



Kaapstad.org/Akho Africa Tours & Safaris

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WEST COAST PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR

This itinerary is only possible with 4x4 vehicles due to some of the remote locations.

Each vehicle will be driven by an official tourist guide as per South African law.

Groups are a maximum of 12 guests (+4 guides + 1 professional photographer) to ensure maximum comfort. Accommodation on offer can be anything from 3 to 5 star, however smaller properties will be used to ensure a special experience and personal service.

Sanparks accommodation has no official star grading, however accommodation can be compared to proper 3-star.

ITINERARY	
Date	City
Day 1	<p>Arrival in Cape Town</p> <p>Meet your local English speaking guide and photograph specialist at the Cape Town International Airport for your transfer to the hotel.</p> <p>After freshen up visit to the 'Mother City' and Table Mountain. Thereafter city lights from Signal Hills (weather permitting) and return to the hotel at around 20h00 for dinner.</p> <p>Overnight in Cape Town</p>
Day 2	<p>Cape Peninsula</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full day exploring the Cape Peninsula with highlights such as the scenic Chapman's Peak Drive in Hout Bay, the Cape Point Nature Reserve (Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope) and the Kirstenbosch botanical gardens where we will spend the rest of the afternoon until closing time. This gives us the opportunity to make maximal use of the changing light before sunset. Return to the hotel to freshen up.</p> <p>Dinner will be enjoyed at a famous restaurant in the Constantia Winelands.</p> <p>Overnight in Cape Town</p>



<p>Day 3</p>	<p>Cape Winelands – West Coast National Park</p> <p>Early departure direction Wellington. Breakfast packs will be enjoyed en-route. This early departure gives us the opportunity to have excellent light during sunrise at one of South Africa’s most scenic mountain pass, Bains Kloof, between Wellington and Ceres. Lunch will be enjoyed in the small historical town of Tulbagh. This wine producing town is little known by the larger public as the town is just south of the Little Karoo. Town centre offers beautiful Cape Dutch scenery and is highly recommended for a visit. We continue to Langebaan where we will be accommodated in the West Coast National Park (there is only one type of accommodation inside the reserve).</p> <p>North of the village of Yzerfontein lies the 18 000 hectares West Coast National Park. It encloses the Langebaan Lagoon that measures up to 16 km in length and 4.5 km across, as well as the nearby islands of Jutten, Malgas, Schaapen and Marcus. Important seabird breeding colonies, as well as numerous waders are found here – the most common ones being cormorants, gulls, gannets and flamingos. During summer, seasonal migrants such as the Curlew Sandpiper from the Arctic region swell the numbers in the lagoon. The park also proudly displays its annual spring wildflower kaleidoscope of bright colours (+/- August – September). Game species such as the wildebeest can be seen roaming around the park.</p> <p>The Postberg Nature Reserve is a highly protected biosphere, although part of the West Coast National Park, this section of the reserve is only open to the public during flower season (August and September). Famous features besides bird, reptile and antelope species are the famous ‘Finger Rocks’.</p> <p>Staying in the national park gives us the opportunity to explore the reserve before sunset around sunrise (before and after the reserves official closing times). Special permission with Sanparks can be arranged to have access to areas after hours assuring maximum light exposure (permits have to be requested and are subject to availability of Sanpark guides and breeding patterns of birdlife and other wildlife!).</p> <p>Dinner braai will be arranged at your chalet and prepared by your guide.</p> <p>Overnight in the West Coast National Park</p>
<p>Day 4</p>	<p>West Coast region</p> <p>Breakfast will be enjoyed at the Geelbek Restaurant situated in the reserve. Check-out and continue to explore the West Coast. Highlight of the day is the Cape Columbine Nature Reserve and the scenic village of Paternoster. Meet the local fisherman at their colourful wooden boats on the beach and the West Coast crayfish fisherman along the street selling their precious catch of the day. The Cape Columbine Nature Reserve is also little known to the international public but more than a visit worth a while. You will also visit the Cape Columbine Lighthouse which is an excellent photographic location.</p> <p>Lunch will be enjoyed in Paternoster. A crayfish dinner is included.</p> <p>Overnight in Paternoster</p>
<p>Day 5</p>	<p>West Coast region – Clanwilliam</p> <p>Breakfast at the lodge and drive to the Cederberg Wilderness area. Permits will ensure us access to the Wolfsboog and Malthezer Cross, two remote world famous landmarks in the reserve.</p> <p>The Cederberg is famous for its spectacular rock formations. The best known are the Wolfberg Cracks,</p>



