

POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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South Africa

Dates:

2019, Saturday 2nd to Monday 11th March

This wide-ranging tour is a first-rate introduction to the new South Africa with a look at how lives have changed since the end of apartheid and where it is headed today. It is a spectacular journey across the country from Natal's lush farmlands and the battlefields of the Boer War, to the melting pot of Johannesburg and finishes in the stunning Cape winelands.

First-rate speakers brief us on the latest issues and ordinary South Africans of all backgrounds give their perspective as we ask if the country can keep Mandela's dream of a united, prosperous and democratic South Africa alive.

Still admired for its peaceful transition from apartheid rule to a multi-party democracy, South Africa is now struggling with more familiar problems: corrupt politicians and a slowing economy. Can it turn itself around?

With fantastic food and great hospitality in rural Kwa-Zulu Natal, urban Johannesburg and stunning Cape Town this tour is an exhilarating getaway.

Our tour is led by **Peter Sullivan**, one of the best-known journalists in South Africa and former editor-in-chief of *The Star* newspaper group.

To book a place on this tour please contact us at info@politicaltours.com or call on **+44 843 289 2349**

Price: £5000.00

Single Supplement: £500.00

As on all our expert-led tours the groups are deliberately small and will not exceed 14 people. Most meals and all accommodation are included in the price. Flights are not included in the price and need to be arranged by customers or with an agent.

Like all our tours the itinerary is focused on current affairs. Events on the ground may change and the final schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

Itinerary

Day One: *Ballito*

Welcome dinner. An introduction to the week ahead; local newspaper editors give an overview of where South Africa stands today. *Overnight Ballito*

Day Two: *Lebombo Mountains & Dundee*

Travel through rural KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and visit a village. We hear about education, local services and healthcare and the demands on them in the new South Africa. We visit a missionary hospital that has been at the centre of a successful battle against HIV and TB. Later in Dundee with meet with local ANC leaders; Jacob Zuma's infamous home is not far from here. *Overnight Dundee*

Day Three: *Dundee, Battlefields, Johannesburg*

We visit Rorke's Drift, a key site of the Anglo Zulu wars and British colonial history, but also in Zulu culture and identity. Picnic lunch before driving north to Johannesburg. *Overnight Johannesburg*

Day Four: *Johannesburg, Soweto*

Early breakfast with the Official Opposition leader in Johannesburg, a city whose annual budget exceeds that of Botswana, Mozambique and Angola combined. Next we visit the Apartheid Museum that illustrates the rise and fall of South Africa's era of segregation and oppression. After lunch we drive to Soweto where much has changed in the last 20 years. We look at the range of contrasts, from smart middle class homes and new housing programs to makeshift camps. We also stop by a local "Shebeen," or Soweto bar. *Overnight Johannesburg*

Day Five: *Johannesburg*

In the morning we get privileged access to the Constitutional Court building with its politically relevant art works. Court clerks brief us on the Court's current political and judicial role, and provide insight into South Africa's sweeping and ambitious constitution. Possible tour of Old Fort Prison in the grounds (time permitting) and home for many political prisoners for years. Lunch at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange for a high level overview of the economy and

business. Later we have briefings with members of Johannesburg's leading think tanks on the state of politics and the economy. *Overnight Johannesburg*

Day Six: *to Cape Town*

Check out of our hotel and visit to a local school – education is the centre of a fierce political debate with criticism of falling standards, and demands for free university education. Depart for Johannesburg airport and an afternoon flight to Cape Town; we will advise you on the best flight to suit the itinerary. After checking in you have a free evening to explore the downtown area. *Overnight Cape Town*

Day Seven: *Cape Town*

A tour of Parliament buildings, home to the new and former federal parliaments as well as the Cape assembly. Peter Sullivan recounts some of the key moments in recent history. We visit the District 6 museum and meet with a former resident. Cape coloureds were forcibly removed from this area in the 60s and out to the sprawling Cape Flats, followed by coffee at the Truth Cafe. We learn about the effects of apartheid. *Overnight Cape Town*

Day Eight: *Hout Bay*

Visit the remarkable township on the slopes of Table Mountain at Hout Bay, speak to local activists, see local industry. Lunch is fish and chips on the rocks of Hout Bay, under Chapman's Peak Drive, one of the most beautiful sights in the world. Dinner with veteran MP, radio personality, diplomat and commentator who will answer all our questions. *Overnight Cape Town*

Day Nine: *Stellenbosch, Cape Town*

A first-hand look at how the wine industry is doing and a look at tourism's significant contribution to the SA economy. Lunch on a wine farm with stunning views – an excellent way to wind up our tour, before heading back to Cape Town. Farewell dinner with a highly respected former Constitutional Court judge and Deputy Chief Justice. *Overnight Cape Town*

Day Ten: *Tour Ends*

Final Day – Breakfast and departure for airport