent.

THE GOOD HOPE ADVENTURE

SOUTHBOUND

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS

A 16-day journey offering an amazingly comprehensive view of South Africa, incorporating virtually every internationally regarded 'must see' sight. As the train travels the length and breadth of the country, guests can enjoy the great variety of landscapes, shorelines, cultures and lifestyles that the "Rainbow Nation" has to offer.



2007



Tour Dates

23 Jan 07 – 7 Feb 07
6 Mar 07 – 21 Mar 07
17 Jul 07 – 1 Aug 07
28 Aug 07 – 12 Sep 07



PRE DAY - JOHANNESBURG

Having a “pre-day” means that one is able to acclimatise and unpack prior to the first day of touring. Specialised activities that could be undertaken, should vehicles be available to take you, are:

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. The Cradle of Humankind: Maropeng & Sterkfontein Caves

The Cradle of Humankind developments (the Maropeng Visitor Centre and Sterkfontein Caves) are a Blue IQ initiative. Our visit will start at Maropeng (Setswana for “returning to the place of origin”), the visitor centre at the Cradle of Humankind. An exciting 4-billion-year journey through the elemental forces - water & ice, air, fire and earth - is simulated on an underground lake. One emerges at the beginning of the world after dipping through waterfalls and icebergs, into the eye of a storm, past erupting volcanoes and through the depths of the earth. The journey continues through an experience that highlights the history of our world and humankind as a species. Real fossils are also on display. We continue for a visit at the Sterkfontein Caves, 10 km away, most famous for the two world-renowned hominid finds, namely Mrs Ples in 1947 and Little Foot in 1997. Since excavations at the site first began, hundreds of hominid fossils as well as stone tools have been found here. The excavation of Little Foot and other fossils is an ongoing process at this still active fossil dig. The scientific exhibition here includes lifelike models of hominids as well as specific finds such as Mrs. Ples, the Taung Child and Little Foot.

2. Lesedi Cultural Village

We visit this multi-cultural African Village set among pristine bushveld and rocky hills. Experience the culture of five of South Africa’s major indigenous tribes: the Xhosa, the Zulu, the Pedi, the Basotho and the Ndebele. Lunch will be included.

3. Sandton City

This is truly South Africa’s premier shopping mall, the best of Africa south of the pyramids...

A pre-night on board will include dinner, bed and breakfast.

The train remains stationary in Johannesburg for the night.

DAY 01 - TSHWANE (PRETORIA) / JOHANNESBURG / SOWETO

Gauteng is the economic powerhouse of the Southern African region and home to some of Africa’s greatest cities. The name of the province derives from the Sotho word meaning “Place of Gold”, which is very suitable since much of the wealth of Gauteng has come from this precious metal.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Tshwane (Pretoria) and Soweto

We will spend the morning in Tshwane, previously known as Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa. We visit the Union Buildings housing the offices of the President and Ministers, designed by the famous colonial English architect, Sir Herbert Baker, and completed in 1913. The buildings overlook the city towards the once fortified hills to the south. A grand bronze statue of “Oom Paul (Kruger)”, the patriarch president of the ZAR or old Transvaal Republic, surrounded by his Boer fighters, dominates Church Square, central point of the city. Before leaving the capital behind, we visit the Voortrekker Monument that commemorates the “Great Trek” of the 1830s. In the afternoon we travel to Soweto to visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after one of the first students to be killed in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 200 km)

2. Johannesburg & Soweto

Our day starts at the tranquil Brenthurst Gardens, the private property of the Oppenheimer family, where we’ll be taken on a guided tour through this very special haven of peace in the heart of the bustling “City of Gold”. This is followed by a lunch break (clients’ own account) in the suburb of Rosebank, where you can experience the multi-cultural “Rainbow Nation” in a modern, yet ethnocentric setting. Rosebank shows you the mix of first and third world cultures and showcases arts and crafts from all over the African continent. In the afternoon, we travel to Soweto to experience the heartbeat of this township, comprising one million people and made famous by the Apartheid laws. We pass the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (the largest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere) and also drive past the only street in Africa that once housed two Nobel Peace Laureates, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. We visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after one of the first students to be killed in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 150 km)

The train departs for Hazyview over night.

