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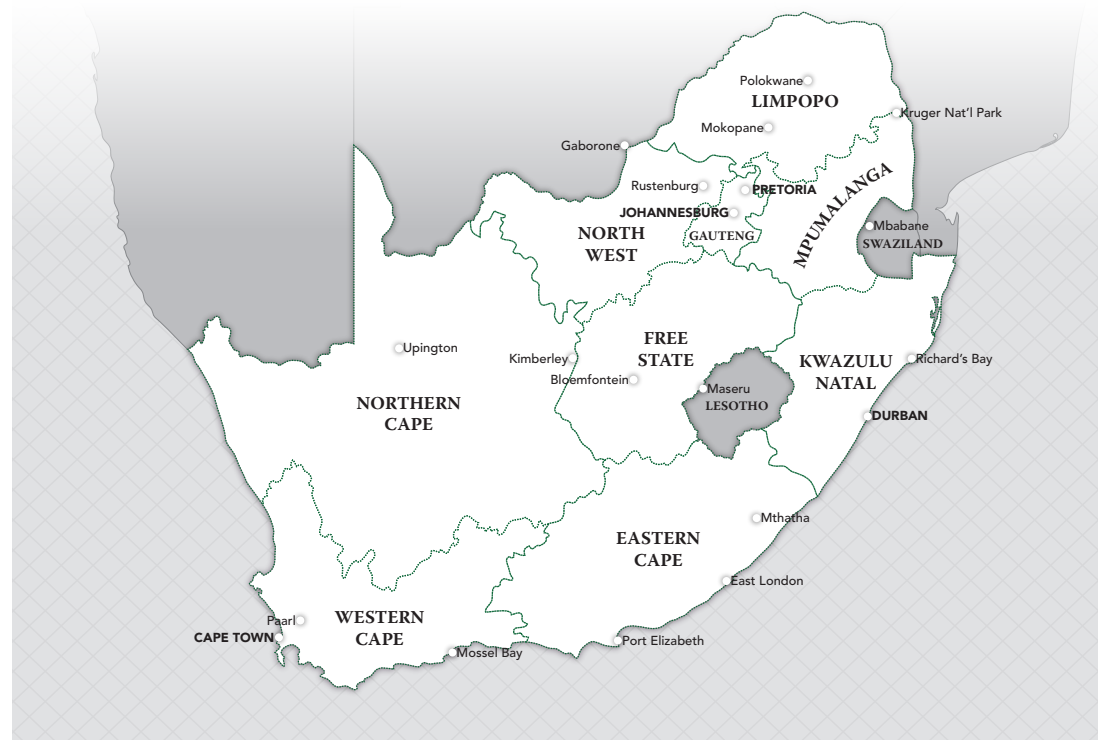
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OVERVIEW

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WINELANDS & THE GARDEN ROUTE

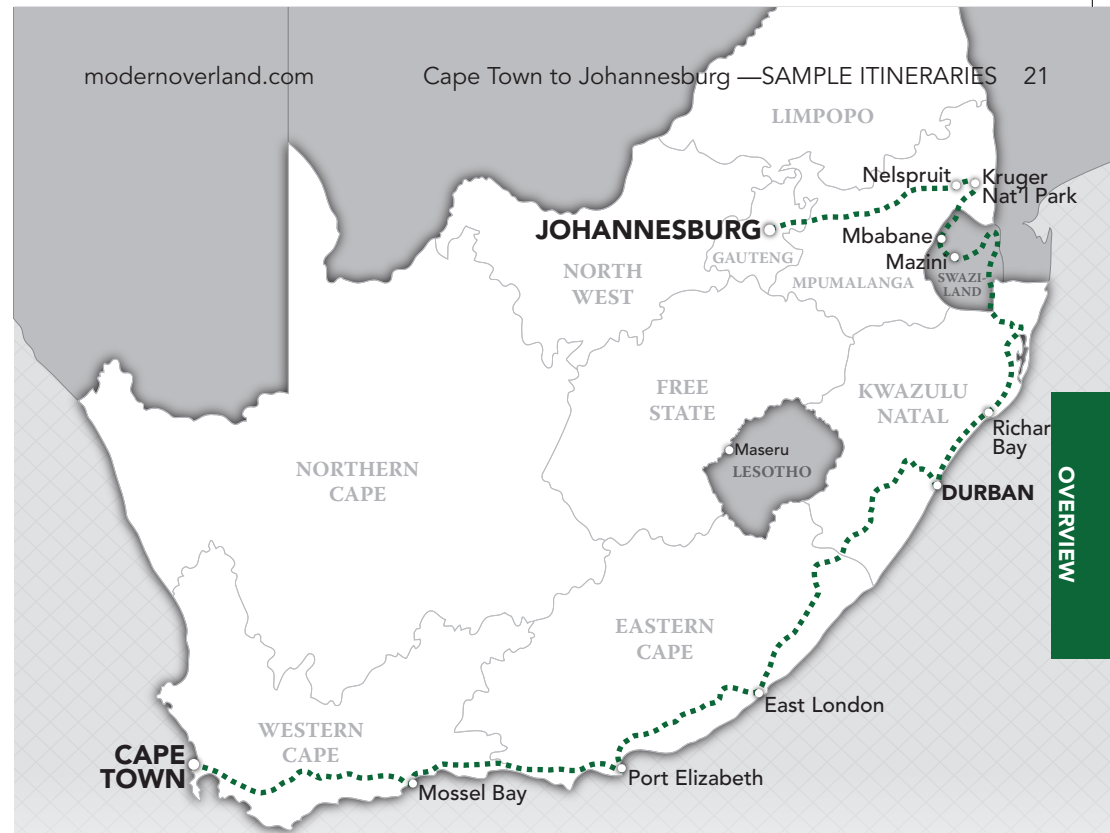
Cape Town to Plettenburg Bay - Distance: 1000 km / 621 mi
Suggested Time: Two weeks

