



Cape Town Art, Wine and Design Safari

with

Big Blue Sky Tours

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April 2020

The city of Cape Town has attracted many international accolades recently, and as a city, it was voted the International Design Centre for the year 2014.

For more information about the City of Cape Town, please refer to the [Big Blue Sky Tours](#) website.

One reason for this success is the stupendous physical beauty of the Cape, with Table Mountain itself an ever-present and brooding reminder of the timeless wilderness which is the background to the city's restless urban chic.

But the mountains and valleys, the forests, oceans, beaches and vineyards tell only part of the story of Cape Town's charm.

From the ancient ochred rock art of the early Stone Age inhabitants, to the highly contemporary sculptures, paintings and installations of our sophisticated art galleries, Cape Town today reveals an astonishing artistic energy and creativity.

Images clockwise from top left: Sculpture Garden at the Norval Foundation, Krisjan Rossouw at the Rossouw Modern, The Cape Grace Hotel and Table Mountain.

Wine - Art - Design - Architecture

Come with us on our [Cape Town Art, Wine and Design Safari](#), and discover for yourself what our Rainbow Nation is creating in the city beneath the Table!



Day 1: Arrival in the City

Tuesday 14th April

Professional and friendly meet and greet on arrival at Cape Town International Airport, with luggage management and transfer to your hotel on the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.

The Cape Grace Hotel opened its doors in 1996, and was immediately recognised as one of the great boutique hotels of the world (1st Place, "Best hotel in the World" 2000; 1st place "Best Hotel Africa and the Middle East" 2010). The recent refurbishment has styled the interior to reflect the African, Eastern, and European Cape heritage of the last 500 years. Ceramics from China, furniture from the Dutch Batavian era, and sculptures from Africa are just some of the many objets d'art which decorate the lobbies and lounges of this elegant hotel.

Welcome Dinner and Itinerary Notes

The group musters in the hotel restaurant for a 5-star welcome dinner and an introduction to the tour itinerary. **John Lawrence**, the tour director, will introduce the itinerary.

Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town

Day 2: Art Tour to the Cape of Good Hope

Wednesday 15th April

We depart the hotel at 09h00 and drive south along the Atlantic Seaboard until we reach the fishing village of Hout Bay. This charming coastal village is home to many painters, sculptors and writers. At the Hout Bay Modern, we view modern and contemporary works by local artists and enjoy a talk by the curator, John Hargitai, who will contextualise the works.

We drive over the impressive Chapman's Peak mountain drive and proceed to Simons Town, the historic naval base.

Here we visit the well-known colony of African Penguins at



Boulders Beach. These photogenic creatures are a charming diversion on the tour.

The day proceeds to the Cape of Good Hope, where Bartholemu Diaz sailed round in 1488.

On the return, we stop for a walk-through of the sculpture garden at Scarborough to see the amazing stone works by Shona artists from Zimbabwe.

Return to the hotel at about 17h00.

Dinner

Dinner is at Il Leone in the city, where we enjoy contemporary Italian dishes with a Cape Town slant

Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel, V&A Waterfront

Travel Time: About 3 hours in total

Images clockwise from top left: Sarah Danes Jarrett at Hout Bay Gallery, Simons Town, Penguins at Boulders Beach.





Day 4: Rondebosch Friday 17th April

We begin the day with a visit to the historic Groote Schuur homestead, on the Presidential Estate in Rondebosch. This was the home of Cecil Rhodes, the founder of De Beers diamonds and the Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford. The house is now a national monument, housing an impressive collection of wall tapestries from the 17th Century. Curator Najwaa takes us on a tour of the house to view these and the many other art treasures, followed by tea in Cecil Rhodes' Summer Room.

We drop down into Newlands for a visit to the ceramic studio of Sarah Walters. Sarah and father David will explain how they have perfected the fine art of porcelain ceramics, and many of their superb works will be on display. Lunch today is at the Basilica Restaurant next door to the studio.

