



Pre-Tour Extension

THE GARDEN ROUTE & EASTERN CAPE SAFARI

November 25—December 2, 2024

Attention nature and adventure lovers... this one's for you! We've combined a three-night safari in the African bush with a 4-night journey along the continent's southern coast (dubbed the "Garden Route") featuring national parks, outdoor recreation, and eco-tourism activities.

This weeklong small group adventure begins at Woodbury Tented Camp in the Amakhala Game Reserve. Malaria free and home to the "Big Five," the Eastern Cape is a fantastic safari destination. Then we'll travel by minibus along the beautiful coastline from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) to Cape Town on a one-way journey, famous for beautiful scenery. Take in the highlights of the Whale Coast and the Garden Route, with stops for adventure, nature, and hiking activities along the way. The group will reach the Cape Town hotel in time to commence the Study Tour with dinner on December 2.

EASTERN CAPE SAFARI

Days 1 - 3: November 25-27

South Africa's scenic Eastern Cape is home to several private game reserves offering excellent safari opportunities, including Amakhala Private Game Reserve. Amakhala Game Reserve is located at the far end of the scenic Garden Route, a 1 hour drive from Port Elizabeth... very accessible and malaria free!

Amakhala Game Reserve was created by a group of local landowners who combined their properties and it now consists of 75 square km of rolling hills, bushveld, and savannah. It is beautiful and tranquil... and home to lions, cheetahs, hippo, rhinos, giraffes, buffaloes, elephants, zebras, antelope and so much more.

Our home base, Woodbury Tented Camp, is a rustic family-run tented lodge with so much atmosphere. At this three-star bush camp you'll have your own sleeping tent tucked away in the bush on a raised platform with its own private balcony and en suite bathroom, providing a tranquil intimacy with nature. Enjoy beautiful views over the Busman's river floodplains from your tent's private deck or the lodge's swimming pool area and communal deck. Also on offer: horseback riding and bush walks.

Enjoy two game drives per day, in search of the Big Five and a wide variety of African flora and fauna. Delicious meals are served communally, a wonderful opportunity to connect with the traveling group and relive the day's adventures. Our three-night stay will provide for two full days of wildlife viewing and plenty of time for R&R.

We've planned a three-night stay to give two full days of safaris. A typical day includes an early morning game drive, a lovely brunch at the lodge, followed by relaxation... then an afternoon game drive during which you'll enjoy a sundowner (a picturesque happy hour in the bush during sunset) and then explore the world of nocturnal wildlife... maybe hear a hyena cackle in the distance. Return to the lodge for dinner, a culinary experience.



WOODBURY TENTED CAMP to TSITSIKAMMA to SEDGEFIELD

Day 4: November 28

After a final morning game drive and breakfast, our driver/guide will collect the group and we're off to the beautiful Tsitsikamma National Park. The afternoon will be spent in the park, with its unique combination of indigenous forest and beautiful Indian Ocean coastline. The park has a wide choice of activities for all, including hiking, crossing a suspension bridge, and swimming.

After an afternoon of exploration we will arrive in Sedgefield to check in to our accommodations for the next two nights: Pili Pili. Located right on the beach, this hotel has a rooftop bar, restaurant, and access to 30km of unspoilt beaches.



Garden Route to ECR EXTENSION DETAILS:

SEDFIELD to PLETTENBERG BAY to SEDFIELD *Day 5: November 29*

We start the day with a relaxed morning with some time to enjoy the beach. In the afternoon, we'll head off to visit a local vineyard for a wine-tasting, as well as time to explore the town of Plettenberg Bay. "Plett" is a seaside town home to the Robberg Nature Preserve, a World Heritage Site steeped in history, with prehistoric rocks and Stone Age artifacts. We'll enjoy a hike there and take in panoramic views across the bay. Then, back to Sedfield to enjoy a cold one on the hotel's rooftop bar and a legendary South African sunset.

SEDFIELD to KNYSNA to WILDERNESS *Day 6: November 30*

Today we travel to a seaside town at the heart of the Garden Route: Knysna. This stretch of coast is known for its lovely scenery, including indigenous forest, a large warm-water estuary known as the Knysna Lagoon, and the Outeniqua Mountains. As a group, we will visit the Featherbed Nature Reserve, only accessible by ferry. Upon arrival by boat, we'll drive up the headland, stopping at spectacular viewpoints, with a guide providing information about the flora and fauna. And then we'll enjoy a 2.2km walk through coastal forest and fynbos into ancient sea caves. Amazing!

Our final destination tonight is the town of Wilderness. Wilderness is one of only five documented areas in the world that has, within a five kilometer radius, sea, land, rivers, lakes and mountain ranges. Our lodging tonight is the Fairy Knowe Hotel. This landmark hotel has been welcoming guests since 1924. Relax in a riverside room as the hotel is situated on the banks of the Touw River.

WILDERNESS to HERMANUS *Day 7: December 1*

This morning we'll discover the natural beauty of Wilderness with a kayaking trip through indigenous forests that ends with a short hike to a waterfall! Next, we will drive through the small towns of the Overberg coast, before reaching the gorgeous sea-side town of Hermanus.

Hermanus is famous for being home to hundreds of Southern Right Whales during the whale season - of which we're at the tail end. There are many shops, restaurants, and galleries to explore. For our last night of this adventure, we'll be based at the Windsor Hotel situated on Hermanus's breathtaking Walker Bay with a panoramic ocean vista.

HERMANUS to CAPE TOWN *Day 8: December 2*

Enjoy the morning in Hermanus ~ there are opportunities to hike, golf, seakayak, paraglide... or take a leisurely stroll on the sandy beaches.

We depart for Cape Town in the afternoon to commence the Study Tour. One last special experience is in store: a stop at Betty's Bay to view a colony of endangered African penguins. After a short scenic coastal drive we'll arrive to Cape Town's Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel to convene with the rest of our colleagues and friends and begin the IFTA Study Tour.

Total package cost is \$2,200 per person, based on double occupancy.

Total package cost is \$2,600 per person, based on single occupancy.

Package includes airport transfers, 3 night safari experience at Woodbury Tented Camp (incl. all meals; house beverages; and two game drives per day), 4 nights accommodations on the Garden Route tour, daily breakfasts, guide services, activities and admission fees as described in the itinerary, and private minibus transportation.

This tour starts in Port Elizabeth (Chief Dawid Stuurman Int'l Airport - PLZ) on Nov 25 and ends at the Cape Town Hotel, in time to commence the Study Tour, on Dec 2.

If you arrive early to Port Elizabeth and need accommodations, we suggest The Admiralty Beach House (www.theadmiralty.co.za). **It is recommended you arrive in Port Elizabeth on November 24.**

You may book an international flight that flies directly to Port Elizabeth (PLZ) or you might be flying to Cape Town (CPT) or Johannesburg (JNB) and then booking a separate domestic one-way flight to Port Elizabeth (PLZ).

Domestic airlines are Airlink (www.flyairlink.com) and FlySafair (www.flysafair.co.za). At the time of writing, FlySafair flights are not yet available for travel in December 2024 but they will have the best options and flight schedules are available around 9 months prior to departure.