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GOLF TRAVEL

Golf holidays & experiences



SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town & The Garden Route: where golf meets safari and wine



If you are planning your first long haul trip, look no further than South Africa—an unbelievable country, so full of life, culture, and beauty unlike anything you have ever seen.

South Africa is a remarkably diverse destination, offering everything from world-class golf courses, vineyards and majestic mountain ranges to beaches and wildlife. Here, oceans collide, and cosmopolitan cities and seaside suburbs give way to far-reaching vineyards, and wildlife-filled savanna plains.



The country offers well-developed tourist infrastructure, making it an easy destination for self-driving.

A holiday to South Africa offers golfers a diverse and exciting array of activities and experiences alongside golf such as: wildlife and safaris, vibrant cities, coastlines, a colourful and friendly culture, and drives across the country.

South Africa is a destination that promises to challenge your game and captivate your soul. So, pack your clubs, open your mind to adventure, and prepare for a golf holiday unlike any other. Your next great golfing story starts here.



Cape Town & The Garden Route: Where Golf Hazards Come Alive

For the discerning golfer seeking an adventure that transcends manicured fairways and predictable hazards, look no further than South Africa. Often described as ‘**a world in one country**’, a golf holiday here is a remarkable experience, blending world-class golf with awe-inspiring landscapes and sensational safaris. Prepare to tee off amidst exquisite, contrasting scenery, where majestic mountains meet dramatic coastlines and vineyards.

If you are planning your first trip to this extraordinary destination, you will find that South Africa is home to nearly **500 golf courses**, many of which are of superb quality and situated in beautiful settings. You can experience magnificent parkland layouts like the [Fancourt Montagu](#), test your game on world-renowned championship courses like [Pinnacle Point Golf Estate](#), [De Zalze Golf Club](#), or indulge in ‘Millionaire’s Golf’ at the challenging, Scottish/Irish-inspired [Fancourt Links](#)—consistently ranked the number one course in the country.



The true differentiator of a South African golf holiday is the opportunity to play in the wild. Some courses feature hazards that are “a little more exotic than most” you have ever played, earning the name of “Safari golf”.



The Big Five Encounter: If you're lucky enough to be playing the incredible Leopard Creek Golf Club, which borders the world famous Kruger National Park, sightings of buffalo, elephants, crocodiles, hippos, and antelope are likely either on the course or in the bordering game reserve.

The Bushveld Challenge: Observe the subtle artistry of nature where animals such as warthogs and impalas have helped shape the natural landscape. We encourage guests to experience these amazing courses, where the rich wildlife enhances every moment of your game.

Courses for Every Passion and Skill



Pinnacle Point Golf Estates

For the discerning golf traveller, South Africa isn't just a destination. Boasting an incredible array of courses, from championship layouts carved into dramatic coastlines to serene parkland tracks nestled among vineyards and even courses where wildlife roams free, The **Cape Town & Garden Route** offers a golfing experience that is as diverse as its stunning landscapes. Each course presents a unique character, promising not just a game, but an unforgettable journey through some of the world's most spectacular natural settings.

If you're wondering about the quality and who these magnificent courses are suitable for, prepare to be impressed.



For the Low to Mid Handicapper

If you crave a true test of your skills, South Africa delivers in spades. Many courses are designed by legends of the game and regularly host professional tournaments, demanding precision, strategy, and power.

Expect long, challenging layouts, strategically placed hazards, fast greens, and often demanding weather conditions (like coastal winds) that add an extra layer of difficulty.

For Those Who Play for the Views and Great Golf!

Many golfers appreciate a course that offers not just a great game, but also unparalleled beauty. South Africa excels at integrating breathtaking natural backdrops into its designs.

Expect dramatic ocean vistas, mountain backdrops, courses winding through vineyards, or those featuring abundant indigenous wildlife. The beauty often enhances the golfing experience, making every hole memorable.

Play for Enjoyment and Accessibility

South Africa offers numerous courses that provide a fun, engaging, and less intimidating experience, perfect for couples, families, or those simply looking to enjoy the game without excessive pressure. Expect well-designed courses that are forgiving enough for higher handicappers, with a focus on playability and enjoyment. Excellent facilities, friendly staff, and beautiful surroundings are standard.



For the Ultimate “Bush & Birdie” Experience

This is perhaps where South Africa truly stands alone. Imagine a round of golf where impala graze on the fairways, giraffes peer over trees, or monkeys watch your approach shots.

