

## Blu-Pebbles Tours and Transfer



### 5-Day Adventure: Exploring R62 and Garden Route Wonders

Embark on a **5-Day Tour** through **Route 62** and the **Garden Route**. Experience Montagu's Mountain passes and wine route, engage with ostriches in Oudtshoorn, and explore the Cango Caves. Traverse picturesque passes, enjoy Prince Albert's charm, and encounter Knysna's natural treasures. Immerse yourself in olive and elephant experiences, marvel at Knysna's iconic Heads, and explore Nature's Valley. Face the thrill of Bloukrans Bridge before completing your adventure in **Gqeberha - Port Elizabeth**.

#### Day 1: Gateway to Route 62: Montagu's Scenic Marvels

Embark on a journey from Cape Town through awe-inspiring **Du Toitskloof** and the N1 to picturesque Worcester. Travel the captivating R60 to Montagu, the entrance to Route 62. Traverse breathtaking mountain passes, including Goreeshoogte, Malherbeshoogte, and more. Delight in Montagu's charm as you launch into Route 62, the world's longest wine route. Experience the rugged beauty of the region, transitioning from mountains to semi-desert landscapes.

#### **Activity: Stop: Ronnies Sex Shop:**

Ronnies Sex Shop is a pub on Route 62 in South Africa. It was a farm stall until Ronnie's friends added 'Sex' to the sign as a joke. The name drew many curious visitors, and Ronnie turned it into a bar. The pub is full of graffiti and souvenirs from customers. It has a cosy atmosphere and offers drinks, snacks, and entertainment. Ronnies Sex Shop is a great place to stop by on Route 62.

(Light snack or drink before moving on to our next stop: For own account)

#### **Activity: Stop: De Krans Wines, Calitzdorp (Wine Tasting)**

De Krans Wines is a wine farm in Calitzdorp, Western Cape, that makes award-winning port-style and dry red wines from Portuguese grapes. It has been in the Nel family since 1890 and has been a pioneer in the South African wine industry. You can taste and buy their wines and other products at their tasting room and deli, and you can enjoy the scenic surroundings of the Gamka River Valley.

From here, we make our way to our first overnight stop on the tour: **Oudtshoorn**.

Oudtshoorn is a town in the Western Cape province of South Africa, located between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains. It is known as the ostrich capital of the world, because of its large ostrich farming and tourism industries. It is also home to the Cango Caves, Africa's largest show cave system and a hotspot of biodiversity.

Sleep Over in **Oudtshoorn** Options:

- Chandelier Game Lodge
- De Zeekoe
- Buffelsdrift Game Lodge
- Queen's Hotel by BON Hotels

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Supper (For your own account): All these accommodation options provide an onsite restaurant for the evening meal.

### Day 2: Oudtshoorn's Ostriches and Cango Caves

Begin with the fascinating **Highgate Ostrich Show Farm**. Interact with these magnificent birds and learn about ostrich products. Continue to the renowned **Cango Caves**, marvel at stunning limestone formations, and immerse yourself in cultural heritage. Weather permitting, journey through the iconic **Swartberg Pass** for panoramic views. Arrive in **Prince Albert**, an artistic haven, and enjoy a Ghost Walk to uncover local tales.

#### **Activity: Stop: Highgate Ostrich Show Farm**

Highgate Ostrich Show Farm is the world's first, finest, and most original ostrich show farm established in 19381. It is located 10 kilometres south of Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape, South Africa. It specializes in the breeding of ostriches and offers fun and informative tours for visitors of all ages.

Here we will:

- Learn more about ostrich feathers, eggs, leather, and anatomy.
- Feed an ostrich by hand and watch them peck at your palm.
- Visit the breeding camps and see the different ostrich species.
- Visit the incubators and learn how they work.
- Visit the factory where ostrich products such as dusters, boas, etchings, and leather items are made.

You are welcome to visit the shop at the showroom and buy genuine South African-made ostrich products after the tour.

#### **Activity: Stop: Cango Caves, Heritage Tour**

The heritage tour at the Cango Caves is an easy walk through the first six largest and most spectacular halls, continuing through to the "African Drum Room". This tour commences with information on the real discoverers and inhabitants of the cave and then winds its way through the rest of the cave's cultural and historical heritage. You will see amazing limestone formations in a wide variety of colours and shapes, such as stalactites, stalagmites, columns, curtains, and organ pipes. The tour is led by experienced, knowledgeable, and accredited guides who will explain the geology, history and legends of the caves.

From here, we make our way to our second overnight stop on the tour: **Prince Albert**.

