



15 Nights / 16 Days

## The Great Golf Rail Safari

### Southbound



This 16-day Golf Rail Safari not only offers the avid golfer the opportunity of a lifetime, playing some of the best golf courses in South Africa, but on its way it traverses great stretches of South Africa allowing you to

experience the wonderful topographic, social, historic, floral and wildlife diversity of each distinctive area.

#### **Preday:**

You will be met upon arrival at Johannesburg International Airport and transferred to the Shongololo Express train. Having a pre-day allows guests to acclimatise and unpack prior to the first day of touring and have their golf bags tagged and loaded.

The pre night on board includes dinner, bed and breakfast.

#### **Day 1 Golf: Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Course**

Gauteng is the economic powerhouse of the Southern African region and home to some of Africa's greatest cities. The name of the province is a Sotho word meaning "Place of Gold", which is very suitable since much of the wealth of Gauteng derives from this precious metal. It is also home of many excellent golf courses. You have the opportunity of playing the Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Course.



An east and west course, both par 72 championship courses. Home of the Joburg Open. It is situated some 15 minutes drive from the Sandton Business District. "Royal" was built in 1933 and granted its Royal prefix

by King George V. It has two long courses and at first glance is an intimidating prospect for most visitors, until you remember that at Johannesburg's high altitude the ball travels 10% further. The courses have a tree-lined parkland layout with gentle undulations rather than abrupt slopes.

*Optional Extra 1: You can play the extraordinary Pecanwood Golfcourse just south of Pretoria.*

#### **Pecanwood Golf and Country Club**



Pecanwood Golf and Country Club is situated on the southern shore of the Hartebeespoort Dam en route to Sun City and north of Johannesburg. The name was inspired by the grove of Pecan nut trees on the property and is a great course to combine with your visit to Johannesburg.

Golf Data, the representatives for Jack Nicklaus in South Africa, were contracted in 1996 to build this challenging golf course that has been identified as one of South Africa's leading golf courses in numerous surveys.

From the design and development of a highly sophisticated irrigation and drainage system and the selection of suitable grass for top quality greens and tees, to the design of bunkers that ensure a challenging course, nothing was left to chance and the result is a golf course of class.

Overlooking the Hartebeespoort Dam and the oldest reported mountain range in the world, The Magaliesberg Mountains, Pecanwood is currently rated in the Top 15 golf courses in South Africa.

Pecanwood features holes similar to the finest holes in America, including the 18th from Pebble Beach. With more than 50 championship courses spread across 20 countries to his name, Nicklaus design has won enough awards to rank him amongst the worlds' best.

The course is outstanding, both from its setting and for its design and layout. Whatever your standard of golf, there is a way round to suit you. The fairways are grassed with Kikuyu from tee to green while the greens are the first to be planted in South Africa in Crenshaw Bent grass. Due to the extremely resilient nature of this grass, capable of withstanding the combined effects of heat and heavy traffic, they can always be cut low and kept fast.

Wide fairways, big greens, a mass of bunkers, plenty of bail-out areas and an absence of blind shots, all contribute to the excellence of this Nicklaus design. Pecanwood is appealing and playable to all levels of golfers, challenging their intelligence, rather than their strength. The golf course is aesthetically pleasing and the splendour of the course contributes to the overall golfing experience.

Signature Hole: is the par-three 13th hole measuring 187 metres from the championship tee, and plays over a corner of the dam to a peninsula green.

*Optional Extra 2: You have the choice of playing the Blair Atholl golf course.*

### Blair Atholl Golf Course



The golf course has been designed in such a manner that the routing has allowed for eleven water-featured holes. Whether alongside the Crocodile River or natural dams, these holes have unique aesthetical appearances and Gary Player has created wonderful features enhancing the playability, shot value, variety and resistance to scoring. The design, both challenging and rewarding, allows for the testing of scratch players, yet still ensures enjoyment for handicapped golfers. The course length is in excess of 7700m from the back tees and at present be the longest course designed in South Africa. The design has the course playing as a single loop, with a halfway house set over the Crocodile River after the 8th hole. Being a single loop, all bar the 18th and 1st, do not have any hole running side by side, making the experience unique for the golfer.

