

IFTA
Study
Tour

SOUTH AFRICA

December 2—11, 2024



ONWARD TRAVEL 
EST 2014

IFTA is headed to South Africa for a long anticipated study tour.

As 2024 draws to a close, grab your passport and join us in the Southern Hemisphere for an unforgettable mix of learning and adventure. The group will meet in Cape Town to explore the unique blend of nature and culture in South Africa's capital city before moving to Stellenbosch, our home base for day trips farther afield into growing regions including Ceres, Paarl and Elgin. Enhance your trip to Africa with multiple safari add-on options before and after the tour, come early for a Cape Winelands immersion, or get the full South Africa experience with the Garden Route & Eastern Cape Safari early arrival tour.

IFTA SOUTH AFRICA 2024 *daily itinerary*

Day 1: Monday, December 2 ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN

Upon your arrival at Cape Town International Airport, a transfer will be provided to the city center hotel.

Take time to relax and freshen up after your long journey, and when you are ready you can enjoy the casual buffet dinner at the hotel which will be open for our group throughout the evening.

Day 2: Tuesday, December 3 WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA!

After everyone has had a good rest, we will kick off the study tour week properly with a fun and festive lunch in our hotel's ballroom. A local historian will introduce us to this fascinating country we'll be exploring in the days to come.

From the hotel, we'll head out in smaller groups with local guides on a walking tour of Cape Town which culminates with a trip up the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway for breathtaking views from the mountain's splendid peak.

Day 3: Wednesday, December 4 AFRICAN CAPE IMMERSION

Today we've planned a full day of sightseeing which will immerse you in your South African surroundings.

Set out on a spectacular journey to the Cape of Good Hope, including a visit to the African Penguin colony at Boulders Beach. We will explore Cape Point National Park on foot by taking a walk up to the lighthouse (or opt to take the "Flying Dutchman" funicular). We will then head to the Cape of Good Hope, the furthest southwestern point in Africa where you may see wildlife such as baboons, zebras, ostriches and antelopes.

Back in Cape Town tonight we'll enjoy a delicious multi-course feast at Gold Restaurant. Taste the flavors of the African continent in a festive, entertaining environment - you can even try hands-on drumming!

Day 4: Thursday, December 5 STELLENBOSCH, PAARL & WELLINGTON

Well-rested and acclimated, our study tour begins with visits to Sandrivier and Petru du Plessis orchards in the morning, then on to the University of Stellenbosch for overviews of the South African fruit industry by HortGro (the industry's governing body) and university tree fruit research by the renowned Stellenbosch faculty. The day will finish with a winetasting in the university botanical garden, joined by the companion group.



DAILY ITINERARY *cont'd.*

Day 5: Friday, December 6 DAY TRIP TO CERES

Today's intensive study tour will take us to the major production area of Ceres to visit Dutoit's extensive operations, where we're likely to see apple, cherry, pear, peach, and plum orchards, variety trials, a packing house, and the HortGro-funded Pro-Hort Ecophysiology Platform Trials focused on sustainable profitability in a changing climate.

This evening there will be a fun dinner at a wine estate.

Day 6: Saturday, December 7 MARKETS, CIDER & ELGIN

As we drive out of Stellenbosch this morning we'll stop at Blauuwklippen Family Market, a weekend farmer's market on a wine estate and working farm.

From here we continue on to the Elgin Valley, a lush agricultural area surrounded by mountains, replete with orchards and the epicenter of South African cider production.

Following an afternoon of educational programming we will visit the interesting Elgin Railway Market for a special cider maker's dinner. Some of the best regional cider producers will be there pouring their ciders and discussing the cidermaking process with our group.

Day 7: Sunday, December 8 CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

A selection of unforgettable South African sightseeing opportunities have been arranged for tour participants today. Choose your own adventure!

- ❖ **Cape Canopy Zipline Tour** A four-hour guided zipline adventure through the Unesco World Heritage Hottentots Holland Mountains.
- ❖ **Franschhoek Wine Tram** Hop on and off the scenic wine tram route visiting wineries as you go.

