

## Professional / Technical

### This tour is for professional people in the Forestry Industry

#### In short:

Forestry in South Africa contributes just over 1% to the country's GDP. It is also a significant contributor to the labor market. Most of the forests are found in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga – and it is said that Sabie in this province is the largest man-made forest in the world. This tour covers some of the latest technology in the industry and will expose you to that and also the challenges it faces.

#### Highlights:

- Experience the cultural highlights of the Western, including food and wine, dating back nearly 375 years
- Table Mountain and the view from the top
- The Cape Peninsula and Cape Point
- Forests and Equipment
- Processing plants
- Safari at a private game reserve



#### Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights B&B accommodation in the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town
- ▶ 5 nights B&B accommodation in rural Mpumalanga
- ▶ 2 nights full board accommodation and 2 open vehicle game drives per day at a private game reserve
- ▶ Optional Bush walk with well-trained and knowledgeable rangers
- ▶ Transport in a luxury vehicle / guide / other meals as indicated / conservation fees for the safari park
- ▶ Wine tastings and entrance fees for listed tourism excursions and all professional visits

#### Day 0: Friday, 2026 (Meals on board)

Overnight flight/s from Europe to Cape Town. Various airlines offer direct flights from European hubs to Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

#### Day 1: Saturday, 2026 (Meals on board / D)

On the arrival of your overnight flight into Cape Town, and after the normal custom procedures, a representative of Cape AgriTours and your English-speaking tourist guide for the trip will meet you and escort you to your waiting touring coach / vehicle. Weather permitting, you will then make your way directly to Table Mountain, the majestic sandstone bastion guarding over the "Mother City" of SA – Cape Town. Ascend the mountain by cable car and spend some free time on the big flat top. Today the mountain is one of the new 7 Wonders of Nature, a World Heritage site and a National Monument. As you will probably be on the mountain by lunchtime, it will be a good idea to enjoy something to eat and drink here.

Coming down from the mountain, you will undertake a combined motorized and walking tour of the historic section of Cape Town, as you make your way towards the V&A Waterfront precinct and your city hotel. The city tour can include the Bo-Kaap (Malay quarter or Top of Cape Town as it is also referred to), the Company Gardens, Buildings of Parliament, City Hall

and the Castle – oldest structure in South Africa. The duration of, and inclusions for the city tour, will depend on available time. Finally, you will reach your hotel to check in. Refresh and relax.

Your **welcome dinner** will be enjoyed at a selected venue close to or at the hotel.

Overnight Cape Town

Legacy Hotels the Commodore – V&A Waterfront (4\*)

### **Day 2: Sunday, 2026 (B / L / -)**

No trip to South Africa can ever be complete with undertaking the Grand Tour of the Cape Peninsula.

Depart from your hotel, travelling via Maidens Cove (photo stop) to Hout Bay harbour, from where a short boat cruise will take you out to Duiker Island to view the colony of Cape fur seals and some other aquatic life. On your return to the mainland, there will be some free time to bargain with the curio traders on the quayside, before the journey continues southward on the Peninsula.

From Hout Bay you will travel along Chapman's Peak Drive (photo stop) to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, where you will view both the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point. You will then make your way to Simon's Town, where a **seafood lunch** will be enjoyed at the Seaforth Restaurant. After lunch, there will be time to visit the African penguin breeding colony on Boulders Beach, before finally today, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

After the late lunch, dinner will be optional tonight.

Overnight Cape Town

### **Day 3: Monday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

South Africa is very well known for our quality wines, so today is dedicated to the Winelands of the Cape.

After breakfast transfer directly to Stellenbosch – Heart of the Cape Winelands and a beautiful university town that nestles in a valley surrounded by fabulous blue sandstone mountains. It is the oldest town in SA, and first to be established (1679) after the city of Cape Town. Your first stop for this morning will be at a selected family wine estate, one of the first 3 cellars on the Stellenbosch Wine Route which was established in 1971. Here you will undertake a cellar tour and tasting of selected wine products. A short drive then brings you to this lovely town with its historic buildings and oak-lined streets. By midday, you will reach the Forestry School of the University of Stellenbosch. One of the lecturers will do a presentation on the South African forestry industry, as well as give a short talk on modern technical advances and innovation in South Africa. Continue on to a nearby wine farm, where a typical South African braai (BBQ) will be served for **lunch**. A wine tasting is enjoyed with your meal. In the latter part of the afternoon, you can explore the historic town on foot, before you are returned to your hotel in the city.