**Weather-dependent**, we will travel via the **The Swartberg Pass**, a scenic and historic gravel road that crosses the Swartberg mountain range in the Western Cape, South Africa. It connects the towns of Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn and offers stunning views of the Little Karoo valley and the surrounding peaks. The pass was built by Thomas Bain between 1881 and 1886 and is considered his masterpiece of engineering. It is also a national monument and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The

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pass is 27 km long and has an altitude of 1583 m at its highest point. Along the way, you can see various rock formations, flora and fauna, historical sites, and viewpoints.

**Prince Albert:** Prince Albert is a historic town in South Africa's semi-arid Great Karoo. It was founded in 1762 and named after Queen Victoria's husband in 1845. The town has many well-preserved buildings in different architectural styles and a vibrant artistic and culinary scene. Prince Albert has various attractions for nature lovers, culture enthusiasts, and festival goers.

After checking in, take some time to unwind. Take a walk through the town centre and discover some of the many local attractions, like:

- Fransie Pienaar Museum
- Prince Albert Gallery
- The Lazy Lizard (a good place for a light lunch)
- Fascinating collection of antiques and old objects at The Olde Shoppe

### **Activity: Ghost Walk**

A pre-dinner walk around the streets of the village in the company of the Ghosts of Prince Albert

We set out at dusk and wander through the streets as darkness descends. The stories introduce you to characters who have lived here over the years - and the ghosts who don't want to leave! A light-hearted "one-woman show" on the move, which reveals some of the village's treasures and hidden skeletons.

Dinner for your own account:

- Yellow House
- Swartberg Hotel
- The Rude Shef

Accommodation in Prince Albert: **Onse Rus Guesthouse**

NB: If not available, **Swartberg Hotel**

## Day 3: Meiringspoort, Outeniqua Pass, and Knysna

Travel through **Meiringspoort** for a glimpse of the remarkable waterfall. Conquer the **Outeniqua Pass**, delighting in the vistas. Reach charming **Knysna**, framed by the Knysna Heads. Settle into **Portland Manor**, a historic estate offering serene accommodations. Experience the **Olive Tour**, **Meiringspoort Waterfall**, and Outeniqua Pass viewpoints.

### **Activity: O for Olive (Guided Olive Tour)**

The farm tour begins with a walk through the olive groves, moves on to our sorting tables, brining room, and olive press, and ends with a delightful tasting session and light lunch platter at Café O. Swartrivier Farm harvests between 50 and 80 tonnes of olives a year. These are hand-picked and processed on site, along with our extra virgin olive oil, which is cold-pressed and bottled on the farm.

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### **Activity: Meiringspoort Waterfall**

Meiringspoort Waterfall is a stunning natural attraction in the Western Cape of South Africa. It is located near the town of De Rust, along the Meiringspoort Pass, which cuts through the Swartberg Mountain Range. The waterfall is also known as the Great Waterfall, and it plunges 60 metres into a deep pool below. The waterfall is surrounded by scenic rock formations and indigenous vegetation, and it is a popular spot for swimming, picnicking, and hiking. You can access the waterfall by taking a short walk from the parking area, where you will also find toilets, picnic tables, a small museum, and an information office.

**Outeniqua Pass:** Outeniqua Pass is a beautiful and modern mountain pass in the Western Cape of South Africa. It connects the coastal town of George with Oudtshoorn and the Little Karoo, a semi-arid region with diverse wildlife and landscapes. The pass was built between 1943 and 1951, and it replaced the Montagu Pass as the main route from George to the interior. The pass is 25 kilometres long and has an elevation of 800 meters. It offers stunning views of the Outeniqua Mountains, the Garden Route, and the valleys below. The pass has several lookout points and picnic spots where you can stop and enjoy the scenery.

### **Activity: Stop 4 Passes Lookout Point**

From here, you will be able to see the Outeniqua Pass, Montagu Pass, Cradock Pass, and Railway line.

We will make our way to our accommodation for the next few days in Knysna.

**Knysna** is a picturesque town located in the Western Cape province of South Africa. Nestled between lush forests and the stunning shores of the Indian Ocean, Knysna is renowned for its natural beauty and serene landscapes. The town is characterised by its iconic Knysna Heads, two towering cliffs that guard the entrance to the Knysna Lagoon.

Third and fourth overnight stop on the tour: We check in at **Portland Manor** near Knysna. **2 Nights**

**Portland Manor** is a historical country estate in the Garden Route, near the town of Knysna in the Western Cape of South Africa. It is situated on a working farm in Rheenendal, surrounded by 212 hectares of undisturbed wilderness with forests, birdlife, and a dam. The estate offers elegant accommodation in 15 recently refurbished rooms decorated in a contemporary Victorian style. Some rooms have wood-burning fireplaces, balconies, or patios overlooking the estate gardens. The estate also has a rustic country restaurant, the Cowshed Eatery, which serves wholesome breakfasts and fire-based lunch dishes prepared with fresh local ingredients. The estate also has a quaint stone pub, the Last Stance at Portland Arms, which was once a sheep shearing shed and now serves draught beer on tap.