Selecting a signature hole will be difficult as there are so many potentially great holes with design features and existing natural features. Some of these features include a hundred and fifty year old water canal that weaves its way through the course, through the 3rd tee complex, behind the 8th green,

alongside the 9th tee and supplies the main dam in front of the 17th green, tee and behind the 1st green. The Crocodile River that meanders adjacent to the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 16th holes hosts a large community of different sedges and water plants that support an abundance of bird life. Magnificent views of the oldest mountain range in the world, "The Magalies", and the Cradle of Mankind await players at the elevated points. A variety of massive trees can be found throughout the routing and part of the design was to add thousands of large, new trees.

Grasses include a variety of cynodon transvelensis (indigenous), namely the seeded varieties like Black Jack, Riviera, Sydney, Bermuda Triangle and the like. The correct selection of grasses is critical to working with our environment to maintain a balanced ecology and enhancing the present eco system, as well as ensuring a perfectly conditioned course throughout the year.

The greens have the most advance aeration system installed, (Advanced Aer), to help with the maintenance, quality and consistency of the putting surface. This benefits players by having less surface maintenance done through spring and summer treatments like hollow tinning, topdressing and curative spraying.

The train travels overnight to Mpumalanga.

### **Day 2 Golf: Nelspruit Golf Club**

Early in the morning you will arrive in the world-renowned Panorama Route area which is situated in the province of Mpumalanga, which means "Land of the Rising Sun". Your guide will take you to the Nelspruit Golf

Course, which is one of the most popular courses in the area.

### Nelspruit Golf Club



Nelspruit Golf Course, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, a must to play when visiting the Kruger National Park and this outstanding tourist area. It is the busiest golf course in the region. The course offers all indigenous Lowveld trees and over 256 different species of birds. Nelspruit Golf Club is host to the annual Jock of the Bushveld Festival of golf when hundreds of amateurs from far and wide descend on the town. There are no fairway bunkers at Nelspruit but this is compensated for by the strategic positioning of trees.

*Optional Extra 1: You will be taken to Buhala Country Lodge for an overnight stay and can either enjoy your round of golf at the world renowned Leopard Creek Golf Course that afternoon or the next morning. You will join up with the train the next day.*

### Leopard Creek Golf Course

It all started with a passion for golf and love of the African bushveld. The dream turned to reality in 1995 when Johann Rupert created Leopard Creek, and with Gary Player,

designed a championship 18-hole golf course as its centre piece. They wanted a course which friends could play and enjoy yet which could also test the best of players.



Leopard Creek opened in 1996 as an exclusive club for like minded individuals sharing common values. Membership is by invitation only. Innovative architectural and landscaping techniques ensure that the golf course and lodges are harmonious with the environment while lakes and small streams have been diverted through the development to create scenic vistas and interesting golf strategies.

Remodeling of the course took place at the turn of the century with a change of grass on the greens to Bent and the installation of sub-air systems.

Golfing hazards take on a new dimension at Leopard Creek for much of the water is home to hippos and the creature for which the adjacent river is named - Crocodile. An exceptional environment, unique in its location, a notable addition to the world's most celebrated golf courses.

*Optional Extra 2: You have the option to be taken into the Kruger National Park and Skukuza Golf Course, where you will have the*

*opportunity of a lifetime, playing golf surrounded by wild animals. You meet up with the train the next day. Overnight at Skukuza Camp in the park.*

### Skukuza Golf Course - Kruger Park



Here is a first for South Africa and the world - a unique opportunity for golfing enthusiasts within one of the world's greatest conservation establishments.

The Skukuza Golf Course is a magnificent 9-hole (18-tee) course situated in the world-renowned Kruger National Park on the outskirts of Skukuza rest camp.

The rich wildlife sanctuary surrounding the golf course is home to the Big Five, a huge variety of birds and countless animals, which all conspire to provide the visitor with a harmonious close-to-nature golfing experience.

The course is a Par 72, and is 5950m (6450 yards) for men and 5059m (5480 yards) for women. Since the course is not fenced-in, uninvited spectators are a common sight, hippo, impala, warthog and baboons to mention but a few.

The course offers the pleasure of challenge and adventure. For example #2, Par 3, has water on the left and to the back of the green. The signature hole #9, Par 3 of about 150m is played across Lake Panic. The Skukuza Golf Course has no bunkers, although 'aerial bunkers' abound because of the many trees found on the course.

An indemnity form must be completed prior to playing.  
Standard golf dress code applies.  
Caddies are normally available on weekends but no bookings for caddies can be made in advance.  
Motorised golf carts and pull carts are available for hire.  
Light refreshments and full bar facility daily.