After refreshing, the group will enjoy dinner at a selected venue. Guests can return to the hotel in their own time as they prepare for the next morning's early departure.

Overnight Cape Town

### **Day 4: Tuesday, 2026 (B / - / D)**

After an early breakfast and check-out, your southern touring vehicle will be ready to take you directly to Cape Town's International Airport, for a direct flight to the Kruger-Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP) near Mbombela (formerly Nelspruit). You will use flight FA670 (09:00-11:30).

On arrival in Nelspruit, your northern touring coach/vehicle will be ready and waiting. From the airport, you will make your way into town for a technical visit to Mascor – the company who is the official and largest distributor of JD forestry equipment in SA. There will be a meeting with the local manager and time to view the yard and workshop areas, as well as any of the equipment that may be available at the time. A brief stop will be made to accommodate a quick take-out meal to be collected. After the break, you will visit the Lowveld & Escarpment Fire Protection Association and Forest Watch monitoring system. Duration of the visit is approx. 1 hour. Group may need to be split to accommodate everyone. Finally you will reach your hotel in the City. **Dinner** this evening will be enjoyed at Jock's Pub & Grill in the city. A very relaxed and good vibe venue.

Overnight Mbombela (Nelspruit)

The Capital Hotel (4\*)

### **Day 5: Wednesday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

After a leisurely breakfast, you now make your way to Forestry Plant & Equipment, a company that specializes in mechanization in the forestry industry.

After a short video introduction into the use of cable skidders on steep slope harvesting, you will also view the new equipment available in the yard; as well as the fully fitted workshop, and assembly shop for new equipment. From here, you will then make your way to a location where they have some infield activities ongoing, to view the equipment in practice. After a break for **lunch** (venue will be determined by the location of the infield operations), you will then meet up with a harvesting contractor, to view their infield operations – harvesting to roadside clearing. In the latter part of the afternoon, you are returned to your hotel in the city. **Dinner** is enjoyed at the hotel.

Overnight Mbombela (Nelspruit)

### **Day 6: Thursday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

The plan is to visit AGM Sawmills at the Ringkink Farm, company of the Muller Family. Your hosts will be the family and some of their technical staff at the farm. They have been modernizing their operation over the last 10 to 15 years and it is great to see. You will view in-field CTL activities, as well as some manual operations, and will also tour the sawmill on the farm. **Lunch** will be enjoyed at the mill. Although they use mostly wheeled equipment, this private operation is very special to see if one compares this to the large company set-ups.

By mid-afternoon, you will now make your way via Warburton, Carolina and eMgwenya (formerly Waterval-Boven) to the Sycamore region and the Malaga Hotel where you will stay overnight for the next two nights. **Dinner** is included with your stay. The hotel also has a great bar, paddle tennis and swimming pool area for relaxation.

Overnight Sycamore

**Malaga Hotel (3\*)**

### **Day 6: Friday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

Today the full day will be spent in the company of SAPPI (South African Paper & Pulp Industry), these days a global company, with a strong footprint in Europe, including Norway and Finland. Their forest compartments are spread over vast areas in Lowveld. Some of the forests included could be South Camelot, Ngodwana, Grootgeluk and Kaapsehoop. We will also request a visit to Ngodwana Paper & Pulp mill – a venue so large, it is visible from space. **Lunch** will be enjoyed at a selected venue as determined by the company and the compartments you will visit.

17:00 In the late afternoon, you are returned to your hotel, where you can relax and refresh before dinner.

19:30 **Dinner** is included at the hotel.

Overnight Sycamore

### **Day 7: Saturday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

09:00 After a leisurely breakfast, check-out and departure, a scenic drive via the Sudwala Caves area will take you towards Sabie – many say this is the region with the largest man-made forests in the world. The morning will be utilized to view some forests and infield activities near Graskop. After this morning of professional stops, you will travel northward from Graskop on to the Panorama Route, an extremely scenic part of the Lowveld, viewing some iconic view sites such as God's Window or Wonder View, as well as one of the many waterfalls in the area, before stopping for **lunch** at the Chubby Pig, an old-style restaurant on the banks of the Treur River. One final stop is planned at the 3 Rondavels (a mountain formation) view site, where it overlooks the Blyde River Canyon and Dam. This is the largest green canyon in the world.

By late afternoon, you will reach Hannah Lodge, your accommodation venue for the evening. The lodge is situated in a private game reserve (there is only small game on the reserve – some antelopes, zebra and the odd giraffe).

