



Cape Town & the Garden Route



Simon Richmond, James Bainbridge,
Jean-Bernard Carillet, Lucy Corne

PLAN YOUR TRIP

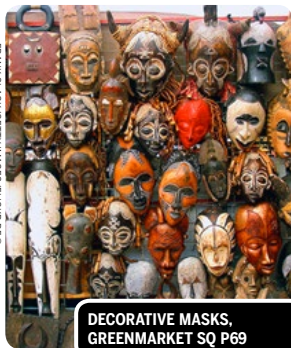
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Itineraries



7 DAYS Garden Route Road Trip

The verdant Garden Route endures as one of South Africa's top draws for visitors. Ideally you would spend a week travelling to and exploring the region, but you still get a taste of its pleasures in five days, allowing a couple of days in **Cape Town** at either end.

From Cape Town, head east along the N2, stopping for *padkos* (road snacks) at an **Elgin** farm stall. Spend a night in **Mossel Bay** where you can surf, skydive, hike, dive with sharks or just explore the museum. Resist the temptation to drive right by **Wilderness**: its national park deserves at least one afternoon and accommodation options around town are excellent.

Stop in **Knysna** to hike the forests, take a boat cruise on the lagoon and join a tour of the hilltop township. If you're seeking some beach time, continue to pretty **Plettenberg Bay**, with its seafront accommodation and smattering of wineries specialising in bubbly.

On the return to Cape Town consider driving through **Oudtshoorn** and taking **Route 62** – the arid, winding drive makes for a delightful alternative to the N2.



4
DAYS

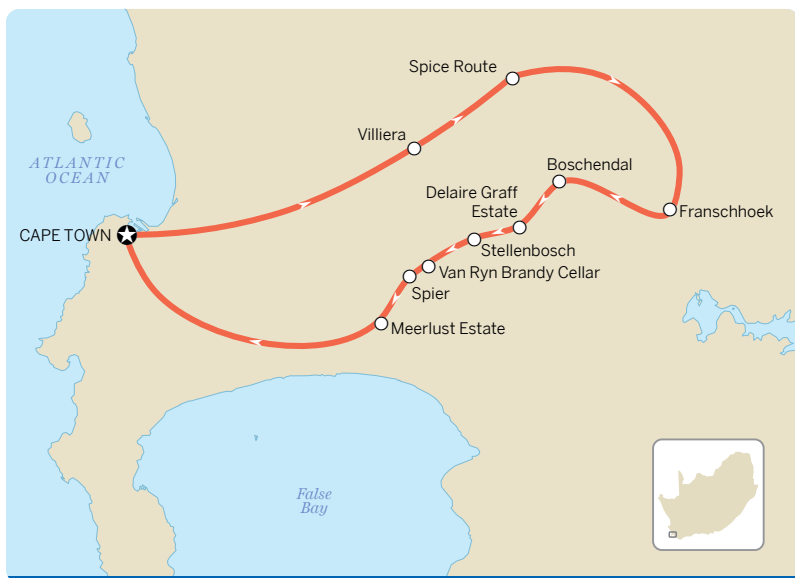
Cape Town: Top to Bottom

What could be better than starting your visit to Cape Town with breakfast atop **Table Mountain**? If the tough climb up is not your thing, ride the cableway. And if the weather's not playing ball, then take in splendid city views from Signal Hill. Spend the rest of the day exploring the **City Bowl**, including the lush Company's Garden and the **Bo-Kaap** district with its colourfully painted houses. Sink sundowners at a rooftop bar, such as The Vue, then enjoy a gourmet meal at the Shortmarket Club or Chef's Warehouse & Canteen.

On day two learn about the city's troubled past at the District Six Museum. Watch the noon key ceremony at the 350-year-old Castle of Good Hope. Head to Woodstock for lunch at Kitchen followed by contemporary art browsing at galleries such as Stevenson and Goodman Gallery Cape. There's also abundant street art around the **Woodstock Exchange**. Art lovers should have the new Zeitz MOCAA Museum at the **V&A Waterfront** high on their list of priorities; hang out in this lively area for a sunset cruise followed by dinner at Harbour House.

