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Booking Agent for South African National Parks



Suggested Itineraries



Welcome to Nelson Mandela Bay Uniting Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage & Despatch

DISCOVER
Freedom

Nelson Mandela Bay is named after former South African president, freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela. The Bay is comprised of Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Despatch.

Situated on the south-eastern tip of Africa, Nelson Mandela Bay boasts 40 km of magnificent golden beaches washed by the warm water of the Indian Ocean. The city's breathtaking seashore boast three beaches with Blue Flag status, and along with the city's excellent accommodation facilities lure thousands of visitors to our shores annually.

Nelson Mandela Bay offers a broad range of attractions, from history and heritage, eco tourism, beaches, entertainment and shopping, business, conferencing and wildlife viewing. With a population of 1,3 million people, the city is a melting pot of cultures as it is the first meeting point of the Khoisan, Xhosa, English, Dutch and German people in South Africa.

Scenic areas to visit include Blue Horizon Bay, Seaview, Sardinia Bay, Schoenmakerskop, Cape Recife Nature Reserve, Groendal Nature Reserve Colchester and the Sundays River Mouth areas to name a few. The area has warm summers with a very temperate humidity level, while winters are mild and pleasant.

So if you want to experience the splendor, the beauty, the spirit, the freedom, the wildlife, the culture, the openness and the friendliness of the only place named after the world's greatest statesman, Nelson Mandela Bay is the place for you.



How to use this guide...

This guide is aimed at assisting self drive tourists as well as tour operators to compile an itinerary of activities for their stay in Nelson Mandela Bay. This guide contains 20 full day suggested itineraries. Visitors staying multiple days in the city can select the days they are interested in and combine them to fill or extend their stay.

Each day is divided into three components (morning, afternoon and evening). Although the three components were paired to compliment a day's activity theme, each activity could be independent of the day's other suggestions. This means that visitors are also able to shuffle the suggested activities within a day around to create their own itinerary to suite their respective needs.

Suggested Itineraries



Option 1 (with a tour operator)

- AM: Go on a guided City Tour and have a knowledgeable guide point out all the city's places of interest
- PM: Explore PE's diverse townships on a guided Township Tour with a visit to the world renowned Red Location Museum included
- Evening: Socialize the evening away with the locals at a township tavern

Option 2

- AM: Discover the city's heritage gems while walking the Donkin Heritage Trail with its 47 places of historic interest
- PM: Spent the afternoon on the Port Elizabeth Beachfront with its Blue Flag Beaches, enjoy an Ice cream at Shark Rock Pier and browse through Bayworld's fascinating exhibits.,
- Evening: Dinner at one of the excellent restaurants along the beachfront

Option 3

- AM: Take a drive along the Sunshine Saunter and explore the western outskirts of Port Elizabeth taking in the rugged coastline, Maitlands sand dune and the coastal bush and forest with its small holdings
- PM: Do game viewing from the comfort of your car on the city's doorstep at Kragga Kamma Game Park or Seaview Game Park
- Evening: Relax with a sumptuous dinner at a Country Cuisine restaurant

Option 4

- AM: Forget about the city life and get back to nature with a walk along one of the hiking trails in the nature reserves in and around the city
- PM: Spoil yourself with a massage and pamper at one of the excellent heath spas
- Evening: Enjoy a couple of cocktails at one of the city's award winning cocktail lounges

Option 5

- AM: Visit Addo Elephant National Park and encounter the gentle giants of the bush. Addo has the biggest concentration of African elephants in the world is probably the best place in South Africa to view wild elephants up close in their natural habitat.
- PM: Leisurely cruise down the Sundays River before disembarking and tackling some of the dunes forming part of the biggest coastal dune field in the Southern Hemisphere
- Evening: Relax with dinner around a camp fire on the banks of the Sunday's River

Option 6

- AM: Explore some of the city's fascinating museums with exhibits ranging from apartheid history to vintage airplanes.
- PM: Buy some traditional craft as gifts for loved ones back home at some of the African craft centres – Wezandla, Boardwalk craft centre and beachfront
- Evening: Attend a show or movie at Uptown Theatres

Option 7

- AM: Experience the trials and tribulations of the apartheid era with a visit to the Red Location Museum followed by lunch at a township tavern
- PM: Explore the diverse art galleries around Central featuring some of the most talented artists the city has to offer
- Evening: Go and experience a production by the vibey and talented Centrestage band followed with dinner at the Boardwalk