A magnificent buffet **dinner** is enjoyed with your stay.

Overnight Ohrigstad

**Hannah Game Lodge (4\*)**

### **Day 8: Sunday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

As this will be the last morning for a couple of days that pre-dawn wake-up calls will not be required, we suggest a very relaxed breakfast and morning, with a mid-morning departure. A scenic drive through some mountain areas and via the Abel Erasmus Pass and JG Strijdom Tunnel, will get you to Hoedspruit for a comfort stop. There is also quite a bit of souvenir shopping possible here. A short drive finally gets you the Kapama Private Game Reserve – in time to check in and to enjoy a fabulous **lunch**. After lunch you will get to your rooms, where you can refresh and relax – River Lodge has more than one pool area, as well as an incredible spa setup.

By mid-afternoon, high tea is served and then your open game viewing vehicles will take you out on the first of your game drives, as you go in search of the BIG5 of the African bush (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo) as well as a plethora

of other small and plains game. A sundowner drink is enjoyed somewhere in the African bush, before you are returned to the lodge for your boma (open air eating place) **dinner**. Times and venues will be confirmed by the lodge.

Overnight Hoedspruit

**Kapama Private Game Reserve – River Lodge (5\*)**

### **Day 9: Monday, 2026 (B / L / D)**

05:00 A pre-dawn wake-up call, followed by a continental breakfast, gets you ready for the first of your morning game drives in the open vehicles. These drives are all approx. 3 hours in duration. When back at the lodge, you can sit down to a hot and cold full English / American breakfast. At about 10:00 AM, we suggest (I could only book this once we had paid in full, so just waiting for the final confirmation – but it should not be a problem) everyone who is capable, should join your rangers and trackers for a 2-hour bush walk. This is arguably the most exciting way to do game viewing. On your return to the lodge a quick swim or shower will get you ready for **lunch**. However, with your idea of a training session we need to plan around this. At least one hour is available on Sunday afternoon before the game driver, and then either time in the morning today, or again after lunch today. You can decide. Of course, there will also be some time on the coach.

After lunch, some free time will be available to relax, before the afternoon programme, through to **dinner** is repeated.

Overnight Hoedspruit

### **Day 10: Tuesday, 2026 (B / meals on board)**

A final pre-dawn wake-up call will once more get you ready for the continental breakfast and morning game drive. You will again be returned to the lodge in time for that wonderful breakfast, and then it will be time to refresh and check out, getting ready for your shuttle transfer (open vehicles – so also the last safari!) to the Hoedspruit Airport.

You need to be at the airport by 13:00, to check in for flight 4Z874 (14:20-15:25) from HDS/JNB. Here you will then cross over to the international departure area, to check in for your return flights to Europe.

**\*\*\*\*\*END OF SERVICES\*\*\*\*\***

Our price includes:

- ◆ All the accommodation (B&B) or as specified in the itinerary
- ◆ Other meals (**8 lunches & 9 dinners**) as specified in the itinerary – including tips with the meals
- ◆ 1 beer/soft drink pp for lunches and 375ml wine pp for dinners
- ◆ The services of an **English-speaking** registered tourist guide throughout the tour
- ◆ Transport in an air-conditioned touring coach throughout the tour or open game viewing vehicles
- ◆ Entrance & tasting fees for all specified leisure and technical visits

Excluded are:

- ◆ Any expenses of a personal nature such as: telephone calls, laundry, drinks (including bottled water), portorage (normally R35 per bag) and tips (normally 10-12% of the bill when eating out or having drinks on your own).
- ◆ Discretionary tips to **both drivers and guides** – normally 5 euro (or the ZAR equivalent) per person per day to each of the driver and guide. Local guides (not technical staff!) 3 euro (or the ZAR equivalent) per person per visit.
- ◆ Anything not specified above, or given as optional
- ◆ Personal travel and accident insurance
- ◆ Any flights associated with the tour – **if required, this can be supplied, but will be quoted separately**

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**Our rates are confidential and quoted in good faith with rates available to us at present.**

**It is therefore subject to change, if this is forced upon us by our suppliers (rates) or the Government (VAT and tourism levy), or exchange rate fluctuations beyond our control.**

**All visits and accommodation are subject to availability at the time of confirmation and booking of the tour.**

**This customised itinerary is and remains, the property of Cape AgriTours cc.**

**In its entirety this programme is subject to our standard terms & conditions.**

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