

For all your travel requirements to Southern and East Africa



ITINERARY



In association with the Freshwater Research Unit, University of Cape Town

Detailed Itinerary SIL 2010 Conference Group

Option 3:

Overberg - Agulhas - Garden Route - Little Karoo Trip

Dates: 11 - 15 August 2010 and 21 - 25 August 2010

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Please note: Check in and check out times: Generally check in time at hotels, guest houses and camps are 14:00pm and check out time is 10:00am. Gates to the parks open at approximately 06:00am and close at approximately 18:00pm depending on the time of year. Please make sure that you arrive and depart in time.

Keep your doors locked and buckle up at all times. Drive safely and enjoy your holiday!

- Detailed Itinerary -

Overberg - Agulhas - Garden Route - Little Karoo Trip

DAY 1 (Overberg):

Overberg Region

The Overberg is a bountiful area of gentle rolling green pastures, vineyards, forests and unspoilt coastline. Lying between the Cape Peninsula and the Garden Route, this striking region is 'over the mountains' from Cape Town, hence its name, and consists of scenic farmland and rolling hills covered with wildflowers. One of its main attractions is found in the town of Hermanus, world-renowned for whale-watching. Here you can spot southern right whales swimming around the bay between June and November, and the town even holds an annual whale festival at the height of mating season in September. The town is also a favourite stopover point for travellers driving between Cape Town and the Garden Route. The region even includes Cape Agulhas, the southernmost tip of Africa.

Limnological/scientific highlights:

- Visit rivers and wetlands, and view Fynbos plants, in and nearby the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden
- Learn about the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and the Fynbos Biome, including the rivers and wetlands of this region
- Walk along the Palmiet River, with a scientific guide
- Visit a wetland sampling site within the Kogelberg Nature Reserve, which was used in the baseline study for a project investigating the potential impact of large-scale abstraction of groundwater from the Table Mountain Group Aquifer on surface water ecosystems, with a scientific guide

Itinerary:

- Get picked up at CTICC or CT International Airport
- Drive to Harold Porter National Botanical Garden (Betty's Bay)
- Mid-morning tea (**tea included**) and talk about the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve at the Gardens
- Go to Kogelberg Reserve - have packed lunch (**incl lunch**) in the Reserve
- Guided tour of Palmiet River and TMG Aquifer sampling sites, with scientific guide
- Drive to Hermanus for land based whale-watching, dinner (**own account**) and overnight stay at On the Cliff Guest House - www.onthecliffs.co.za

(Time Permitting)



On the Cliff Guest House (4 star) in Hermanus provides awesome whale-watching opportunities. This unique Hermanus accommodation, where you can watch whales (Aug to Dec) from your bed or private patio, is a luxury guest house with magnificent sea views. All rooms are en suite with king-size beds, private balconies or patios, luxury fittings and have panoramic sea views for whale watching.

Guest House offers sauna, putting green, pub with cosy fireplace and TV, heated salt pool, gym, braai/barbeque facilities, guest lounges with fireplace, and facilities for massage, reflexology and aroma therapy.

There is a cliff path in front of house, with a 1km walk to the village centre on cliff path

Basis: Breakfast

DAY 2 (Agulhas):

Limnological/scientific highlights:

- Visit wetlands on the Agulhas Plain, with a scientific guide
- View rivers of the Agulhas region *en route* to the Garden Route Game Lodge, with a scientific guide

Itinerary:

- Breakfast included and land-based whale-watching in Hermanus
- Drive to Agulhas Plain via Stanford
- Guided tour of Agulhas Plain wetlands, with scientific guide
- Drive to Cape Agulhas
- Lighthouse visit
- Go to Arniston for lunch (**own account**) and possible swim
- Drive to Garden Route Game Lodge (www.grgame lodge.co.za), arrive in time for afternoon game drive
- Dinner and overnight stay at Garden Route Game Lodge (Game Drives and Dinner included) (Time Permitting)