Day 8: Monday, December 9 DAY TRIP TO CERES/WOLESLEY

It's another intensive study tour day with a trip back to Ceres where we will visit the Van Zyl family's ZZ2 orchards and others. Educational programming will include apples, cherries, pears, and plums today.

Day 9: Tuesday, December 10 RETURN TO ELGIN & FAREWELL PARTY

Another early start will take us back to the Elgin area to visit the Two-A-Day apple and pear orchards and robotic packing operation, followed by a visit to KROMCO, one of the largest fruit packing facilities in South Africa (specializing in apples and pears).

This evening we have a fun farewell party planned at a local wine estate. Enjoy a delightful meal from their smokehouse, live music and a good time with the IFTA travel group.

Day 10: Wednesday, December 11 DEPARTURE DAY

Some in the group will be departing for post-tour safaris or just taking some free time as the study tour comes to a close. For those interested in a final half-day of orchard visits, there will be various options, such as apples, cherries, and plums in the Worcester region, apples and pears in the Franschhoek region, or cultivar discussions with TopFruit in Simondium.

Airport transfers will be provided for afternoon and evening flights from CPT Airport.

- ❖ **Hermanus Adventure Day** Pick two adventure activities for an action-packed day: Sea Kayaking, Catamaran Bay Cruise, Horseback Riding, Sand Dune Fatbike Tour (+\$30), Quad Biking (+\$30)
- ❖ **Aquila Game Reserve Safari** If you won't have a chance to go to Kruger or the Eastern Cape, here is your "safari in a day" opportunity to see the Big Five! (+\$75)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

A WORLD CLASS WINE REGION

Taste local ciders and world-famous wines. Popular South African grapes are shiraz, cabernet sauvignon, pinot noir, pinotage, chenin blanc, and chardonnay. Meet the producers and admire the picturesque vineyards.



Get to know the vibrant university town of Stellenbosch



Sweet cherries will be in season; we'll see plenty of apples, peaches, plums, and pears as well



Marvel at the wild beauty of South Africa, from the seaside to the mountaintops



Charming and comfortable accommodations at two price points have been selected for the tour

EDUCATIONAL DIVERSITY

Tour a variety of growing areas within a 100-km radius of Stellenbosch with different growing conditions ranging from high to low chill.



Happy hours and plentiful social opportunities to connect with industry peers

ACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities throughout the tour to get out and experience the landscape and terrain of South Africa - whether it's hiking, a canopy zipline adventure or a guided fatbike ride in the sand dunes.



As a group, experience South African culture and traditions including local food and music

Cape Winelands Immersion

Arrive a few days early to relax, enjoy and learn about South Africa's most famous agricultural industry. From Cape Town Int'l Airport you'll transfer to Boschendahl Estate, a working farm with luxury accommodations, where you will stay for three nights. Set out for two full days of winery visits, tours, tastings and time to talk with local producers. An emphasis will be placed on family-run businesses, sustainable agriculture and fairtrade practices as you explore the Constantia Valley and Paarl and Wellington wine regions. Experience world-class vintages, farm-to-table dining, and more. After breakfast on the last morning you will transfer to the hotel in Cape Town in time for the tour kick off lunch.

INCLUSIONS

- Three nights accommodations and all transportation
- Three breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner
- Two full days of touring including tastings

NOVEMBER 30TH—DECEMBER 3RD

- *\$1350 per traveler, double occupancy*
- *Additional \$550 single supplement*

Companion Sightseeing Program

A terrific guided program has been arranged for traveling companions! Bring along your spouse or partner and they'll be busy enjoying South Africa while you are taking part in educational activities.

Dec. 5 Split into small groups for a local-led "foodie" walking tour in Cape Town. Visit small, artisanal producers as you taste your way through the city's dynamic neighborhoods. Transfer to Stellenbosch in the afternoon to meet the study tour for wine tasting.

