

KER & DOWNEY

JOURNEYS OF DISTINCTION

Splendors of the Cape – Walking, Whales, Wilderness and Wildlife

- ❖ A Fifteen Day Safari Featuring: Cape Town, District Six, Robben Island,
Grootbos Nature Reserve, Mossel Bay, Boggamsbaai,
Shamwari Nature Reserve and Samara Private Game Reserve ❖



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- **Radisson**, Cape Town, three nights, executive room
- **Grootbos**, three nights, luxury suite, all inclusive
- **Point Village Guest House**, two nights, guest cottage, all inclusive
- **Sandpiper Guest Cottages**, two nights, guest cottage, all inclusive
- Private air charter from Mossel Bay to Shamwari Game Reserve
- **Eagles Crag**, three nights, luxury suite, all inclusive
- **Samara**, two nights, luxury accommodations, all inclusive
- Air Charter from Samara to Port Elizabeth
- Ker & Downey document wallet and bag tags
- Ker & Downey travel duffle

Not included in tour:

- Any item of a personal nature, such as phone calls, curios, etc.
- Passport, visa fees and airport departure taxes
- Tips to hotel/camp staff, driver/guides or porters
- Personal travel insurance
- Excess baggage fees levied by airlines
- Any item not specifically mentioned as included
- Tours indicated as “optional”

Itinerary



Day One –

Cape Town, South Africa

Radisson

Arrive in Cape Town. Welcome to South Africa! A representative will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. The modern and upscale Radisson Hotel Waterfront in Cape Town has a prime waterfront position in Table Bay on the Atlantic Ocean. The business district and Cape Town beaches are just a short drive away, while the world famous V&A Waterfront, the shopping and entertainment hub of the city, is within a few minutes' stroll. A complimentary shuttle runs between the hotel and the VA Waterfront.

Day Two –

Cape Town, South Africa – Township Trail Private Tour & Robben Island

Radisson

Your first morning in South Africa begins at with introductions to your guide in the lobby of your hotel. The Township Trail tour has been dubbed by past visitors as “humbling”. This private, three hour tour takes in historical sights like the Castle of Good Hope, Grand Parade, and slavery sites like the Slave Lodge and Slave Tree. At the Parliament Buildings and District Six Museum, you will hear about apartheid and get to understand the effects of racism and discrimination of the lives of ordinary South Africans. As you walk with your guide among the area, you will notice a significant rebirth and pride – the flame burning brightly in the hearts of the South African people.

As guests of local community workers, walk further through a vibrant black community with all its different social strata. While you're exploring District Six, why not take a rest and enjoy the warm hospitality of South Africa. Visit a “shebeen” or an informal pub for a cool drink and friendly conversation. Perhaps taking in some artistic culture by visiting a public arts center that proudly shows off South Africa's colorful past.

This afternoon, after your tour of District Six, you will be escorted by your guide to the ferry at the V & A waterfront for a 25 minute transfer to Robben Island. This walking tour is a rare opportunity that most visitors never get to experience. Upon arrival at Robben Island, you will be met by your tour guide, an ex-political prisoner. This often times raw and emotional experience with your guide is in itself, historical, as you learn, first-hand about life in a South African political prison. These guides are the last of their generation and their accounts

are moving and poignant. Your Robben Island guide will then escort you to the prison block and limestone quarry. Next, you will visit the most famous of Robben Island prison cells – that occupied by Nelson Mandela, the leader in the battle against apartheid. To commemorate the historical importance of this prison, Robben Island was named a World Heritage Site in 1999.

At the end of your day, you will board the ferry for your return trip to the V & A waterfront and finally back to your hotel where you will end your day of discovery.

Day Three –
Cape Town, South Africa – The Table Mountain Trail
Radisson

This morning, dust off your hiking boots, put on your long pants and grab a wind cheater before meeting your expert trail guide in the hotel lobby for a private hike up Cape Town's most famous landmark – **Table Mountain**. You might even wish to pack an extra bottle of water, or perhaps a lovely South African wine in your backpack for today's adventure! For those seeking a less strenuous way to reach the top, take the cable car for a panoramic view of Table Bay and the V&A Waterfront (weather permitting).

This trail can be rugged and steep in parts. It is a world-class hiking experience, hosted by Table Mountain National Park, a Natural World Heritage Site. This "white table cloth" trail links the cultural diversity of the City of Cape Town to the natural wonders of Hoerikwaggo – "Sea Mountain". This trail is geared for comfort and your professional guide will suggested two very distinct and fascinating trails to ascend to the summit.

