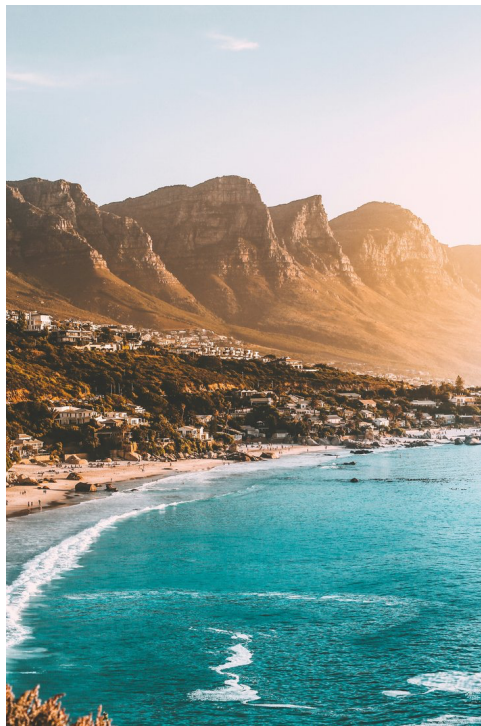


# SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL GUIDE



*from the Ogundipes xx*

# CONTENTS

## **02. THE BASICS**

*All things flights, transport and accommodation*

## **03. CAPE TOWN**

*All things to see, do and experience in Cape Town*

## **08. HOUT BAY**

*All things to see, do and experience in Hout Bay*

## **11. CONSTANTIA**

*All things to see, do and experience in Constantia*

## **14. FRANSCHHOEK**

*All things to see, do and experience in Franschhoek*

## **18. STELLENBOSCH**

*All things to see, do and experience in Stellenbosch*

## **22. THE GARDEN ROUTE**

*Explore the beauty of our garden route*

## **25. GAUTENG**

*A tourist guide to Gauteng*

## **29. HOUSE RULES**

*The do's and don'ts of South Africa*

## **30. TRAVEL TIPS**

*Travelling essentials*

# THE BASICS

All the basic information you need to start booking your trip. You do not have to stick to the below mentioned details, but this is guidance given from personal experience and local knowledge.

*01.*

## FLIGHTS

- You can choose to fly to OR Tambo Johannesburg or Cape Town Int. Our guidance would be to fly directly to Cape Town to avoid complications with domestic flights.
- Best time to book flights — end August to September.
- SA reliable domestic airlines: Lift, Airlink, FlySafair.

*02.*

## ACCOMMODATION

We recommend looking at places in the Franschhoek or Stellenbosch area. Air B&B is amazing or you can use booking.com.

*TIP\* if you see a place on booking.com, direct booking with the hotel may save a few bucks, and current winter specials are running until end of September.*

*03.*

## TRANSPORTATION

We would suggest renting a car if you are planning to explore the local areas. Public transport is not user-friendly or reliable.

Uber works very well when you are in Cape Town but isn't as readily available in other areas and can get pricey for the long-distance trips.

Please travel together when you are Uber'ing.

## **Car rental companies we recommend**

*Try to book this straight after your flights have been booked.*

- Hertz | <https://www.hertz.co.za> | (021) 935 4800
- Avis | <https://www.avis.co.za>
- Europcar | <https://www.europcar.co.za/>

## **Shuttle service companies**

*Make sure you check their payment method — you may have to pay the driver in cash.*

- Shuttle Up | <https://shuttleup.co.za>
- EZ Shuttle | <https://www.ezshuttle.co.za>
- Absolute Transfers | <https://absolutetransfers.co.za>

*Stay away from the company called Shuttle the Cape — they are a scam.*

# C A P E

Cape Town is a port city on South Africa's southwest coast, on a peninsula beneath the imposing Table Mountain. Slowly rotating cable cars climb to the mountain's flat top, from which there are sweeping views of the city, the busy harbour and boats heading for Robben Island - the notorious prison that once held Nelson Mandela, which is now a museum.

# T O W N



*Cape Town*

## **Table Mountain**

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Table Mountain is Cape Town's centrepiece. If you are relatively fit and feeling energetic, there are some amazing hikes to try. For those pressed for time, the Aerial Cableway offers a quick and convenient ascent. Cable cars depart from the cable station every 10 to 15 minutes and the journey up the mountain takes about five minutes. The cars rotate through 360 degrees during the trip, affording you spectacular views of the mountain below.