The Skukuza Golf Course is designed for all levels of golfers. Enjoy one of the most unique 9-hole golf courses in the world.

The train stays stable at Kaapmuiden.

### **Day 3 Touring: Kruger National Park**

Early in the morning you depart for the world renowned Kruger National Park. Hopefully you will have the opportunity of viewing many of the "Big 5".

#### *Kruger National Park*

The Kruger National Park is the primary destination in South Africa for many international tourists. Each year more than half a million visitors are registered.

The National Park was opened in 1898 at the instigation of then- President Paul Kruger. After hunters had considerably decimated the

original rich game stock, all the land between the Sabie and the Crocodile Rivers was put under the protection of Nature Conservation to ensure the survival of the remaining animals. Only as recently as 1961 was the extended Kruger Park fenced in.



The park stretches from the Crocodile River in the south up to the Limpopo River, which is the international border in the north. Altogether it is 350 km long, 65 km wide and comprises an area of about 20,000 sq km.

The game stock in the Kruger National Park is globally unique. 114 different species of reptiles, 507 bird and 147 mammal species are represented here. About 3000 hippos and

just as many crocodiles live in the rivers which have water all year long. On land, the Impala antelopes are the most numerous animals, with more than 90,000 specimens. Some 30,000 zebras and 15,000 buffaloes also bustle about in the vast savannah, and 5,000 giraffes and 8,000 elephants keep them company. Only the rhinoceros seems to be a bit under-represented with a population of only 300. However, the number of predatory cats is considerable: 1,500 lions, 900 leopards and 300 cheetahs are part of this magnificent eco-system.

The vegetation in the Kruger Park consists mainly of Bushveld, a combination of grassland, various shrubs and trees. In the northern parts of the park the vegetation is, due to the higher rainfalls, more dense than in the south.

There is also the characteristic African baobab tree.

A web of roads of 1863 kilometres leads through the National Park, 697 kms of them being tarred. For the visitor there are numerous differently equipped restcamps, most of them scenically positioned. Within the park boundaries, travel is only allowed between sunrise and sunset. After dark one has to stay in one of the fenced restcamps.

The best time for observing the animals is the dry winter season. Then the grass is low and bushes and trees don't have leaves, so that one can have an unobstructed view. Because it virtually doesn't rain in winter, the animals come to the waterholes to drink in the mornings and evenings and can easily be watched from the car.

#### **Day 4 Golf: Royal Swazi Golf Course**

After a mouth-watering breakfast you will start today's journey to Swaziland and play the wonderfully positioned Royal Swazi Golf Course.

#### **Royal Swazi Golf Course**



The Royal Swazi Sun's spectacular, 18-hole, championship golf course is one of the most scenic locations found anywhere in the world, with a different mountainscape waiting to be enjoyed from every tee and green.

The sweeping par 72 course, which was opened in 1966, is played off the men's tees to a length of 6166 metres (5258 metres for women). It has been laid out on the slopes of the Lebombo Range which curve gently down into the valley where the Swazi Sun Hotels are situated. The first nine holes are comparatively level, and the second nine fully exploits the mountainous terrain.

Greens and fairways are in tip-top condition as a complete refurbishment programme was completed in December 1996. All the greens have been planted with Durban Country Club grass, which provides a thinner and therefore faster putting surface, and all meet PGA standards. The fairways are planted with hardy Kikuyu, which stands up well to constant use and remains relatively green throughout the year.

Challenging features include lakes, gullies thick with vegetation, out-of-bounds areas running close to fairways, wickedly sited bunkers (one of which is so steep that railway sleeper steps have been provided to facilitate access), swirling breezes and clusters of magnificent trees and indigenous plants

A putting green is situated close to the club house. An attractive bar on the first floor is decorated with a memorabilia corner of trophies and paintings.

The train travels overnight to Northern Zululand

#### **Day 5 Touring: Umfolozi & Hluhluwe Game Reserves**

Your tour today will take you into the Hluhluwe Umfolozi Game Reserve. Here you can find one of the largest concentrations of White and Black Rhino in Southern Africa. The breeding programs have been running for many years and have been very successful.



The game reserves Hluhluwe and Umfolozi (or: Imfolozi) were proclaimed nature conservation areas in 1895 already and so belong to the oldest game parks in Africa. The northern part is called Hluhluwe and the southern Imfolozi. Both areas are connected by a road and the visitor can move around in one coherent game reserve of 96,000 hectares.

