



School Expedition Itinerary

CAPE TOWN & PORT ELIZABETH EXAMPLE

FACEAFRICA
Ethical & Original African Journeys

Overview

It was Archbishop Desmond Tutu who coined the phrase *The Rainbow Nation* to describe the colourful melting pot of people and cultures living together in South Africa. It is a country that welcomes hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, many of them returning again and again to experience the many highlights of this wonderful land.

South Africa has come a long way since her first democratic elections in 1994: the pride in this achievement is palpable and the enthusiasm for the future is contagious. However, as elsewhere in Africa, a large section of the population is struggling to pull itself above the poverty line. The majority of schools are under-resourced and many parents battle to pay school fees.

The concept behind Face Africa's school expeditions is to provide links between schools in the developed world and these less-fortunate schools in Africa. To create the opportunity for school expeditions to experience a slice of African life, and to seal this with time spent on a well researched and sustainable development project: creating a long-lasting impact.

The Cape Town & Port Elizabeth School expedition offers a fantastic 11-day tour of the country: taking in the stunning natural beauty and moving history of Cape Town, the scenic Garden Route with its coastal parks and rivers, the bustling port town of Port Elizabeth, and finally a unique safari experience in the Addo Elephant National Park.

In addition to seeing the sights and sounds, the expedition members will have the opportunity to interact with two community development projects supported by Face Africa: the Pebbles Project in the Cape winelands and the Calabash Trust in Port Elizabeth. Two days will be spent working on a specific project in one of the township schools in Port Elizabeth – labouring alongside the local pupils to help develop a sustainable solution to one of the problems faced by the school.

Not only will this trip showcase the highlights of South Africa, it will provide the opportunities for cross-cultural contact that is so important to develop in our young people: destined to become global citizens of the future.



The Face Africa School Linking Programme

Mutually beneficial partnerships forged between willing overseas communities and dynamic African community-focused projects.

This programme connects overseas schools with an appropriate community & school in Southern Africa. Face Africa will facilitate the selection of a partner and lay down the sustainability indicators to ensure that both communities understand what the partnership entails.

The tour or expedition element involves a visit from the overseas school to their local partner: to engage in meaningful interaction, and usually to volunteer their time and funds to an "impact project" aimed at supporting ongoing development in that community.

We have a strong background working with school links & expeditions. For schools we deliver a challenging learning experience - safe, inspiring and successful.

Our concept provides and maintains links between overseas school communities and communities and projects throughout Africa. Students learn to engage and contribute to group aims and objectives – away from today's pervasive focus on individual development. Children develop pride in representing their school community, but also become a vital member of their link community – links which exist to serve the mutual benefit of all involved.



ITINERARY SUMMARY

Day	Nightstop	Accommodation	Meal	Day Plan
1	Cape Town	St John's Lodge (Dorm)	L D	Arrive & transfer to lodge. PM Robben Island Visit
2	Cape Town	St John's Lodge (Dorm)	B L D	Peninsula Tour followed by trip up Table Mountain
3	Cape Town	St John's Lodge (Dorm)	B L D	Day spent with Pebbles Project
4	Knysna	Camping	B L D	Drive day to Knysna. Set up camp & 1 st night under canvas
5	Knysna	Camping	B L D	Adventure Day exploring Goukamma National Park
6	Port Elizabeth	The Willows (Camp)	B L D	AM Treetop Canopy Tour. PM Drive to Port Elizabeth
7	Port Elizabeth	The Willows (Camp)	B L D	Orientation day & tour of township / local schools
8	Port Elizabeth	The Willows (Camp)	B L D	Volunteer workday 1 at Primary School
9	Port Elizabeth	The Willows (Camp)	B L D	Volunteer workday 2 at Primary School
10	Addo Elephant Park	Addo Park (Camp)	B L D	AM Drive to Addo Elephant Park. PM Game Drive
11			B L	AM Game Drive. Drive to Port Elizabeth & fly to Jo'burg. Connect on flight home.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Details	Comments
Visit to Robben Island – ferry tickets, tour of prison with ex-political prisoner	
Return Cable Car journey up Table Mountain	
Cape Peninsula Tour	Including entrance to National Park
Day visit to wine farm crèche with Pebbles Project to interact with children and lend a hand to a project to be specified	
½ day hiking & ½ day canoeing in Goukamma NP	Activities to be tailored
Treetop Canopy Tour with Stormsriver Adventures	
City & township tour including orientation for following project days	
Two full days working on project with township school	
Entrance to Addo Elephant Park	Two game drives included

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Includes: -

Regional flights as specified above
 3 nights accommodation in 4-person dormitories (learners) & twin rooms (adults) at The Train Lodge, Cape Town
 Fully catered camping for the rest of the tour
 All meals as specified
 All transport by mini-coach with professional driver
 All activities as specified above
 Services of specialist Face Africa Tour Leader & Safari Chef

Excludes: -

International return flights (quotation on request)
 Additional Optional Activities
 Travel Insurance
 Personal expenses and drinks

PARTNER WITH A PROFESSIONAL AND DYNAMIC ORGANISATION

We greatly respect the trust that clients place in us. Below are some reasons we hope you will benefit from working with us: -

Personal and PROFESSIONAL

We always aim to build long term relationships with overseas partners, schools, projects, communities and our suppliers. This is our living and we do everything with pride and to the best of our ability.

