



Chapman's Peak drive, near Cape Town

Self-driving in South Africa

Driving yourself around is a fantastic way to explore South Africa and allows you to travel at your own pace. As in the UK, driving is on the left hand side and the majority of roads are wide and in good condition. Roads and visitor attractions are well signposted and there are frequent petrol stations and stops with restaurants. Alternatively, if you're heading out for a full day, you can easily ask your guesthouse to pack a picnic for your lunch to enjoy along the way. Having the freedom to decide where to stop for a cup of coffee, being able to pull over to photograph a view, and the ability to govern the pace of your trip are just some of the advantages of self-driving.



Scenic road near Franschhoek



Cape Malay minstrels, Hout Bay, Cape Town

Garden Route

Starting in Cape Town, this journey offers you some of South Africa's most dramatic scenery. Leaving the city behind, you will make your way through the Overberg and into Swellendam. From here you have the choice of taking the direct N2 highway to Mossel Bay. However, if time permits, the drive along Route 62 is immensely rewarding. Known as South Africa's most scenic road, watch as the landscapes evolve from flat farmland into impressive

mountain passes, travelling through arid desert with proteas growing by the roadsides. Making your way through the Little Karoo and past Oudtshoorn you head down to the coast, driving along the shore to Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and Tsitsikamma Forest. Here you can stop for a few days to enjoy boat trips and some fantastic walks. Depending on your itinerary, you will drop off your car at Port Elizabeth or George, from where you can fly to your next destination.



Self-driving in the Kruger

Kruger National Park

For the confident traveller, self-driving through the Kruger is a great adventure. The main roads are tarred, and the gravel roads are well graded. Wildlife is well habituated to the vehicles, and driving along to find an elephant taking a stroll ahead of you, or a pride of lions lazing on the warm tarmac is not an unusual sight. Of course, common sense is essential, and giving animals sufficient personal space is paramount.

Speed limits are 50 kilometres per hour on tar roads within the park, 40 kilometres per hour on untarred roads and 20 kilometres per hour within the rest camps. Speed cameras are dotted around the park to enforce these. Driving more slowly will also give you higher chances of seeing the big game, as well as the more shy creatures, such as reedbuck antelope. It's also possible to enjoy guided game drives from your accommodation, so if you prefer to mix and match between guided and self-driving, this is easy to arrange.



Zebra, Kruger National Park

KwaZulu Natal

Picking up your hire car in Johannesburg or Durban and driving through the KwaZulu Natal region offers something quite different.

Combining beautiful rural scenery with the history of the Battlefields and a balmy coastline, it is easy to fill a fortnight here. A drive to the west of KwaZulu Natal brings you to the majestic Drakensberg Mountains, the highest peaks in South Africa. This is a walker's paradise, and having your own car makes it easy to focus your explorations on whichever area appeals the most.

Drive back in time to the Battlefields to learn about the bloody wars fought between the British, Boers and Zulus in the late 1800s. Finally, make your way to the game reserves of Hluhluwe-Umfolozi, Phinda or Thanda for some safari time. KwaZulu Natal has long been a favourite destination for South Africans hopping in their cars for an adventure. We recommend including it in your itinerary before other travellers cotton on.



Drakensberg Mountains, KwaZulu Natal



Standard saloon car

Self-driving with Audley

First-hand experience

All of our South Africa specialists have driven themselves around the country, and will be glad to advise you on any of the practicalities, from driving durations to which accommodation offers parking.

Maps & directions

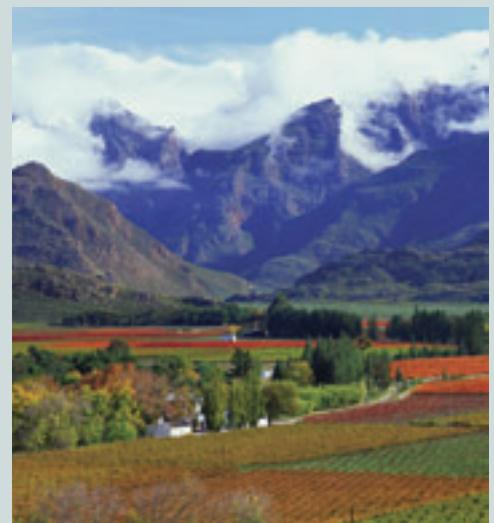
On arrival in the country, we provide you with a good quality road map of South Africa, as well as detailed driving directions specific to your itinerary.

Vehicles

For the most part, a standard saloon car is ample for most self-driving holidays within South Africa. These are available with manual or automatic gearboxes, and with extras to make your journey comfortable, such as air-conditioning. You may want to consider a larger vehicle such as a 2x4 if you are self-driving in the Kruger National Park, where the higher ground clearance can be beneficial to your game viewing.

Reassurance

We include the highest level of insurance cover for your hire car as standard. You will also have 24 hour contact details for our representatives in South Africa, and the Audley UK office. Mobile phone reception is good through large parts of the country and most phones with a roaming facility should work.



Hex River Valley, The Cape Region