After a few days exploring Cape Town (p.xxx) and possibly a day or two in the surrounding Townships (p.xxx) and the smaller towns dotting the Cape Peninsula (p.xxx), head a short distance east to the historic winelands. The vineyards surrounding Stellenbosch (p.xxx) and Franschhoek (p.xxx) offer not only a selection of the country's best wines but also some superb dining experiences. If you have a few extra days in your itinerary, this is a great place to spend them.

From the winelands there are two main routes to head east to the Garden Route: the more coastal N2 or the more inland and hilly R62 that cuts through a number of quaint towns. If cage diving with Great White Sharks or seeing huge Southern Right Whales appeals to you, then head down to Hermanus (p.xxx). Alternatively, head into the Little Karoo along the R62. Stop in Montagu (p.xxx) for a taste of a small town South Africa. Continue along the scenic R62 to Oudtshoorn (p.xxx), where ostrich is served up for breakfast, lunch or dinner. After a hearty meal head on out to one of the many ostrich farms where those who are confident in their balance can mount one of the gigantic birds and go on an ostrich ride. The small and relaxing town of Prince Albert (p.xxx) is a short distance away but getting there is half the fun and requires navigating over some steep and tightly wound mountain switchbacks.

The Garden Route hugs the coastline from the rough and tumble city of Mossel Bay (p.xxx) to posh Plettenburg Bay (p.xxx). In between the two cities is the more leisurely lagoon town of Knysna (p.xxx) where you can live it up outside of the city on one of the islands or spend a few days with the House of Judah Rastafarians in the neighboring Khayalethu South Township (p.xxx).

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SOUTH AFRICA VIA THE EASTERN COAST

Cape Town to Johannesburg - Distance: 3,500 km / 2,175 mi
Suggested Time: Six weeks

If your schedule allows for six weeks or more, traveling from Cape Town to Johannesburg via the eastern coastline, up through Swaziland and Kruger National Park will provide for a solid South African experience.

Picking up in Plettenburg Bay where the Winelands & Garden Route Itinerary (on the previous page) left off, continue just a short distance to the border between the Western Cape and Eastern Cape where you will cross the Bloukrans Bridge, from which you can take the plunge (p.xxx) from the world's highest commercially run bungee jump. A little further along the coast is the surfing Mecca of South Africa, Jeffreys Bay (p.xxx). If you're interested in seeing some elephants and other big game, check out Addo Elephant National Park (p.xxx), just north of Port Elizabeth (p.xxx).

A perfect detour off the main N2 artery is the artist inspired mountain village of Hogsback (p.xxx) surrounded by lush waterfall filled forests. To truly experience the Wild Coast, check out the laid back small coastal enclaves Coffee Bay (p.xxx) and Port St Johns (p.xxx). If that leaves you craving a little city life, stop in Durban (p.xxx) before heading toward some of the top parks including Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (p.xxx) and iSimangaliso Wetland Park (p.xxx).

Dive into Swaziland (p.xxx) and experience the Swazi way of life in the relaxing Ezulwini Valley (p.xxx). For game viewing head to Hlane Royal National Park (p.xxx), the former hunting grounds for the royal family. But be sure to save some time for game viewing at southern Africa's number one game park, Kruger National Park (p.xxx), before heading to Johannesburg (p.xxx).