The Imfolozi Park became famous for its breeding successes with the White Rhino, a then highly endangered species of which in the beginning of the 20th century only 20 individuals still existed. Today, more than 10,000 of them live in the game protectorates of Africa thanks to the Umfolozi rhino project.

The game park's landscape of softly undulating hills represents the indigenous African savannah. All the "Big Five" - rhinoceros, elephant, lion, buffalo and leopard - roam here and the visitor can also see giraffes, zebras, impalas, wildebees, hyenas, wild dogs, hippos, crocodiles and many other game.

A tarred road and a net of well maintained sand roads lead through the reserve, enabling the visitor to explore it on his own by car. Additionally, visitors can join hikes through the wilderness under the guidance of experienced rangers. Otherwise one may only leave the vehicle at marked outlooks and resting spots, which are beautifully situated. But even there one has to always be on the alert.

### **Day 6 Touring: Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Reserve**

In the morning guests will depart to visit the St Lucia Wetlands, declared a world heritage site, where we will take a cruise on the St Lucia Estuary in the afternoon, looking for Hippos, Crocodiles, and a large variety of water birds. In the afternoon guests take a guided tour of Shakaland for a taste of African culture and cuisine. Don't forget your overnight bag as you will be staying here.

In the year 1999 the coastal area between Maphelana in the south and Kosi Bay near the border to Mozambique in the north, including the wetlands around Lake St. Lucia, were declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by the UNESCO. Since then the reserve is called the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park and comprises 328000 hectares. It protects a stunning variety of unique habitats: lagoons, reet and papyrus swampland, mangroves and swamp forests, different types of thornveld and savannah, subtropical coastal forest, dunes and sandy beaches as well as coral reefs off the shore.

The park's centrepiece is Lake St Lucia. Although several rivers feed into the lake, it

is not a freshwater lake, but a 60 kilometre long, shallow lagoon with varying degrees of



salinity. It runs parallel to the coast and has its mouth south of St. Lucia, which might close up in times of drought.

The confluence of salt- and freshwater provides particularly rich nutrition and so there are innumerable fish species and subsequently an unequalled number of birds. Until today, 526 bird species were registered, among them different types of heron and kingfisher as well as ibis, African spoonbill, saddle-billed stork, turaco, pelican, flamingo and even fish eagle and crowned eagle.

A very popular attraction are the hippos and crocodiles in great numbers. With some 1500 individuals the crocodile stock in the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park is bigger than in all the other nature parks of South Africa. The same applies to the population of hippopotami, about 800 of them are estimated.

### **Day 7 Golf: Durban Country Club**

After the breakfast, guests will check out and travel to Durban. You will make your way to the Durban Country Club golf course and play 18-holes.

Overnight on the train.

### **Durban Country Club**



Durban Country Club Golf Course, Durban, KwaZulu Natal boasts two championship courses, namely the Durban Country club course and the Durban Country Club Beachwood Course. Opened in 1922, the Durban Country Club is said to be one of the best golf courses in South Africa and is acknowledged to have the best third hole in the world.

It has hosted the SA Open Championship 14 times. With its dense bush, indigenous trees and undulating fairways it is hard to believe that this spectacular championship course is actually situated in the centre of Durban. Situated along the shores of the Indian Ocean, this semi-links course has been carved into the dunes. The course is both scenic and demanding and to score well you have to play well. Strong onshore winds that blow through the valley don't help.

### **Day 8 Touring: Drakensberg**

Guests now head towards the eastern jagged peaks and tumbling luscious hills of the Drakensberg Mountains that extend through the Midlands, following the waterways as they drop and cascade down mountain clefts and through hidden valleys.

Guests rejoin the train in Ladysmith and the train travels overnight to Bloemfontein.

### **Day 9 Golf: Bloemfontein Golf Club**

Bloemfontein is the seat of the South African judicial system. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was also the capital of the old Boer republic of the Orange Free State. You will be transferred to Bloemfontein Golf club for another enthusiastic game.

The train travels overnight to Port Elizabeth.

