





*KwaZulu-Natal
South Coast*

South Coast, Gift Coast, Hibiscus Coast... whichever name you choose to describe this beautiful area of South Africa, it will be appropriate. The spectacular beaches that can be found along this stretch of coastline include Ramsgate, Lortien and Marina Beach, all of which have been awarded international 'Blue Flag' status. The Blue Flag is awarded for excellence in safety, cleanliness, provision of amenities and the maintenance of environmental standards. Numerous golf courses are dotted along the coast and the hillsides, well, it lies just over the hill!

Opposite Margate is a seaside town popular with those who enjoy organised entertainment. A swimming pool and shark-protected sea make this a holiday destination of choice for those with young children. For anglers there is a fishing pier as well as many other fishing spots, providing the opportunity to land 'The Big One'!

Right above: Once a harbour used to export the crops of surrounding sugar cane farms, Scottburgh is now more of a holiday resort. It was named after John Scott, Governor of Natal in 1803. The resort has a beautiful beach fringed by coastal forest, and the headland on which it is situated overlooks the mouth of the Mpumabanyani River.

Right below: A remarkable natural phenomenon, the Sardine Run occurs along the South Coast between June and July every year. Shoals of hundreds of thousands of the little fish follow cooling water inshore, and behind them come game fish and flocks of sea birds. As the fish move inshore, people are waiting in the shallows with netspears to catch as many of these little swimmers as they can! Once the Sardine Run reaches Durban the fish swim out to sea and are carried back to the Cape by the Agulhas current.



Tribal People of South Africa

South Africa's population includes a large number of people from different tribes, each group with its own ethnic heritage and culture. Some may share a common ancestry, but as groups have split over the years, variations in language and culture have occurred. The fact that South Africa has 11 official languages is an indication of the diversity of its peoples.



Zulus
Left above and middle: The Zulu tribe is the largest ethnic group in South Africa and, like the Xhosa people, they are descended from the Nguni tribes of central Africa. Famous for their founder and leader, Shaka Zulu, they are widely respected as a warrior tribe. Traditional costumes worn by the men incorporate animal skins and impressive spears, whilst the women are adorned with beautifully crafted and colourful beadedwork. The original Royal kraal was situated in KwaZulu-Natal, and it was here that Shaka Zulu was murdered by his brothers.



Swazis
Left below: Also descendants of the Nguni clan, the Swazi are led by a king and backed by his mother, who also plays an important leadership role. Singing and dancing are an important part of Swazi culture, as are annual rituals. These rituals include the Incwala (first fruits) ceremony and the Umhlanga (reed dance), which honours the Queen Mother.

Bushmen
Opposite: Also known as San people, this tribe has been radically reduced in number. These nomadic hunter-gatherers have inhabited the country for thousands of years, and their tracking and hunting skills are legendary. Using only bows and arrows with poisoned tips as weapons, they follow their prey for hours and shoot with startling precision. Examples of the wonderful rock art that they painted to tell the stories of their lives in years gone by can be seen on rocks and in caves all over South Africa.



Introduction

South Africa is a land rich not only in gold and diamonds, but also in the diversity of its cultures, peoples, landscapes and wildlife. It stretches over nine provinces, from the southernmost tip of the continent at Cape Point to the 'young, greasy, green' Limpopo River (so Kipling described it) in the north. It is doubtful whether in one lifetime anyone could ever experience all that this beautiful land has to offer.

South Africa covers 1 220 000km², and its 3 000km of scenic coastline makes it a mecca for tourists. Washed by the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the warmer Indian Ocean on the east, its shores are visited by thousands of sun seekers every year. Coastal visitors less partial to the sun may visit the numerous historical sites and museums to hear stories of ships that have run aground on South African shores or prison islands that once held so many of the country's political figures captive.

Moving inland one almost feels that South Africa is a microcosm of the world! It is a spectacularly varied land of desert regions and forests, majestic mountains, sprawling urban jungles and fascinating game parks. The country's many rivers produce spectacular waterfalls and its largest river, the Orange, runs 2 250km from the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Alexander Bay.

Some 40 000 years ago the only inhabitants of South Africa were the San, or Bushmen, and the Khoikhoi. They were later joined by the Bantu and descendants of the Nguni tribes that came from central Africa. It was only many years later in the latter part of the 15th Century, that Portuguese explorer Bartholomew Diaz arrived in the country, the first European to do so. By the 16th Century the Dutch had arrived, followed later by British and German settlers and their Indian, who came to work in the Natal cane fields. A certain number of slaves were also brought here from all over Africa. A melting pot of a vast number of different cultures, South Africa has come to be known as 'The Rainbow Nation'.

The climatic regions of the country are as diverse as all its other characteristics, from the heat of the dry regions such as the Kalahari, the storms and rains experienced in Cape Town, to the regular snowfalls that blanket the higher areas in winter. South Africa has it all. In the interior the summers are hot and wet, and frequently causing electrical storms with their accompanying cacophony of thunder and lightning!

In spite of all its diversity, one thing in South Africa that always remains the same is its warm welcome! This it extends to all those who visit, whether they are here to do business, to enjoy a relaxing holiday or to attend sporting events. Everyone knows that South Africans are united by their love of sport, and visiting supporters receive the warmest welcome of all!



SOUTH AFRICA

a world in one country

land of contrast



• *"This Cape is the most stately thing and, The Fairest Cape on view in the whole circumference of the earth." - Sir Francis Drake, recorded during his circumnavigation of the globe in the late 1500s. The fairest Cape, Tavern of the seas, the Mother City. By any other name, this Cape remains indeed a stately thing. The allure of this Peninsula endures across the ages.*
Aerial view of the Cape Peninsula.