Dinner onsite is for your own account.

### Day 4: Knysna's Natural Wonders

Explore **Featherbed Nature Reserve** via ferry, 4x4 drive, and guided nature walk. Encounter Knysna's free-roaming elephants at **Knysna Elephant Park**. Marvel at the **Knysna Heads'** dramatic beauty. Return to Portland Manor for relaxation or an optional dinner at a local restaurant.

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### **Activity: Featherbed Nature Reserve for an Eco Experience.**

#### **4 Hour - Eco Experience** (Includes Buffet Lunch)

- Return ferry trip on the **Knysna Lagoon** to the Western Head.
- 4x4 vehicle & trailer drive up the headland onto the Reserve, stopping at spectacular viewpoints.
- Specialist guide giving information on history, fauna & flora.
- Guided 2.2km walk through coastal forest and fynbos into ancient sea caves.
- World renowned buffet lunch at an outdoor restaurant setting under a canopy of Milkwood trees.

### **Activity: Knysna Elephant Park: Meet Our Heard**

An opportunity of a lifetime, as our guides take you up close and personal with our gentle giants. Following a short informative video, guests are transported to the field, where they have the chance to feed and walk among our free-roaming herd of African Elephants. Responsible and educational interactions allow guests to appreciate the awe-inspiring presence of these animals.

### **Activity: Stop: Knysna Heads**

The lookout at the Knysna Heads is a scenic spot where you can enjoy the stunning views of the Knysna Lagoon, the Indian Ocean, and the Outeniqua Mountains. The Knysna Heads are two sandstone cliffs that form a narrow passage between the lagoon and the sea. The lookout is located on the eastern head. There are several viewpoints along the road where you can stop and take photos or admire the scenery.

We head back to **Portland Manor** for the evening.

Dinner can be at **Portland Manor** or at a restaurant in Knysna for your own account.

## Day 5: Nature's Valley and Thrilling Bridges

Admire the splendour of **Nature's Valley** and Tsitsikamma National Park. Witness the awe-inspiring **Bloukrans Bridge** and its bungee-jumping excitement. Trek to the **Storms River Suspension Bridge**, enveloped by Tsitsikamma forest.

We take a delightful detour via **Nature's Valley**. The valley forms part of Tsitsikamma National Park. Here, the mountains are densely overgrown, and forests and deep river ravines made it virtually impossible to travel by ox waggon in the old days.

### **Activity: Bloukrans Bridge: A Spectacular Setting**

Standing as one of the highest single-span arch bridges in the world, **Bloukrans Bridge** is not only a marvel of engineering but also a spectacular destination for thrill-seekers. The bridge spans the breathtaking Bloukrans River Gorge, providing awe-inspiring views of the surrounding natural beauty. At a staggering height of around **216 metres** (709 feet), this is one of the world's **highest commercial** bungee jumps. Perfect for a few photo opportunities.

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### **Activity: Storms River Suspension Bridge**

Here we can hike a pathway that leads through the **Tsitsikamma forest** to the **Storms River Suspension Bridge**. The suspension bridge hangs over the red-brown waters of the **Storms River Mouth** and spans 77 meters. The bridge was originally built in 1969 but has since been rebuilt by San Parks to ensure its stability and safety. It hangs just seven metres above the churning waters of the river as it enters the foamy Indian Ocean. The pathway to the suspension bridge **covers 900 metres** of Tsitsikamma forest. While it is a fairly easy route, particularly if taken slowly, there are **plenty of steps** to navigate. The walk is well worth the **magnificent views**.

From here, we make our way to **Gqeberha – Port Elizabeth**, where you will be dropped off for overnight accommodation or the **David Stuurman International Airport**.

### Precautionary Measures and Recommendations

- Easy, comfortable clothing
- Hat
- Walking shoes
- Warm jacket for any unpredictable weather
- Camera
- Sunscreen
- Pocket money
- You are welcome to pack in snacks and beverages for the travel

### Includes

- Professional English-Speaking Driver Guide
- Vehicle and Fuel
- Entrance Fees for activities mentioned
- Accommodation Bed and Breakfast
- Passenger liability insurance & Basic First Aid level 1 competent

### Excludes

- All meals and beverages (where indicated for your own account)
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & gratuities
- Routes and activities not mentioned
- Client travel insurance
- Client medical insurance

On acceptance of this tour, we will forward you a guest questionnaire where we will ask you to please fill in any dietary requirements (for breakfast), any medical conditions that we may need to be aware of. We will also need a 'in case of emergency' contact number. Please make sure you have any medical insurance documents/cards on you as well as your passport and or ID.

Thank you for touring with Blu-Pebbles Tours & Transfer  
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