DAY 02- PANORAMA ROUTE

Mpumalanga means “Land of the Rising Sun”. It is a province of extraordinary natural beauty.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Panorama Route

We visit the village of Pilgrim’s Rest, a living museum and declared National Monument. Gold was discovered in this area in 1873, attracting 1500 diggers. Today, many of the restored miner’s houses serve as shops. Further along the escarpment we find the great Blyde River Canyon, a gorge of 26 km long and 800 m deep, carved from the face of the escarpment. The Three Rondavels present an unforgettable view of three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon, looking like African huts. Bourke’s Luck Potholes are strange deep cylindrical cavities formed by river erosion and floodwater. From the vantage point of God’s Window we gaze across sweeps of the Lowveld, where subtle fragrances of the lower region rise to merge with the crisp winds of the Highveld. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 280 km)

2. Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that equals the best anywhere. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals.

(Full day; departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset; distance travelled: ± 220 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. Open Vehicle Safari

Game drives are conducted in open safari vehicles, specifically designed to ensure safety as well as optimum game viewing. Guides have intimate knowledge of the fauna and flora. Breakfast will be enjoyed at one of the many picnic spots and lunch (guests’ own account) at one of the rest camps in the park. Game viewing continues for the remainder of the afternoon.

2. Mountain Lodge

You will be taken to the mountain lodge in the late morning. Rhino, Elephant, Leopard and Buffalo populate the area. Two open vehicle game drives as well as lunch, dinner and breakfast are included. The next morning, after departure from the lodge, you will be able to explore the Kruger National Park (in our air-conditioned vehicle) before rejoining the train in Komatipoort.

(Bookings subject to availability; due to the 24-hour cycle of this option, which starts before lunchtime, the Panorama Route experience will not be possible)

3. Private Game Reserve

Late morning (at around 11:00) you will be transferred to the luxury lodge, situated in a private game reserve on the banks of the Sabi River, where a lunch will await you. After a siesta, followed by coffee and cake, you will depart on a sunset safari, in search of the Big Five. Encounters with all spheres of the eco-system, from the smallest insect to the mighty African elephant, are possible. After a sundowner drink in the bush you will return to the lodge, where a delightful dinner will await you. Early the next morning (just before sunrise) you will be woken up to depart on an open vehicle game drive to experience the African fauna at its most active. A mouth-watering breakfast will round off your experience, before you will be taken to join the rest of the group in the Kruger Park. Game viewing (in our air-conditioned vehicle) will be done en-route to Komatipoort, where you’ll rejoin the train.

(Bookings subject to availability; due to the 24-hour cycle of the private reserve, which starts before lunchtime, the Panorama Route experience will not be possible)

The train remains stationary in Hazyview for the night.

DAY 03 - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

LAND EXCURSION

Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that equals the best anywhere. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals.

(Full day; departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset; distance travelled: ± 220 km)

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
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			Always Optional

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Sunrise Balloon Experience

Early morning pick up at Hazyview Station and transfer to the balloon launch site. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served on arrival, followed by a scenic balloon flight lasting about an hour. Cape sparkling wine will be served upon landing followed by a breakfast at a country lodge and a transfer back to meet the rest of the group. (This activity is weather dependent)

Guests rejoin the train in Komatipoort, from where it departs for Mpaka Station in Swaziland.

DAY 04 - SWAZILAND

The tiny Kingdom of Swaziland covers only 17 000 square kilometres, making it the second smallest country in Africa.

LAND EXCURSION

Tour through Swaziland

The drive from Mpaka will afford majestic views of the Ezulwini Valley. The Swazi Market is a hive of activity and displays a wide variety of skilfully crafted woodcarvings, colourful textiles and superb basketwork for which Swazis are renowned. This day in Swaziland will introduce you to everyday life in Africa's smallest kingdom. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 180 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Horse Riding

Mlilwane Game Sanctuary lies about 20 km south of Mbabane on the gentle slopes of the Ezulwini Valley. This tranquil reserve that is fed by no fewer than four rivers supports an impressive variety of game, including Hippo, Zebra, Eland, Nyala, Blesbok, Waterbuck, Warthog, Giraffe and Crocodile. The rides take place at walking pace and are also suited for inexperienced riders. A guide accompanies guests.