From Newlands we drive to Rosebank for a private guided tour of the modest but famous museum of works by Irma Stern, a Cape artist of international repute whose works are presently fetching record prices worldwide. Curator Christopher Peter will give us insights into the life and work of this remarkable artist.

Dinner
Pre-dinner drinks in the hotel boardroom, with a talk by Andre van Graan on Sir Herbert Baker, architect of the British Empire. Dinner at Signal Restaurant at the hotel.
Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel

Images clockwise from top left: The Norval Foundation, Constantia winelands, Irma Stern Museum.

Day 3: The Constantia Valley Thursday 16th April

We begin with a morning walk through the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, over a century old and rated as perhaps the world's most outstanding garden of its type.

We continue into the Constantia Valley, known as the cradle of the South African wine industry. Our first visit is to the Norval Foundation Gallery. Here we enjoy a guided tour with Julia, gallery curator.

Lunch today is at the Klein Constantia Bistro, followed by a tutored wine tasting in their private cellar, led by winemaker Matthew Day.

Dinner
Dinner tonight is at leisure on the V&A Waterfront.
Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel
Total Travel Time: 50 minutes

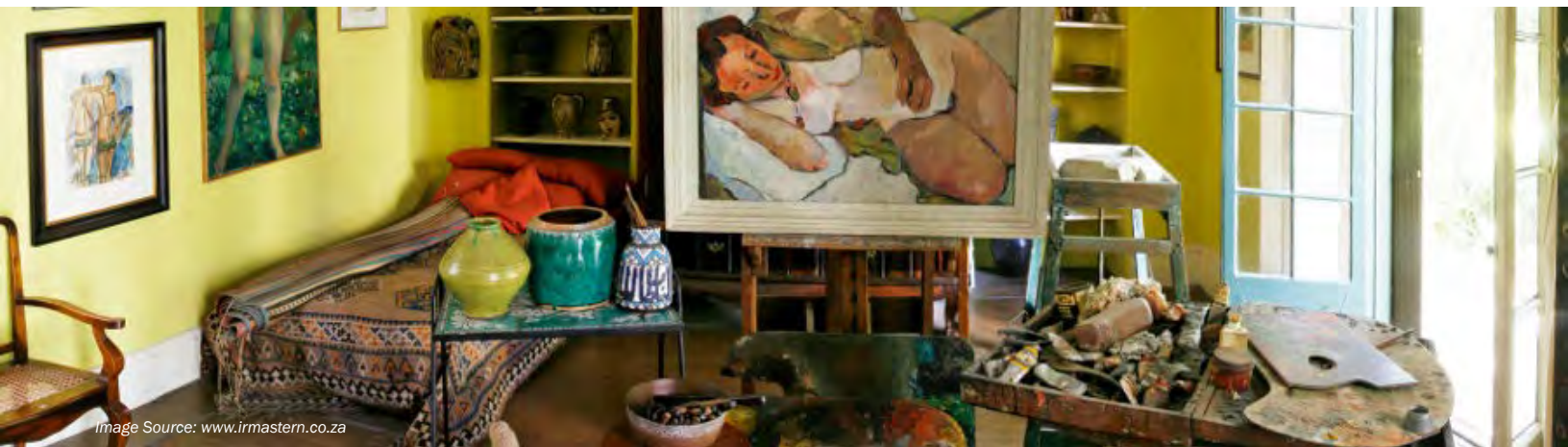


Image Source: www.irmastern.co.za

Day 5: Cape Town Central Saturday 18th April

We spend the morning in the Cape Gallery in the heart of the city. Curator Gail Dorje will introduce the work of a number of contemporary African artists, including Charles Maleka, Xolile Mtakatya and Makiwa Mutomba. They work within a local idiom which might appear quite alien to the uninitiated.

