



ITINERARY TO SOUTH AFRICA



GENERAL INFORMATION

This will be a three-centre tour using Umhlanga, Mkhuze and Cape Town as your bases. Each venue offers a variety of pastimes; in addition to a well-organised sporting infrastructure in



what is very much a sport orientated country.

Umhlanga boasts an effervescent ocean lined with miles of golden sand. This seaside resort is ideal for junior groups, with restaurants and entertainment to occupy the group. Durban, offering further restaurants, coffee bars and on a classical note, concert halls, theatres and art galleries, is just 30 minutes down the coast. There are also a number of water and theme parks to keep your group occupied.

A visit to the **Mkhuze Game Reserve** will allow you to see wild animals in their natural habitat, which will provide unforgettable experiences of South Africa's most popular attraction.



Cape Town, with its majestic Table Mountain backdrop maintains its reputation for friendly hospitality and is one of the most beautiful cities in the World. A cable car trip up Table Mountain is a must during your stay, whilst a visit to the lively entertainment centre of the restored Victoria and Alfred Waterfront is also popular.



DAY 1 & 2

You will assemble at Heathrow for your overnight flight to Durban (via Johannesburg).

On arrival in Durban Airport the following morning, you will transfer to your hotel in Umhlanga, where you can recuperate from the previous day's flight, perhaps taking in some light training on the golden sands of the nearby beach.



DAY 3

The morning will be free where a trip to the Natal Sharks Board, just a short distance from your hotel, is recommended. Here, you will learn about the shark nets which surround Durban's beaches and how the work to protect people swimming in the sea, watch a dissection of a shark caught in the nets, view the museum of artifacts relating to sharks and find out more about the research work which is done by the Sharks Board.



**KWAZULU-NATAL
SHARKS BOARD**



In the afternoon, you will travel to your first fixture of the tour:

V Pinetown RFC

Once the after match festivities are complete you may wish to visit The Gateway Centre close to your hotel where there are a variety of entertainment options, as well as restaurants for you to choose from.

DAY 4



Today, you may wish to spend the day at the Ushaka Marine and Wet 'n' Wild Water Park in nearby Durban; the morning could be spent exploring the new Marine World including a unique ship-wreck-themed aquarium (one of the five largest in the world), a 1,200-seater dolphin stadium (the largest in Africa), a seal pool and a penguin rookery. In the afternoon, enjoy the exciting water rides or just have a swim in one of the bathing pools.



DAY 5

The morning is free where you may wish to visit The Gateway Centre, the 'Theatre of Shopping' near to your hotel. Here, there are 380 world class shops, as well as the latest in entertainment facilities. There are also restaurants and bars for refreshment, as well as special events held on a regular basis.



In the afternoon, you will travel to your second fixture.



V Durban Harlequins RFC

Once the after match festivities are complete you will return to your accommodation.

DAY 6

Today will be free where you may wish to visit the Moses Mandiba Stadium in nearby Durban, which was built for the 2010 Football World Cup. With it's iconic 'Arch of Triumph', the stadium provides Durban with a defining landmark, and visitors with the chance of a 360° view of the city.



You can walk the 500 steps of the arch, or take the skycar to the top. For the adrenaline junkies, try the 'Big Swing'; jump into a 106 metre high void before swinging 220 metres across the pitch of the multi-sport venue!



DAY 7

After breakfast you will be transferred directly to Ghost Mountain Inn, where you will be based for the safari element of your tour. Ghost Mountain Inn is 320km north of Durban, en route to Swaziland, Mpumalanga and Mozambique. This historic venue, was built in 1962 by the Rutherford family, and has since had a total rebuild and refurbishment to offer a comfortable stay. The hotel looks out onto the legendary Ghost Mountain near Mkhuze in Northern Zululand, and is a gateway to the cultural, historical and ecological wonders of Maputoland.



Mkhuze offers an insight into the time-honoured traditions, legends and history of the Zulu nation. Memories of a violent warring past can be relived at the sight of the Battle of Ghost Mountain where Dinuzulu (son of King Cetshwayo) defeated Zibhebhu (Chief of the powerful Mandlakazi clan).

On route to your accommodation you may wish to visit the Dumazulu village where you can experience some of the local culture and tradition. You will enjoy a guided tour of the village followed by some traditional Zulu dancing.

