

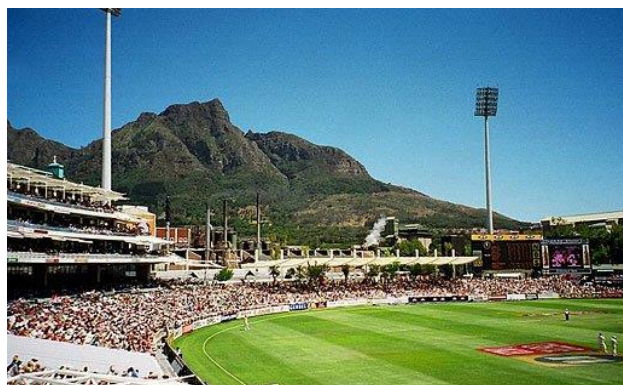
# South Africa – Birds & Cricket: Cape Town Test Match

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

January 2027

## Outline itinerary

<b>Day 1</b>	Depart London.
<b>Day 2</b>	Cape Town.
<b>Day 3/7</b>	Test Match, Newlands Cricket Ground. Overnight Cape Town.
<b>Day 8</b>	Cape Town.
<b>Day 9</b>	Depart Cape Town.
<b>Day 10</b>	Arrive London.



N.B. This tour can be combined with our 'South Africa – Birds & Cricket': ODI' holiday which follows on from this trip (website tour code: ZAF15)

## Departs

January 2027

## Focus

Cricket, plus birds, mammals & other wildlife.

## Grading

Grade A (see Page 4 for more information)

## Dates & Prices

See website (tour code ZAF16)

## Highlights:

- Spectacular scenery of South Africa's Western Cape
- Cape Town, Table Mountain & Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- Enjoy up to five days of Test Cricket at the world famous Newland's Cricket Ground
- Explore the Cape Peninsula
- Cape Sugarbird, African Penguin, Cape Grassbird Bontebok, Cape Ful Seal & many others
- Led by an expert naturalist guide



Images from top: Newlands Cricket Ground, Cape Sugarbird & Cape Peninsula



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## Itinerary

**NB.** Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations may necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

### Day 1

### Depart London

We leave London's Heathrow Airport this evening on board a direct scheduled British Airways or Virgin Atlantic overnight flight bound for Cape Town. See Page 5 for additional information on flights.

### Day 2

### Cape Town

We are due to arrive into Cape Town Airport late-morning where we meet our naturalist guide and transfer to our guesthouse near the Newlands Cricket Ground. In the afternoon we will visit Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. These large and spectacular gardens are situated on the lower slopes of the famed Table Mountain and are a wonderful place to relax and stroll around enjoying the botany, birds and scenery.

Birds here are fairly used to people and are generally very confiding. We will be on the lookout for Cape Spurfowl, Helmeted Guineafowl, Spotted Thick-knee, Spotted Eagle Owl, Karoo Prinia, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Batis, Black Saw-wing, Forest Canary, Sweet Waxbill and raptors such as African Goshawk, Rufous-chested



Sparrowhawk and perhaps even Verreaux's Eagle. Kirstenbosch is also one of the few places offering close up sightings of the normally shy and elusive Lemon Dove. Cape Robin-chat and Olive Thrush should also be seen, and we may encounter a party of Cape Grey Mongoose. Although the Protea Garden is at its best between August and October, there will still be some plants flowering in early January attracting Malachite Sunbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Southern Double-collared Sunbird and Cape Sugarbird.

## Day 3 – 7 Test Match - England vs South Africa at Newlands

We will spend the next few days enjoying the 5-day Test Match – England versus South Africa – at the world-famous Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town. Newlands is regarded as one of the most beautiful cricket grounds in the world and is overlooked by Table Mountain and Devil's Peak. We will have leisurely morning departures after breakfast and full, exciting days of cricket. Can England put the Ashes debacle behind them? Should the Test Match finish early we will devote that time to making the most of the region's bird and wildlife opportunities. There will also be optional local birding excursions for anyone who would like the occasional break from the cricket.

## Day 8 Cape Town

Today we will explore the beautiful Cape Peninsula. Highlights include the African Penguin colony at Boulders Beach, Cape Point Nature Reserve, Kommetjie and the Strandfontein Wetlands. The Cape has notoriously fickle weather and we will plan our itinerary according to the weather on the day. There's a wide range of birds to be seen here, including Jackal Buzzard, Cape Siskin, Ostrich, Cape Robin-chat, Grey-backed Cisticola, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Bulbul, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Greater Flamingo and marine species such as African Black Oystercatcher, Cape Gannet, Cape, Bank, White-breasted and Crowned Cormorants, and perhaps even White-chinned Petrel or Sooty Shearwater offshore. Mammals to be seen on the Peninsula include Chacma Baboon, Cape Mountain Zebra, Eland and Bontebok. Specific spots we may visit include:

**Boulder's Beach** – On the False Bay side of the Peninsula there is a colony of African Penguins, the larger of only two mainland breeding colonies, and we will see them up close with wonderful photographic opportunities. The wooded area inland from the colony usually produces White-backed Mousebird, Cape Batis, Brimstone and Cape Canaries, Fiscal Flycatcher, Southern Boubou, Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and the common Cape White-eye. Mammals seen here may include Rock Hyrax and Cape Fur Seal.