The tour proceeds to a guided walk through the Zeitz MOCAA galleries, with a talk on the stupendous architectural achievement in re-imagining the heritage wharf grain silos. Lunch will be in the rooftop restaurant at Zeitz.

In the afternoon we walk across to the Donald Greig Bronze Foundry for a tour of the sculpture gallery, and a bronze casting demonstration.

Dinner

Dinner at The Millar's Thumb Restaurant

Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel

Travel Time: About 20 minutes in total

Images clockwise from top left: Charles Maleka at the Cape Gallery, Charmaine Taylor, Zeitz MOCAA Gallery, Nelson Mandela with Christo Brand.

Day 6: City Central Sunday 19th April

The morning will be at leisure to explore the city and the V&A Waterfront.

Lunch: City casual, go-as-you-please.

After lunch we visit the design studio of Johan Louw, who works within the Uwe Koetter range of costume jewellery. Johan is the most widely awarded designer in South Africa, and this year he had the honour of designing and manufacturing the crown which graced the winner of the Miss South Africa award.

The Nelson Mandela Experience

We move on to the studio where Charmaine Taylor creates her Legacy Collection of designer jewellery. These beautiful pieces incorporate sections of the actual perimeter fence around the Robben Island prison where Mandela was incarcerated for so long.

John will then introduce Mr Christo Brand, the prison warden who oversaw Mandela for 27 years. Christo will reminisce about his years with Mandela, both as warden and then as very close personal friend of South Africa's first democratic president.

Dinner

Dinner at The Black Sheep Restaurant

Overnight: The Cape Grace Hotel

Total Travel Time: 30 minutes





Image Source: <https://rossouwmodern.com>

Day 8: Elgin & Somerset Tuesday 21st April

We depart Hermanus and enter the Elgin wine valley, where we are hosted to a cellar tour and wine tasting by owner Kevin King of South Hill Estate. Kevin will also walk us through the vineyards to explain the art of Cape viticulture.

Our next stop is the Vergelegen Estate in Somerset West. Here, after lunch at Stables Restaurant, we walk through the gardens and the manor house to get a sense of the 17th century Dutch Cape Colony.

We reach Stellenbosch and check in to the hotel in the heart of the heritage village.

Dinner

Dinner will be at Helena's in the hotel.

Overnight: Coopmanhuijs Hotel, Stellenbosch

Day 7: Hermanus Monday 20th April

We check out of the hotel and transfer to the coastal village of Hermanus, famous as one of the best places to view the seasonal Southern Right whales.

In the morning we enjoy a gallery walkabout in the town, followed by a talk on local art by Jozua Rossouw, owner of the Rossouw Modern gallery.

Lunch will be at the Burgundy Restaurant overlooking the ocean.

In the afternoon, board a whale-watching boat in the local harbour.

Dinner

Dinner tonight will be in-house at Origins Restaurant in the hotel.

Overnight: The Marine Hotel, Hermanus

Images clockwise from top left: Hermanus, Whale watching, Stables restaurant, Anton Smit at Rossouw Modern.



Day 9: Stellenbosch

Wednesday 22nd April

In the morning we visit Waterford Estate on the slopes of the Helderberg on the outskirts of Stellenbosch.

After a mountain drive with tastings at each of the vineyard blocks, we enjoy a wine blending experience with renowned cellar master Kevin Arnold.