Garden Route Game Lodge

Set against the backdrop of the majestic Langeberg mountain Range, the Garden Route Game Lodge guards the entrance to South Africa's world famous Garden Route Coast. Only 3½ scenic hours drive from Cape Town, this malaria free, private game reserve is home to an abundance of animal and bird life including the BIG 5.

www.grgame lodge.co.za

Basis: Full Board and Game Drives

DAY 3 (Garden Route):

Wilderness

This quiet village nestles among the tranquil lakes and rivers of the Wilderness National Park. This is a wetlands paradise that boasts a variety of bird life such as the colourful Knysna Loerie. From here, you can take the nostalgic narrow-gauge Outeniqua steam train to Knysna, or follow backroads through mysterious primeval forests, erstwhile haunt of 19th century gold diggers. It is this juxtaposition of the ancient and the picturesque that is part of the Garden Route's charm.

Knysna

The bustling resort town of Knysna with its beautiful lagoon is celebrated for its art galleries, woodcarvings and fresh oysters. Visit the vibrant Waterfront, take a lagoon cruise to the Featherbed Nature Reserve or sail through the dramatic Knysna Heads. More leisurely options might be a picnic on the beach beneath the delightful castles of Noetzie or a gentle forest ramble.

Limnological/scientific highlights:

- Visit and learn about the Wilderness Lakes, with input from an aquatic scientist from South African National Parks
- Visit and learn about the Knysna Lagoon, with input from an aquatic scientist from South African National Parks (and boat cruise on the Lagoon)

Itinerary:

- Early morning game drive
- Breakfast (included) at Game Lodge
- Drive to Wilderness Lakes
- Guided tour of the Lakes (with aquatic scientist from SANParks)
- Drive to Knysna for lunch (**own account**)
- Guided tour of Knysna Lagoon (with scientific guide), including boat cruise
- Overnight stay in Plettenberg Bay at Bitou River Lodge with dinner (**own account**) (Time Permitting)

Bitou River Lodge

Situated just outside Plettenberg Bay on the Bitou River, Paul and Sue have made the most of the natural environment by creating a peaceful haven for nature lovers. The drive sweeps past a citrus orchard and horse paddock to the whitewashed lodge, which sits on five hectares of neat flower-filled gardens, with pool, chipping-green and river frontage. Behind pepper trees and honeysuckle, stable-style bedrooms have river-facing patios, where dazzling sunbirds congregate. The lime-washed, painted-pine rooms have slate-floored kitchenettes and bathrooms, and sliding doors keep them light-filled. Farmhouse feasts are served in the breakfast room, which adjoins a warm lounge where you can settle into birding books and watch the liquid-smooth lawn gather all before it - boulders, benches and flowerbeds - as it slips silently towards the lily-leafed river. While away some time out here, watching busy birds build coconut nests and lazy ones sway in the reeds, while the ripple of canoe paddles, the splash of a kingfisher and whizz of a fly-reel provide a soothing summer soundtrack. At night, guests carry picnics down to the candlelit riverbank. In season the bay hosts whales, dolphins and seals. www.bitou.co.za

Basis: Breakfast

DAY 4 (Garden Route to Little Karoo):

Little Karoo

The Little Karoo is an arid, rugged land reached via the spectacular mountain passes over the Outeniqua Mountains. In the late Victorian period, when ostrich feathers were the height of fashion in Europe, the ostrich boom here created "feather barons". Newly wealthy farmers built grandiose mansions throughout the region before the bubble burst with the outbreak of the First World War. Today you can sample the excellent wines of the area at a working ostrich farm or visit the Cango Caves, a labyrinthine complex of limestone caverns. (Scenic as well as adventurous tours are on offer). The intrepid will be captivated by the wild beauty of the Swartberg Pass to Prince Albert and the mysterious hidden valley of Die Hel, whilst children will adore seeing the big cats at the Cango wildlife ranch, learning about ostriches, (even riding one), and cringing at the crocodile and snake farm.