The **Platteklip Gorge Trail** will take you up the front face of Table Mountain. Platteklip is seemingly cleft out of the north face of Table Mountain. Panoramic views belong to you in this moment – Devil's Peak, Lion's Head, the V&A Waterfront, Table Bay and Hottentots Holland Mountains in the background.

The **Skeleton Gorge** – Maclear's Beacon Trail sets off from the beautiful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and heads up Skeleton gorge. The ascent is less strenuous than the Platteklip but does involve some basic rock scrambling and a ladder climb towards the top of the ravine. During warm weather, Skeleton Gorge offers hikers the advantage of shade cover from the indigenous forest.

A leisurely 1 ½ to 2 hour climb brings you to Breakfast Rock, a lovely spot to

relax, enjoy some snacks and panoramic views from False Bay in the south across the Cape Flats and Southern Suburbs toward Table Bay in the North. In the east, the Hottentots Holland Mountains provide a fitting backdrop to the famous Cape Winelands. Now might be the perfect place to enjoy that bottle of South African wine snuggled securely in your backpack!

After another 1 ½ hour hikers trek through indigenous fynbos vegetation and over a few hills, you will find yourself at Maclear's Beacon on the eastern side of the Table Mountain plateau. It is here that you stand in awe of the vista over the city and Table Bay towards the Blouberg Mountains.

Your hiking experience comes to a beautiful end as your guide takes you to the upper cable car station, which once again reveals some amazing coffee table book views. In the distance – Robben Island, Camps Bay and the Twelve Apostles – peer back magically as if to say “thank you” for appreciating their beauty. Descending in the rotating cable car, and completing this hike you may agree with others who have visited before, that Table Mountain truly is “the most perfect day of my life”.

Day Four –
Cape Town, South Africa/ Grootbos Private Nature Reserve
Grootbos Lodge

This morning you will be met and picked up in the hotel lobby by your private driver and guide. Enjoy your scenic road transfer to the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, a 1700-hectare reserve situated on the hills overlooking Walker Bay with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and distant Cape of Good Hope.

The “NEW GUESTS!” cheerful greeting will put a smile on your face as you enter the lodge at Grootbos. Welcoming calls are followed by a glass of fine South African wine and each guest is made to feel instantly special.

Today, enjoy the many amenities of the Lodge and Private Reserve. Set among ancient Milkwood trees, each of the large, private suites has its own secluded balcony from which you can admire colorful South African sunsets or begin your day with a melodic tune from the many species of forest birds. Telescopes on the balcony of each of the suites are provided and give you a private view of the Southern Right whale during the migration season – June through December. Wandering down the trails into the main section of the lodge, delightful smells from the award winning restaurant may awaken your appetite. Prepared with innovative flair, presented with a touch of brilliance and color, and served in a restaurant with unbeatable views, meals at Grootbos will amaze you. In addition, the award winning wines of the Cape provide the ideal accompaniment

to gourmet cuisine.

Grootbos Nature Reserves offers a wide variety of activities that are included with your stay and once you are booked in, your guides will describe each of them. If you wish to explore any of these wonderful experiences, you can make arrangements directly with the staff. Examples of the many walking or activity tours you can experience:

- **Fynbos Nature Trail** – These colorful plants are native to this region and your guide will lead you to many varieties representing all the colors of the rainbow. A majestic discovery tour, especially considering that the Fynbos miraculously relies on fire to survive!
- **Milkwood Ancient Forest** – Put on your walking shoes for this trail tour. As you walk among the Milkwood trees, many of them hundreds of years old, you will experience a web of life that links these trees to so many other organisms in the forest. A “*must see*” experience for bird watchers as you wander through the cool, dense forest.
- **The Pincushion Trail** – This trail is a two hour circular walk along hillsides covered in orange pincushion protea and through the Milkwood Forest. View the rare Grootbos Erica in its natural habitat and ancient trees that are over 800 years old. A kaleidoscope of color where you may even spy the shy bushbuck or a baboon! Easy terrain, but good walking shoes are recommended. Your guide will provide water along the way.
- **The Protea Trail** – You will be driven approximately 15 minutes to the head of this fairly strenuous trail and here, you have self-guided options. Hike to the summit of Protea Peak, the highest point on the Reserve. Amazing views of Walker Bay and the entire Grootbos Reserve are yours to enjoy from this vantage point.
- **Horse Riding** – The Reserve is home to over a dozen, exceptionally well-trained horses suitable for adults and children. Arrange to reserve them for an unforgettable trail ride to the beach or view the magnificent Fynbos from atop your sturdy mount.