### **Bloemfontein Golf Club**



Golf officially began in Bloemfontein when Dr CH Bidwell placed an advert in the local newspaper "The Friend" which simply read "It is the purpose to form a golfing club in Bloemfontein for which purpose a meeting for those interested in the game and desirous of joining the club will be held in the council chambers at 6 o'clock on Saturday afternoon next, 3rd February 1894". Golf in Bloemfontein has grown over the past 115 years and the parklands layout which was originally designed by Bob Grimsdell at the present location near to the Bloemfontein Airport and has since been upgraded and redesigned by Matchovich and Hayes. The club hosted an exhibition match between Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player in 1966 as well as the South African Open Championship in 1958 and 1963. BGC has been host to the Vodacom Origins of Golf Tournament on the Sunshine Tour for the past 5 years and numerous inter provincial tournaments over the last 10 years.

### **Day 10 Golf: Humewood Golf Course**

A short drive from the station is the Addo Elephant National Park, where game drives will be conducted in our vehicles should you opt to join this tour.

Alternatively, you have the opportunity to play the Humewood Golf Course just outside Port Elizabeth.

### **Humewood Golf Course**



Home to one of the world's most challenging links courses, Humewood is consistently ranked as one of South Africa's Top golf courses. The late Bobby Locke considered Humewood Golf Course to be the best in South Africa and said that it compared favourably with the top links courses in the British Isles. Humewood has hosted the South African Amateur 10 times and the South African Open 5 times. It is also the only true links course in Africa!

Found in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth, the golf course is a genuine seaside links, with wide and undulating fairways, fast greens and thick coastal bush. A round is a must for any golfer visiting the 'Friendly City' of Port Elizabeth.

The course boasts a variety of animal life with an abundance of plovers, otherwise known as "kiewietjies", one of which makes up the club's emblem. And, after your round of golf, relax at the "19th" in the elegant Club House and indulge in a spectacular view over the links course itself as well as Algoa Bay.

The train travels overnight to Oudtshoorn.

### **Day 11 Touring: Oudtshoorn**

Surrounded by the natural beauty of this semi desert region, the town of Oudtshoorn is situated at the foot of the majestic Swartberg Mountain range. Many rivers, streams and falls have their origins in the Swartberg, Outeniqua and Kammanassie mountain ranges which surround the town.

### **Day 12 Golf: George Country Club**

You will be transferred to the George Country Club on the famous Garden Route and play 18-holes on this wonderful course.

### **George Golf Club**



The George Golf course is a beautifully manicured, 72 par, 18 hole course, with bent greens, set in the heart of the Garden Route. The course rating for men is either 70 (club – 5862m) or 72 (championship – 6162m), while that for the ladies is 72 (5204m).

Visitors are welcome daily, with the exception of Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, which are reserved for Members and their guests. Booking for golf is essential. Please note that no group bookings are allowed on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Caddies and motorised golf carts are available for hire, golf carts must be booked well in advance due to a small fleet of carts available at the club.

*Optional Extra 1: You will be transferred to the legendary Fancourt Spa & Hotel where you will experience not only the luxury and comfort of the resort but more importantly enjoy playing golf on one of its world renowned courses The Montagu or Outeniqua courses, or at an extra surcharge, The Fancourt Links Course*

### **MONTAGU GOLF COURSE**



Montagu is a much celebrated parkland course and has been ranked as the number-one golf course in South Africa in the past. It has recently undergone major renovations

with several holes being redesigned and has two completely new holes - the 1st and the 9th.

Play is restricted to members, their guests and resort guests, so there is ample time and space to savour the Fancourt golfing experience. It is, however, always a good idea to book in advance to ensure that you get your desired tee time.

The warm-up area, featuring a full-length range and a chipping and bunker practice area, is available to all golfers before play. Golf carts are available for hire, weather permitting. Please note that to improve your playing enjoyment and to ensure a steady pace-of-play, it is mandatory for at least two caddies to accompany each fourball, and one caddy per twoball.

*Optional Extra 2: Oubaai is situated some 10kms from George Airport on the coastline of the Garden Route at Herolds Bay. Oubaai*

*Golf Club is a Championship Golf Course designed by 3 times Major Championship Winner Ernie Els.*

### Oubaai Golf Club



Els himself has placed Oubaai as his favourite course in the world. The Golf Course is a links layout where veld grasses line the lush fairways and greens. The elements, predominantly the wind, play a role in the defences of the course; the course being a coastal golf course. However you will find generous fairways off the tees but in the spirit of the course these are well bunkered to penalize any stray or ill-considered drives. The greens are in excellent condition and roll smooth and true. They are set up normally to run at 10 on the stint meter but the ability to speed them up is readily available for tournament days.