GAME PARKS & WILDLIFE RESERVES

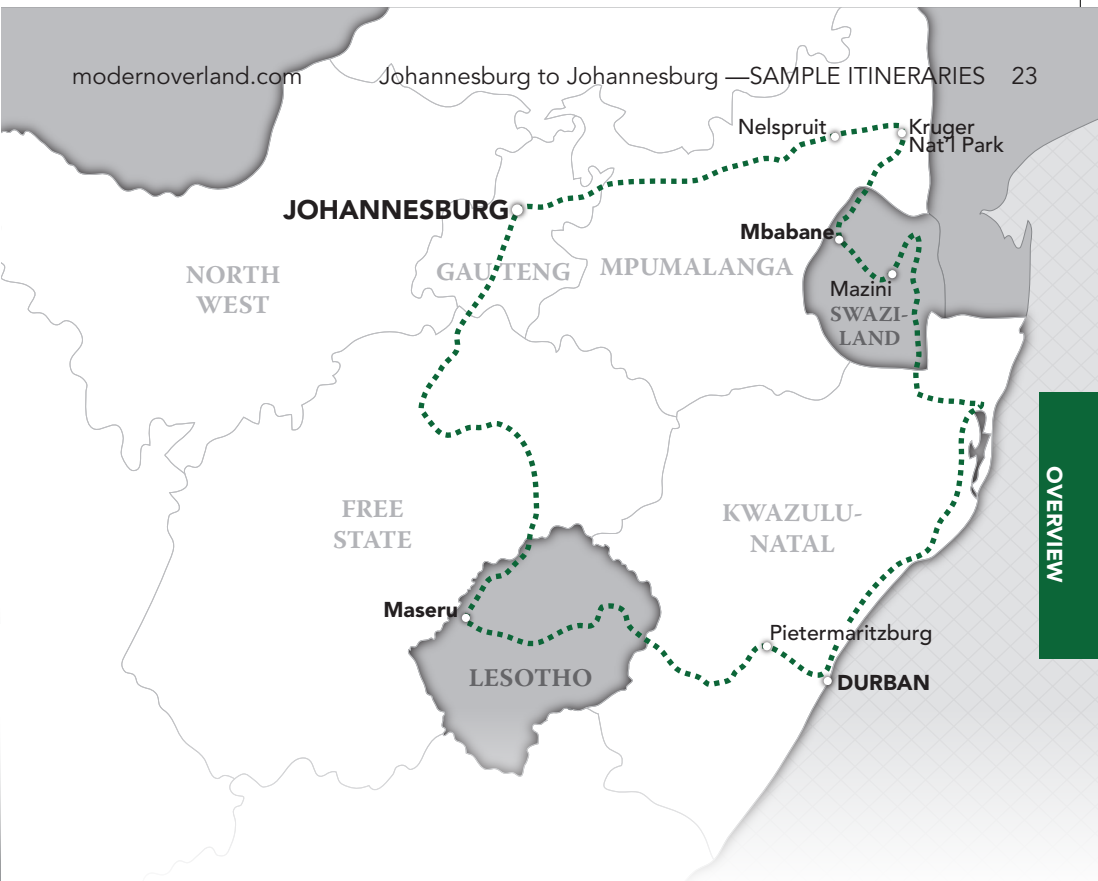
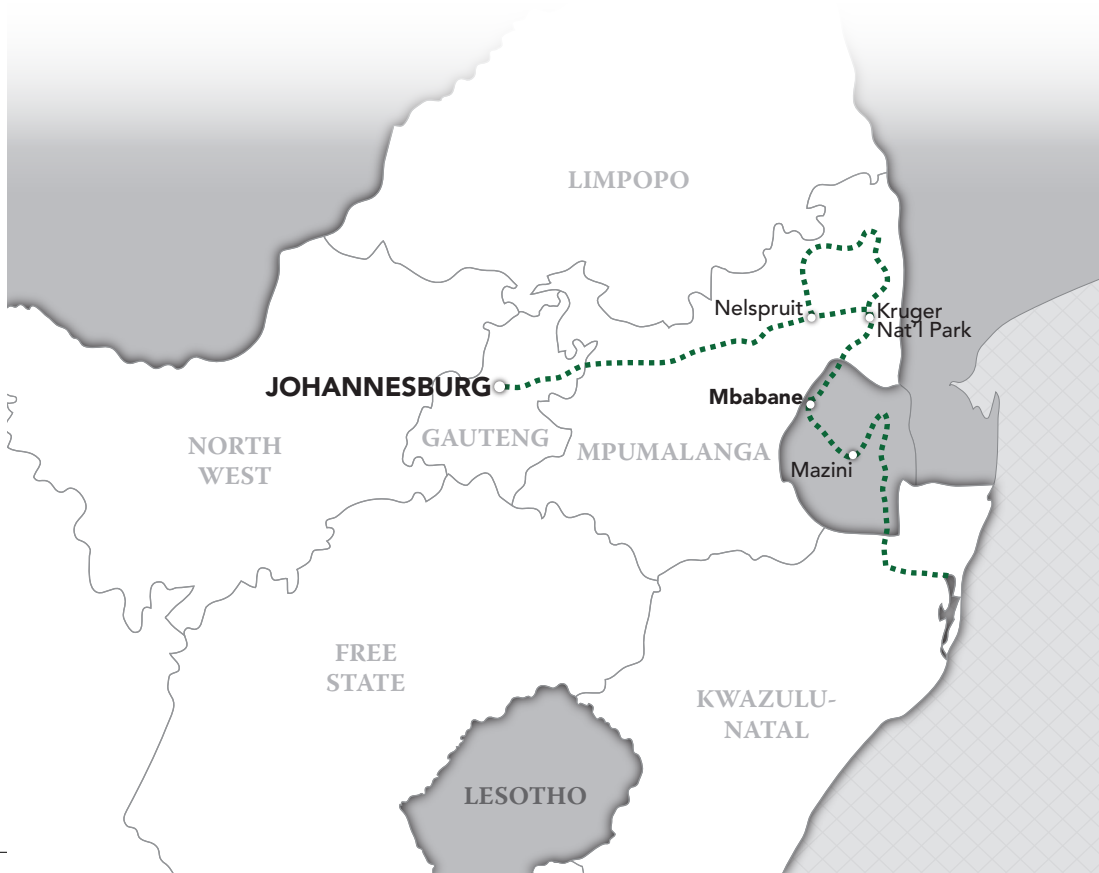
Johannesburg to KwaZulu-Natal - Distance: 1500 km / 932 mi
Suggested Time: Two weeks