Day Five –
Grootbos Private Nature Reserve
Grootbos Lodge

This morning, wake up to a cup of South African coffee and enjoy your room's complimentary fruit basket while taking in the magnificent views from your secluded and private balcony. Listen to the birds and breathe in the hypnotic scent of the local flora – including the fiery and brilliant fynbos. If a heartier meal is what you have in mind, relax as you stroll along the pathway to the main Lodge for breakfast. Drawing inspiration from the abundance of scents and colors in nature around them, our chefs conjure up magical combinations that replenish and inspire body and soul.

After breakfast meet your guide and choose from the many optional activities that are absolutely unique and unforgettable to this area. There are many *optional* tours at Grootbos to choose from, including:

Southern Right Whale Boat Tour (Season: June-December): To leave this region without observing the whales which migrate and breed in these waters, would be regrettable. Board your whale boat in Gansbaai and experience this phenomenon up close and personal with your professional captain, crew and whale guides. Huge, gentle, mysterious and curious best describe these giants of the sea. Can you imagine a giant friend who is as captivated by you as you are of him? A whale longer and wider than the boat in which you sit, this 40 ton creature will delight you as he salutes you with his giant tail against a backdrop of rugged hills. These protected whales survive thanks to the aggressive conservation efforts of South Africa. The motto “Discover and Protect” has allowed these beautiful mammals with gentle souls to increase their numbers and thrive in the waters off South Africa.

White Shark Diving Experience: Feeling a bit daring this afternoon? Why not consider a Shark Diving tour from Gansbaai on a boat specifically designed for your comfort and safety. Depending on the adrenalin rush you want – choose from a daring shark cage dive or observation trip from the comfort and safety on deck of the shark boat. The captain and crew aspire to give you the ultimate experience in observing the Great White Shark. The crew has years of experience in white shark cage diving. They have worked with various international film crews, photographers and scientists.

Dyer Island Sea Colony and Rare African Penguins: If the Great White is not your cup of tea, travel to Dyer Island by boat to observe a large

colony of rare African Penguins and over 60,000 Cape Fur Seals who will delight you. Along the way you may see a Great White break the surface of the water - his eyes locking with yours for a brief moment, only to submerge to the ocean's depths in search of food. Upon reaching the island, you can observe the penguins, watch their amusing antics and observe behavior patterns unique to these animals as pointed out by your expert guide. This island is also home to massive sea bird colonies and this tour will surely delight the bird watcher in all of us. On your return to Gansbaai look for the water spouts of the Southern Right Whale during the mating season, creatures so gentle it will seem as if they are guiding you home and bidding you a fond farewell.

Day Six –

Grootbos / Mossel Bay

Point Village Guest House

Enjoy the remainder of your morning at Grootbos at your leisure. Meet your guide in the lobby where you will travel to Mossel Bay, arriving late in the afternoon. Your hotel in Mossel Bay is the luxurious Point Village Guest House, ideally located only 60 meters from the sea and tidal pools. Each room at Point Village Guest House has striking views of the sea from your private balcony. You will meet Fred, your guide to this region, for drinks and a program discussion in the evening before dinner. Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely dinner with your guide and learn more about this region. This area is best enjoyed during the warm weather season.

Day Seven –

Mossel Bay

Point Village Guest House

After breakfast, your hike begins along the cliffs and pathways that lead you to Dana Bay. Today's official starting point is at St. Blaize. Watch from Khoi San Caves as the waves crash along the rocks far below. The thunderous power of the sea is mind boggling and hypnotic from this vantage point. Follow a meandering path along cliff edges and hike down to sea level. On the way, take in the gorgeous and wild scenery. Along the famed Oystercatcher trail, explore with your guide some of the 40 sea caves where the ancient remains of a 2,000 year old Khoisan man were recently found. Watch dolphins frolic and cool off or, if warm weather is on your side, take a swim in the perimeter of the huge rock pools overlooking the blue expanse of the Indian Ocean.

Dinner this evening is once again at the Point Village Guest House with a talk on Black Oystercatchers by an expert in the field. From your lecturer, you will learn

why the African Black Oystercatcher populations have tragically dwindled in recent years, but today, with aggressive conservation efforts, nesting bird numbers have increased dramatically in thanks due to successful partnerships formed by government and scientists.

Day Eight –

Mossel Bay/Boggamsbaai

Point Village Guest House / Sandpiper Guest Cottages

After a leisurely breakfast, your journey begins along the beach to Boggomsbaai, towards your next lodging destination, Sandpiper Guest Cottages where your luggage will be waiting for you when you arrive. Along the way, experience the magnificent variety of the Cape Fynbos and Floral kingdom of the Garden Route Coast. Guides will reveal to you how the lovely, lonely African Black Oystercatcher finds its food among the rocks and on sandy beaches. The large and noisy plover-like bird, with completely black plumage and red legs has a strong, broad red bill used for smashing and prying open mollusks such as mussels and other similar shellfish, native to this region.