Oubaai is a course that will reward the well executed shot and penalize any wayward shots in the true time-honoured tradition of a championship golf course. The course measures 6516 meters from the Pro tees. This is long for a coastal course, but the design and placement of tee boxes allows all levels of handicap golfer the opportunity to extract a respectable score given patience and good course management.

Oubaai is proud to be the first and only Ernie Els signature course in South Africa. The golf course design allows for a challenge to all levels of golfer and is a testimony to the talents of South Africa's favourite golfing son.

*Optional Extra 3: One of the most fascinating golf courses is certainly Pinnacle Point with many of its fairways and tees laid out along the dramatic cliffs falling deep into the ocean.*

### The Pinnacle Point Golf Course



The Pinnacle Point Golf Course is an immaculate eighteen-hole championship golf course, co-designed by renowned golf architect Peter Matkovich and professional golfer Darren Clarke.

The golf course stretches along four kilometres of spectacular coastline and boasts dramatic cliff-side holes and over 1000 acres of unspoiled beachfront.

Located near Mossel Bay in the Southern Cape along the Garden Route in South Africa, Pinnacle Point Golf Course is comparable with the best in the world and truly is a design masterpiece.

At the opening in November 2006, Darren Clarke, who has affiliated himself to the Estate, described the completed layout as the "best golf course on the planet". A professional golfer on both the PGA and European tours, this Northern Irishman has featured in the top 10 on the Official World Golf Rankings. This professional partnership of international expertise, infused with competency and knowledge of golf brings elements of both pure enjoyment and genuine challenge to the design of Pinnacle Points Golf Course.

Peter Matkovich, the golf architect responsible for many of South Africa's premier golf courses including Arabella, Leopard Rock and Steenberg, has described Pinnacle Point as "the most dramatic golf course site I've ever encountered anywhere in the world!"

The emerald green fairways and immaculate tees provide the perfect surface for making shots and the bent grass greens over severe chasms ensure a challenging and entertaining game.

The train journeys overnight to Worcester.

### **Day 13 Golf: Stellenbosch Golf Club**

Surrounded by proud mountain ranges, the fertile green valleys of the Cape Winelands enjoy a Mediterranean climate and winter rainfall which produce some of the best wines in the world. The rich, fertile soils along the Breede River and the Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl areas have become justly famous for their whites, reds, and fortified wines and brandies. The Overberg region to the southeast embraces mountains, valleys and coastal areas and annually

welcomes the Southern Right Whale to its waters.

You will be transferred to Stellenbosch Golf Course in the beautiful wineland area. In the morning the train travels from Worcester to Cape Town station where the guests join the train and overnight.

### Stellenbosch Golf Club



Stellenbosch Golf Club has already celebrated its centenary, but it was only in 1953 that it grew from a 9-hole course into 18 holes. It has a championship layout that has hosted many prestigious tournaments in the past. Amongst others, the South African Open and South African Masters were hosted at this picturesque 18-hole layout. The 1999 SA Open at Stellenbosch Golf Club proved to be one of the toughest Opens in the last decade. It is the 4th oldest golf club in South Africa.

The 18-hole Golf Course is a par 72 with Kikuyu grass and Bent greens. Its special features include the aesthetic views of mountains from the clubhouse balcony surrounded by vineyards and nestled in the heart of some of the world's most famous farms. The Par3 7<sup>th</sup> hole is the signature hole.

### Day 14 Golf: Clovelly Country Club

Cape Town's nautical heritage, diverse cultural influences and the magnificence of its setting with Table Mountain dominating the skyline make this one of the most vibrant and beautiful cities in the world. Join the sightseeing offered for the day or alternatively be transferred to the Clovelly Golf Course for your 18-hole round of golf. Return to the train in the late afternoon. The train remains stationary in Cape Town.

### Clovelly Country Club



Nestled in the pristine and tranquil Silvermine Valley close to Fish Hoek in Cape Town lies Clovelly Country Club. With one of the finest golf courses in South Africa, Clovelly offers its members and visitors a memorable experience. Clovelly - like fine Cape wines - improves steadily with age, and its vintage and quality is well established throughout South Africa, and indeed, beyond our shores. This reputation is founded on the warmth of Clovelly's "family" character, its outstanding facilities, and steps we have taken, such as opening the Club to all irrespective of race, creed or gender, to ensure that Clovelly truly reflects the high ideal of its motto: "Fraternitas Ludorum".

