

EIGHT BELLS

Begins in Cape Town **Duration** 5 days **Highlights** Mossel Bay, Hartenbos, George, Wilderness, Oudtshoorn



Join us for an extremely comfortable 5-day break at the esteemed Eight Bells Mountain Inn, located at the foot of the spectacular Robinson Pass, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. We combine leisure time at the lodge and its excellent facilities with relaxed touring of the surrounding countryside and places of interest. Hotel facilities include a sparkling pool, bowling green, sun patios, library, and an extensive 400-acre estate, complete with safe walking trails and plenty of bird-life. You have the choice throughout the tour of joining daily outings or staying back at the hotel.

Stay At Eight Bells Mountain Inn (4 Nights)

You will be collected from your home or hotel to rendezvous with your guide and air-conditioned minibus, arriving at Eight Bells mid-afternoon. We have superb breakfasts and dinners at the hotel every day, and the friendly staff makes us feel right at home. Should you wish to remain at the hotel during any of the outings you can enjoy morning and afternoon tea and a leisurely lunch on the terrace. The following outings will be available during your stay here.

GEORGE AND WILDERNESS

We head for the fascinating Outeniqua Transport Museum in George, where South Africa's railway history is depicted. Here we board the Power Van, a modified diesel-powered inspection coach, for a unique 2-hour rail adventure, high into the Outeniqua Mountains. There are dramatic gorges and valleys, indigenous forest and pristine fynbos, and no less than six tunnels. We stop for superb views at the point where the railway line crosses the Montagu Pass, and turn back for George. We have a picnic lunch and later visit nearby Wilderness, and perhaps have a stroll on the beach. A scenic drive, with typical Garden route scenery, rounds off our interesting day.



OUTSHOORN & KLEIN KAROO

We set off northwards over the spectacular Robinson Pass, with its beautiful mountain fynbos and dramatic views over the Langeberg and Outeniqua Mountains. Descending into the Little Karoo the landscape changes to semi-arid Karoo vegetation, interspersed with oasis-like farms with distant views of the Swartberg mountain massif.

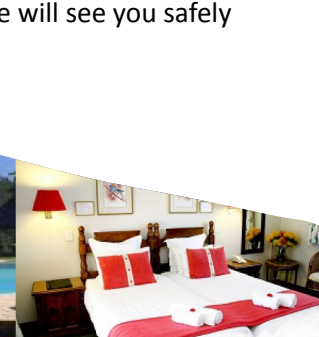
We arrive in Oudtshoorn - bustling hub of the ostrich industry - with time to explore the fascinating CP Nel museum, and have a look at some of the "feather palaces". These unusual buildings date from the early 1900's when the booming ostrich feather industry revolutionised the local economy. Later we visit the Cango Wildlife Ranch to tour their rehabilitation project for big cats, including cheetah, lion and leopard.

MOSSEL BAY & HARTENBOS

We visit the pristine 'Blue Flag' beach at Hartenbos for a morning stroll or swim. The historic harbour town of Mossel Bay has many interesting features, including the Dias Museum, and now we have time to do it all justice and explore at our leisure. We have a tasty lunch overlooking the bay, we tour the town, admiring its many fine sandstone buildings, and then drive to The Point and Cape St Blaize, with its Strandloper Cave and spectacular ocean views.



On the last day our programme still has plenty to offer. We traverse a scenic pass through the Langeberg, and after lunch in Montagu we make our way to Cape Town through the wine and fruit producing areas of the region. As always, Landscape will see you safely home.



Eight Bells Information sheet

Please read the following information, which we trust you will find helpful, and phone us to discuss any thing you're not sure of. We will be calling you within a week before the tour departs to discuss your pick-up arrangements and any other aspects of the tour.

PICK-UP: Our transfer service will collect you at your home or hotel. The **exact time will be advised** when we phone you a few days prior to departure.

LUGGAGE TAGS: Your luggage tags will be given to you at the airport before departure. Please tie them to the handles of your main (stowed) luggage. Please do not add further details to this tag – we want to keep it simple to help sorting at the hotels. You may affix any other label of course, as you wish.

LUGGAGE: Allowed - stowed luggage: a soft bag max 20 kg per person.

PAYMENT FOR DRINKS: Drinks at hotels and with meals are for your own account. This includes soft drinks. At hotels you can sign these to your room, and settle on departure. Credit card facilities are available. At individual restaurants where you may want a drink with your meal, you will be presented with a bill after the meal. Best practice is to keep some cash at hand for this. Landscape will provide water on board our vehicle and at the table during meals.

TIPS AND GRATUITIES: Your Landscape tour leader will tip hotel porters and restaurant staff on your behalf. Please feel free to tip individuals at lodges for any special service.

Tipping of transfer drivers and your Landscape tour leader is at your discretion, with the following industry guidelines: Landscape tour leader: R50 – R80 per person per day.

WEATHER: Mossel Bay temperature and rainfall by month: (Temperatures may be up to 5 degrees cooler at Eight Bells)

	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Avg. Temperature (°C)	21.1	20	18.4	16.9	15.6	14.8	14.9	15.3	16.6	18.3
Min. Temperature (°C)	17	15.9	13.8	11.7	9.8	8.9	9.5	10.5	12.3	14.1
Max. Temperature (°C)	25.2	24.2	23.1	22.2	21.4	20.7	20.3	20.2	20.9	22.5
Precipitation / Rainfall (mm)	29	31	41	40	36	35	46	40	49	38

CLOTHING: We recommend "casual comfortable" throughout, and recommend dressing with varying numbers of thinish 'layers': a light fleece / sweater and a warm, waterproof jacket / windbreaker for evenings and early mornings. Comfortable lace-up shoes with good gripping rubber soles are the best (such as athletic trainers or walking boots). No dress code is prescribed at the places we are staying. Where mosquitoes may be present, and especially in the evenings, it is preferable to wear long sleeves, slacks, etc. and to use mosquito repellent.

MALARIA: There is no Malaria risk.

CHECK LIST:

Highly desirable:

- Sun-hat
- Sunscreen
- Binoculars
- Camera

IF SOMEONE NEEDS TO CONTACT YOU VERY URGENTLY at anytime but particularly during the daytime when you will usually be travelling, it is best to contact us, and we will assist in getting hold of you.

Landscape Tours numbers are:

Office: 021-8517706

Cell phone: (Grant) 083-6576645