Begin day three exploring the beautiful **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**. Book well ahead for lunch at Foxcroft or La Colombe then spend a blissful afternoon sampling your way through **Constantia's** wineries. Motor over Constantia Nek to **Hout Bay**. Enjoy the sea views, beer in hand, from the beachside pub Dunes.

The peninsula's deep south beckons on day four – reach it by driving along spectacular **Chapman's Peak Drive** and the surfing hot spot of **Kommetjie**. Stand at the southwestern tip of Africa within the **Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve** section of Table Mountain National Park. Enjoy a picnic lunch here then head to **Boulders**, home to a thriving colony of African penguins. The historic naval base of **Simon's Town** is just up the road while further around False Bay is the charming fishing village of **Kalk Bay**, where you can enjoy fresh seafood at many excellent restaurants such as Olympia Café.

3
DAYS

The Essential Winelands

The Winelands make it onto the bucket list of almost every visitor to South Africa. Even nondrinkers are soon entranced by the elegant Cape Dutch mansions, fine food and bluish-grey mountain backdrop. This itinerary could easily be split into day trips. Stick to a maximum of four wineries per day.

Leaving **Cape Town** via the N1, kick off your day with a glass of bubbly at **Villiera** and consider sticking around for a two-hour wildlife drive to see giraffes and zebras. From here it's a 20-minute drive to **Spice Route**, where you can easily spend half a day indulging in all the foodie pursuits. Enjoy lunch with a view then take Rte 45 towards **Franschoek**, stopping to visit the museums – and tasting room – at Solms-Delta. Overnight in a Franschoek guesthouse and be sure to book ahead for dinner in one of the town's renowned restaurants.

Wake up and take a stroll around town, stopping to graze in cafes and patisseries as you go. Mix things up with lunch at a local brewery before heading to one of the region's most beloved estates, **Boschendal**, with its stately buildings, huge tree, vineyard tours and mountain biking trails. Route 310 towards Stellenbosch is a winding, scenic road and there's no better spot to enjoy the views than at **Delaire Graff Estate**. Spend the night in one of **Stellenbosch's** historic hotels or long-standing hostels.

On day three, spend the morning exploring the town centre – don't miss the excellent Village Museum and the pretty botanical garden, a nice spot for midmorning coffee and cake. Head out of town on Rte 310 and try a brandy tasting at **Van Ryn Brandy Cellar**, whose brandies are among the most awarded in the world. Mere moments along the same road you will reach **Spier**. It is unashamedly commercial, but few leave disappointed by the restaurants, wine tasting, family-friendly activities and vast grounds.

Continue south, but before you join the N2 back to Cape Town, make time for one final stop at **Meerlust Estate** where there is no restaurant, no kids' corner, pairing experience or on-site cheesemaker. Here it's all about the wine, particularly its signature red blend.

Cape Town & the Garden Route: Off the Beaten Track

WELLINGTON

Spend a few days hiking between the wineries that surround this quiet and pretty town. Also take the chance to drive along the Bainskloof Pass, one of the country's most spectacular mountain roads. (p212)

!KHTWA TTU

The San are the original people of the Western Cape – learn about them at this education and culture centre, where you can take guided walks and nature drives. (p225)

INTAKA ISLAND

This 16-hectare wetland reserve in the middle of the Century City development is home to over 200 species of indigenous plants and 120 bird species. (p113)

OUDEKRAAL

A postcard-perfect view of Lion's Head and the Twelve Apostles is framed from this secluded beach, protected by giant boulders, off the road between Camps Bay and Hout Bay. (p135)

SILVERMINE NATURE RESERVE

Threaded through with hiking and mountain biking trails, this southern section of Table Mountain National Park harbours a reservoir with tannin-stained waters, around which is a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. (p103)

LYNEDOCH ECOVILLAGE

Near Stellenbosch, drop by this tiny village that challenges the notion that sustainable development and ecological building is too expensive. There's a cafe and simple accommodation here too. (p194)