• *"Dieses Kap ist das prächtigste und schönste, das wir auf der gesamten Umrandung der Erde gesehen haben." - Sir Francis Drake notierte das während seiner Umrandung der Erde gegen Ende des 16. Jahrhunderts. Das schönste Kap, Tavern der Meere, die Mutterstadt. Von welcher also man es auch benennt, dieses Kap bleibt eine prächtige Angelegenheit. Die Anziehungskraft dieser Halbinsel hat sich über die Jahre hin unverändert erhalten.*
Luftansicht der Kap-Halbinsel.

• *"Este Cabo es el lugar más majestuoso y el Cabo más Hermoso que hemos visto en toda la circunferencia de la tierra." - Sir Francis Drake así lo documentó durante su circunnavegación alrededor del globo a fines de los años 1500. El Cabo más Hermoso, La Taverna de los Mares, La Ciudad Materna. Sea cual sea el nombre dado, Este Cabo en verdad siempre será lo más majestuoso. El encanto de esta Península perdura por los tiempos.*
Vista aérea de La Península del Cabo.

• *« Ce Cap est une des choses les plus majestueuses et la plus belle Cap que nous vîmes de toute la circonférence de la terre », Sir Francis Drake écrit lors de sa circumnavigation du globe vers la fin des années 1500. Le plus beau Cap, le Taverna des mers, le ville-mère, toujours le nom, ce cap reste, en effet, toujours chose de majestueux. Le charme de cette péninsule subsiste à travers le temps. Le charme de cette péninsule subsiste à travers le temps.*
Vue aérienne de la péninsule du Cap.



• **Cape Peninsula:** Like one glorious garden, cultivated by a loving hand, this Peninsula is extravagant in its loveliness. Beaches, sunwashed and wild... mountains, rugged and time-worn... a city that marries the ornate heritage of its past with a bold outlook for the future.
Opposite: Rotor cable car ascends to the summit of Table Mountain. Right: Indigenous plants at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

• **Kap-Halbinsel:** Wie ein großer wunderbarer von lebender Hand kultivierter Garten, steht das Kap da in seiner einzigartigen Schönheit. Sonnenverwöhnte Badestrände und wilde Berglandschaften, zerklüftet und von der Zeit verwittert – eine Stadt, in der eine reiche Geschichte vermischt ist mit einem kühnen Ausblick in die Zukunft.
Gegenüber: Rotorseilbahn führt die Drahtseilbahn auf dem Weg zum Gipfelplateau des Tafelbergs. Rechts: Einheimische Pflanzen im Staatlichen Botanischen Garten Kirstenbosch.

• **La Península del Cabo:** Como un jardín glorioso, cultivado amorosamente por una mano tierna, esta Península es extravagante en su belleza. Playas bañadas por el sol y bravas... montañas escarpadas y desgastadas por el tiempo... una ciudad que entrelaza el ornado patrimonio pasado con una positiva vista al futuro.
Izquierda: El teleférico asciende a lo cimo del la Montaña de la Mesaeta. Derecha: Plantas indígenas en el jardín Botánico Nacional de Kirstenbosch.

• **La péninsule du Cap :** Comme un seul jardin glorieux, entretenu par de douces mains, cette péninsule est d'une beauté grandiose. Plages, baignées par le soleil, sauvages... montagnes découpées et usées par le temps... une ville qui marie l'héritage somptueux de son passé avec une vue audacieusement optimiste du futur.
C'est-à-dire : un téléphérique. Rotor traverse jusqu'au sommet de la montagne de la Table. À droite : plantes indigènes au jardin botanique national de Kirstenbosch.



• A collection of raindrops, a pool of melted snow... now forms a stream, and then a river. And all the while gathering momentum, and becoming increasingly forceful, powerfully carving a path, a valley a vast and mighty chasm. Not land, nor mountain, will deter a body of water intent on reaching the sea.
Opposite: The great Blyde River Canyon. Right: Swirling water carves curious holes in the rock at Bourke's Luck Potholes, Mpumalanga.

• Ein Ansammlung von Regentropfen, ein Pool geschmolzenen Schnees bildet jetzt ein Rinnsal, dann einen Fluss. Und während er sein Momentum gewinnt und zunehmend stärker wird, bahnt er sich einen Weg durch ein Tal und stürzt sich dann in einen mächtigen Abgrund. Kein Land, kein Berg kann eine solche Masse an Wasser zurückhalten, wo es sich seinen Weg zum Meer sucht. Gegenüber: Der große Blyde River Canyon. Rechts: Wasserwirbel hohlen die seltsamen Löcher in den Felsen Bourke's Luck Potholes, Mpumalanga.

• Una colección de gotas de lluvia, un charco de nieve derretida... ahora creando un arroyo, y luego un río. Y mientras tanto está ganando velocidad, y aumentando su fuerza, poderosamente labrándose un camino, un valle, un abismo soberano e inmenso. Ni la tierra, ni la montaña podrán parar una masa de agua que intenta llegar al mar.
Izquierda: El gran Cañon de Blyde River. Derecha: Remolinos de agua tallando agujeros curiosos en Bourke's Luck Potholes, Mpumalanga.

• Un rassemblement de gouttes de pluie, un bassin de neige fondue... un ruissseau se forme, puis une rivière. Et pendant tout ce temps, elle prend son élan et devient de plus en plus forte, sculptant avec puissance un chemin, une vallée, un gigantesque précipice. Ni terre, ni montagne, n'empêchera une masse d'eau si résolue à rejoindre la mer.
C'est-à-dire : le grand canyon de Blyde River. À droite : des eaux tourbillonnantes creusent de curieuses cavités dans la roche à Bourke's Luck Potholes dans le Mpumalanga.