The train departs for Golela border crossing in the evening.

DAY 05 - NORTHERN ZULULAND

LAND EXCURSION

Pongola Game Reserve and Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park

After crossing the border we'll head to the Pongola Game Reserve, the oldest game reserve in Africa, for a morning safari cruise on Lake Jozini. A lunch-stop on the way (guests' own account) will be followed by a visit to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve in the afternoon. The park lies in the heart of Zululand where ancient trails lead through the thornveld and along the mighty rivers of Africa's oldest established wilderness area. Once the exclusive royal hunting ground of King Shaka, it is a tapestry of natural and cultural history. The park is a treasure store of species including Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Buffalo, Wildebeest, Zebra, Giraffe, Kudu, Bushbuck, Cheetah, Hyena and many others. Over 300 bird species have been recorded. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 200 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Overnight at Phinda Private Game Reserve

Guests have the opportunity to spend a night off the train at Phinda Private Game Reserve's Mountain or Forest Lodge. Described as "Seven Worlds of Wonder" Phinda offers one of the continent's finest game-viewing experiences. Apart from the Big Five, it also features seven distinct habitats. These include the rare Dry Sand Forest, savanna, woodland and wetland systems, beautiful rivercourses, mountain ranges, marshes and pans – 18 000 hectares supporting a diversity of fauna and flora to outshine any in Africa. In addition, the Reserve is in close proximity to the unspoiled beaches and spectacular reefs of the Indian Ocean, offering an irresistible combination of bush and beach adventure. Included in the package will be lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast plus two game activities. (Bookings subject to availability; due to the 24-hour cycle of this option, parts of today and tomorrow's land excursions will have to be sacrificed)

Guests rejoin the train at Empangeni, where it remains stationary for the night.

DAY 06 - SOUTHERN ZULULAND

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park and Shakaland

We visit the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve. The park lies in the heart of Zululand where ancient trails lead through the thornveld and along the mighty rivers of Africa's oldest established wilderness area. Once the exclusive royal hunting ground of King Shaka, it is a tapestry of natural and cultural history. The park is a treasure store of species including Lion, Leopard, Elephant and Buffalo, Wildebeest, Zebra, Giraffe, Kudu, Bushbuck, Cheetah, Hyena and

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many others. Over 300 bird species have been recorded. After the morning's game drive we head to Shakaland, nestled amongst the aloes and mimosa trees of the Mlatuze River Valley. The Shakaland Cultural Village boasts exceptional views over shimmering lakes and hills. Experience the sight of assegai-wielding warriors, share the fascinating secrets of the Sangomas and witness traditional customs such as tribal dancing, spear making and the beer drinking ceremony.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 300 km)

2. St. Lucia and Shakaland

We visit the St. Lucia Wetlands, declared a world heritage site, where we'll take a cruise on the St. Lucia Estuary in the morning, looking for Hippos, Crocodiles, and a large variety of water birds. After the morning's nature experience, we head to Shakaland, nestled amongst the aloes and mimosa trees of the Mlatuze River Valley. The Shakaland Cultural Village boasts exceptional views over shimmering lakes and hills. Experience the sight of assegai-wielding warriors, share the fascinating secrets of the Sangomas and witness traditional customs such as tribal dancing, spear making and the beer drinking ceremony.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 250 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

St. Lucia Boat Based Whale Tours

Every year from about June to December these large mammals visit our coastal waters. This is a great opportunity not to be missed. From just 50 metres from the boat you can feel the wind rushing out of the huge lungs of Southern Right and Humpback Whales as they spray a fine vapour of salt water into the air.

(Morning activity from St. Lucia)

The train departs to Durban over night.

