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Cape Town Family Holiday and Safari- 11 Days / 10 Nights

This family adventure begins at Cape Town International Airport and ends at Port Elizabeth Airport.

DAY 1

On arrival at Cape Town International Airport, you will be met by our tour representative and transferred to your accommodation in the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. With Table Mountain — one of the most spiritual places on earth — at its heart and two oceans at its feet, the city of **Cape Town**, strategically situated at the south-western tip of Africa, has been famed for centuries as the Tavern of the Seas. Vibrant, cosmopolitan and an eclectic mix of old and new, this laid-back city is as much at home with its 17th century castle — whose cannons have never been fired in anger — as it is with its sleek skyscrapers and trendy malls. Home to South Africa's first Mosque, oldest wine farm, a 350 year-old garden and timelessly beautiful beaches, it's no surprise the legendary Flying Dutchman and his spectral ship have spent eternity sailing the city's shores. Spend three nights at **The Lawhill Luxury Apartments** in a luxury two bedroom apartment. Your stay is on a room only basis and your apartment will be stocked with coffee, tea, sugar, milk and bottled water. Depending on your time of arrival in Cape Town you can use this day to relax and settle into your apartment. Since you are based in the famous V&A Waterfront you can take a walk around the shops, dine at one of the many restaurants, or even spend the afternoon on a half day tour to Robben Island which departs from the waterfront.

DAY 2

After a delicious breakfast you will be collected by your guide who will take you around on a full day tour of Cape Town in a private vehicle. The day can be completely tailor-made to the family but these are a few things that we suggest, and have included, for the whole family to enjoy:

This family full-day tour takes in the scenic highlights of the Cape Peninsula to include places of interest for everyone. The Tours begins with the four secluded beaches of Clifton, as well as the sidewalk cafés and bars of trendy Camp's Bay. The next stop is the spectacular coastal suburb of Hout Bay, a former fishing village with a long, sandy beach facing a bay framed by the mountains. If open, the tour will continue along the breath-taking Chapman's Peak Drive. After taking in some magnificent views the kids will have some time to hunt for a selection of tumble-polished gemstones at the Scratch Patch and Mineral World near Simons Town. From here you will travel to Simon's Town to visit the charming penguin colony at Boulders Beach and perhaps even indulge in lunch at a local restaurant. After the penguins guest will head to the famous Cape Point Lighthouse, to capture the magical vistas of False Bay, and stop at the south westernmost point of Africa - the fabled Cape of Good Hope. After exploring this area guest will make their way past the Kirstenbosch gardens before returning to the city.

DAY 3

This morning you will be collected by your guide for a full day tour of the Table Mountain and City Tour. A variety of activities have been included along the route to keep the children entertained:

Depart the city for the Lower Cableway Station to board the revolving cable car for a 5-minute ride to the top of Table Mountain. It affords bird's-eye views of both city and Peninsula as you walk its summit. If the weather is not favourable, at the flat-topped hill known as Signal Hill will be used as an alternative. Next stop , the Company Gardens, the original fresh produce garden for visiting ships and locals from the mid 17th Century and today, home to the SA Museum,

Cultural History Museum, Houses of Parliament, National Gallery and St George's Cathedral. Head up to Signal Hill next to witness the firing of the famous Noon Day Gun (excluding Sundays). Cape Town's oldest living tradition (originally providing a time signal for ships anchored in the bay) it boasts the world's oldest gunpowder charged guns still in daily use. Visit the traditional Malay Quarter in the predominantly Muslim Bo-Kaap, with its brightly coloured houses dating back as far as the 17th century. At the V&A Waterfront visit the Two Oceans Aquarium show-casing the incredible diversity of marine life found in the surrounding waters. It is noted for its up-close, touch-and-feel exhibits designed especially for children.