Option 8

- AM: Travel to the garden town of Uitenhage and visit the town's museums and monuments
- PM: View the technologically advanced VW AutoPavilion and travel back via historic Bethelsdorp
- Evening: Take in dinner and the vibe at a Parliament Street restaurant

Option 9

- AM: Spent a relaxing morning on the Beachfront with its safe Blue Flag beaches. On a Sunday morning visitors can spend their time browsing the Kings Beach Flea market.
- PM: Relax next to the McArthur's Pool, enjoy the thrill of the Super Tube or seek the interesting tidbits on exhibit at the Port Elizabeth Museum at Bayworld
- Evening: Dinner at a steak house

Option 10

- AM: Stretch the legs and play a round of golf at one of Port Elizabeth's renowned golf courses.
- PM: Treat yourself to a helicopter flip along the PE coastline and see sights like the Cape Recife Light house and the Swartkops River Estuary from the air
- Evening: Enjoy an evening of dinner and entertainment at the Boardwalk



Option 11

- AM: Take a drive to Schoenmakerskop, hike the Sacramento Trail and have brunch in the village
- PM: Take it easy in the afternoon by going on a shopping trip or explore some of the antique stores
- Evening: Keep an eye out for ghouls and ghosts on a guided Haunted Walk around Central

Option 12

- AM and PM: Experience the bygone years of the magical steam trains with a trip on the Apple Express
- Evening: Dinner at a restaurant overlooking / on the harbour

Option 13

- AM: Tick off a couple of birds from your list on a Bird watching trip in one of the nature reserves
- PM: Drive along the rugged coast on the Wildside and visit Reptile World at The Boma. Here you can touch and interact with a range of snakes and reptiles.
- Evening: Dinner at one of the excellent hotel in-house restaurants

Option 14

- AM: Explore the underwater wonderland of Algoa Bay with its soft coral, ship wrecks and abundance of fish on a guided Scuba Diving excursion
- PM: Organize a sail along through the Algoa Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) and see the sun setting over the city from the Bay.
- Evening: Have dinner at the Algoa Bay Yacht Club's renowned Chartroom Restaurant

Option 15

- AM: Take an Eco Cruise to St Croix Island for some whale and dolphin watching, not forgetting the endangered African Penguins
- PM: Visit the SAMREC facility at Cape Recife Nature Reserve where rescued penguins and other marine birds are treated and rehabilitated. Here the staff will show you around the facility for some first hand and hands on experiences.
- Evening: Dinner at one of the excellent Seafood Restaurants that the city has to offer



Option 16

- AM: Spent the morning on a historic exploration adventure. Climb the Donkin Lighthouse, ascent the Campanile and visit Fort Frederick before going back in time at Castle Hill No7
- PM: Spend an informative afternoon on a guided drive through the Grysbok and Cape Recife Nature Reserves on an open game drive vehicle
- Evening: Watch the sunset before dinner in Schoenmakerskop

Option 17

- AM: Explore the Addo Elephant National Park on an open vehicle guided game drive with some of the most excellent sightings of elephant anywhere
- PM: Travel to an adjacent Private Game Reserve for an afternoon / evening open vehicle game drive with some close up lion sightings
- Evening: Dinner around the camp fire in the lapa at the Private Game Reserve

Option 18

- AM & PM: Visit one of the world renowned Private Game Reserves within an hour an a half's drive from Port Elizabeth for a day visit with a game drive and sumptuous lunch
- Evening: Enjoy cocktails and dinner overlooking Shark Rock Pier

Option 19

- AM: Start a day of adventure with a horse ride through the bush or on the beach
- PM: Follow this up with the excitement of a Sand boarding outing at the giant Maitlands dune
- Evening: Party the night away at one of the city's funky upmarket clubs like Balizzo or Shugga

Option 20

- AM: Saturday / Sunday – browse through some of the various craft and food markets around town
- PM: Saturday / Sunday - Visit a tea garden with family and kiddies facilities and enjoy a cup of coffee or a milkshake while the kids have a ball (touch farm, play area, putt putt, etc)
- Evening: Take a walk up Explore Happy Valley with its coloured lights and children's story and nursery rhyme characters (summer season)

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