LEGEND
 NP National Park
 NR Nature Reserve
 MR Marine Reserve
 WA Wilderness Area

MCGREGOR

Kick back in this peaceful town, which is the base for one end of the 14km hike along the Boesmansloof Trail, a gorgeous route leading to the twee village of Greyton. (p215)

KNYSNA'S RASTAFARIANS

Judah Square is a Rastafari community situated in a small valley in Khayaletu South, a suburb of Knysna. To understand more about this group's culture, take a tour here with Brother Zebulon. (p242)

MCGREGOR

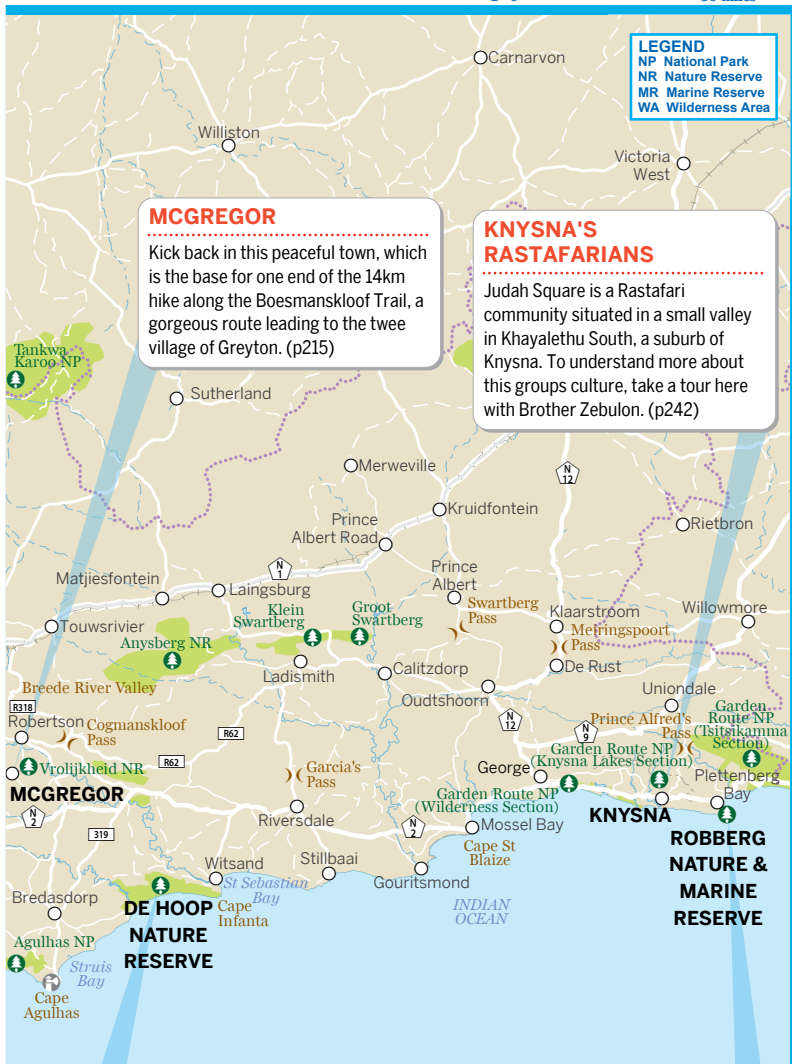
DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

Covering areas of both sea and fynbos-blanketed land, you'll find this reserve is both a breeding ground for southern right whales as well as a haven for endangered Cape mountain zebras and bonteboks. (p224)

ROBBERG NATURE & MARINE RESERVE

Jutting 4km into the ocean, this rugged peninsula makes for spectacular and physically challenging hiking. Alternatively, take a boat trip out to view the local colony of Cape fur seals. (p249)



Behind the Scenes

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Cover photograph: Greater double-collared sunbird on pincushion protea plant, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Danita Delimont Stock, AWL ©

THIS BOOK

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LONELY PLANET **IN THE** WILD

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Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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