Alternatively, a stop can be arranged at the Emdoneni Cat Rehabilitation Centre, which provides educational tours along with an informative talk about the project by the very people who care for the cats. This will teach you more about Africa's endangered cat species, and there is even the chance to meet some of the cats up close and personal.



DAY 8

After breakfast you are once again adventure bound on a boat cruise on Lake Jozini, which is over twenty kilometres in length and is created by the Mkhuze Dam.

You will view wildlife coming to the waters edge to drink and graze, as well as looking out for the many wildfowl which inhabit the lake, and maybe spotting a Fish Eagle or two! The lake is also home to a large number of hippo and crocodile which are regularly seen on the boat cruises.



In the afternoon you will polish your binoculars and load your cameras for a Game Drive, as you will be transported in open safari vehicles on a once in a lifetime experience in the Mkhuze Game Reserve.

Mkhuze harbours a number of diverse habitats, ranging from mountain slopes to acacia savannah, swamps to woodlands and forest. It has a wide selection of wildlife, including both black and white rhino, elephant, giraffe, buffalo and a multitude of plains game. There are occasional sightings of cheetah and leopard in the park, and 420 species of bird have been recorded.



In the evening, you will take your meal in the hotel restaurant, where a Zulu Choir made up of many of the hotel employees, or local Zulu Dancers, may be waiting to entertain you (subject to timetables).



DAY 9

After breakfast you will check out of the hotel and travel back to the airport for your internal flight to Cape Town. On arrival you will transfer to your accommodation.



DAY 10



This will be a free day where a trip to Robben Island is highly recommended. The 3.5 hour long tour, departing from V&A Waterfront (Nelson Mandela Gateway) gives you an insight into the history of the Island, renowned for its institutional brutality. The Island, 12 kilometres from Cape Town, was a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. It was here that rulers sent those they regarded as political troublemakers, social outcasts and the unwanted of society.

Alternatively, you may like to visit Newlands Stadium to enjoy a tour of the Rugby Stadium and the Western Province Rugby museum, with it's fascinating array of rugby memorabilia from around the world.

You will be guided through the stadium and given an insight into the history of this famous stadium, as well as having the chance to see behind the scenes as well as the pitch itself. You can also arrange to look round the Sport Science Institute of South Africa, and Sahara Park Newlands Cricket Stadium.



DAY 11

In the morning you may wish to take a city tour on the 'hop on, hop off' buses, which go through the centre of Cape Town as well as running down the coast to Cape Town's most vibrant beach at Camps Bay. The bus also stops at Table Mountain, where a cable car can be taken to the summit for views across the city and to Robben Island in the bay.



Alternatively, you may wish to take one of the many different boat trips available in the vicinity, including Jet Boats, Deep Sea Fishing, Whale Watching and Shark Diving (subject to season).



In the afternoon you will play your third fixture:



vs Pniel & Kylemore RFC

Your fixture will be part of a South African Rugby Union programme which dictates that all teams visiting South Africa must play at least one fixture versus a developing XV. This usually takes the format of match against a Township team and without exception all who have visited the country describes the experience as the most memorable part of the tour.

DAY 12

On this free day, you may wish to arrange a trip to Cape Point and the Cape Peninsular Nature Reserve. Along the way, you can stop in Simon's Town and Boulder's Bay to see the wild penguins which live alongside the boardwalk by the beach, and once in the Cape Point Nature Reserve, try to spot the Ostrich, baboons and other wildlife which inhabit the area.

A leisurely walk or funicular railway ride takes you to Cape Point, where you can stand above the crashing waves, search the sea for the ancient shipwrecks and feel like you are at the end of the world!



DAY 13

The morning will be free, where you may wish to enjoy a trip to the Two Oceans Aquarium located near to the V & A Waterfront.



In the afternoon, you will travel to your final tour fixture:

vs Excelsior High School RFC



After the game, you will socialize with your hosts before travelling back to your accommodation where the evening will be at leisure. You may wish to visit the V&A Waterfront area for a group meal or a trip to the cinema.



DAYS 14 & 15

After breakfast a trip to the V&A Waterfront is highly recommended for some last minute souvenir shopping before you will be transferred to the airport for your evening return flight. You will arrive in Heathrow the following morning to complete your journey home.