DAY 4 & 5

This morning a rented car will be dropped off as your self drive trip starts, after checking out of your apartment, take a leisurely drive to the Cape Whale Coast region of South Africa, where you will be spending two nights at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve. The area known as the **Cape Whale Coast** stretches along the southern coastline of South Africa's Western Cape Province from the coastal hamlet of Rooi-Els west of Cape Town to Quoin Point near Cape Agulhas. Made up of a series of spectacular bays, coves and river mouths and hemmed in by soaring mountains and valleys, it is known as one of the best places in the world for whale watching. Almost 40 species of whales and dolphins are attracted to the rich marine environment created by the meeting of the cold Benguela and warm Agulhas currents, while Southern right, Bryde's and humpback whales mate and calve in the area between June and November each year. While whale watching is definitely the main attraction, there is no shortage of other adventures in the area, from shark cage diving with great whites to hiking through mountains covered with the region's distinctive fynbos vegetation and horse riding on sandy beaches. The region's main towns include Kleinmond, Hermanus, Stanford and Gansbaai. Flanked by the spectacular cliffs of Walker Bay, is the beautiful **Grootbos Private Nature Reserve**. Large, private cottages include spacious bedrooms, lovely ensuite bathrooms, air-conditioning and secluded balconies from where guests can admire the breath-taking sunsets over the Atlantic Ocean. Guests can savour hearty breakfast and lavish four-course dinners in the superb restaurant boasting sweeping views of the picturesque surroundings — the passionate chefs work their magic in transforming freshly-caught fish, succulent meats and organic produce into delectable culinary creations, perfectly complemented by award-winning Cape wines. At the end of the day, guests can head to the bar for refreshing cocktails, whilst drinking in the sweeping views from Walker Bay to Cape Point, or retreat to the cosy sitting room for a comfortable spot around the open fireplace on chilly evenings.

Adventures include flower safaris, birding tours, horse riding, scenic flights, mountain biking, sharkcage diving, whale-watching tours, guided nature walks, and visits to the renowned Grootbos Nature Reserve, home to the largest private fynbos garden in the world. Join an experienced guide on a walk along a meandering path through the ancient Milkwood forest which surrounds the reserve, which is home to one thousand-year-old indigenous trees. Spend two nights at **Grootbos Private Nature Reserve** in a garden lodge two bedroom luxury suite with en-suite bathroom. Your stay includes welcome drink served upon arrival, fresh fruit daily in suite, breakfast buffet, light lunch, 5-course dinner, horse riding, guided walks including fynbos nature tours & milkwood walks, nature, marine, coastal drives & walks including the Walker Bay Nature Reserve, De Kelders cliff walk Klipgat Cave combined with seasonal land-based whale watching (whale watching especially during July – December), bird-watching, various maps of the reserve and the area for selfguided walks and transfers to/from all activities.

DAY 6

After a leisurely breakfast, check out and self-drive up the Garden Route to the coastal town of Plettenberg Bay, where you will be spending two nights at The Plettenberg Hotel. Most people believe that Cape Town was home to South Africa's first settlers – when it was, in fact, **Plettenberg Bay**. Originally named Bahia Formosa (Beautiful Bay) by early Portuguese navigators, the vessel Sao Gonzales was anchored here for two months in 1630 for repairs. A storm wrecked the ship and the hundred surviving crew members spent several months building two new boats and a tiny wooden chapel from the remains of the wreck. Beautiful Bay suffered a name change in 1778, when Governor Joachim van Plettenberg (clearly not a modest man) was so taken with the area that he named it after himself! Today, Plett is an upmarket resort town and, in spring, home to whales who calve in the shallow waters of the bay **The Beach House at The Plettenberg** is truly something special. It is a private house complete with full Relais and Châteaux service. Sublime bay and mountain vistas can be enjoyed from its spacious deck. Decorated in soft creams and blues it is the ultimate escape from the frantic pace of modern day life. Its location, adjacent to The Plettenberg's main building, ensures that it is the perfect getaway while still allowing easy access to all the hotel's excellent facilities. The Beach House boasts two

ensuite bedrooms, a large sitting room with fireplace, a dining room, a small service kitchen, a private swimming pool, air-conditioning throughout and all other modern conveniences.

Family friendly offerings at the hotel include a welcome note and age appropriate activity packs for children, designated family activity areas, educational experiences, specially designed gourmet children's menus, family picnics for daily excursions, as well as babysitting services and cots upon request.

Some of the **highlights for children** include buckets and spades to build sandcastles on the beach, body boards to ride the waves, beach cricket and beach tennis, Interactive cooking classes with the chefs, creating your own menu with the chefs, a selection of board games, swimming, popcorn and movies, playing in the puzzle park, walking with elephants, visiting the Monkeyland primate sanctuary as well as Birds of Eden bird sanctuary.

Spend two nights at **The Plettenberg** in the beach house. Your stay includes accommodation and breakfast.

DAY 7

After enjoying a delicious breakfast you may self-drive for a full day tour of Plettenberg Bay (not included in the rate).