Lunch will be informal in the Stellenbosch village

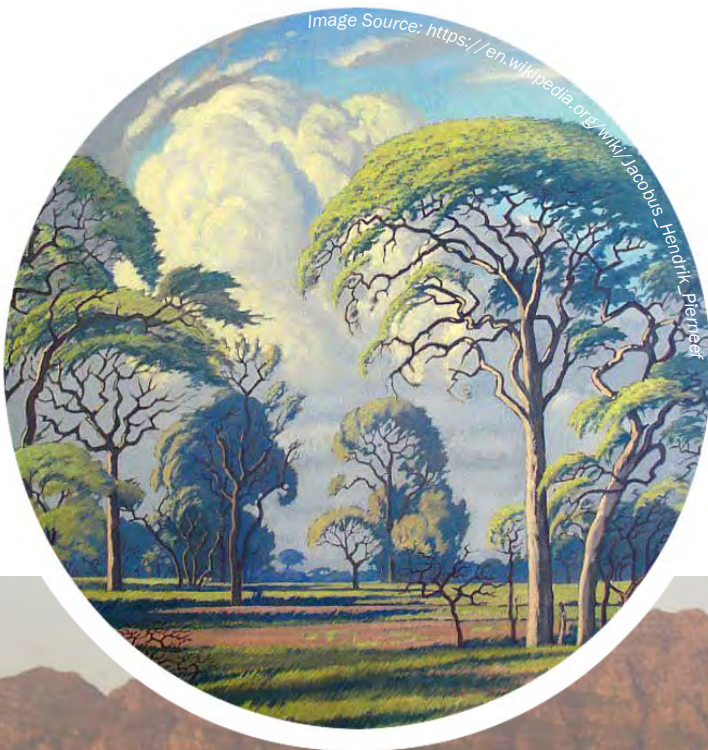
In the afternoon we have a guided walk through the world-famous sculpture garden created by sculptor Dylan Lewis. This is followed by a tour through the Rupert Museum of Fine Art in the town.

Dinner

Dinner tonight will be at Jardine in the village.

Overnight: Coopmanhuijs Hotel, Stellenbosch

Images clockwise from top left: J.H. Pierneef, Leopard's Leap cooking demonstration, Dylan Lewis sculpture garden.



Day 10: Franschhoek

Thursday 23rd April

The Franschhoek Valley is steeped in French history, as this was where the French Huguenots were settled in the mid 1600s.

Our day begins with a visit to the La Motte Estate, where we are taken on a gallery tour to view the largest single collection of works by legendary South African artist J. Pierneef.

Jacobus Hendrik Pierneef (1886 – 1957) is perhaps the most significant artist South Africa has ever produced. Working in oils, watercolours and linocuts, Pierneef captured the timelessness of the South African rural reality. Many of his drawings and paintings are of traditional farm architecture. One of the most comprehensive collections is curated in the magnificent gallery on the La Motte wine estate in the Franschhoek Valley. Curator Elzette de Beer will take us through the exhibition.

This is followed by a tasting of the estate wines, tutored by hospitality manager Werner Briedenhaan.

At the beautiful and contemporary Leopard's Leap winery nearby, we attend a morning cooking demonstration under the expert guidance of their master chef Pieter de Jager who cooks, demonstrates, and advises in his culinary art. Enjoy his creation in the dining room, with a few bottles of the outstanding wines from this farm.

After lunch we drive into the village for some free time to stroll along the high street.

Dinner

Dinner tonight will be at Jardine in the village.

Overnight: Coopmanhuijs Hotel, Stellenbosch

Travel Time: About 1 hour in total



Day 11: Stellenbosch at Leisure Friday 24th April

Images clockwise from top left: William Kentridge tapestry at Tokara Restaurant, wine tasting, University of Stellenbosch museum.

Recommended

- Village Museum for architecture and cultural heritage
- University of Stellenbosch guided walk
- Botanical Garden (internationally awarded)
- Village Walk (guided) for architecture and history
- Galleries and Shopping

Farewell Dinner

We gather in the hotel lobby for a transfer to the restaurant at Tokara on the hill behind the town.

Overnight: Coopmanhuijs Hotel, Stellenbosch



Day 12: Departure Transfers Saturday 25th April

Guests will be transferred individually or severally from Stellenbosch to the Cape Town International Airport, a journey of about 30 minutes at most times of the day.

Every assistance will be given with check-in and airport orientation.

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Contact: john@bigblueskytours.co.za