*Optional Extra 1: You will be transferred to de Zalze Golf Course, designed by Peter Matkovich who has made the most of the stunning setting and created a course that places a premium on accuracy. You will play*

*golf and overnight to meet up with the train the next day.*

### De Zalze Golf Course



De Zalze Golf Estate, Stellenbosch, Cape Winelands has an excellent mix of parkland holes with its main defenses coming from the water features on several of the holes as well as the Oak tree-lined Blaauwklippen River which winds its way through the golf estate and comes into play at various intervals.

De Zalze Golf Club welcomes visiting golfers from around the globe and is geared to provide an exceptional experience from the moment you arrive.

After your round of golf you may be tempted to relax on the open scenic terrace and enjoy a delicious meal together with a selection of some fine wines from both Spier and Kleine Zalze, two of the regions premier wine producers.

The award-winning Terroir Restaurant on the adjacent Kleine Zalze Wine Estate provides a perfect opportunity to sample South Africa's gourmet food culture in the evening.

Optional Extra 2: Travel to the Arabella Western Cape Golf Course & Spa Hotel. The 18-hole, Par 72 Championship golf course features rolling fairways with deceptive bunkers and challenging water traps. A truly unique golf course set on the banks of the Bot River Lagoon and fringed by indigenous fynbos, with spectacular views across the Kogelberg mountain range. You will overnight at the hotel.

### Arabella Golf Course



The Arabella golf course in South Africa is ranked by Compleat Golfer magazine as the number one golf course in the Western Cape. It is also featured in Golf Digest's USA's Top 60 courses outside of America in 2007. Designed and built in 1999 by celebrated South African golf course architect Peter Matkovich, who is also credited with the design of Western Cape courses de Zalze and Steenberg, this classic parkland course has spectacular views across the Bot River lagoon and across the Kogelberg mountain range.

The pristine fairways are kikuyu, while the greens, which frequently receive high praise from professionals in the game, are Dominant Bent. The golf course has been refined in the past six years with the addition of several

bunkers and the revamp of the par-four 6th hole in order to rid it of its blind tee shot.

Awarded a Five-Star Golf Experience for the first time in 2002, the course is complemented by a luxurious clubhouse with bar and halfway house, as well as a fully stocked pro shop and excellent practice area with two resident teaching professionals.

The Arabella Golf Club has been the annual home to the Nelson Mandela Invitational charity golf tournament since 2003, hosting the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Samuel L Jackson, Ronan Keating, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Tim Clark, Lee Westwood and Sam Torrance. These and other top names have made a valuable contribution to Gary Player's initiative to raise funds for the Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation and the Player Foundation.

There is no doubt that a round of golf here ranks with the best experiences anywhere in the world.

Optional Extra 3: You will be transferred to Pearl Valley Golf Course for your round of golf and will overnight in Franschhoek. Every hole is played against the spectacular backdrop of the mountains surrounding the estate and all are challenging due to the strategically set bunkers and fast greens. The prevailing winds throughout the area have also been taken into consideration with the course design

### Pearl Valley Golf Course

Officially opened at the beginning of November, 2003 by Nicklaus and South African great, Gary Player, Pearl Valley Golf Estates was named 'best new golf course of

the year' by Golf Digest magazine in 2005 and in 2008 and is currently ranked the '5th best course in South Africa' by Golf Digest.



Traversed by roads in only three places, with a state-of-the-art drainage system in place that allows play to continue just minutes after a severe down pour, the course is truly in a league of its own.

Every hole is played against the spectacular backdrop of the mountains surrounding the estate and all are challenging due to the strategically set bunkers and fast greens. The prevailing winds throughout the area have also been taken into consideration with the course design; the winter being north-westerly and the summer wind from a south-easterly direction. All par 3s and par 5s play in different directions, ensuring that the same conditions are seldom experienced during a round.

The 13th hole, par 3, is the 'Signature' hole of the course and perhaps the most scenic.

### **Day 15 Touring:**

Join the sightseeing tours offered for this day.