Dec. 6 Spend the morning at the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden where you'll experience a unique integration of large scale sculpture with the dramatic landscape. Then enjoy lunch at a scenic restaurant before returning to town to tour the interesting Stellenbosch Village Museum.

Dec. 7 After visiting Blauwklippen Family Market we have a fun, guided agritourism day planned in the Elgin Valley with lunch.

Dec. 9 Take a day trip to Kirstenbosch Nat'l Botanical Gardens, acclaimed as one of the great botanic gardens of the world.

Dec. 10 Visit a national park in the morning for hiking and exploring. Lunch is a picnic at a scenic wine farm. Choose two afternoon activities: segway tour of the farm, eagle encounter, local crafts class or wine tasting.

There is an additional fee of \$375 to join the Companion Sightseeing Program.

INCLUSIONS All activities as described above: Cape Town food tour, admission to Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden, Stellenbosch Village Museum and Kirstenbosch Gardens, winery visits and wine tastings, gourmet lunches, activities on December 10, local guides where relevant, transportation to and from all activities.

BIG FIVE SAFARI PACKAGES

Grab your bucket list... you're Africa bound! Take the opportunity to immerse yourself in South Africa's bushveld and savannah for a truly unforgettable wildlife watching experience! We have planned several different safari experiences for IFTA members.

Kruger National Park is one of Africa's largest game reserves with the Big 5 plus hundreds of other mammals and bird species. The landscape is varied and it's described as "The Lion King come to life!"

A bit less remote is the Eastern Cape (malaria free). This area is home to private reserves that provide excellent wildlife spotting and tranquil surrounds.

The safaris are all-inclusive: twice daily game drives, sunset happy hours, comfortable lodging, scenic swimming pools, and dining are all included for a full experience. We've chosen amazing lodge destinations at several different price points.

Kruger Area Pre-Tour Safari with Thanksgiving Dinner in Cape Town

November 27–December 2

\$3050 per person based on double occupancy

\$4450 per person, single occupancy

Kruger Area Post-Tour Safari

December 11–14

\$2800 per person based on double occupancy

\$4100 per person, single occupancy

Eastern Cape Post-Tour Safari

Also available as part of the Garden Route &

Eastern Cape Safari pre-tour option, see next page.

December 11–14

Lalibela Lentaba Lodge or Woodbury Tented Camp

\$1700 per person,
double occupancy

\$1100 per person,
double occupancy

\$2350 per person,
single occupancy

\$1350 per person,
single occupancy

Details for all tour extension options can be found at www.iftatravel.com

Garden Route Tour & Eastern Cape Safari

NOVEMBER 25TH—DECEMBER 2ND

This unforgettable small group active adventure begins with three nights of safari 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 travelers will explore the beautiful coastline from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) to Cape Town on a one-way journey of four nights, allowing you to maximize time enjoying beautiful scenery and minimize driving time. Take in the highlights of the Whale Coast and the Garden Route, with stops for adventure, nature, and hiking activities along the way. Participants will reach the Cape Town hotel in time for dinner on 12/2.

EXTENSION PRICE:

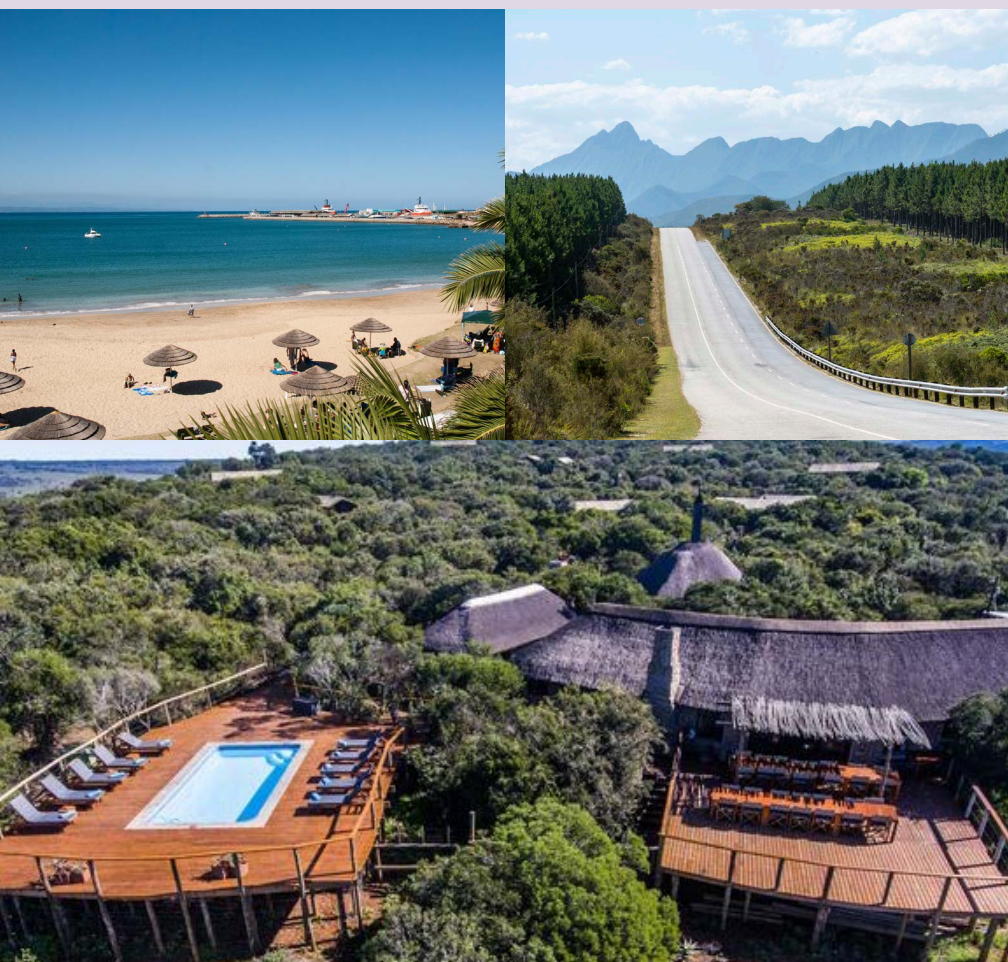
- \$2200/person based on double occupancy
- +\$400 single supplement

INCLUSIONS:

- seven nights accommodations
- three day all inclusive safari with all meals and drinks
- daily breakfast
- adventure activities
- services of a professional driver/guide

Please be advised, space on the Garden Route & Eastern Cape Safari is limited.

Get more details at:
www.iftatravel.com



IFTA in SOUTH AFRICA

Registration FAQs

How do I register?

At 12:00 noon EST on February 20 at www.IFTAtavel.com, you'll complete a short Google form to secure your place. Your registration will be confirmed via email and you'll be sent a detailed registration form to complete at your leisure plus instructions to pay the deposit. Everyone that wants to participate in the educational study tour program must complete the form. Companions do not complete the initial sign-up form.

Is registration limited?

Yes, there are around 100 spots for Study Tour participants, plus their companions.

What is the cost to bring my spouse?

We have a great Companion Sightseeing program planned. The tours and activities, meals, guided experiences, etc. all cost more than the Study Tour programming, so the total cost for a companion is the tour fee plus the Companion Sightseeing program supplement of \$375.

What if I don't get a spot?

We hope you do... but if not please join the waiting list at www.IFTAtavel.com.

Are there age restrictions?

At the time of travel, IFTA members must be 16+ to participate in the Study Tour and participants in the Companion program must be 18 or older.

Can I just do the first half of the tour?

Unfortunately, no. Participation is all or nothing due to limited space.

How much leisure vs education is planned?

We've tried to strike a good balance between the once in a lifetime chance to experience the beauty and wonder of South Africa and the fabulous opportunity to learn from and engage with local growers and producers there. This tour will make participants feel they've learned quite a lot about the local fruit industry as well as the culture.

