Top 25 must visit Golf Courses

- Our pick

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Top Golf Courses in South Africa

We have used the SA 100 Top Courses for our 2024-25 rankings.

Now that things have settled, post pandemic, we have seen meaningful changes in rankings. Where clubs with local audiences did better a year or two ago, we now see courses being re-evaluated.

As in the past, Cedarberg Africa has not adhered strictly to the Top 100 rankings. Allow us to explain why…

Not all of South Africa's top golf courses are in the prime destinations which interest the keen overseas golfer coming to South Africa. Johannesburg golf courses now dominate the Top 100. Some 35% are in or near Johannesburg. This is our largest city, but usually only visited by tourists for a one-night stopover.

Thus, ***our* Golf guide** focuses on the best golf courses that are easily accessible for golfing visitors. We have put the current 2024-25 Rankings at the top of each description for your reference. We've also given you some ideas for where to stay nearby.

In many cases, there's hotel on the golf estate. In other cases, there are *a range of options…*

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Our Pick- the Top 25 Must visit Golf Courses

Everything you need to know before you tee off

1. The Links at Fancourt
2. Blair Atholl
3. Leopard Creek
4. Pearl Valley
5. St Francis Links
6. Arabella
7. Durban Country Club
8. Pinnacle Point
9. Fancourt Montagu
10. Zimbali
11. Zimbali
12. Sun City Gary Player Country Club
13. Pezula
14. Highland Gate
15. Champagne Sports Resort
16. Simola
17. Fancourt Outeniqua
18. Erinvale
19. De Zalze Golf Club
20. Prince's grant
21. Royal Cape
22. Hermanus
23. Clovelly
24. Steenberg
25. Woods at Mount Edgecombe

Honorary Mentions:

- The Club at Steyn City (#17)
- George Country Club (#22)

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Planning your Golf Safari in South Africa

Everything you need to know before you tee off

Use this guide as a helpful intro to the many courses available to you, and then get in touch to help us plan your golf safari.

We are specialists at tailor-made holidays & vacations in South Africa, and so excel at crafting an itinerary with as much golf as you wish while adding elements like a safari, time spent by the sea, Cape Town or Victoria Falls. The options are endless…

We invite you to take a look at some our sample golf itineraries in South Africa, to get an idea of how a trip would work. Some of these are self-drive examples, as many clients like the flexibility of independent self-drive, especially in the Western Cape. Some are suggested as private tours. However, all can be done using private touring and transfers if that suits you better.

Check out our golf pages here

Cape Golf Self-drive – 7 nights Self Drive
Cape & Garden Route Golf – 9 nights Self Drive or Guided
Golf & Game Safari – 13 nights Escorted or Self Drive
Sun City Golf tour – 3 nights
Rovos Rail Golf Safari (9 nights)
Rovos Rail African Collage Safari with Golf (9 or 10 nights)

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1. The Links at Fancourt

A masterpiece of Golf Design
Rated #1 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Gary Player's The Links at Fancourt has redefined the standards of golf course design in South Africa. This world-class course, consistently ranked among the Top 100 in the world, offers a unique and unforgettable golfing experience.

It's is a truly unique and challenging course, especially if the wind blows, with undulating fairways, pot bunkers, challenging greens alongside punishing roughs. Each hole received detailed attention to ensure the balance of length, shot values and position of hazards.

The Links offers some extraordinary holes which will test even the best golfer in every way. Not for the faint-hearted! As you navigate the course, you'll be captivated by the stunning scenery and the opportunity to play a course that has hosted some of the world's top golfers.

Signature hole: 15th - par 4 - 436m - With a dog-leg to the left, the sensible play is at the direction marker with a wood from the tee. But hugging the left and flirting with the water will leave a shorter approach.

George, Garden Route • Links • 6 930m • Golf Carts

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Fancourt Hotel or Manor House

Where to stay

There's only **one option** on offer. (You cannot play at Fancourt Links unless you stay at Fancourt). However [players do at least have the choice between the larger golf-orientated Fancourt Country Estate Hotel .

Or the more exclusive boutique Fancourt Manor House.

The latter is a 'hotel within a hotel', with has access to all the facilities of the larger hotel including its glorious Spa and the three golf courses, the Links, the Outeniqua and the Montagu.

2. Blair Atholl Golf Course

A Classic Design
Rated # 2 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Situated in a tranquil rural setting, Blair Atholl Golf & Equestrian Estate offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. This historic estate, once owned by the legendary golfer Gary Player, is steeped in equestrian heritage and golfing tradition.

Designed by Player himself, the championship golf course is a masterpiece of golf course architecture. Inspired by the iconic Augusta National, the course features rolling fairways, strategically placed bunkers, and challenging greens.

Beyond the golf course, Blair Atholl offers a variety of equestrian activities, including horse riding and polo.

Johannesburg • Parkland 7 525m • Carts available

Blair Atholl

Where to Stay

There is a range of beautiful and convenient accommodation options available in Johannesburg.

For an unforgettable round at Blair Atholl, we recommend relaxing and enjoying the away-from-it-all beauty of Mount Grace Country House & Spa.

With sweeping views of the valley, ten acres of magnificent gardens and bushveld and an award-winning Spa, the Mount Grace Country House is ideal for relaxing at the start or end to your South African safari, or for a quiet getaway.