## **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**

Situated on the slopes of Table Mountain, a mere 13km from the city centre, Kirstenbosch is regarded as one of the great botanical gardens of the world. The 528-hectare estate contains over 7,000 species of plants from southern Africa. Spend the day picnicking on the lawns, strolling through the Protea garden, or discovering interesting plant species in the Botanical Society Conservatory. While you are there, be sure to check out the 130m Centenary Tree Canopy - affectionately known as the Boomslang - that snakes its way through the trees of the Arboretum.

## **Boulders Beach**

This insta-worthy attraction offers a spectacular view of the African penguin colony. Frolic with a good book while the penguins stare from the distance or snap a selfie with the lovable creatures.

## **The V&A Waterfront**

There are five shopping districts where you'll find everything from local designs to international brands, but there's more to this destination than shopping. There are many coffee shops, restaurants and bars, most with spectacular harbour views. Kids will love the Two Oceans Aquarium, the Scratch Patch, and the chance to ride the Cape Wheel, along with many other events and attractions to keep the little ones busy for days. There's also the new Canal District, with its gorgeous city, harbour and mountain views where you'll find a range of water activities, from standup paddling to kayaking and swimming. There's also Battery Park, where you can revel in the sunshine on a summer's day.

## **Robben Island**

Robben Island is an island in Table Bay, 6.9 kilometres west of the coast of Bloubergstrand, north of Cape Town, South Africa. It takes its name from the Dutch word for seals, hence the Dutch/Afrikaans name Robbeneiland, which translates to Seal Island.

Book your tour and enjoy all there is to offer: <https://www.robben-island.org.za/>

## **Safaris**

- Aquila Safari — Touws Rivier (2-hour drive from Cape Town). Hosts the Big 5. You can do this as a day trip.
- Inverdoorn Private Game Reserve — Breede River (2.5-hour drive from Cape Town). Hosts the Big 5. Overnight stay option only.
- Sanbona Wildlife Reserve — Montagu (3-hour drive from Cape Town). Hosts the Big 5. Overnight stay option only. Kids under 4 are not permitted on the game drives.

## **Other animal experiences**

- Eagle Encounter at Spier — Stellenbosch
- Cheetah Outreach — Somerset West
- Giraffe House — Paarl
- Drakenstein Lion Park — Paarl
- Alpaca Loom and Barn — Paarl
- Le Bonheur Crocodile Farm — Paarl
- Vredenheim Big Cats Park — Stellenbosch

## **Worth Mentioning**

- Zeitz MOCAA — Museum
- Cape Town Hop-on Hop-off City Tour
- Zip-lining in Cape Town — based at the foot of the Table Mountain Reserve
- V&A Big Wheel
- Two Oceans Scenic Helicopter Flight from Cape Town
- Two Oceans Aquarium
- Cape Point Nature Reserve

# NIGHT LIFE

*The following bars and clubs are hotspots during holiday season.*

- Tap Bar
- Bascule Bar
- Rick's Café Americain
- Arcade (club)
- Tjing Tjing Rooftop Bar
- The Village Idiot
- Gorgeous George
- I Love the Dough
- Beerhouse
- Red Roof @ Radisson
- Asoka
- The Gin Bar
- Gigi Rooftop Restaurant and Bar
- Stella Café & Bar
- The Piano Bar
- The Grand Africa Café & Beach
- Cabo Beach Club
- Harringtons Cocktail Lounge
- Utopia
- Café Caprice
- Cubana — Greenpoint
- ZaZa

## **Experience — The Art of Duplicity**

The secret bar in Cape Town. Luxurious, glamorous, decadent, hush-hush. Cocktail attire and they do prefer you dressing up. Booking essential to get the location and password to enter.

# FOOD & DRINK

*Please note these are only suggestions.*

## **Bistros, cafés & easy eating**

*\$8 – \$20 pp (2 courses with drink). No pre-booking needed unless you are more than 6 people.*

- Homespun by Mat
- ðlgr
- The Grand Café
- Between Us
- Ocular Lounge @ Zeitz MOCAA
- Jason Bakery
- The Strangers Club
- The Raptor Room
- Café Caprice
- La Belle Bistro & Bakery
- Cabo Beach Club
- The Bungalow (seafood)
- Bilboa

## **For the foodies & wine lovers**

*\$18 – \$50 pp (2 courses with drink). Pre-book or check availability.*

- Pier
- Lily's
- Fyn
- Belly of the Beast (steak)
- Thali
- Salsify at the Roundhouse
- Athletic Club & Social
- The Waterside
- Chefs Warehouse
- Eike
- Bouchon Wine Bar & Bistro (sharing plates)
- Bombay Brasserie (authentic Indian)
- Villa 47

# H O U T B A Y

Hout Bay is a seaside suburb of Cape Town in the Western Cape province of South Africa. It is situated in a valley on the Atlantic seaboard of the Cape Peninsula, twenty kilometres south of the Central business district of Cape Town.



