

East-West Global Travel

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Itinerary Outline for
YOUR TEAM

Soccer Safari in South Africa
Best time period: March/April

Day 1: Depart US gateway city for overnight trip to South Africa. Depending on the airline and schedule selected, you may connect once in the USA before flying directly to Africa, or you may connect a second time in Europe before flying to Johannesburg. Either way, arrival in Johannesburg will be the following day.

Day 2: Upon arrival at O.R. Tambo international airport, an East-West Global Travel service ambassador will warmly welcome your group. You will receive a 24 hour emergency contact number prior to being assisted with check-in procedures for your onward flight to Cape Town international airport.

Upon arrival at Cape Town international airport, you will be met by a representative who will assist with your road transfer to the *Protea Extreme Hotel*. **The Extreme Hotel** is a hip & contemporary, five-story property situated one kilometer from Cape Town's spectacular Table Mountain. The hotel features an outdoor pool and sun deck, a patio area and a 16-metre outdoor climbing wall.

After checking in and unpacking, dinner this evening will be at the hotel's *Fire and Ice* restaurant. The restaurant features distinctively quirky modern décor, including a glass wall offering pool views, and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, with vegetarian and children's options also available

Day 3: After breakfast you will be met at the reception area by a local representative who will escort your group on an educational and fun visit of Cape Town City and Table Mountain, henceforth a visit to the aquarium and the fun park.

Table Mountain and City Tour

A cable car has been conveying people safely since 1926 and was updated in cooperation with a Swiss company in 1999. With stunning views over the whole peninsula it offers a wonderful orientation for first time travelers to this part of the world. Closer to sea-level, walk through the historic companies gardens, the original gardens established to grow herbs, vegetables, fruit and grapes (for wine) to replenish supplies on the ships passing through. The gardens are surrounded by many historical buildings which you might choose to visit, such as the houses of parliament, the South African library, St. Georges Cathedral, the planetarium, the First University, our afro-centric national gallery or the old slave lodge. Then there is the bo-kaap, famous as the old cape Malay quarter, inhabited in the main today by the descendants of slaves.

Moving a little higher once more, experience the noon day sun on signal hill as it reverberates over the city, while you take in the vista of the Atlantic Ocean. For those wishing for an experience of modern 'township' living, take a tour into one of the surrounding formal and informal settlements of Guguletu, Khayalisha or Langa. This is a day that will fill you with the sounds and sights of the old integrated with the modern, in this astonishingly beautiful city.

In the evening you will transfer to a local sports center where your team will play a friendly match against a local team.

Day 4: After breakfast your group will be met at the reception area by a local representative who will take you on an educational visit to the Castle of Good Hope and then to the District 6. District Six was named the sixth municipal district of Cape Town in 1867. It was originally established as a mixed community of freed slaves, merchants, artisans, laborers and immigrants, District Six was a vibrant center with close links to the city and the port.

In the afternoon you can enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant in Guguletu, a township situated about 20 kilometers from Cape Town. From here you will travel to a local school where your team will have a cultural exchange with the students and also play a friendly match against the school team.

The evening is at leisure. You may enjoy a safari "walking" dining experience in *de Waterkant* which is an historic area where you can enjoy appetizers at one restaurant followed by your main course in another and lastly your desert at another venue.

Day 5: After breakfast you will be met at the reception area by a local representative who will take you on a full day peninsula tour.

Travel down the Atlantic coast via Sea Point, Camps Bay, Llandudno, Hout Bay and Chapman's Peak; one of the most beautiful and exhilarating drives in the world! Through Noordhoek and Kommetjie to Cape Point. A visit to the Cape Point Ostrich Farm can be included on the way. Take the funicular or walk up to the lighthouse for the marvelous views over the area where the two oceans meet at the south westerly tip of the African continent. Upon leaving Cape Point, continue up the Indian Ocean side of the peninsula with possible sightings of Chachma baboon troops. Visit Boulders Beach and the penguin colony, and stop for lunch on the harbor in Simonstown. Travel on through Kalk Bay, where you can stop for an ice cream and enjoy not only the magnificent coastal views, but also appreciate how time stands still in this little town. Onward to Muizenberg, where you will pass through Kirstenbosch botanical gardens for a brief visit to delight in the color and smells of this garden.

This evening is at leisure.

Day 6: Following breakfast you will be met in the reception area by a representative who will assist with your coach transfer from Cape Town to Mossel Bay, with a stop over in the quaint seaside town of Arniston.

Lunch today will be at the *Arniston Hotel*, set in one of the Cape's most exquisite locations, next to an old fishing village, surrounded by pristine beaches and nature reserves. The hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean and offers breathtaking views of a picturesque scene. After lunch you will depart Arniston for the *Diaz Strand Hotel* in Mossel Bay, where the group will be accommodated for the night.

At the heart of the picturesque garden route, in the historically-rich and climatically-temperate town of Mossel Bay is situated right at the ocean's edge. The matchless Diaz Strand Hotel has picturesque views of the whales at play in the Indian Ocean. The hotel has satellite television and a private heated outdoor pool, cotton linen, fluffy towels and air conditioning, restaurants and cocktail bars just a sunset stroll away.

Mossel Bay is where the first Europeans landed in southern Africa nearly 500 years ago. Places of interest include the Milkwood Tree – the first "post office" in South Africa, the Bartolomeu Dias museum complex, which houses the Dias Caravel, a replica of Bartolomeu Dias's ship, the sea-shell museum, the Hartnebos Museum, the Harry Diddey park and the Cape St Blaize cave.