Some of our Favourite Courses in South Africa

Clovelly Country Club is a moderate-length, par-72 course (5,531 yards off the club tees) that rewards precision over power. Winding through sand dunes and dotted with water hazards, accuracy is key if you want to score well.

That said, there are some unforgettable drives where a stream hugs the left and a pond guards the green.



Fancourt South Africa’s most famous and premier leisure resort situated on over 1,500 acres of lush countryside in the heart of the Garden Route just five miles from George Airport with the majestic Outeniqua Mountains providing an incredible backdrop. Three amazing courses await you. The Links course is widely regarded as the number 1 course

in South Africa and with the Montague and Outeniqua courses consistently voted in the top 20 courses, you have the perfect combination of golf to test every aspect of your game.

Pinnacle Point Golf Estate

This par-72, 5,814-yard masterpiece demands both precision and awe, with seven spectacular holes tracing the cliffs and four daring shots played directly over the ocean. Every hole is sculpted to the land’s natural rhythm, blending challenge with sheer beauty. Watch more about [Pinnacle Point Golf Estate](#).



Pinnacle Point Golf Estate



South Africa: Golf, Safari and Wine Esperience Visited

For the avid golfer seeking a long-haul adventure, South Africa stands alone. A golf holiday here transcends the traditional resort experience, offering the unique opportunity to play world-class courses while simultaneously ticking off bucket-list adventures like big-game safaris and exquisite wine tasting. If you have never visisted the Rainbow Nation, prepare for stunning views, exceptional value, and a chance to combine luxury golfing with sensational cultural and wildlife encounters that will stay with you long after you leave the 18th green.

When Golf Meets the Wild: Golf & Safari Experience

The concept of “**Safari golf**”, is the “perfect blend of adventure and relaxation” that distinguishes a South African trip. Many luxury golf tours are specifically designed to dovetail a safari with your trip to experience the Big Five. Golf and safari packages often pair tee times with game drives twice a day (morning and late afternoon) at top reserves such as the Gondwana Game Reserve near the Garden Route.





Fairways and Fine Wines: The Culinary Experience

If the wild plains don't appeal, the tranquil sophistication of the Cape Winelands offers an equally essential cultural addition to your golf itinerary. The Winelands region, featuring the famous towns of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and Paarl, is only about an hour's drive east of Cape Town.

This region is famous for its award-winning vineyards and stunning scenery, ranging from vine-woven valleys nestled between mountain ranges to historic estates featuring classic Cape Dutch architecture.



Several world-class championship courses such as **Pearl Valley Golf Course**, **Steenberg Golf Club** and **De Zalze Golf Club** are nestled directly within or adjacent to the famous wine estates.

Combining your rounds with vineyard tours and gourmet meals creates an unforgettable, luxurious retreat. Whether you seek the exhilarating challenge of playing alongside the Big 5 or the refined elegance of the Cape's premier wine routes, South Africa offers a personalised adventure that truly is the holiday of a lifetime.



Experience South Africa When You're Off the Course

South Africa has an enticing choice of activities to do when you're off the course. From nature experiences to cultural immersions, South Africa has something for everyone. Here are some of our favourite excursions and must-do activities in and around the golfing hubs of Cape Town, Hermanus, and George.

Cape Town: Culture, Views, and Vines

The Cape region, home to the famous city of Cape Town, is renowned for its iconic landmarks and vibrant urban life serving as the ideal launchpad for exploration:

- Ascend Table Mountain
- Explore the City and Coast
- Taste the Winelands
- Discover the Peninsula