*Hout Bay*

### **Hout Bay Lookout**

There are lookouts and then there are spectacular lookouts onto beautiful vistas. This one is superlative and should not be missed. Starting from the parking lot, follow the signposts directing you up past the right-hand side of the Reservoir (some of the paths from the Reservoir are currently under rehabilitation, so it's easier to go this way). You will be following a jeep-track headed in the general direction of the mast. You will pay R15 per adult at the gate or use your Wild Card. Distance is about 6km. Difficulty: easy walk, some hills, easy to follow jeep track and trail.

### **Ocean Seal Kayaking**

See Cape fur seals and Hout Bay as you glide gracefully through the Atlantic on your lovely kayak. Travelling along the stunning coastline in a group no larger than 10, accompanied by specialist guides. There will also be an opportunity to jump in for a delightful swim! Your tour includes a kayak, paddles, vests, and free Wi-Fi back at base.

### **Urban Brewing Co.**

An awesome craft brewery located in the Hout Bay Harbour district. Come in and have a beer, tour our brewery, and maybe get lucky and watch our brewmaster in action! We have 4 beers on tap - all made using local Hout Bay spring water: a Weiss, a Blonde Ale, a Pilsener and a Stout.

### **Harbour Market**

Imagine a place where the creative energy and vibrancy of Cape Town come alive in an authentic fish factory in a working harbour — where people of all ages and cultures gather alongside one another to celebrate our unique South African spirit. Where the hustle and bustle of a boisterous market fills the air, where local traders exchange banter with customers, an eclectic, stylish wonderland of exquisite art, craft, jewellery and fashion. Complemented by the delicious aromas of food to tempt all the senses freshly baked breads, spicy seafood and citrus fruits. Punctuated by singing seagulls, where the famous beauty of Chapman's Peak looms overhead, and the vibe is just sommer lekker!

# FOOD & DRINK

## **Bistros, cafés & easy eating**

*\$8 – \$20 pp (2 courses with drink). No pre-booking needed unless you are more than 6 people.*

- Hussar Grill Mouille Point
- Massimo's
- Col'Cacchio Foreshore
- Chefs Warehouse at Maison
- Mantra Café

## **For the foodies & wine lovers**

*\$18 – \$50 pp (2 courses with drink). Pre-book or check availability.*

- Osteria Tarantino
- Iron Steak and Bar
- Quentin at Oakhurst Barn
- Burger & Lobster
- SeaBreeze Fish & Shell
- La Boheme

# C O N S T A N T I A

Constantia is a wine-producing suburb of Cape Town, South Africa. The Constantia Wine Route links the many wineries dotting the Constantia Valley. Housed in a 17th-century wine estate, Groot Constantia Homestead and Wine Museum includes a manor house with 18th- and 19th-century furnishings, plus collections of drinking vessels and carriages. The Constantia Greenbelt network includes the tree-lined Alphen Trail.



*Constantia*

### **Groot Constantia Wines**

Groot Constantia is South Africa's oldest wine producing estate (est. 1685). Situated 20 minutes from the Cape Town CBD and one of Cape Town's Big 7 tourist attractions, Groot Constantia is a must visit for the whole family. With two outstanding restaurants — Jonkershuis and Simon's — wine tastings, chocolate and wine pairing, cellar tours and a museum that reminds one of a bygone era, this beautiful historic winery is a popular attraction that exudes natural beauty. Groot Constantia can also be reached by hopping on City Sightseeing's Wine Bus.

### **Buitenverwachting**

This beautiful farm on the east-facing slopes of the magnificent Constantiaberg, and barely 12km from False Bay, originally formed part of the Constantia Estate, which was founded by Simon van der Stel, the first Governor of the new Dutch colony at the tip of Africa. Enjoy a wine tasting, coffee or something to eat.