**Cape of Good Hope Reserve** – This entails a drive along the magnificent shoreline to the southern tip of the Peninsula. This reserve has an excellent representation of fynbos vegetation, with varieties of protea, leucospermum, restio and other genera making up one of the richest plant kingdoms on Earth (please note that the main flowering season around the Cape is August and September). Birds favouring this habitat include Malachite and Orange-breasted Sunbirds, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Grassbird, Cape Bulbul and others. The mountain slopes are favoured by Rock Kestrels, Cape Rock Thrush, Cape Siskin, Peregrine Falcon and Ground Woodpecker. Mammals on the peninsula include the endemic and striking Bontebok and the endemic Cape Mountain Zebra, plus Eland, the largest African antelope, and the small Common Duiker. Chacma Baboons will also be seen.



**Strandfontein Wetlands** – These are actually large water-treatment ponds and the open water as well as the prolific growth of water vegetation makes for a habitat that is very attractive to waterbirds such as Greater Flamingo, Red-billed and Cape Teals, Maccos Duck, Cape Shoveler and Southern Pochard among others. This is a great venue for birding in the ‘English’ style; ie. setting up scopes and scanning for new species.

After a full day exploring the Cape Peninsula we will return to Cape Town for our final night at our guesthouse in Newlands.

## Day 9

## Depart Cape Town

Since our flight to London does not leave until the evening, we have a final morning to continue our exploration of the Cape Peninsula, perhaps visiting sites we were unable to explore yesterday or searching for a few species we’ve missed on previous days. In the afternoon we will transfer to Cape Town Airport in time to catch our evening flight home.

## Day 10

## Arrive London

We are due arrive back at London Heathrow Airport early this morning.

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## Weather

January is mid-summer around Cape Town with temperatures often climbing to the mid to upper 20s degrees centigrade during the middle of the day (warmer inland). The maritime weather around the Cape can be fickle at any time of the year, however, and although we expect plenty of sunshine, the occasional wet and windy day here cannot be ruled out.

## Tour grading

Grade A. This is an easy tour suitable for those with an average fitness level who enjoy cricket and birdwatching. Walks are on mostly gentle terrain, although it should be noted that some of the trails on the Cape Peninsula can be steep, rocky and uneven in places

## Your transport

We use 10-seater Toyota Quantum minibuses for this tour specially converted so that all the passenger windows slide open. Please be aware, however, that the windows open by sliding forwards and backwards and so not all the windows can be fully open at the same time. There is enough room for photography, however, and group members will be rotated frequently so everyone gets equal share of the ‘best seats’. Please note that, away from the cricket, we plan to spend as much time as possible on this holiday on foot and the vehicles will mostly be used for getting from A to B.

## Food & accommodation

Breakfasts and dinners are included in the holiday cost, from dinner on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 9. Lunches are excluded and you should budget for around £150 per person to cover these (there are the usual types of catering facilities at the stadium). We will be based in a comfortable guesthouse in the Newlands district of Cape Town within easy reach of the cricket ground.

## Test Match tickets

The tour price includes tickets for the 5-day Test Match at Newlands Cricket Ground, Cape Town.

## Flights

Please note, we have costed this tour on using direct flights with either British Airways or Virgin Atlantic between London Heathrow and Cape Town. Direct flights are, however, now very expensive and currently cost in the region of £2,300 per person (Economy Class). If you would like us to look into indirect flights to Cape Town – via Johannesburg, Istanbul or Dubai for example – then we would be happy to do so and will pass any savings on.

## Extra expenses

Please note that the following expenses are excluded from the cost of the holiday and are paid locally. Lunches, any necessary visas (not needed for UK citizens), locally paid airport taxes, drinks, tips and all items of a personal nature.

## Your safety & security

You have chosen to travel to South Africa. Risks to your safety and security are an unavoidable aspect of all travel and the best current advice on such risks is provided for you by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In order to assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, it is essential that you refer to the Foreign Office website – [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa) or telephone 0870 6060290 prior to travel.

## How to book your place

In order to book a place on this holiday, you will need to read the Naturetrek terms and conditions in the back of our brochure or on our website, and then book either online at [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk), by calling us on 01962 733051, or by completing and returning the booking form in the brochure together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost. If you do not have a copy of this brochure, please call us on 01962 733051.

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