DAY 07 - DURBAN

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Durban City Tour

Durban is the third largest city of South Africa and enjoys great importance due to its industry and its very large port. Thanks to the subtropical climate and the long stretches of beautiful beaches large numbers of "uplanders" retreat to Durban in winter. An orientation tour of the city will allow you to see a very good mix of old and new, African, Orient and the West. We'll drive along the "Golden Mile" promenade where numerous hotels and restaurants are situated. A visit to the Victoria Market will also be included. At the end of the morning we will drop you at either the botanical gardens or at uShaka Marine World, Africa's largest marine theme park, where you can have lunch and spend your afternoon (all entrances for your own account). You will be picked up again at an arranged time later in the afternoon.

(Morning; distance travelled: ± 50 km)

2. Durban Spiritual Tour

Guests depart from Mariannhill to visit the monastery for a guided tour and to spend time in this beautiful, tranquil setting. This is followed by a short visit to the Hari Krishna "Temple of Understanding", before returning to Durban for lunch (at guests' own account). We visit Phoenix, the spiritual settlement created by Mahatma Gandhi, before returning to Durban, the centre of Indian culture in South Africa, with its vast array of Hindu, Sufi and Muslim temples. You'll see the Juma Masjid, the largest mosque in South Africa whose twin minarets are a striking city feature, as well as the most opulent Hindu structure in the Southern Hemisphere - the Kendra Hindu Temple and Community Centre.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 150 km)

3. Beach Day

On our way to the beaches north of Durban, we will stop at the Umgeni River Bird Park, which is worth a visit. The rest of the day can be spent on the beach, or if you choose, we could take you shopping in the late afternoon at the nearby Gateway Shopping Centre, before returning to pick up the beach-goers and return to the train after a laid-back day in the sun.

(Full day of relaxation; distance travelled: ± 60 km)

The train travels to Pietermaritzburg in the evening.

DAY 08 - PIETERMARITZBURG / MIDLANDS / SOUTHERN DRakensberg

In Pietermaritzburg we will be stationed at the railway station - a red brick building with contrasting iron stone facing. Here, in 1893, Mahatma Gandhi was put off the train as a person of colour. The city has numerous parks and gardens and many historical buildings reflecting both British and Boer occupation.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
Plus Package: Free choice of available land excursions		Light Package: Choice of 5 land excursions	Always Optional

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Battlefields

One is able to trace the course of the Anglo Boer War by visiting the Siege Museum as well as sites of famous battles such as Spioenkop. Other highlights include Wagon Hill, where British and Boers suffered heavy losses. The site of the battle was proclaimed a National Monument in 1938. Visitors also gain insight into the early lives of Winston Churchill and Ghandi.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 350 km)

2. Midlands Meander

The famous Midlands Meander in KwaZulu-Natal is a unique mix of more than 160 places to eat, drink, sleep, shop, play and generally have fun. Started many years ago as a voluntary collection of crafters, who wondered if they could attract visitors to leave the beaten track and explore their studios and galleries, the Midlands Meander has grown into an eclectic and fascinating mix of arts and crafts, world-class restaurants and homely comforts. It offers a wide range of sporting, environmental and historical pursuits. Physical, culinary or cerebral, there is no limit to the experiences you'll find here. Among your stops will be a visit to the Howick Falls as well as beer tasting in Nottingham Road.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 200 km)

3. Southern Drakensberg Walking Trails

We will drive towards Underberg in the southern Drakensberg region, from where a number of walking trails will be offered for the morning. In the afternoon we will return to Pietermaritzburg via Creighton, the habitat of the rare Cape Parrot (350 of the 800 left in the world live here). Here we will do a guided walk in the Xumeni Forest, dominated by Yellowwood trees. This forest offers beautiful picnic spots. Many different bird species, such as the Sakabula, the Denhams Bustard and the Long-tailed Widow could be spotted here.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 250 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

4 x 4 Sani Pass / Lesotho

Our vehicles will take you to the town of Underberg from where 4x4 vehicles will take you up the magnificent Sani Pass. Starting at 1540 metres above sea level you will follow the deep valley incised by the Mkhomazana River to breast the summit at 2873 m - with almost 1000 m climbed in the last 8 km of your trip. This is the only road link between KwaZulu-Natal and the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. After reaching the summit, we will turn around for the spectacular descent.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 300 km)

NB: YOUR PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS ACTIVITY!!!