### **Forest Adventures**

Cape Town's own 2.3km zipline tour is one of Africa's longest and highest tours based in the Mother City. We also have adventures in and around Cape Town from sandboarding, quad biking (ATV), white water rafting, and tubing. We own the activities so rest assured when you book, we do not send you to a 3rd party supplier — we believe in a personal touch and professional service.

### **The Alphen Trail**

The Alphen Trail is possibly one of the most popular of the greenbelt walks of the Constantia Valley. The walk can start at either end, but most people park their cars on the bend of Alphen Drive that leads off Constantia Main Road to the Alphen Hotel (a national monument in its own right, with beautiful gardens and tea to die for, if you're looking for somewhere to do 'high tea' before or after your walk).

The trail winds along the Diep River to the Constantiaberg Mountain and in places allows one to walk on either side of the river, with a few bridge crossings. It's a beautiful walk filled with lush grass, trees, beautiful skies and the Le Sueur Meadow on the far end of the walk towards Hohenort. People take their dogs and families on Sunday afternoon rambles here. The walk never fails to restore the soul, demanding little from one and yet giving so much in return by way of views and fresh air.

# FOOD & DRINK

## **Bistros, cafés & easy eating**

*\$8 – \$20 pp (2 courses with drink). No pre-booking needed unless you are more than 6 people.*

- Karibu Restaurant
- Chefs Warehouse at Beau Constantia
- Bistro Sixteen82
- The Foodbarn Café & Tapas
- Foxcroft
- Truth Coffee Cape Town
- Liquorice and Lime
- Cooked
- Jarryds Brunch & Bistro
- The Cousins Trattoria

## **For the foodies & wine lovers**

*\$18 – \$50 pp (2 courses with drink). Pre-book or check availability.*

- La Colombe
- Pier Restaurant V&A
- The Bistro @ Klein Constantia
- Homespun at Andros
- Au Bouchon Rouge
- Beyond Restaurant

# F R A N S C H O E K

Franschhoek is a town in South Africa's Western Cape with centuries-old vineyards and Cape Dutch architecture. Trails wind through flowers and wildlife at Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve to views over Franschhoek Valley. The Huguenot Memorial Museum and neighbouring monument honour the area's French settlers, who arrived in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Franschhoek Motor Museum displays vintage cars amid mountain farmland.



*Franschhoek*

# THE WINE FARMS

A selection of estates to explore across the Franschhoek Valley:

- Allée Bleue Estate & Wines
- Anthonij Rupert Wines
- Babylonstoren
- Black Elephant Vintners
- Boschendal Wines
- Colmant Cap Classique & Champagne
- Dieu Donné Vineyards
- The Franschhoek Cellar
- Haute Cabrière
- La Bri
- La Motte
- Le Lude
- Leopard's Leap Family Vineyards
- Maison
- Morena
- My Wyn
- Noble Hill
- Old Road Wine Co.
- Plaisir de Merle
- Rickety Bridge Winery
- Stony Brook
- Topiary Wines
- Val de Vie Wines
- Wildeberg

### **Wine Tram**

Explore the Franschhoek wine region on a hop-on hop-off tram tour, which allows you to explore the wineries that interest you at your leisure. Sit back and enjoy the scenery while you ride through vineyards dotting rolling hills; you're able to taste as much wine as you like without worrying about driving. Access to the hop-on hop-off wine tram with the option of two routes. Visit as many vineyards as you like. One wine tasting included on the tram.

### **Huguenot Memorial Museum**

The Huguenot Monument in Franschhoek is dedicated to the cultural influences that Huguenots have brought to the Cape Colony after their immigration during the 17th and 18th centuries. Walk through the gardens and explore the cultural bits this country has to offer.

### **Family Fun Farm Day Out**

Babylonstoren is one of the oldest Cape Dutch farms, set at the foot of Simonsberg in the Franschhoek wine valley. It has a fruit and vegetable garden of beauty and diversity, unique accommodation, fine food and wine, and evokes a sense of wellbeing.

### **Beer Tasting**

A Scotsman, an American and a South African walked into a bar... and couldn't find a decent beer, so they decided to make their own. Go and explore the beers of Franschhoek Beer Co or get educated with their brewery tour.