Discover a breathtaking array of marine and forest marvels on this extraordinary adventure in Plettenberg Bay. Head out onto the ocean, launching from Central Beach and travelling past the bird sanctuary and Keurbooms Beach to the distinctive Arch Rock. Enjoy up close encounters with bottlenose and rare Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, as well as a number of shark species, before heading into the middle of the bay to search for pelagic birds. On the way back, enjoy the antics of the local Cape fur seal colony and admire the unique geology of Robberg while listening to highlights of the area's fascinating history. Back on the mainland; visit the diverse Monkeyland, the first sanctuary in the world to cater for multiple primate species, which are left free to roam the indigenous forest. Enjoy a guided walk through the forest and over the longest suspension bridge in Africa before heading off to the Elephant Sanctuary, where you can touch, feed, interact with and even ride these gentle pachyderms.

DAY 8

After breakfast, check out and self-drive to Kwandwe Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape Province. A province of dramatic contrasts, South Africa's **Eastern Cape** is home to some of the country's most varied landscapes. From the arid stretches of the Karoo in the interior to the lush rolling hills of the Transkei, the scenic mountain ranges of the Garden Route and the golden beaches along the coastline, the Eastern Cape is a tourist mecca. Over 800 km of pristine, unspoiled beaches, including the surfer's paradise of Jeffrey's Bay, combine with the lush forests of Tsitsikamma, a number of Big Five game reserves and even the country's only ski resorts to form a region full of intrigue and adventure. It comes as no surprise that an area of such diverse beauty should be the landing place and home of the 1820 British settlers, as well as the birthplace of South Africa's most famous son, Nelson Mandela.

Available only for the sole use of a group or family of up to six, the gracious **Uplands Homestead** is a sensitively restored 1905 farmhouse. Featuring three spacious ensuite bedrooms with private balconies, it is situated in a remote and tranquil valley. The Homestead is the perfect place for a private safari, with a romantic 'Out of Africa' farmhouse ambience. Uplands Homestead is authentically adorned with antiques and memorabilia reminiscent of a Settler home from the 1820s. Venerable rugs and fine damask linen, antique mirrors, yellowwood chests and wardrobes, antique silver and porcelain dovetail effortlessly with stylish modern elements such as exquisitely appointed bathrooms, air conditioning and a modernised farm kitchen. There is also a full size swimming pool and gazebo. Uplands Homestead comes fully equipped with a dedicated ranger, tracker and chef team, as well as a private open 4x4 safari vehicle.

Kwandwe is an ideal and stimulating location for children. Not only are there a host of tailor-made activities on-site designed to keep little ones enthralled and entertained, but their malaria-free status and proximity to a range of family and child-friendly activities in the area make this a safari experience without parallel for kids. Day and safari activities at the villas are flexible and completely tailor-made with dedicated staff including a private chef, butler, ranger, tracker and safari vehicle. Activities for children include 'poo' safaris and spoor tracking with the ranger and tracker, Minnow's fishing trip with the ranger, finger painting, making animals from clay, daily treasure hunts, special game drives outside

of normal times where available, baking, pizza making competitions, DVDs and popcorn, chocolate mould making, reature cookie baking, bedtime stories with milk and cookies. Children receive 'Rangers in Training' bags with pencils/crayons, booklet for identifying wildlife, water bottle and special amenities (shampoo, body lotion and bubble bath). A special children's menu is sent to parents to choose meals in advance of arrival. Experienced childminders are available by prior arrangement at no additional cost.

DAY 9 & 10

As dawn breaks over the African bush, a gentle tap on your door will wake you to the pleasures of a new day. Your ranger will discuss what you hope to see that day over fragrant tea or coffee and morning biscuits or rusks. Set out in an open 4x4 safari vehicle in the company of a ranger and tracker team, who will attempt to track your favourite animals. Explore Kwandwe's diverse terrain in search of cheetah, black rhino or elephant.

Return to your lodge for a delicious continental and English breakfast. If you wish, you can walk off your breakfast on a short walk near your lodge, accompanied by your ranger, who will share his insight into the smaller animals and vegetation in the area. Return to the lodge in time for a delicious lunch. For the less energetic, cool off with a refreshing dip in the pool or indulge in an afternoon siesta. Over a late afternoon tea, your ranger will discuss what you hope to see during the afternoon game drive. This game drive begins in the late afternoon and lasts until after dark, when spotlights are used for a glimpse into the nocturnal bush life. Spot the rarely seen porcupine, aardwolf or armadillo. Enjoy sundowners in a scenic location as the sun slowly sinks beneath the horizon.

Return to your lodge for a mouth-watering dinner around a blazing fire in a boma or in your lodge's dining area.

DAY 11

After a leisurely breakfast, check out and self-drive to Port Elizabeth Airport where you will drop off your car rental and check in for your departure flight.