Guests rejoin the train in Pietermaritzburg and travel to Bloemfontein (overnight and morning journey).

DAY 09 - BLOEMFONTEIN

Bloemfontein is the seat of the South African judicial system. At the end of the 19th century it was also the capital of one of the old Boer republics, namely the Orange Free State. The Women's Memorial at the Anglo-Boer War Museum is a reminder of life in the concentration camps and commemorates the 27 000 women and children who died in these camps. "Naval Hill" presents several beautiful panoramic views of the city.

LAND EXCURSION

Bloemfontein

We will spend the morning on board and arrive in Bloemfontein at around lunchtime. After lunch (guests' own account) at the Waterfront a short orientation tour of Bloemfontein will follow.

(Afternoon; distance travelled: ± 30 km)

The train departs in the early evening from Bloemfontein to Port Elizabeth

DAY 10 - PORT ELIZABETH

We recommend that you opt for an excursion today, as the train will go into the yard.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Addo Elephant Park

A short drive brings us to the Addo Elephant National Park. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles. The original Elephant reserve was proclaimed in 1931 when only eleven animals remained in the area.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
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			Always Optional

Today it is sanctuary to over 350 and guests may also see Cape Buffalo, Black Rhino and a variety of antelope species. After lunch (guests' own account) game drives will continue into the afternoon. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 160 km)

2. Addo Elephant Park & Port Elizabeth City Tour

A short drive brings us to the Addo Elephant National Park. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles. The original Elephant reserve was proclaimed in 1931 when only eleven animals remained in the area. Today it is sanctuary to over 350 and guests may also see Cape Buffalo, Black Rhino and a variety of antelope species. An extended lunch in Port Elizabeth (guests' own account) will be followed by a tour of the "Friendly city", which forms part of the Nelson Mandela Metropole and which is a major seaport with diverse eco and adventure attractions. Off its coast the first Coelacanth in modern times was caught in 1938. We will stop at several historical buildings in the city centre. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 170 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Township Tour

Our visit includes townships within the Nelson Mandela Metropole, which have become the pulsating beat of an emerging united city. This Half day tour will bring a better understanding of the "New South Africa". (Afternoon activity combinable with 2. above; distance travelled: ± 80 km)

The train travels over night to Oudtshoorn.

DAY 11 - KLEIN KAROO

Surrounded by natural beauty, Oudtshoorn is situated at the foot of the majestic Swartberg Mountain range. Numerous rivers, streams and falls have their origins in the Swartberg, Outeniqua and Kammanassie ranges around the town. Oudtshoorn is regarded as the centre of the Klein Karoo and is world-renowned for the Cango Caves and the breeding of Ostriches.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Cango Caves & Swartberg Pass

Oudtshoorn is famous for its ostrich boom in the early 20th century - it feathered the world in the time of the boa and the grand hats, making many millionaires who, in turn, created elaborate lifestyles in this remote place in Africa. A great natural wonder awaits us, the Cango Caves - a series of great colourful underground chambers with breathtaking limestone formations. We continue via the Swartberg Pass to Prince Albert and return to Oudtshoorn via the spectacular Meiringspoort drive, before descending the Robinson Pass towards Mossel Bay. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 280 km)

2. Ostrich Farm & Mossel Bay

Oudtshoorn is famous for its ostrich boom in the early 20th century - it feathered the world in the time of the boa and the grand hats, making many millionaires who, in turn, created elaborate lifestyles in this remote African village. Guests are taken on an unforgettable tour at an Ostrich Show Farm. Travelling via the Robertson Pass we continue to Mossel Bay. The first meeting between Europeans and Africans on Southern African soil occurred at Mossel Bay in 1488 when Dias set foot ashore and encountered the ancient Khoi-San people. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 200 km)

3. Ostrich Farm visit and train ride to Mossel Bay

Guests are taken for a morning visit to an Ostrich Show Farm, where the well-informed guides will conduct an unforgettable tour. Back on board the scenic beauty of the spectacular Outeniqua Pass and the Outeniqua Mountain range can be enjoyed as we journey towards Mossel Bay. (Morning excursion before departure for Mossel Bay; distance travelled: ± 20 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. Cango Crocodile and Cheetah Land

In the company of guides visit this reptile farm accommodating over 300 Nile crocodiles ranging in size from hatchlings of 50 cm to fully-grown 4m specimens. We proceed to Cheetahland, to see a collection of magnificent big cats on view in large natural enclosures.