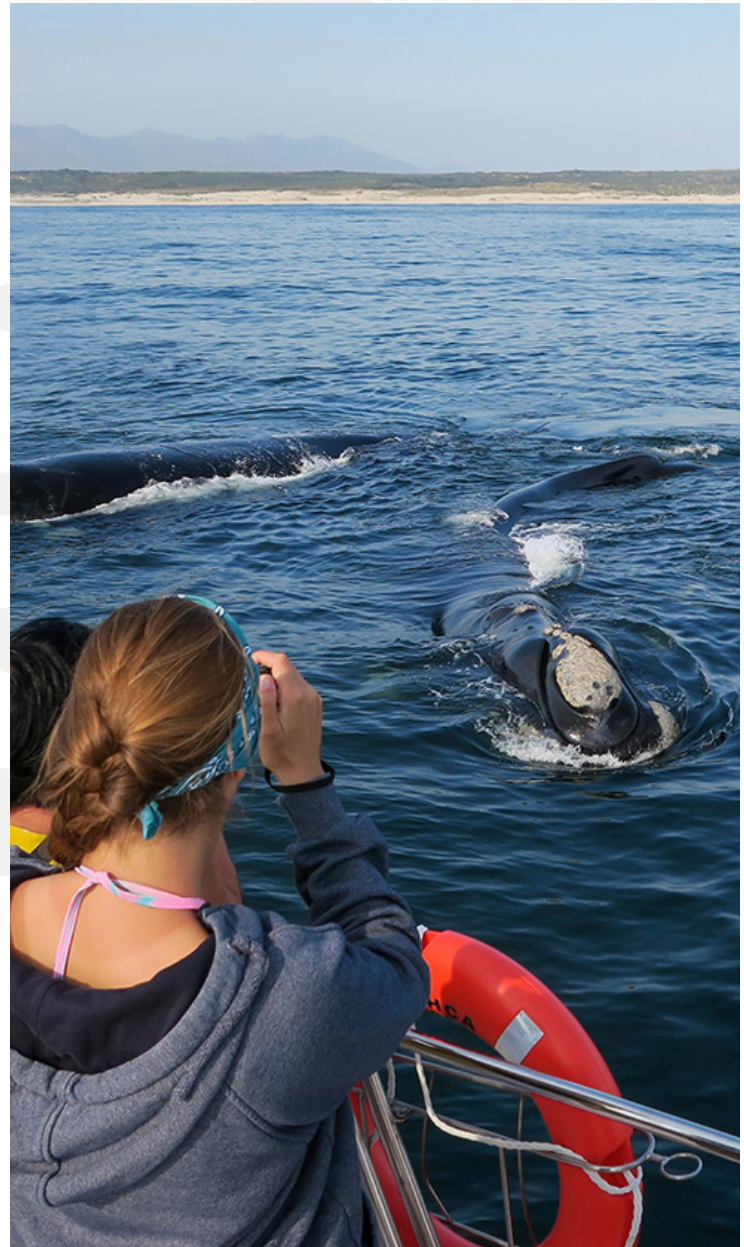
Hermanus: The Whale Watching Capital

Hermanus is an essential stop along any Western Cape itinerary, particularly for nature lovers. Located on the beautiful shores of Walker Bay, this quaint fishing town is the official Whale Watching Capital of the World.

The best times for whale watching are:

Peak Season (September - October) where whales are more active.

General Season (June to November) when whale migration starts.



George & The Garden Route: Scenic Drives and Caves

George is situated in the heart of the famed Garden Route, a spectacular stretch of coastal masterpiece renowned for its scenery, mountains, and forests.

- Scenic Exploration, Caves and Ostriches adventure
- Knysna and Parks excursions such as driving through the Tsitsikamma Forests and visiting the Tsitsikamma National Park.



Rovos Rail - The Ultimate Luxury Train Experience

Often referred to as The Most Luxurious Train in the World, Rovos Rail offers bespoke train safaris that combine magnificent scenery with the glamour and excitement of the golden age of leisure travel.



A journey on Rovos Rail is all-inclusive and provides a truly unique travel experience. It allows you to stay in stunning accommodation on the train while accessing diverse courses, enjoying activities for non-golfers, and experiencing game viewing, all seamlessly integrated into one luxurious package.

South Africa's Culinary Experience

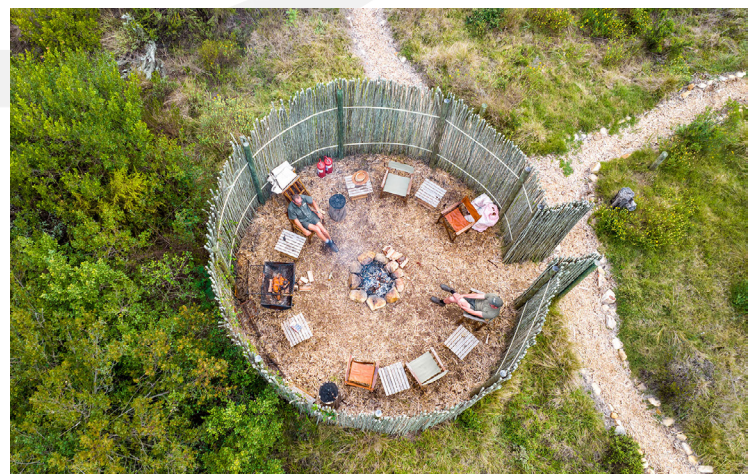
Visiting South Africa offers an opportunity for top-class golf and a thrilling Big Five safari! But prepare your palate, because what awaits you off the course is an amazing local cuisine and culture that transforms a golf trip into a genuine culinary adventure. South Africa offers fine cuisine and luxurious dining experiences, providing the perfect blend of adventure and relaxation.