TRIP INFORMATION

BEGINS	<p>Cape Town, South Africa Monday, December 2nd, 2024</p> <p>Transfers to the hotel will be organized from Cape Town International Airport (CPT Airport)</p>
ENDS	<p>Stellenbosch, South Africa Wednesday, December 11th, 2024</p> <p>Transfers will be arranged to Cape Town International Airport (CPT Airport) for afternoon and evening departures</p>
PRICE	<p>\$3000 Double Occupancy \$3400 Single Occupancy Hotel upgrade +\$400 double occupancy +\$800 single <i>A friend or spouse may participate in the Companion Sightseeing Program for the Double Occupancy rate plus a supplement of \$375.</i></p>
LODGING	<p>Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel 3 Nights A well appointed business hotel in the heart of Cape Town.</p> <p>Central Stellenbosch Hotels 6 Nights We've reserved rooms at four hotels in the vibrant center of Stellenbosch near the university. The Stellenbosch Hotel is our base hotel, and participants who are young or young at heart may elect to stay at Roosenwijn Guest House, the "Young Professionals Guest House." There is also an option for a luxury upgrade with rooms reserved at The Oude Werf Hotel and Coopmanshuijs Boutique Hotel. The Stellenbosch Hotel, Oude Werf and Coopmanshuijs are all neighboring properties, Roosenwijn Guest House is 700 meters away.</p>
THE FINE PRINT	<p>Detailed Terms & Conditions are provided on the registration form.</p> <p>Payment may be made by check payable to Onward Travel or by credit card. Credit card payments require a 3% fee. \$1,000 deposit per person is due upon registration, balance is due by August 1, 2024. If you cancel on or prior to August 1, 2024; Onward Travel retains \$250. Any additional payments will be returned to you. If you cancel after August 1, 2024; Onward Travel retains the full tour deposit. If you cancel after September 15, 2024; 50% of total Trip Fee returned to you. If you cancel less than 30 days prior to travel; you are not eligible for a refund and Onward Travel shall retain the entire amount paid. Note the trip is transferable at any time, a \$250 transfer fee applies, and Onward Travel will do their best to assist.</p> <p><i>Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to South Africa. The passport should be valid for 30 days beyond the return date. Travelers from the USA & Canada do not need a visa.</i></p>

Trip price includes the following:

- Arrival and departure airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities and destinations
- Nine nights accommodations in comfortable, en suite rooms; choice of queen/king bed or two beds
- Delicious meals: daily breakfasts, six lunches, and five dinners. We've planned fantastic gourmet experiences, with most beverages included.
- Local experts and guides including the Onward Travel staff
- Activities, sightseeing and tours as detailed in the itinerary with educational programming designed by IFTA

REGISTRATION OPENS AT NOON EST ON FEBRUARY 20!

Visit www.iftatravel.com to complete the registration form and submit payment.

\$1,000 deposit due upon booking, balance due by August 1, 2024.

This tour is offered for current IFTA Members only. Renew your membership or register as a new member at www.ifruittree.org

Register and get
more details at:
www.iftatravel.com



About Onward Travel

Onward Travel, LLC was founded in 2014 by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Clauhs Dhand. Onward partners with businesses and organizations to plan travel for their customers and members. Current/recent clients include restaurants and cooking schools; beverage industry leaders such as Founders Brewing Co. and Harney & Sons Fine Teas; university travel programs... and of course, IFTA!

Onward Travel is an insured tour operator, IATAN Accredited (leading industry certification for travel agents and tour operators, internationally recognized), and Certified Travel Associate from The Travel Institute.

IFTA Education Director



GREG LANG

is the IFTA Education Director and a professor at Michigan State University, where he conducts stone fruit research, teaches a wine education course, and travels the world to speak on fruit production science.

The planning team is collaborating with industry insiders and connections in the South African fruit tree industry to offer an experience to IFTA members that will be one-of-a-kind, enriching and unforgettable.

GET IN TOUCH

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Onward Travel with any questions:

letsgo@onwardtravel.co

+1 845-293-2729