2. Seal Island Trips

Enjoy a late afternoon Boat Cruise to Seal Island to view the seal colony basking in the sun or playing in the sea. Sit back and relax with a sunset drink. Dolphins have been spotted on this boat ride as well as the occasional whale.

The train remains stationary in Mossel Bay for the night.

DAY 12 - GARDEN ROUTE

Mossel Bay lies in the heart of the famous Garden Route and is situated on a spectacular sun-washed peninsula.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Old Passes Route and Knysna

Drive along the coast from Mossel Bay to George, situated on a 10-kilometre plateau between majestic Mountains to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south. Then we head via the old Passes route, which winds through the primeval forest of the Homtini to Knysna, lying between lush forests and a peaceful lagoon. The Heads - two sandstone cliffs guarding the mouth of the lagoon connecting the estuary with the sea - is a dramatic viewpoint. In the "Garden of Eden" we take a walk among the 4m treeferns and 600-year old trees.
(Full day; distance travelled: ± 250 km)

2. Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe and Knysna (not on Sundays / only every second day in winter months)

The Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe is one of the last steam passenger trains operating today. Once the most expensive sections of line in the world - today it is rated the most beautiful. At Sedgefield guests are transferred by vehicle to Knysna, situated between lush forests and the shores of the peaceful lagoon. The Heads - two sandstone cliffs guarding the mouth of the lagoon and connecting the estuary with the sea - is a dramatic viewpoint.
(Full day; distance travelled: ± 250 km)

3. Mossel Bay at leisure

The first meeting between Europeans and Africans on Southern African soil occurred at Mossel Bay in 1488 when Dias set foot ashore and encountered the ancient Khoi-San people. We visit the Dias museum with its replica of the caravel in which Dias sailed from Portugal to South Africa more than 500 years ago. We also see the famous "Old Post Office Tree" where later explorers left post for passing ships. Mossel Bay features in the Guinness Book of Records as having the second mildest all-year climate in the world (second only to Hawaii).
(Morning; distance travelled: 0 km)

4. Robberg Nature Reserve

Robberg means "mountain of seals" and the reserve is a scenic 4km promontory of red sandstone that probes finger-like into the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. A number of walks are offered, ranging from reasonably difficult to gentle strolls. Along the way there are caves that were once inhabited by an ancient people called "strandlopers" (beach walkers). The northern flank of Robberg is rocky and wild, but the south is the complete opposite with white beaches. On our way back to Mossel Bay, we might stop at the Knysna Quays, depending on the time.
(Full day; distance travelled: ± 280 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Seal Island Trips (including whale watching in season)

Enjoy an early morning Boat Cruise to Seal Island to view the seal colony basking in the sun or playing in the sea. Sit back and relax with an early morning coffee or cold drink. Dolphins have been spotted on this boat ride as well as the occasional whale.
(Whale Watching is seasonal - July-November, but boat trips to Seal Island give you the best chance to spot Whales, Dolphins, Seals and Penguins)

The train journeys over night to Worcester.

DAY 13 - WINELANDS / OVERBERG REGION

The fertile green valleys of the Cape Winelands are surrounded by proud mountain ranges. A Mediterranean climate and winter rainfall create some of the best wines in the world. The rich, fertile soils along the Breede River and the Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl areas have become justly famous for their Whites, Reds, Sherries, Ports and Brandies. The Overberg region to the southeast embraces mountains, valleys and coastal areas and annually welcomes the Southern Right Whale to its waters.