Limnological/scientific highlights:

- Visit Keurbooms River mouth to view the destruction caused by the shifting of the mouth position a few years ago, with a scientific guide (and possible boat cruise on the river)
- View the changing nature of the rivers and wetlands between the coast and the southern interior of the country *en route* to Oudtshoorn, with a scientific guide

Itinerary:

- Breakfast at Bitou River Lodge (breakfast included)
- Boat Cruise on Keurbooms River after breakfast, with scientific guide
- Drive to Oudtshoorn via Prince Alfred Pass and N9
- Lunch (**own account**) and site seeing in Oudtshoorn (Cango Caves, ostriches, etc)
- Overnight at La Plume Guest House www.laplume.co.za in Oudshoorn - **Dinner own account** (Time Permitting)

La Plume Guest House

La Plume Guest House is a charming Victorian-style homestead dating back to 1902. Situated in the tranquil surroundings of a working ostrich, alfalfa and vine farm, amidst the scenic Elephants River Valley with spectacular views of the Swartberg Mountain Range. La Plume offers much more than mere accommodation. High quality local materials, fine antique furniture and a hint of colonial extravagance create a warm, friendly and peaceful atmosphere. Each suite bedroom has a unique sense of style and design. Comfort boosting aids in each room such as air conditioning, bar fridge, TV, hospitality tray etc are given.



There's bird watching and hiking among the fynbos and rare succulents close to La Plume Guest House. Mountain biking and cycling are other options. There are leisurely walks in complete safety and solitude. Take a balloon flight and visit the world's only meerkat (mongoose - cat-like predators) conservation program where you can walk with these little "earth people" and be at one with nature. The location puts guests within easy access to natural hot springs, nature and wildlife reserves, the Cango Caves, ostrich show farms and wine estates.

Basis: Breakfast

DAY 5 ("Route 62"):

Limnological/scientific highlights:

- View rivers and wetlands of the Breede River catchment en route back to Cape Town, with a scientific guide
- Visit the Molenaars River, and learn about the hydrology and ecology of the river with a scientific guide

Itinerary:

- Breakfast at La Plume Guest House (breakfast included)
- Drive back to Cape Town via "Route 62", stopping at Du Toits Kloof Trout Farm along the way to see the Molenaars River and to learn about the river and the impact of trout on Western Cape streams

(Time Permitting)

Cost:
R 9, 275.00 Nett per person (min 6 pax, including cost of guides)

Includes:

- Day 1 - Transport, Driver/Guide, Entrances, Lunch, Accommodation, UCT Guide honorarium
- Day 2 - Transport, Driver/Guide, Breakfast, Entrances, Dinner, Game Drives, Accommodation, UCT Guide honorarium
- Day 3 - Transport, Driver/Guide, Breakfast, Entrances, Accommodation, UCT Guide honorarium
- Day 4 - Transport, Driver/Guide, Breakfast, Entrances, Accommodation, UCT Guide honorarium
- Day 5 - Transport, Driver/Guide, Breakfast, Entrances, Mid Morning Tea, UCT Guide honorarium

Excludes:

- All other transport
- All other meals
- Drinks including water
- All other entrance fees
- Tips
- All items of a personal nature

Please note that this is a quotation only and that no bookings have been made, subject to availability.

This tour is based on a min of 6 pax.

Please note that Wydah Tours can arrange any tailormade itineraries for South Africa or Southern Africa

Enjoy your holiday and be safe!

- General Information -

TIPPING GUIDELINES:

Tipping is customary in Africa. All tipping is solely at client's discretion.

For driver / guides - \$ 4.00 to \$5.00 per person per day

For baggage handlers - If you wish to tip, we suggest \$ 1.00 per person per bag portered.

While on safari 5- 10 \$ per day for your guide

5-10 \$ per day for the lodge staff

CHARTER FLIGHTS

If you are also flying on private light aircraft charter flights, please note that luggage space on board these small aircraft is very limited. Your luggage allowance will only be 10 kg (26lbs) per person and must be in squashy bags, rather than hard suitcases.

