

Surfing Trip on the Garden Route



Highlights

Embrace the water and learn to surf on this 5 day surfing trip along the Garden Route in South Africa. Hit the beaches of Hermanus, Mossel Bay and Plettenberg Bay and you'll be the next Kelly Slater in no time...

The Garden Route, in South Africa is a popular tourist destination and rightly so. Contrary to its name, it is not a horticultural paradise, rather an area of the Western Cape of South Africa fame for its stunning coastline and beautiful landscape. From mountains covered by the endemic and rare fynbos, to lush wine valleys to national parks playing host to a plethora of native animals, there is something for everyone here. And then there's the coast. With over a hundred miles of beaches, cliffs and crashing waves it is the perfect playground for watersport lovers, especially the thrill seeking kind!

You'll get to do some sightseeing over the course of the 5 days, but on this surfing trip there's only one thing that really matters and that's..... surfing! First you'll get fitted for a wetsuit and assigned a board to fit your height. You'll start on land just practicing popping up onto the board. Once you're in the water, you'll use your arms to paddle out into the sea to where the waves form, before they break onto the shore. Your guide and surfing teacher will explain to you how to analyse the waves so you know when to start paddling and then when you feel the water pushing you forward, to pop up onto the board and ride the wave to the beach. Standing on the board is no problem and you will be able to do it by the end of the first day!

Is it for me?

Clearly you must love surfing or really want to learn how! While surfing is fun and involves working with the ocean, it can be tough and you'll definitely have sore muscles at some point. But it is addictive (in a good way) and there's no better way to stay active and still get to enjoy the beach. You don't need to have any surfing background for this trip but just make sure you understand that it will be a physical time. The accommodations are dorm style so no luxury here (it is possible to upgrade to a more traditional hotel room set-up). If you can see yourself getting annoyed with having that kind of accommodation, think twice about booking this tour. The tour minimum is three people so if you can get at least two mates together, you will effectively have a private tour but if other people want to do the surfing safari at the same time as you, you won't be by yourselves.

Accommodation

Accommodation is dorm style so you won't have a room to yourself and while the rooms are clean and have everything you need, they aren't opulent hotel rooms. It is possible to upgrade to a double room if you'd rather not share. Food is included in the tour price and not only will your guide be an expert surfer, they'll be your cook too.

Itinerary

Don't worry about not having surfed before, the first thing on the itinerary is an "ABC" lesson, where you'll be taught the basics of surfing from how to paddle out into the ocean, how to pop up on the board and how to balance yourself. The route you'll take follows the Garden Route, a famous stretch of the South African coast that is popular with sightseers and those hoping to get a better look at diverse plant and animal life.

The first port of call is Hermanus, which is one of the best places in South Africa to spot whales - they come into

Prices from

490 GBP (5 days) per person

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the bay in September to mate and Hermanus holds a whale festival then (end of September). Fun fact: the original name of the town was Hermanuspietersfontein.

Next is Mossel Bay is on the Indian Ocean, which was first explored by the Portuguese in the 1400s. It's name comes from the fact that the bay is full of mussels! According to the Guinness Book of World Records, it has the second mildest climate on Earth beaten only by another surfing mecca, Hawaii.

Locally known simply as Plett, Plettenberg Bay was also first explored by the Portuguese (100 Portuguese sailors were stranded there after their vessel sunk). It's known for its very mild temperature and great beaches - it's a favourite destination of young South Africans so hopefully you'll get to meet some locals while you're learning how to surf.

Each night you'll be able to unwind with drinks and food cooked by your guide.

Details

Getting there

The surfing trip starts in Capetown, you can fly there from most international airports

Price includes

Breakfasts and dinners, accommodation, guide fees, surfing equipment (boards and wetsuits), transfers

Not included; airfare, alcohol, towels, swim suits.

Prices based on 2 people sharing. Single supplement is double.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

5 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

Not relevant