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Historic Heart of the Winelands

Our day starts with a drive to Franschhoek via Villiersdorp and the Franschhoek Pass, which offers splendid views over vineyards, plantations and rugged peaks. In Franschhoek (literally meaning "French Corner") we visit the Huguenot Memorial, commemorating the 1688 settlement of the French Huguenots here after fleeing religious prosecutions in France. We continue our journey over the Hellshoogte Pass through a landscape of fruit farms, Cape Dutch houses and vineyards. In Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in the country, situated in the heart of the Winelands, we enjoy our lunch break (guests' own account). In the afternoon we drive to Paarl, named after the huge granite dome of rock overlooking the town. One wine tasting is included in this excursion.
(Full day; distance travelled: ± 275 km)

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
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2. Scenic Mountain Passes & Hermanus

We travel over scenic mountain passes such as the Rooihoogte and Floorshoogte Passes and via the Overberg towns of Villiersdorp and Botrivier to Hermanus, once a renowned fish market and whaling station. The whale hunts here were stopped by international treaty in 1935. During the Whale season (roughly from July to November each year) the natural cliffs allow for whales to be seen from as little as 5 metres away. The WWF includes Hermanus in its list of 12 best whale-viewing sites in the world, but it tops the list when it comes to land based whale watching. In the afternoon we travel via the coastal road past Betty's Bay and onto Clarence Drive towards the Mother City to meet the train. One wine tasting is included in this excursion. (Full day; distance travelled: ± 350 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITY

Shark Cage Diving (Gansbaai)

Participants will be picked up in Hermanus and taken to Gansbaai, where their encounter with the "Great White" awaits them. Divers will be briefed about caging procedures before the cage is put down into the water. Once the first shark is spotted, the bait lines are drawn in and everybody has the opportunity to view and admire this magnificent predator of the sea. (Half day activity combinable with 2. above, large parts of which will have to be sacrificed)

The train travels from Worcester to Cape Town during the day. Guests will spend the night on the stationary train in Muizenberg.

DAY 14 - CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world with the paternal presence of Table Mountain overlooking all.

LAND EXCURSIONS

(Please Note: The activities as described in the options below could also be executed in a different order and are weather dependent)

1. Cape Point

We will visit the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, which are world-renowned for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora and for the magnificent setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. The estate of 528 hectares supports a diverse fynbos flora and natural forest. This is followed by a visit to Hout Bay, where a large fleet of colourful fishing vessels enhance the bustling ambience of this attractive resort. Fresh seafood is a speciality at Mariner's Wharf. Chapman's Peak Drive is one of the most spectacular sea cliff routes in the world. It was built between 1915 and 1922 and recently upgraded.

We follow this drive to Simon's Town. In years gone by, sailing fleets from Europe soon discovered that Table Bay was extremely dangerous during the winter months. While exploring, Governor Simon van der Stel discovered the bay, which could give safe anchor to the visiting sailing ships during winter. Simon's Town is a charming little coastal town. It became a naval base in 1814 and is home to the SA navy today.

A visit to the Boulder's Penguin Colony will form part of this option as well. In 1983 a pair of African Penguins was spotted on Foxy Beach at Boulders and in 1985 they began to lay eggs. Since then the colony has grown rapidly, increasing initially at about 60% a year. By 1997 there were 2 350 adult birds. They are remarkably untroubled by people and Boulders is the only place in the world where one can actually swim amongst the penguins. This day will not be complete without a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Sir Francis Drake called it "the fairest cape in the whole circumference of the earth". Yet many vessels, wrecked by the turbulent seas, have found their resting-place along this rocky coastline. The Nature Reserve is situated at the southern tip of the peninsula. The 7 675 hectare reserve is filled with priceless indigenous flora and fauna, some 2 700 species of indigenous plants and over 250 species of birds as well as troops of baboons and many species of antelope.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 150 km)

2. Cape Town City Tour

Our city tour will commence with an exhilarating cable car ascent of Table Mountain (weather permitting and at your own cost). It provides breathtaking views over the city and its beaches. The panorama stretches from Table Bay to False Bay and around the mountain to the Hottentots Holland Mountains. The mountain is home to over 1 500 species of plants, many of these are found nowhere else on earth.