# FOOD & DRINK

## **Bistros, cafés & easy eating**

*\$8 – \$20 pp (2 courses with drink). No pre-booking needed unless you are more than 6 people.*

- Lust Bistro & Bakery
- Ruben's Restaurant and Bar
- Chefs Warehouse at Maison
- Terbodore Café
- OU Meul Bakkery
- Col'Cacchio (pizza & pasta)
- Taki's (Greek taverna)

## **For the foodies & wine lovers**

*\$18 – \$50 pp (2 courses with drink). Pre-book or check availability.*

- La Petite Colombe
- Grande Provence Estate Restaurant
- Rupert & Rothschild Vignerons Restaurant
- Epice
- Arkeste
- Le Coin Français
- Let's Frite

# S T E L L E N B O S C H

Stellenbosch is a university town in South Africa's Western Cape province — about 21 minutes by car from our wedding venue to the city centre. It's surrounded by the vineyards of the Cape Winelands and the mountainous nature reserves of Jonkershoek and Simonsberg. The town's oak-shaded streets are lined with cafés, boutiques and art galleries. Cape Dutch architecture gives a sense of South Africa's Dutch colonial history, as do the Village Museum's period houses and gardens.



*Stellenbosch*

## **Wine Tasting**

This town has many amazing wine tasting farms — it is the wine centre of Africa. Please refer to the wine farm list below to select a few places to visit.



## **Spier Segway Tour**

Two-wheeled, self-balancing, battery-powered personal transporters: Segways are the coolest way to do a breezy lap around the farm.



## **Root 44 Market**

Housed in sturdy, super-cosy marquees (which means rain is never an issue), and surrounded by picturesque vineyards and trees, Root 44 Market offers live entertainment, 80 craft and homeware stalls perfect for leisurely browsing, as well as an awesome selection of over 50 food traders offering edible and drinkable treats. The market hosts live bands every Saturday and Sunday, from 12.30pm to 4pm.



## **Strawberry Picking**

This family-friendly farm offers the perfect day out for little ones (and big ones, too). Grab a basket, and let your children roam around the fields picking (and eating) delicious strawberries. Afterwards, they can enjoy mini-golf (available every day), face-painting, tractor and pony rides, which run on the weekends and school holidays.



# THE WINE FARMS



A selection of estates dotted across Stellenbosch:

- Beyerskloof
- Blaauwklippen
- Cavalli
- Delaire Graff
- Dornier
- Ernie Els
- Kanonkop
- Kleine Zalze
- Kleinood
- L'Avenir
- Lanzerac
- Meerlust
- Muratie
- Neethlingshof
- Neil Ellis
- Peter Falke
- Quoin Rock
- Raats Family
- Remhoogte
- Simonsig
- Spier
- Tokara
- Warwick
- Waterford
- Zevenwacht

# FOOD & DRINK

## **Bistros, cafés & easy eating**

*\$8 – \$20 pp (2 courses with drink). No pre-booking needed unless you are more than 6 people.*

- De Warenmarkt
- Deli or Tap Huis @ Lanzerac
- Thirsty Scarecrow (tapas & pizza)
- Man'ouche (Italian)
- Ya-Ya Café
- Meraki (café & light lunch)
- Bootleggers Coffee Company
- Tokara Delicatessen (breakfast & lunch only)
- De Volkskombuis (traditional SA)
- De Vrije Burger
- Spek en Bone (sharing plates)

## **For the foodies & wine lovers**

*\$18 – \$50 pp (2 courses with drink). Pre-book or check availability.*

- Lanzerac Restaurant
- Tokara Restaurant
- Delaire Graff
- Rust & Vrede
- Clos Malverne
- Terroir @ Kleine Zalze
- Eike
- The Fat Butcher (steaks & meat)
- Gâte @ Quoin Rock
- Overture @ Hidden Valley

# T H E G A R D E N R O U T E

The Garden Route begins about four hours outside Cape Town and includes one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline. Its starting point is constantly contested as towns such as Witsand, Stilbaai and Albertinia join the route that winds its way for some 200 km via George, Wilderness, Sedgefield and Knysna on to Plettenberg Bay — culminating in the Tsitsikamma Forest, a fairyland of giant trees, ferns and bird life.



*The Garden Route*

Mountains crowd close to a shoreline dotted with beaches and bays, and vividly coloured wildflowers delight the eye. Between Heidelberg and Storms River, the Garden Route runs parallel to a coastline featuring lakes, mountains, tall indigenous forests, amber-coloured rivers and golden beaches.

Meandering trails are followed by hikers, the forests invite long, leisurely drives, and the lakes and rivers lend themselves to swimming, boating and fishing. A wide range of leisure options, spectacular scenery and a mild climate guarantee an unforgettable holiday experience when visiting the Garden Route in South Africa.