Along the way, your guide will help you identify Oystercatcher nests, eggs and chicks. Explore ancient shell middens, the oldest in the world are around 140,000 years old, from the Middle Stone Age of Africa. Glorious tidal pools, teeming with energy and life abound on this beach. Take your time along this walk and breathe in deeply – the shores of the Indian Ocean are generous with their gifts.

End the day at Sandpiper Guest Cottages with refreshments. Sandpiper Cottages are an eclectic mix of the original fisherman's cottages still found scattered throughout the coastal regions of South Africa complete with a splash or two of British Colonialism – beautifully blended together to form these lovely and unique stand alone cottages. These well-crafted, nicely appointed cottages warmly reflect the character of the old Cape.

This evening, enjoy a traditional South African fish braai, or fresh fish baked over hot coals - an old Cape tradition, you will not soon forget.

Day Nine –

Boggamsbaai

Sandpiper Guest Cottages

Enjoy breakfast on your final day at the old Cape and bid Boggomsbaai a proper farewell by taking in a coastal walk up the beach to historical Fransmanshoek Conservancy, who's mission it is to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of the Fransmanshoek Peninsula. Today, enjoy a picnic lunch on the beach and, if

weather permits, indulge in water activities such as snorkeling and swimming in the secluded bay - a refreshing break from hiking as you refresh yourself in the Indian Ocean.

Day Ten –

Boggamsbaai/Shamwari Game Reserve

Eagles Crag

This morning you will be transported from Mossel Bay to Shamwari Game Reserve to Eagles Crag, via private air charter. Eagles Crag, a six time award winning lodge, is an avante-guard masterpiece of thatch, stone and glass for the most discerning traveler who is looking for privacy and tranquility. Enjoy lavish meals in the lodge's fine dining room or cocktails in the unique bar. Shamwari's Eagles Crag is designed to be savored and enjoyed.

Shamwari Game Reserve was born from a dream by Adrian Gardiner, a successful Port Elizabeth businessman who simply wanted to buy a small piece of land for his family to enjoy. He was amazed to learn that this part of the Eastern Cape was once described as one of the richest wildlife zones in all of Africa and included the "Big Five". By the 1850's the settler's had wiped out most of the game and by 1991, the area was a virtual dustbowl. Adrian's dream soon became his passion – to return to the land the flora and abundant herds of game – and to ensure that the roar of the lion would again be heard in the heat of the early evening.

Day Eleven –

Shamwari Game Reserve

Eagles Crag

Your morning begins with a game drive along with your experienced game guide. Leave before dawn and enjoy 3-4 hours for the morning safari. Your Land Rover is stocked with blankets for warmth and your game ranger will already know where the animals are congregating this morning. It will be dark, so your ranger will be equipped with a low level spotlight to help you view even the most elusive of animals. Imagine wild game with a South African sunrise backdrop! Elephant, Lion, Hippo and the remaining Big Five are all very active at this time of day. Morning safari's include a stop for coffee, tea and a light snack. If you have a particular animal you would like to see, be sure to mention it to your game ranger and he will be happy to carry out your request sometime into your morning drive. After an invigorating morning safari, return to camp for a hearty breakfast prepared by the chef's of the Lodge and visit with your ranger during your meal to learn more about the flora and wildlife of this wonderful reserve.

This afternoon after a satisfying lunch, enjoy the amenities of the lodge – the pool, tennis courts, reading and relaxing. In the evening, you will depart for your night time game drive. Feel close to the action in a specially designed, modern Land Rover that carries six passengers. All of the rangers in the Reserve are in constant contact with one another throughout the game drives to assure that guests will have numerous opportunities to spot the Big Five. Enjoy the Sundowner tradition while on safari and then return to the camp in the early evening to relax and shower. Enjoy a cocktail or two before dinner and share safari stories with the other guests. Dinner is served by the master chef which gives you plenty of time to relax and rest afterwards because tomorrow morning another game drive awaits you!

Day Twelve –
Shamwari Game Reserve
Eagles Crag Lodge

No visit to Shamwari Game Reserve would be complete without a visit to the Born Free Foundation. In partnership with actress/conservationist Virginia McKenna's Born Free Foundation, Shamwari Game Reserve designed the Animal Rescue and Education Center to incorporate a museum and educational facility whose goal is to create an awareness of the horrific way in which wildlife is exploited in captivity around the world. This morning, visit the Foundation to see some of the many species of big cats that have been rescued from situations where they were once in serious danger. The Foundation provides excellent care to these magnificent animals and guests of Shamwari are invited to visit them to learn more.