	<p>Wolfberg Arch, Maltese Cross and Stadsaal Caves. These rocks are composed of sandstone and shale formations of the Cape Supergroup. The formations were deposited between 500 and 345 million years ago. Some formations such as the Bokkeveld Group are rich in marine fossils such as trilobites, brachiopods and crinoids. (Please remember that all fossils are National Monuments, protected by Law, and may not be disturbed or removed). The Cederberg gives its name to the Cederberg Formation, a narrow shale band that is locally referred to as "Die Trap" or in English "The Step", because of its characteristic manner in which it weathers. The harder sandstone and quartzitic formations such as the Peninsula, Nardouw and Witteberg tend to form the higher mountainous areas, while the softer shale formations such as the Bokkeveld and Cederberg form fertile valleys. The Cederberg's spectacular rock formations result from a number of factors including the flat lying nature of the geology, well defined fracture and jointing patterns, chemical composition of the rocks, climatic conditions and time.</p> <p>Lunch packs will be enjoyed in the reserve.</p> <p>Overnight including breakfast, dinner and evening game/safari activity (including star gazing) in the Kagga Kamma Private Game Reserve.</p>
Day 6	<p>Cederberg</p> <p>This private game reserve is located in the Swartruggens mountain range between the Koue Bokkeveld and the vast expanses of the Karoo (250km from Cape Town) .The town of Ceres is the nearest urban service-centre. A wide range of game species such as kudu , black and blue wildebeest, springbok, and zebra are found here. Indigenous flowers , jackals , the Black Eagle and other interesting creatures can be expected to be seen. Amazing rock formations of all shapes and sizes, coupled with a varied landscape of valleys and canyons can be seen while taking a hike through the reserve .4x4 Game drives also allow for ample sightseeing opportunities.</p> <p>The San people has historically occupied this part of the country and their archaeological legacy is well preserved on the reserve The legendary rock art of the San can be appreciated on the reserve.</p> <p>Overnight including all meals and two daily game activities in the Kagga Kamma Private Game Reserve.</p>
Day 7	<p>Cederberg – Springbok</p> <p>Breakfast and check-out.</p> <p>Today we drive to the heart of Namaqualand. But at first we visit a local Rooibos thee farm. This herbal tea became world famous for its healthy and healing character. Changing rain patterns due to global climate change might bring an end to this famous South African export product.</p> <p>This time of the year, depending on rainfall and sunshine, the semi-desert environment changes into a natural miracle represented by the millions of Namaqua daisy flowers covering the soil. Depending on the location (guides will be in contact with the Namaqualand Flower Hotline giving exact information and location of these natural wonders).</p> <p>Lunch will be either lunch packs or enjoyed at a restaurant in Springbok, depending on the location of the flowers (including a possible visit to the Namaqualand National Park).</p> <p>Overnight including breakfast and dinner in Springbok.</p>
Day 8	<p>Springbok – Richtersveld National Park</p> <p>Early departure enjoying breakfast packs en-route.</p> <p>Certainly a uniqueness to this itinerary is a visit to the Richtersveld National Park, one of the most remote areas in South Africa bordering Namibia.</p> <p>The Richtersveld section is part of the Ais Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, some are from the opinion that this most northwesterly corner of South Africa is a giant emptiness with lonely rock formations, surrounded by the mighty Orange River..nothing about that is true...each year in spring, the</p>