Experience, Logistics & Support

Having backpacked, lead tours and bussed over all the countries we operate in and, with a permanent operational base in South Africa, our local knowledge is an essential tool in our ability to mitigate and manage risk as well as keep a meticulous eye on operations. Whilst on expedition our operations room gives 24 hours emergency contact.

Schools & Safety

If an activity is not safe and we can't get a risk assessment approval, we will not run it. All our staff have training in first aid and personal safety is taken very seriously - so all involved can hit the ground running with confidence. We operate a comprehensive emergency response plan.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

Cape Town

St John's Lodge

Meals: L D



Arriving on the overnight flight from London, you will be met by your Tour Leader and transferred to your lodge in the centre of Cape Town. After checking in and freshening up, we will head down to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront for lunch before embarking on the ferry to Robben Island.

The island prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for so long, Robben Island today offers a fascinating insight into South Africa's recent past. All of the tour guides are ex-inmates and this lends an extra edge and personal touch to the tour. You will also see penguin colonies on the island and get fabulous views of Table Mountain on the boat ride there and back. Return to the lodge for dinner.

Day 2

Cape Town

St John's Lodge

Meals: B L D



After breakfast, we will board the vehicle for a tour of the Cape Peninsula. Heading south we will pass the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens en route to the old British Naval Base at Simon's Town. Just south of here we will visit the penguin colony at Boulder's Beach before continuing down to the Cape Peninsula National Park. Driving through the reserve, we can hope to see certain antelope species and ostrich.

At Cape Point you can take a tram up to the lighthouse at the top, or take a short walk to the south-western tip of Africa – the Cape of Good Hope.

Returning up the west side of the Peninsula, we will enjoy fabulous views from Chapman's Peak Drive as we make our way back around to Table Mountain. Here you will take a cable-car up to the top in time to watch the late afternoon sun sink into the Atlantic to the west. Return to the lodge for dinner.

Day 3

Cape Town

St John's Lodge

Meals: B L D



This morning we will head out into the winelands of Stellenbosch to link up with the Pebbles Project. This award-winning organisation works with farm labourer communities on wine farms in the Cape winelands. Their main focus is on the crèche and after-school facilities for the farm workers' children, but a rounded approach means that they are being successful in uplifting many areas of the communities' lives.

We will have a briefing from the Project Co-ordinator before spending the morning on a particular project that is in need – for example painting a classroom. After lunch, there will be the opportunity to interact with the children in the After-School Clubs from the farm for games and art.

Return to the lodge for dinner.

Day 4

Knysna / Garden Route

Buffalo Bay Camping

Meals: B L D



After breakfast we will pack up and leave Cape Town behind us. Travelling east, we will pass into the Overberg region and through a long stretch of fertile farmland – cut by the occasional river valley. By early afternoon we will hit the coast again at Mossel Bay, on South Africa's famed Garden Route. The road hugs the coast through this stunning region and we continue to our campsite right on the sea, 10 km outside Knysna.

It's our first night under canvas, so you will all be tasked with helping to set up camp and prepare our first meal eaten under the Big African Sky. Then we will retire to our tents to be soothed asleep by the sound of the waves breaking against the rocks...

Day 5**Knysna / Garden Route***Buffalo Bay Camping**Meals: B L D*

An adventurous day exploring the Goukamma Nature Reserve.

With an expert local wilderness guide, we will enter this area of outstanding natural beauty. After crossing the river in a small boat, the 8km walk starts and we climb through beautiful forest up the top of the dunes for an amazing 360 degree view of the completely undisturbed beach, Goukamma river mouth, and dune forest. After a picnic lunch, we will take to the river in canoes for a different view of this beautiful area. Late afternoon we will return to camp for some much needed sustenance, and to sit around the campfire and relay the day's experiences.

Day 6**Tsitsikamma / Port Elizabeth***Willows Campsite**Meals: B L D*

After breakfast we will pack up camp and continue east along the Garden Route. In the Tsitsikamma National Park, we will stop and link up with Stormsriver Adventures for their Treetop Canopy Tour. This is a unique eco-wilderness adventure that takes place in the magnificent Tsitsikamma indigenous rainforest. The tour involves traversing from one platform to another along a steel cable suspended up to 30 meters above the forest floor. Most platforms are located in giant Outeniqua Yellowwood trees. The scenery and bird life is spectacular and professional guides provide interesting facts about the forest ecology during the 2½ hour experience. After this excitement, we will have lunch and continue on to Port Elizabeth and our campsite.