Feeling indulgent this afternoon? The spa facilities at Shamwari are second to none. As a Mantis Spa member, the spa staff at Shamwari can help you select from a wide variety of optional luxury spa treatments that are inspired by the surrounding nature and the elements of the land. Catering to both men and women, book your spa appointments directly with the Lodge staff.

End your stay at Shamwari Game Reserve with one more, unforgettable evening game drive. Enjoy a timeless tradition while on evening safari – the Sundowner. Your guide will find an idyllic spot to stop and indulge in a tradition that has been savored from the safari of yesteryear. Refreshing drinks, cocktails and snacks, plenty of stories and laughs to share – all set in a beautiful location. It is the way safari is meant to be experienced at Shamwari Game Reserve.

Day Thirteen –
Shamwari Game Reserve / Samara Private Game Reserve
Samara

This morning, bid goodbye to Shamwari as your driver begins your journey to your final destination Samara Private Game Reserve, located on the Great Karoo. Here, it is as if time has stood still - and in many ways it has. It is the haunting beauty of this fragile area that first inspired Samara's campaign of rehabilitation and renewal. Containing four of South Africa's seven biomes, it is also home to an ambitious program of game reintroduction – especially that of the Cheetah – elusive, graceful and highly endangered.

Samara, a luxury lodge destination, will be your home for the next two nights. Your suite is unsurpassed in South African elegance, which you will notice the moment you check in. Spa treatments in the privacy of your suite, to star gazing on your private verandah in the evening... Samara is a truly first-class luxury resort experience.

This evening, take in a game drive and explore the largest private game reserve in South Africa, stopping mid-way for a traditional Sundowner. Let the space and openness of the reserve envelope you as you realize just how insignificant humans are compared to the majesty and magnificence of Mother Nature. Evening game drives take on new meaning at Samara. The nocturnal world comes alive as you explore the 28,000 acres from an open-sided Land Rover. Elusive animals awaken from the sleepy warmth of the day to search for food and prey. The Cheetah is but one of the many unique animals to this region. The Aardvark is a popular site among the nighttime animal viewings along with Cape Mountain Zebra, White Rhino, Giraffe, Black Wildebeest, Eland, Kudu, Gemsbok, Springbok, and many small mammals such as the Vervet Monkey and the always entertaining Meerkat.

Return to Samara for dinner and robust conversation with your guide and other guests. Meals at Samara are almost as unforgettable as the beauty of the Boma, -surrounded by tall reeds and soft candles – an extraordinary moment in an unforgettable place. Before you retire for the evening, don't forget to look up in the South African night sky – a feast awaits you as you star gaze at what is known as some of the best sky sightings in the world.

Day Fourteen –

Samara Private Game Reserve

Samara

Awake before sunrise to enjoy a morning game drive into this magically reclaimed land. The early morning hours are opportune times to discover the Zebra and Giraffe as they graze watchfully over the plains. In addition to the animal life, bird lovers are in for a special treat in the Samara Game Reserve.

Your expert guide will be able to explain more fully the history of the Reserve and how the conservation effort of this great land has returned it to its original beauty.

After your game drive, de-stress with an invigorating shower in your well-appointed suite. Enjoy lunch and a refreshing beverage. Indulge in the lodges many spa amenities and rejuvenate your mind and body. This is your time to relax and anticipate the evening game drive – a Samara experience unlike any other.

Your evening game drive takes you onto the Great Plains of Camdeboo. As your game ranger masterfully steers you along the roads of the Great Karoo, you notice the canyon-like walls that slowly begin to surround you. Suddenly, you begin your ascent – along switchback roads, higher and higher you travel. It is here that Samara distinguishes itself from any other game drive experience. The top of the crest the road opens up onto a lush, green vast plain teeming with wildlife. Experience rare animals such as the Cape Mountain Zebra, who in the 30's became nearly extinct with a population count of only 37. Because of the conservation efforts of the Government and Reserves such as Samara, there are over 200 of these animals grazing on the plains today. Drive toward the edge of this vast plain and indulge in your Sundowner – looking down on the Great Plains of the Camdeboo. Close your eyes and feel the sweet African breezes, and permanently imprint beautiful Samara into your memory bank forever.

Day Fifteen –
Samara/Port Elizabeth/Johannesburg

In the morning wake early to enjoy a hearty breakfast and bid Samara a sweet goodbye. You be transported via charter aircraft to Port Elizabeth Airport.