	<p>landscape transforms into a magical flower spectacle.</p> <p>A very limited amount of visitors is allowed in the reserve as per agreement with the Nama-people who in fact own the reserve which is operated by Sanparks.</p> <p>World famous to the reserve is the ‘Halfmens’ or ‘Half human’, a plant growing in small formations on rocks, from a distance mistakenly seen by the first pioneers as humans standing at the horizon. Also unique to the reserve is the dollarplant and the ‘kokerboom’.</p> <p>Besides 150 bird species you might get a visit from a baboon or small antelopes such as the Klipspringer and the Steenbok.</p> <p>Overnight in a chalet (standard accommodation) inside the reserve.</p>
Day 9	<p>Richtersveld National Park</p> <p>Breakfast followed by exploring further this remote natural beauty (permits subject to availability) during changing light of the morning.</p> <p>Rest of the day in the reserve including lunch and dinner.</p> <p>Overnight in a chalet (standard accommodation) inside the reserve.</p>
Day 10	<p>Richtersveld National Park – Augrabies Falls National Park</p> <p>Breakfast and check-out.</p> <p>Today we continue driving through the Bushmanland of the Great Karoo directon Augrabies.</p> <p>Visit to the Augrabies National Park.</p> <p>The name of the falls derives from the Namaqua word for ‘place of great noise’. The ravine is 18 km long and has several impressive cataracts. The main falls drop 56 metres, the Bridal Veil Falls on the north side, 75 metres. One of the most impressing facets of the park is the fascinating desert/riverine environment on either side of the river. The park has a harsh climate and it covers an area of 82,000 hectares and the flora includes kokerbooms, the Namaqua fig, several varieties of thorn trees and succulents. The park also has an excellent complex including a restaurant, open-air café, numerous cottages and a caravan park.</p> <p>Overnight in the Augrabies or Upington area.</p>
Day 11	<p>Augrabies – Kalahari</p> <p>Breakfast and check-out.</p> <p>Today we end this itinerary in full luxury during a stay at the Tswalu Kalahari Lodge.</p> <p>The malaria-free Tswalu Kalahari Reserve is surrounded by the Koranneberg Mountains in the Northern Cape Province and covers 1000km² (100 000 hectares) of land on the edge of the Kalahari desert wilderness. The reserve is home to 70 species of mammals including lion, cheetah, desert black rhino, sable and roan antelope. More than 200 species of birds can also be found in the area. Tswalu is located in the historical home of the San and is owned by the Oppenheimer family. The reserve houses two lodges, namely Motse and Tarkuni, and can accommodate no more than 30 guests at a time.</p> <p><u>Motse Lodge</u> is an African village consisting of 8 stone walled and thatched-roof chalets. Motse is a Tswana word for “village”. Six of the chalets accommodate two guests each and the other two are suitable for families of four guests each. Each chalet has an en-suite bathroom with both in- and outdoor shower, large private lounge with open fireplace, private sun deck overlooking a waterhole, direct dial telephone, room safe, mini bar and outdoor heated swimming pool. Dinner is served either in the dining room or in the privacy of the lounge contained in each suite or dining under the stars at the traditional boma. The main house at Motse consists of a spacious lounge with patio overlooking the outdoor heated swimming pool and pool terrace. There is also a walk-in wine cellar, a library with satellite television,</p>



	<p>curio shop and children's room.</p> <p><u>Tarkuni</u> is a separate freestanding African dwelling that is ideal for a small party or family of 8 to 12 guests and is completely self-contained. The accommodation consists of four luxury bedrooms each with en-suite bathroom with outdoor heated shower, open plan lounge and dining room, library, covered patio and heated swimming pool. For children the lodge has two sets of bunk beds and separate nanny quarters with two single beds and an en-suite bathroom. Private game viewing vehicles are included as well as a dedicated chef.</p> <p>Activities offered at the reserve include game drives in open 4x4 vehicles, horse riding, archery, star gazing, sundowners, Meerkat viewing, golf at the 18-hole Sishen Golf Course and special activities for children. Hot Air Ballooning and massage treatments are on request.</p> <p>Overnight including all meals and safari activities at Tswalu Kalahari.</p>
Day 12	<p>Kalahari</p> <p>Early morning activity in the reserve followed by breakfast. Private 4x4 vehicles can be arranged (at cost) giving the opportunity to go as you please during the day for photo shoots (vehicles subject to availability).</p> <p>Overnight including all meals and safari activities at Tswalu Kalahari.</p>
Day 13	<p>Kalahari – Upington – Cape Town or Johannesburg</p> <p>Early morning activity in the reserve followed by breakfast and check-out. Return drive to Upington for your domestic flight to Cape Town or Johannesburg followed by your return flight home.</p>