CREDIT CARDS

All major credit cards are accepted in Southern Africa in hotels, restaurants and shops. However please note that petrol stations are 'full service' and do not accept credit cards so please ensure you carry enough cash for your petrol requirements.

ELECTRICITY

The power system is 220/230 volts AC. Adapters for electric shavers and hair dryers are obtainable locally in hardware stores. *Sometimes* lodges and hotels have adapters or appliances you can borrow. However, note that if you are taking part in any safari activity in a remote area especially outside South Africa, lodges do not always have electricity and generally use generator power by day for lighting and re Fridgeration. Please be aware that you will not find plug sockets in your room/tent at these lodges. The lodge may be able to recharge your camcorder at the main reception area so its worth asking. However we recommend that you take a manual shaver along just in case.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

- There are no compulsory vaccinations required for South Africa, Zimbabwe or Namibia if you are entering from Europe or the USA. However, you should consult your GP for recommended vaccinations. If you are going to Mpumalanga, Northern Natal, low-lying areas of Zimbabwe, Northern Namibia, Botswana, Malawi or Zambia, you should also take a course of anti-malaria tablets. Again, please consult your doctor.
- Tap water is purified and is safe to drink in almost all areas. In the very few places where it is not, you will be warned and bottled water will be available. In Summer and hot regions such as the Namibian desert, you must be careful to consume plenty of water at least 2 litres per day to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Clients are responsible for their own medical expenses, so please ensure that you are suitably covered by travel medical insurance.



"We recommend Global Rescue for [medical evacuation insurance](#) to all of our travelers."

HOTEL CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT TIMES

The hotel check-in time is generally 2.00 pm in the afternoon. If you arrive early, you can usually leave your luggage at the hotel. We may be able to arrange an early check-in time if your room is available. Generally the Hotel check-out time is 11 am, but in some hotels you can stay longer if you request it. If you wish to use your room on a day basis until your evening flight, please let us know as soon as possible as this can often be arranged. The additional charge is from 50-100% of the room tariff. Otherwise the hotel or lodge can keep your luggage in a safe deposit area.

LANGUAGES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

There are eleven official languages in South Africa and one official language in Namibia and Zimbabwe (English). In South Africa the most common languages that you will hear are likely to be English, Zulu, Xhosa, and Afrikaans. In Namibia, you are most likely to hear English, Herero, Ovambo, Afrikaans and German. In Zimbabwe, English, Shona and Ndebele. In Botswana, English, Setswana.

PASSPORT

This should be valid for no less than 30 days / 1 month after the date of intended departure from the country you are visiting. The passport must have at least one unused page when presenting the passport for endorsements. This means that if you apply for a visa, you will need two blank pages: one for the visa to be stuck by the SA Consulate in your country and one for the temporary residence permit to be stuck by the immigrations officer at the port of entry. If you are exempt from the visa requirement, you will need one blank page for the temporary residence permit to be stuck by the immigrations officer at the port of entry.

THE FLIGHT AND ARRIVAL

At the Check-in desk, please have your passport and ticket ready. You are allowed to take one item of hand luggage on the plane with you. The maximum free luggage allowance in economy is 20 kg. Please be careful to keep within this limit as the airlines will charge for excess baggage, especially if the flight is full.

During the flight, you will be asked to fill out an Arrival Form (Temporary Residence Permit) for Customs. Please put Wydah Tours, PO Box 53418, Kenilworth 7745 as the Contact Address if staying in South Africa. If you are staying elsewhere in Southern Africa, put the address of your first hotel or accommodation.

At Immigration, you may be asked to show your return air ticket and you will be given a Temporary Residence Permit in your passport, which is valid for three months.

Note: If you are travelling through Swaziland from Mpumalanga to Northern Natal, you may need to obtain a multiple entry visa for South Africa.

TRAVEL DELAYS

While we go to great lengths to ensure that all your holiday arrangements run to schedule, occasionally you may experience travel delays due to a delayed flight or air strike.

In the event of a delayed or cancelled flight, it is the airline's responsibility to provide temporary accommodation and meals. If this happens to you, please:

(i) Let our office know.