Our city tour continues with a walk through the Company Gardens, followed by a visit to the "Bo-Kaap Museum". The first Malays arrived in the Cape as political refugees and slaves during the 17th century. Nearly two centuries later after emancipation, these Islamic people moved into the area known today as the Bo-Kaap, building

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	Specialised Activities
Plus Package: Free choice of available land excursions		Light Package: Choice of 5 land excursions	Always Optional

mosques with picturesque minarets and their own style Georgian houses with Dutch influence. One of the oldest Cape Town buildings houses the museum. It is furnished as a Muslim house of the 19th century and documents the history of the Cape Malays. On our way to the V&A Waterfront, we will stop at Diamond Works, where you'll follow a tour of the diamond cutting studio, a jewellery manufacturing workshop, a jewellery design studio as well as a gemological laboratory. Our lunch stop will be at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, a development that has brought new life to the old harbour of the Dutch East India Company in Table Bay. The complex offers shops, craft markets, restaurants, taverns, cinemas, theatres as well as delightful views over the harbour.

In the afternoon we will drive through District 6. By 1900 the largest group of people then referred to as "Malay", "Mixed and Other" or "Coloured" lived in poor conditions here. Yet the area was vibrant and full of colour with busy streets and vivacious lifestyles. Various religions and cultural heritages flourished and mingled. In the 40s the apartheid government removed the residents and most of the buildings. Today the city still grapples with the problem of what to do with this valuable real estate, but also to deal with the strong emotions that still charge the issue. We end our city tour with a visit to the Castle of Good Hope, the oldest surviving building in South Africa. This pentagonal fortification replaced a small clay and timber fort built by Commander Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 as a maritime replenishment station for the ships of the Dutch East India Company. The stone walls between the bastions are 150 m long and 12 m high.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 100 km)

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. Two Oceans Aquarium

The Aquarium is located at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and offers an exciting insight into the indigenous fresh and seawater creatures of South Africa.

2. Robben Island Tour

For nearly 400 years, Robben Island was a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. During the apartheid years Robben Island became internationally known as the place where Nelson Mandela and the other heroes of the struggle were imprisoned.

3. Helicopter Flights

Various helicopter flight options from the V&A Waterfront and back, starting from only 15 minutes (including only the city bowl) to half an hour or longer (also including the Cape Peninsula) are offered.

The train remains stationary in Muizenberg for the night. An evening shuttle service will be available to go to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.

DAY 15 - CAPE TOWN

LAND EXCURSIONS

1. Cape Point

See Day 14

2. Cape Town City Tour

See Day 14

SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

1. Two Oceans Aquarium

See Day 14

2. Robben Island Tour

See Day 14

3. Helicopter Flights

See Day 14

The train remains stationary in Muizenberg for the night.

DAY 16 - TRANSFER DAY

If guests are transferring to a hotel, this will be arranged for them in the morning. If guests are flying from Cape Town International Airport, their flight may only be in the afternoon. In this case the activities that could be undertaken in the morning include the following:

A stroll around the False Bay area / Leisurely walk along the beach walkway to St. James, where a variety of small restaurants are situated / A short walk to the beach for a refreshing swim.

Included (PLUS package)

- Arrival transfer: airport - train
- Departure transfer: train - airport
- Accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis (per itinerary)
- A free choice of available land excursions

Included (LIGHT package)

- Arrival transfer: airport - train
- Departure transfer: train - airport
- Accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis (per itinerary)
- A choice of FIVE land excursions (Additional land excursions can be bought on board the train)

NOT included

- Airfares (National / International)
- Lunches
- Beverages
- Laundry
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature
- Light passengers: additional land excursions
- Specialised Activities
- Pre-night accommodation
- Visas where applicable
- Travel insurance
- Transfers between the train and hotels

Please note that this itinerary is also available in the opposite direction.
Dates for both directions are as follows:

Tour Dates

23 Jan 07 – 7 Feb 07
6 Mar 07 – 21 Mar 07
17 Jul 07 – 1 Aug 07
28 Aug 07 – 12 Sep 07

**Tour Dates**

13 Feb 07 – 28 Feb 07
8 May 07 – 23 May 07
7 Aug 07 – 22 Aug 07
30 Oct 07 – 14 Nov 07