Day 7: After breakfast you will travel to Knysna and board the ferries for a full day trip to Featherbed Nature Reserve, a garden route highlight. A South African natural heritage site, the reserve is a pristine piece of paradise on Knysna's western head and is only accessible by a short ferry trip. The four-hour eco-experience consists of a 4x4 vehicle drive, a 2.2 km guided walk through coastal forest and fynbos, venturing onto sea cliffs and into ancient caves. A delicious buffet lunch under the canopy of the Milkwood trees included.

Tonight the group will be staying at the, *the Knysna Log-Inn Hotel*. This hotel embodies an "indigenous" concept that combines the character and the spirit of the surrounding indigenous forests with Knysna's romantic history. Upon entering the lobby of one of the largest log structures in the southern hemisphere, exquisitely carved solid yellow wood trunks tower upwards to the magnificent Scandinavian hammer trusses. Rays of sunshine flooding through the spectacular stained glass windows illuminate the splendid solid yellowwood staircase. The autumn hues of the slate flooring and the extensive use of natural river stone combine with the wood to create an atmosphere of tranquil balance. Truly "in tune with nature" the Knysna Log-Inn Hotel is very centrally located in the middle of town and ideally situated for sightseeing. The hotel is within easy walking distance to the Knysna Quays (better known as the Knysna waterfront).

The remainder of the evening will be at your leisure.

Day 8: After breakfast travel to Storms River for the tree top canopy tour, followed by a visit to the big tree and Tsitsikamma National Park.

The Tsitsikamma National Park is situated at the heart of the picturesque tourist region known as the Garden Route, found in the southern cape of South Africa. Tsitsikamma is a Khoisan word meaning, "place of much water". The park incorporates 80 km of rocky coastline with spectacular sea and landscapes, a remote mountainous region with secluded valleys covered in mountain fynbos and temperate high forests with deep river gorges leading down to the sea. The Tsitsikamma's spectacular scenery includes the Indian Ocean breakers, pounding rocky shores beneath 180 m high cliffs, ever-green forests and fynbos (proteas and heath) rolling down to the sea in a lush carpet where ancient rivers have carved their path to the ocean through rocky ravines. All this conspires to attract large numbers of international and local tourist to the park.

Tsitsikamma National Park protects a wonderland of inter-tidal and marine life, and this is one of the largest single unit 'no take' (including fishing) marine protected areas in the world, conserving 11% of South Africa's temperate south coast rocky shoreline and provides a 'laboratory' for fisheries baseline research on endangered fish species.

The Tsitsikamma Canopy Tour© is a unique eco-wilderness adventure that takes place in the magnificent Tsitsikamma indigenous rainforest. The first of its kind in Africa, the canopy tour involves traversing from one platform to another along a steel cable suspended up to 30 meters above the forest floor. Most platforms are located in giant outeniqua yellowwood trees. the scenery and bird life is spectacular and professional guides provide interesting facts about the forest ecology during the 2½ to 3 hours.

This evening your group will transfer to another local school, where your team will play a friendly match against a local team.

Day 9: Today the morning and early afternoon will be free for your group to explore the area as you wish. The town has many special attractions, good food, outdoor activities and shopping opportunities to please every temperament. A ferry ride across the water promises an enjoyable day at Featherbed Bay Nature Reserve, on the western head. In addition, Knysna's creative spirit is well manifested in a wide selection of craft shops, galleries and woodcraft businesses, whilst a host of modern boutiques jostle alongside flea-markets and street traders with offers of colorful wares. Good restaurants and cozy coffee shops abound. Knysna's own waterfront, the Knysna Quays, features shopping facilities, restaurants and a small-boat harbor alongside the gently lapping waters of the lagoon. The Woodmill Lane shopping mall, in the centre of town, offers a plethora of craft, gift and clothing shops, street cafe's, buskers and activities.

In the late afternoon it's off to a local sports center, where your team will play a final friendly match against a local team.

Day 10: After breakfast your group will be treated to a full day excursion to Addo National Park. Your local guide will assist with your transfer to Port Elizabeth via Addo National Park.

Deep within the shadows of the dense valley bushveld of the Sundays River region of the eastern cape lies the Addo Elephant National Park. Here, the evenings are punctuated by the strident howl of the black-backed jackal, and the francolin's call heralds each new dawn. Safe from relentless persecution in the past, the grey leviathans of the bush now roam in peace. The original elephant section of the park was proclaimed in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in the area - today this finely tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 450 elephants, cape buffalo, black rhino, a variety of antelope species, as well as the unique flightless dung beetle, found almost exclusively in Addo. But the Addo story has only just begun. Plans to expand the 164 000 ha Addo National Elephant Park into a 360 000 ha mega-park are moving forward at an exciting pace.

Some of its unique features of this park include unrivalled natural diversity, with five of South Africa's seven major vegetation zones (biomes). In addition, the big 7 (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, leopard, whales and great white sharks) can be seen in their natural habitat.

Future plans include the proposed proclamation of a 120 000 ha (296 500 acre) marine reserve that includes islands that are home to the world's largest breeding populations of cape gannets and second largest breeding population of African penguins.

Tonight the group will be staying at the *Holiday Inn Garden Court hotel* in Port Elizabeth.

Day 11: Enjoy a relaxed breakfast on your last morning in Africa. A representative will meet your group in the reception area for your road transfer to Port Elizabeth airport. On arrival at the airport you will be assisted with check in for a connecting flight to Johannesburg.

Upon the group's arrival at Tambo international airport; an East-West Global Travel service ambassador will warmly meet, greet and assist you with check-in procedures for your international flight back home.