Day 7**Port Elizabeth***Willows Campsite**Meals: B L D*

This morning, we will join up with a local guide from the Calabash Trust for the Real City Tour of Port Elizabeth. This fascinating and insightful tour starts in the inner city covering early English Settler history which helps to put the development of the townships into context. More recent South African history is to be experienced before heading out to the townships and experiencing a slice of modern South African life. You will visit a community run primary school supported by the Trust, where we will be working on a project for the next two days. There will be a chance to meet with and interact with the local children from the school, before we return to the campsite for the evening.

Days 8 & 9**Port Elizabeth Townships***Willows Campsite**Meals: B L D*

These two days will be spent with one of the primary schools in the township which is supported by the Calabash Trust. Our association with Calabash means that the project we undertake will be something of real importance to the school and local community – something that is not only beneficial but sustainable as well. Because of the changing needs of these communities, it is not possible to pre-determine what the exact project will be so far in advance, but previous groups have assisted with the construction of sports fields, the establishment of vegetable or 'trench' gardens, building projects and rainwater harvesting.



The pupils will be paired with pupils from the local school in whatever work is being undertaken. This ensures that the results of the project are appreciated by the school, as well as providing excellent opportunities for finding out about each other's cultures and ways of life. Lunch will be taken at the school and in the afternoons there will be the opportunity for a more informal interaction and enjoy a game of football or netball.

At the end of each day we will return to the campsite to rest and discuss the day's activities. Everyone will be encouraged to voice their thoughts about the work they are undertaking and have input for the following day. This is seen as an essential part of the process to ensure that everyone gets the most out of this cross-cultural experience.





This morning we will pack up camp and drive north to the Addo Elephant National Park for your first taste of safari. It is a dynamic, growing park: 5 of South Africa's 7 biomes are covered by its 164 000 km² which includes a marine reserve, thus enabling Addo to proclaim itself as a Big 7 destination: lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant and black rhino are joined by southern right whale and great white shark. The bird count stands at 450 and plans are afoot to expand the park even further to incorporate important breeding sites of Cape gannets and African penguin.

The afternoon game drive will be accompanied by an experienced game ranger who will point out the animals and explain about how they live and what they eat.

Returning to camp, we will be lulled to sleep by the sound of the animals calling in the park around us...



We will be up at dawn for an early morning game drive into the Park. This is the best time of day to see the animals as the African night gives way to the dawn light – this is the time that the Lions will be hunting, the birds start calling and the other animals come to the waterholes to drink. After brunch back at camp we will drive back to Port Elizabeth in time for your afternoon flight to Johannesburg where you will connect on the flight home to England.

A sad moment, but your memories of this trip will last a lifetime!

FURTHER INFORMATION

Style of Trip: Participation

On an expedition of this nature, the input of every participant into the running of the trip is essential. As a group travelling together, it is important that everyone participates to make sure that the trip runs smoothly. Your Tour Leader will split you into rotating 'Cook Teams' that will assist your safari chef in the preparation of meals. You will also be allocated a 'Camp Job' (such as unloading the tents or stocking the cooler-box). In short, the group will work as a team to make sure that the trip runs well.

Tour Vehicle

The vehicle for this expedition will be a coach or minibus with comfortable seats fitted with seat belts, air-conditioning, stereo system and large windows. There is a fire extinguisher and First Aid Kit on board. All drivers hold a Professional Drivers' Permit.

Accommodation

Accommodation in Cape Town will be at a backpacker-style hostel with 4-person dormitories for the pupils and twin-room accommodation for the adults. For the rest of the expedition, the whole group will be camping. We provide tents and all camp and catering equipment, each participant will need to bring a sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

Food

Meals in Cape Town will be provided by the lodge where we are staying. Thereafter, there will be a safari chef who will be accompanying the expedition. He/she will be organising the purchase of food and preparation of all meals, and deciding on menus. Assistance will be provided by "Cook-Teams" to be organised and rotated by the Tour Leader from expedition members. Duties will include the chopping and preparation of vegetables etc, and the washing up of pots and pans.

In South Africa, the supermarkets and markets are well stocked with most of the foods you would find at home. You can expect hearty breakfasts, picnic style lunches and simple tasty evening meals.

Responsible Tourism

Face Africa is committed to a Responsible Tourism code that is available on our website. The basic premises of this code revolve around minimum negative impact and positive community development. This is achieved through the sensitivity of our guides and passengers to the social and natural environment, and the support of local enterprise and development. Your Tour Leader will explain more about this on tour.

Ethical and Responsible Travel

We're in it for the long term. As long as communities & schools are interested in linking, we'll support the link. We'll support development of a responsible approach to linking – from using fair trade suppliers, respecting the environment, wildlife and cultures, to off-setting carbon emissions on international flights.