### **Cape Point Tour**

We will visit the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, world-renowned for their magnificent setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and for their varied and beautiful displays of Cape flora. The estate of

528 hectares supports a diverse fynbos flora and natural forest. We travel next to Hout Bay, where a large fleet of colourful fishing vessels gives this bustling, attractive resort its character, and visit Mariner's Wharf where fresh seafood is a speciality. Built between 1915 and 1922 and recently upgraded, Chapman's Peak Drive is one of the most spectacular sea cliff routes in the world. We wind our way along this scenic road to Simon's Town, a charming coastal town and safe harbour for visiting sailing ships during the winter months when Table Bay can be treacherous. Discovered by Simon van der Stel, Simon's Town became a naval base in 1814 and today is home to the SA Navy. A visit to the Boulder's Penguin Colony a short distance away is also included in today's tour. The colony has grown since 1983 when a pair of African Penguins was spotted on Foxy Beach at Boulders. In 1985 they began to lay eggs and by 1997 there were 2 350 adult birds. They are remarkably untroubled by people and Boulders is the only place in the world where you can swim amongst the penguins. This day will not be complete without a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve which Sir Francis Drake called "the fairest cape in the whole circumference of the earth". The Nature reserve is situated at the southern tip of the peninsula: its 7 675 hectares are filled with priceless indigenous flora and fauna, some 2 700 species of indigenous plants and over 250 species of birds as well as troops of baboons and many species of antelope. As beautiful as it is, many vessels, wrecked by the Cape's turbulent seas, have found their resting place along this rocky coastline.

(Full day. Distance travelled: 180 km)

### **Cape Town City Tour**

This exciting city tour commences with an exhilarating cable car ascent of Table Mountain (weather permitting and at guests' own cost). Both the ride and the summit provide breathtaking views over the city and its beaches, with a panorama which stretches from Table Bay to False Bay and around the mountain to the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Table Mountain is home to over 1 500 species of plants, many of them unique to its slopes. Our tour continues with a walk through the Company Gardens and a visit to the Bo-Kaap Museum. Arriving as political refugees and slaves during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Malays made Bo-Kaap their home almost two centuries after emancipation. Their mosques with picturesque minarets and their individually styled Georgian houses with Dutch influence give the area a unique charm. One of Cape Town's oldest buildings houses the museum which is furnished in the style of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Muslim house and which documents the history of the Cape Malays. On our way to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, we stop at Diamond Works, where we follow a tour of the diamond cutting studio, a jewellery design and manufacturing workshop, as well as a gemstone laboratory. Guests can choose where amongst the many bistros, bars and restaurants at The V&A Waterfront they would like to have lunch (own account). The Waterfront is a vibrant development that has brought new life to the old harbour of the Dutch East India Company in Table Bay. The complex offers shops, craft markets, restaurants, cinemas, theatres as well as delightful views over the harbour. After lunch, we will drive through District 6, an area which by 1900 was home to the largest group of people then referred to as "Malay", "mixed and other" or "coloured".

Although they lived in poor conditions, the area was vibrant and the busy streets full of colour and joie de vivre. Various religions and cultural heritages flourished and mingled here, but sadly, in the 1940s the Apartheid government removed the residents and most of the buildings. Today the problem of what to do with this valuable real estate which is so charged with strong emotions still dogs the City. Our tour ends with a visit to the Castle of Good Hope. This pentagonal fortification with stone walls between the bastions of 150m length and 12m height replaced a small clay and timber fort built as a maritime replenishment station for the ships of the Dutch East India Company by Commander Jan van Riebeeck in 1652. The Castle of Good Hope is the oldest surviving building in South Africa.

Return to the train in the late afternoon.

### **Day 16: Departure Day**

Guests transferring to a hotel will be taken in the morning. For guests departing on flights later during the day a shuttle service into the city will be available to do extra shopping or to take one of those Specialised Activities that could not be fitted in to the last two days.

**Departure Dates: 23.03. – 07.04.2011  
06.07. – 21.07.2011  
19.10. – 03.11.2011**

**Package Includes:**

- ✓ Arrival transfer: airport - train
- ✓ Departure transfer: train - airport
- ✓ Accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Golf on the described golf courses when offered as included excursion
- ✓ Green Fees at included golf courses
- ✓ Transportation of the golf clubs to/from courses
- ✓ Cleaning of golf clubs and shoes
- ✓ A free choice of available Land Excursions

**NOT included in our package prices:**

- ✓ Airfares (national / international)
- ✓ Lunches
- ✓ Beverages
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Gratuities
- ✓ Purchases of a personal nature
- ✓ Optional Extras
- ✓ Pre-night accommodation
- ✓ Visas where applicable
- ✓ Travel insurance
- ✓ Golf Carts, Caddies & Halfway House meals (unless specified as included)