## Places to See

- George
- Herolds Bay
- Mossel Bay
- Gondwana Private Game Reserve
- Tsitsikamma National Park
- Knysna Heads
- Wilderness Heights Viewpoint
- Storms River Village
- Plettenberg Bay

## Lodges to Visit

### Herolds Bay

- Oubaai Hotel

### Plettenberg Bay

- Lairds Lodge Country Estate
- Ilanga Beach House

### Wilderness

- Libertas Guest Farm
- Dolphin Dunes Guest House
- Duttons Cove

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

---

*The above are only suggestions — please do your own research and, if you'd like, reach out to a travel agency that can assist with more detailed planning. Air B&B has a few hidden gems, so do utilise this for your stay.*

# THINGS TO DO

- Swim with the seals in Plettenberg Bay
- Bungee jump off one of the world's highest bridges — Bloukrans Bridge
- Shark cage diving in Hermanus or Mossel Bay
- Explore the Knysna forest on an electric scooter
- Go quad biking in the Tsitsikamma forest
- Visit Botlierskop Private Game Reserve
- Visit Gondwana Private Game Reserve
- Walk and feed the elephants at the Knysna Elephant Park

## Food & Drink

*Each town has its own unique culinary experiences to offer. Below are a few worth mentioning, all within various price ranges.*

- Gap Café — George
- Duttons Cove — Herolds Bay
- See Plasia — Mossel Bay
- Carola Ann's — Mossel Bay
- Views Restaurant — Wilderness
- Le Fournil de Plett Bakery and Café — Plettenberg Bay
- Texas Grill — George
- Tsitsikamma Cattle Baron — Storms River
- Bramon Restaurant — Plettenberg Bay
- Caffe Mario — Knysna
- Ristorante Enrico — Plettenberg Bay
- De Vette Mossel Grootbrak — Mossel Bay
- Transkaroo — Grootbrak

# HOUSE RULES

Here is what to do and what not to do in South Africa — a quick insider's guide to this beautiful country.

## DO

- Get travel insurance
- Shop locally
- Enjoy a braai
- Tip your waiter 10–15%
- Be patient on the road and in the shops
- Try local cuisine
- Shop the street markets
- Pack loads of sunscreen
- Enjoy our beaches
- Have cash for parking garages and a tip for the parking attendants
- Use the hotel safe for your valuables
- Plastic wrap your bag at the airports

## DON'T

- Drink and drive — especially in the holiday season. Our drinking limit is 0. Best to arrange a shuttle or Uber service.
- Drive on the N2 or R300, especially at night (after 22:00)
- Expect to see wild animals everywhere you go
- **Flash expensive electronics and jewellery**
- Leave any belongings unattended
- Feed or touch wild animals without permission
- Take a mini-bus style taxi at a taxi rank — use Uber or pre-book
- Wander in unknown areas — most areas you can walk, but have a purpose and destination to go to
- Take alcohol to the beach
- Hitch-hike

## Other Information

South Africans are generally very friendly and always willing to help. Most will understand English.

# TRAVEL TIPS

*01.*

## USE GPS FOR TRAVEL

Google Maps or Waze is the best GPS mobile app to use on your phone for basic travel. You can listen to the following radio stations for traffic updates:

- KFM | 94.5 FM
- Smile | 90.4 FM

*02.*

## PACK A CAR PHONE CHARGER

Our hire cars do not have charging ports, and you will need a phone charger — especially for your long trips.

*03.*

## EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

- Police | 086 001 0111
- Home Affairs | 0800 601 190
- Emergency Response | 10111
- Department of Tourism | 086 0868 747
- Cell Phone Emergency | 112
- Ambulance | 10177

*04.*

## **DO NOT GO HIKING ON YOUR OWN**

South Africa has various hiking trails — do not walk these routes on your own. Ensure you have a charged phone when hiking. Lion's Head is medium difficulty to climb, whereas Table Mountain is only for experienced hikers — have a local to show you the way.

*05.*

## **ALWAYS HAVE A WARM JACKET CLOSE**

In SA you can experience all 4 seasons in one day. Do carry a warm jacket with you at all times — evenings can get chilly.

*06.*

## **TAP WATER AND DRINKABILITY**

Tap water in most areas is drinkable, but should you have a sensitive stomach, please buy bottled water for your stay. Most hotels will inform you should the tap water not be drinkable.