Forget any preconceived notions of rustic dining; South African culinary highlights range from sophisticated wine pairings to traditional flavoursome food.

The culinary scene is particularly concentrated around the Cape region and the adjacent Winelands, making it easy to combine golfing with gourmet exploration.

Five-Star Dining in the Wild

In the safari regions, lodging means far more than just comfortable accommodation; it means true five star drinks, dining and service. You can indulge in authentic boma-style South African cuisine, bush breakfasts, barbeques, and sundowners at scenic spots.





The Cape's Gourmet Capital

The culinary scene is particularly concentrated around the Cape region and the adjacent Winelands such as Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and even unexpected culinary spots such as Paarl, making it easy to combine golfing with gourmet exploration.

Must-Try Local Delicacies and Drinks

Biltong: Considered South Africa's most loved roadside snack. It is similar to beef jerky but is typically thicker and chewier, made of quality, cured meat hung to dry. You can often buy it from butcher shops where they let you choose the size, texture, and seasoning.

Ostrich Steak: If you visit Oudtshoorn (the ostrich farming capital), you can enjoy dinner at an ostrich farm, specializing in local specialities such as Ostrich Steak.

Amarula: This is South Africa's favorite alcoholic after-dinner cocktail, often compared to Baileys and best served with cream.

Grapetizer and Appletizer: These were two favourite drinks described as a perfect mix of juice and soda, making them a great option to take along on game drives.



A Quick Tip on Tipping

As a practical note for dining out or refuelling: tipping is customary and widely practised. Waiters generally expect a 10% tip for average service, increasing to 15% for a job well done.



Visiting South Africa at the Right Time of Year

If you're yet to discover the magic of this vibrant country, let us guide you to the perfect time for an unforgettable golf escape.

Chasing the Sunshine and Green Fairways

The southern part of South Africa boasts diverse climates, meaning there's almost always a fantastic golf destination to explore. However, to truly maximise your experience, we recommend targeting the following windows:

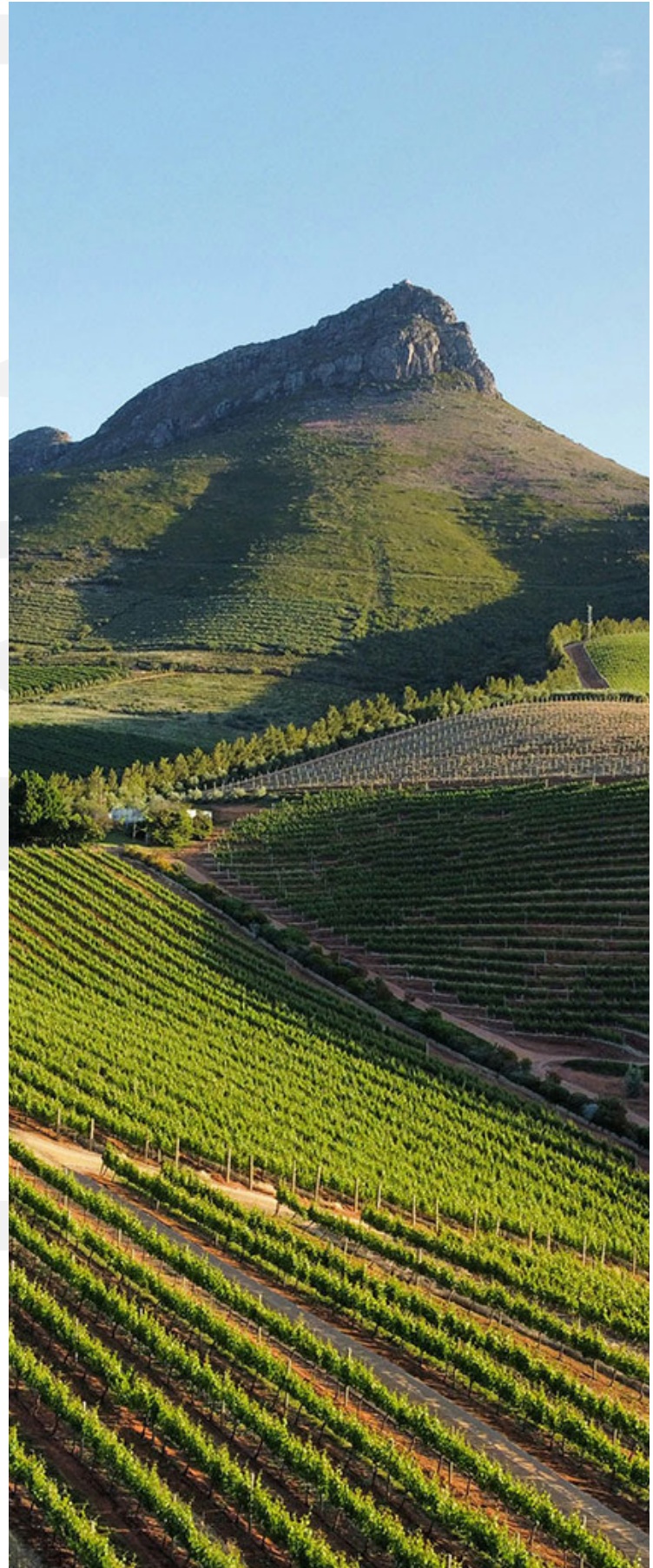
Autumn (March - May): The Golden Season

This is arguably the sweet spot for a golf holiday across much of South Africa. The scorching summer heat has mellowed, and the lush greenery is still vibrant from the summer rains.

Expect temperatures around the 20s °C perfect for 18 holes, less humidity, and generally clear skies. Ideal for combining golf with city exploration in Cape Town, wine tasting in the Cape Winelands, or even a safari.

Spring (September - November): Blooming Beauty

As winter loosens its grip, South Africa awakens with a flourish. This is another excellent time, particularly for those looking to explore the Garden Route.





Temperatures are pleasantly warm, and the landscape is alive, perfect for tackling the iconic courses of Fancourt and Pezula along the Garden Route.

Things to Bear in Mind When Travelling to South Africa

While South Africa offers fantastic infrastructure, planning requires forethought. Golf holiday packages are the best way to combine golf with bucket-list activities like safaris and wine tasting. Plan for a minimum of 10 to 14 days to allow yourself enough time to play golf with a safari and/or wine experience.

13 nights and 7 rounds from Cape Town to George

Day 1 - 5

4 Nights at the Vineyard Hotel & Spa
2 Rounds at Clovelly Country Club

Day 5 - 8

3 Nights at Erinvale Estate Hotel & Spa
1 Round at Erinvale Golf Club
1 Round at De Zalze Golf Club

Day 8 - 12

4 Nights at Fancourt Hotel
1 Round at Fancourt Outeniqua
1 Round at Fancourt Montagu

Day 12 - 14

2 Nights full board at Gondwana Game Reserve
1 Round at Pinnacle Point Golf Estate

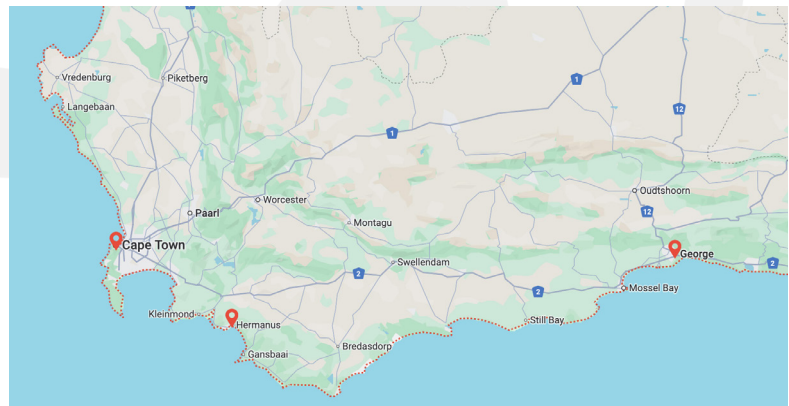
Special Features included

Car rental and a Safari experience

[Explore more package examples](#)



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