(ii) Keep in touch with the airline. The airline will not normally contact us, so you should rely on your contact with them.

(iii) If you decide to take an alternative scheduled flight, or any other such action, this relieves the airline of the responsibility for that journey and you will have to pay for whatever additional services you book.

VISA, PASSPORT AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

At the moment EC citizens do not need a Visa to visit Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa or Zimbabwe. Holders of other passports should check with the relevant Embassy/Consulate. You DO need a Visa to enter Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique. However, Passport, Visa and Health requirements can change at any time. The information published in this document was correct at the time of preparation, however it is your OWN RESPONSIBILITY to check requirements with a professionally qualified source and then to comply with those requirements.

- INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO SOUTH AFRICA -

Banks: Banking hours are as follows: Mon to Fri: 0900 to 1530. In country areas, they may open earlier at 0800 and close for lunch (1245 to 1400). Saturday - 0900 to 1100 in the towns/cities.

Foreign currency may be exchanged at Rennies Travel and American Express offices.

Climate: The Cape has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool winters. Nevertheless, it often boasts of seeing 'Four Seasons in one day', so is not always predictable. The eastern regions have quite humid, hot summers, especially in the sub-tropical areas of Natal and the Eastern Transvaal, whilst winters are sunny and dry. Johannesburg and the Highveld can have cold winter nights due to their altitude. Thus there is good holiday weather in South Africa at any time of year in one region or another.

Cuisine: South African food exemplifies its rich cultural diversity. In the Cape, the mix of Malay and Dutch influences has led to a distinctive, aromatic cuisine with Bobotie and Bredie dishes. In Durban the large Indian community has led to its pre-eminence for curries. In Game Reserves you will encounter locally hunted venison dishes such as gemsbok and impala. However, more conventional alternatives are always available.

Currency: The Rand is made up from 100 cents. A mix of cash and travellers cheques is the most useful form of currency to bring. Credit cards with a 'Cirrus' logo may be used to withdraw cash at Standard Bank ATM machines.

Customs: The following allowances apply when entering South Africa.

1 Litre spirits, 2 Litres wine, 50 ml perfume, 250 ml eau de toilette, 400 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 250g tobacco, Other gifts for SA residents up to R500 in value not including golf clubs, firearms, ammunition, watches or furs.

Progress: Despite the many strides that have been made since the democratic elections, there is still a vast disparity in wealth and lifestyle between whites and blacks. Most towns in the Western Cape have a squatter camp or an informal settlement nearby, because people have flocked to the area after the dismantlement of the Pass laws. The task of building affordable new homes is pretty huge, so the government has been concentrating on improving the settlements with sewerage and electricity. Nevertheless, there is still a fair way to go. The hard currency that Western visitors bring into the country will nevertheless be vital in creating new jobs and therefore helping to erode the differences between rich and poor. Culturally, there is also a considerable difference between the various provinces. The Western Cape is not dissimilar in ambience and culture from Europe. Mpumalanga, Northern Province and KwaZulu Natal are more typically 'African' in feel, and the Northern Cape is like a cross between the Western Cape and neighbouring Namibia.

Time: South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT

What to Wear: This depends on the time of year that you will be traveling. During the winter months (May to September), it can be chilly in the mornings and evenings, so it is a good idea to have long trousers and a warm sweater. Summer temperatures can be very hot, so loose clothes in breathable fibres are most comfortable. Simple separates, which can be layered to add warmth if necessary, are ideal. Neutral coloured clothing is preferable on safari (see Game Viewing). Clothing is generally casual, especially at holiday resorts and in the game reserves. However, in some of the more exclusive hotels, men are required to wear jacket and tie for dinner. Black tie for Dinner is recommended for a journey on Rovos Rail, but not strictly enforced.

VAT:

Overseas visitors can claim refunds of VAT (14%) paid on goods that they take out of South Africa. Information leaflets on the procedure to follow to claim VAT refunds are available at airports and a leaflet is included in your information folder.