



SOUTH AFRICA - A WORLD IN ONE COUNTRY **By Embrace South Africa Tours**

So, you are excited to visit South Africa and want to know more about the culture, people, scenery and cuisine.

Let's begin by offering you a brief introduction. If you're intrigued and eager to learn more, feel free to delve deeper into the document.

Cultural Melting Pot: With 11 official languages that reflect the diversity of its people, South Africa is a melting pot of cultures. Its rich and colorful history is woven together by influences from native African tribes, European colonists, Indian laborers, and Malay slaves.

Gorgeous Landscapes: South Africa is endowed with a variety of magnificent landscapes, ranging from the majestic peaks of the Drakensberg Mountains to the picturesque coasts along the Garden Route. Travelers can climb through the strange landscape of the Cederberg Mountains, traverse extensive savannahs in Kruger National Park, and experience exquisite vineyards in the Cape Winelands.

Vibrant Wildlife: With a vast variety of wildlife species, South Africa is well-known for its amazing biodiversity. The nation is a top choice for safari aficionados since it is home to the renowned "Big Five": lions, elephants, rhinoceroses, buffaloes, and leopards.

The Historical Apartheid Struggle: The fight against apartheid, a system of formalized racial discrimination and segregation that persisted for decades, is a defining feature of South Africa's history. The 1990s saw a dramatic shift in the nation that culminated in 1994's election of Nelson Mandela as the nation's first black president.

Iconic monuments: One of the New7Wonders of Nature, Table Mountain in Cape Town, is only one of South Africa's many famous monuments. Other must-see locations are the breath-taking Blyde River Canyon, one of the world's greatest gorges, and Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela's 18year imprisonment.

World-Class Wine Industry: With a history spanning more than 350 years, South Africa is one of the world's top producers of wine. The Cape Winelands are well known for its picturesque vineyards and internationally recognized wines, especially in the areas surrounding Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and

Paarl. In this charming area, guests can take advantage of wine tastings, cellar tours, and gourmet dining experiences.

Exciting Activities: South Africa has a tonne of exciting things to do for thrill seekers, such bungee jumping off the Bloukrans Bridge, the highest commercial bridge bungee jump in the world, and shark cage diving in Gansbaai. The varied topography of the nation makes it the ideal location for outdoor pursuits including hiking, surfing, and hot air ballooning.

AND NOW, READ MORE...

RICH HISTORY

One walks in wonder through the streets of Athens or Rome, looking at the statues that are older than most buildings anywhere else in the world. But, think back to the discoveries made in South Africa and you will find that the true cradle of life for mankind lies in South Africa.

There have been settlers in parts of the country going back millions of years and it shines through in the rich history of the country. From rock drawings of the Bushmen in the Kalahari, to cave dwelling families millions of years ago, the country paints a glorious picture of the history of mankind. The country was discovered, forgotten and rediscovered; occupied by the European colonists, freed and occupied again.

SA had the first mass concentration camps set up by the British and years of suffering under colonial rule. Tribes from all over Southern Africa have migrated to, fought and died for South Africa.

Yet modern South Africa both sets the example of what can be achieved in Africa through diplomacy, and how corrupt, inept government can bring it to its knees. It has a past so interesting that it is a historical destination all on its own.

THE PEOPLE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

SA has over 60 million people, 11 national languages with a rare mix of African tribes and European and Asian settlers.

In a world filled with so much hatred of people outside of their own culture, South Africa has become a beacon of hope for many cultures. Nelson Mandela is widely renowned as the greatest global statesman of his generation. He has shown that more can be achieved through acts of forgiveness than many years of war.

The society is by no means perfect and integration has been slow, but there has been positive progress and it's worth visiting the country just to see what is possible with peaceful integration as focus.

South Africa has the highest repeat tourism rate in the world amongst long-haul destinations

SOUTH AFRICA'S MEGA-DIVERSE LANDSCAPE

South Africa is one of only 17 countries in the world that are classed as mega-diverse in terms of its fauna, flora and the amount of species unique to that country.

In the west the stunningly rugged coastline merges with the Namib Desert (one of the driest in the world) and the eastern coastline provides some of the most beautiful unspoilt beaches in the world. The Cape floral kingdom represents less than 0.5% of the area of Africa but it is home to nearly 20% of the continent's floral species.

The interior (heart) of the country provides some of the most remarkable wildlife sanctuaries in the world. National parks such as Kruger, Addo, Limpopo, Transfrontier and Kalahari have captured the imagination of wildlife enthusiasts across the world.

The Namaqualand turns into the world's largest wildflower garden once a year just after the first rains (go ahead, google Namaqualand flowers!).

SA has some of the most unique mountain ranges anywhere on the planet. The Drakensberg, Waterberg and of course Table Mountain offer breath-taking, world class views.

CUISINE

South Africa's cuisine is as diverse and colourful as its rainbow nation. With influences from the indigenous population, along with the Dutch and English, South Africa offers a range of mouth-watering dishes that are sure to excite the palate. These culinary contrasts truly reflect the culture, history and geography of this vast land.

DIVERSE COASTLINES

It is because of this immense diversity on land that many people forget that South Africa also has one of the most diverse coastlines in the world.

Two very different oceanic currents flank the coastline –the west coast of Southern Africa is surrounded by the cold Benguela Current and on the east coast the warm Agulhas Currents moves south from the equator.

The 2 500 km plus coastline plays host to 83% of all known marine fish families, with 13% endemic. Even more impressive is the 36% endemic invertebrates, where SA boasts several squid and jellyfish that are found nowhere else.

The standout for tourists must be the largest migration in the world (even larger than the wildebeest in the Serengeti!). The "Sardine run", as it is called locally, produces one of the greatest animal spectacles on earth.

The numbers and variety of sharks are astounding: Hammerheads, Zambezi's, Bronze Whalers, Coppers and Great Whites can be seen by the hundreds, as well as common and bottlenose dolphins.

If you are not in the water but want to enjoy the sand, you can choose from nearly 50 blue flag beaches, marinas or coastal sanctuaries.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is one of the most bio-diverse oceanic sanctuaries in the world with nearly 330 000 hectares of pristine oceanfront preserved as a Natural World heritage site.

ADRENALINE AND SPORT

South Africa is one of the best destinations for adventure tourism in the world. You can ...

... dive with great white sharks in Cape Town (or dolphins if you are so inclined), wreck-dive around Sodwana or catch marlin off the east coast

.... go on safari almost anywhere in the country or walk among lions and leopards in Johannesburg Lion Park.

... can drive actual 4x4 trails with an SUV, not just suburban jungles.

South Africans love their sport and the outdoor activities. SA has some of the best golf courses in the world. You can find places to play all over the country with coastal courses, in amongst the wildlife or more historic courses on offer that cater for every level.

The world's highest bungee jump (216m) is at the Bloukrans Bridge in the Western Cape.

SA has 1000's of miles of rivers, walking trails, dams and everything from cycling, running, dancing, shooting, falling and climbing to most other human activities that you can think of.

If you are an adrenaline/sports junky you will not be disappointed with SA.

75% of tourists come to SA for holiday!!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO BE YOUR HOST
IN OUR AMAZING COUNTRY**