Many people come to South Africa for the game viewing and the country's northeastern region to the top safari destination. If you want to get right to it, head to southern Africa's number one game park, Kruger National Park (p.xxx) where you can see how long it will take to spot all of the Big 5 (lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo and rhinoceros). If you spend a few days leisurely making your way north within the park you can exit the park to the west and head back south through the scenic Blyde River Canyon (p.xxx) and the historic mining town of Pilgrim's Rest (p.xxx).

Crossing the border into the Kingdom of Swaziland, there are a plethora of game parks. Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (p.xxx) is centrally located and easily accessible. For more remote game parks that offer more private game viewing experiences, head to the northeastern part of the country where the Lubombo Conservancy (p.xxx) includes five neighboring reserves.

For a different flavor of game viewing head to the coastal iSimangaliso Wetland Park (p.xxx), home to the country's largest populations of hippos and crocodiles. During the rights season it is also possible to see giant leatherback and loggerhead turtles that come ashore to lay eggs on the beach. For another chance to spot the Big 5 head the former Royal Zulu hunting grounds of the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (p.xxx).

OVERVIEW



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SOUTH AFRICA, LESOTHO & SWAZILAND

Johannesburg to Johannesburg - Distance: 2,500 km / 1,553 mi
Suggested Time: Four weeks

If you have at least a month to hit the road, then traveling through South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland promises to be a stimulating adventure. There are striking similarities and differences among South Africa, the continent's richest country, Swaziland, the continent's last remaining absolute monarch and the undeveloped landlocked mountain kingdom of Lesotho.

From Johannesburg head to one of the northern Mpumalanga towns of Sabie (p.xxx) or Graskop (p.xxx) from a comfortable introduction to South Africa. Depending on your interests you can head off on excursions to the Blyde River Canyon (p.xxx) or head into Kruger National Park (p.xxx) for a few days of spotting big game. In Swaziland you can enjoy the relaxing Ezulwini Valley (p.xxx) or spend more time with the animals in Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary (p.xxx). In KwaZulu-Natal you can pristine beaches and wildlife at the same time in iSimangaliso Wetland Park (p.xxx) before heading inland into the towering Drakensberg Mountains (p.xxx) where you can hike across the border into Lesotho or ride the switchbacks up Sani Pass (p.xxx).

Slowly traversing through the mountainous terrain to either of the small towns of Semonkong (p.xxx) or Malealea (p.xxx) will provide for an excellent opportunity to get a feeling for traditional Lesotho life. Both towns have excellent lodges that can organize pony treks up into the mountains and where you can spend the night in a remote village. Exiting Lesotho and en route back to Johannesburg both Clarens (p.xxx) and Parys (p.xxx) are small comfortable old artsy towns filled with crafts and antiques and good B&Bs.