3. Leopard Creek

A Golfing Adventure in the African Bushveld, Near Kruger National Park
Rated # 3 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Leopard Creek Golf Course, a prestigious member of the World's Top 100, embodies the breathtaking beauty and grandeur of the South African bushveld. They have also worked with indigenous plants to encourage wildlife and support the local ecology.

Gary Player's design takes advantage of the natural environment, which is home to Africa's "Big Five" – lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo – and over 200 species of birds that make their homes in the surrounding trees. Players are protected from the wildlife by means of innovative architectural and landscaping techniques – although water hazards might include the odd hippopotamus or crocodile!

Nestled on the banks of the Crocodile River, bordering the vast Kruger National Park, this exclusive course has captivated golf enthusiasts worldwide, thanks to its stunning setting and the annual Alfred Dunhill Championship.

Signature Hole: 13th - par 5 - 505m - Here the green is right on the edge of the Crocodile River but 32 metres above the water level offering magnificent views up the river and into the Kruger Park.

Kruger Border · Parkland · 6 665m · Golf Carts

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Near Leopard Creek

Where to Stay

Getting to play at Leopard Creek is not all plain sailing. You need to stay at one of a select band of nearby country house hotels and five star game lodges and hotels, both within the Kruger National Park and the Sabi Sands.

However for sheer ease of access and charm, we recommend Buhala Game Lodge only 10km away also on the banks of the Crocodile River, the southern border of the Kruger National Park.

4. Pearl Valley

A golfer's paradise
Rated #4 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Pearl Valley, at Val de Vie Estate, is one of Jack Nicklaus's most visually pleasing golf courses. This golf legend sees the Pearl Valley course as the sum of his knowledge and his experience.

Every hole is played against the spectacular Simonsberg and Drakenstein Mountains. It is bordered by vineyards with the Berg River acting as a water hazard through the course.

All holes are challenging due to the bunkers and fast greens. Many of the holes are played in different directions, ensuring that the same conditions are not experienced too many times in one round.

Between Paarl & Franschhoek, Cape Winelands • Parkland 6 719m • Carts available

Pearl Valley

Where to stay

Pearl Valley now boasts its own rather good estate hotel.

However Pearl Valley is fairly centrally-located in the Winelands so that you could stay at any number of hotels in the Franschhoek area.

We particularly love Babylonstoren Estate set on its own wine and fruit farm with a beautiful Provençal style garden, estate to explore, wine cellar and restaurant. Whilst the luxurious Babylonstoren is also close by.

5. St Francis Links Course

A Links Gem on the South African Coast
Rated # 5 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

St Francis Links is a true gem nestled along the breathtaking coastline of South Africa. This world-class links course, designed by the legendary Jack Nicklaus, takes full advantage of the rolling dunes overlooking the Indian Ocean. It's not considered a true links course by all, given its rather disconcerting use of a number of water features. And a natural course between the beach and arable land it most certainly is.

The course is a testament to Nicklaus' design brilliance, offering a diverse range of challenges that will test golfers of all abilities. The layout combines every element of shot making with its undulating terrain, greens and surrounds as well as its variation in length and direction. All putting surfaces and green surrounds present a mental and physical test.

From demanding long holes to intricate short holes, each hole is a unique masterpiece. The course's elevated greens, reminiscent of classic links courses, add an extra layer of difficulty and reward strategic shot-making.

St Francis Bay • Links 6 828m • Carts available • Carts

St Francis Links

Where to Stay

We recommend the Sands@St Francis as a great place to stay when playing this course. The Sands is a luxurious boutique hotel offering sweeping views of the majestic Indian Ocean and endless stretches of pristine sun-drenched beach. From the pool deck and garden you step right down onto the golden beach.

From the impressive glass entrance and sea views all-round to the inviting lounge, restaurant and bar, the ambience is one of relaxed comfort. The octagonal glass-fronted restaurant, with its impressive thatched roof, central fireplace and cocktail bar, has a panoramic view from its 300-degree vantage point.

6. Arabella Golf Estate

A Coastal Gem

Rated #7 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Arabella Golf Estate lies within the Kogelberg Nature Reserve, a mass of over 1,200 species of wild flowers and fynbos. The sweeping grandeur of the mountains and lagoon backdrop complements this 18-hole championship course, designed by the exemplary golf architect Peter Malkovich.

It has consistently ranked among South Africa's top 10, challenging golfers of all levels with its diverse layout. The course's strategic design, featuring undulating fairways and challenging greens, provides a truly memorable golfing experience.

Bordering the largest natural lagoon in South Africa, the Bot River Lagoon, with the 9th, 17th, and 18th holes running parallel to the water, Arabella Country Club provides both a wonderful golf challenge and an eye-catching landscape. The wetland is home to thousands of water birds so keep your eyes peeled for the flamingos.

Near Hermanus · Parkland 6 381m · Golf Carts

Arabella

Where to stay

The most convenient is to stay at the Arabella Hotel & Spa with its beautiful views over the Bot lagoon and spacious rooms- enjoy the award wining Spa while you're there as well!

Nestled along the picturesque Bot River Lagoon, this exclusive resort offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and coastline.

However if you want to combine golf with a spot of whale-watching in Walker Bay, we also recommend either Birkenhead House or Mosselberg on Grotto.

7. Durban Country club

A Reimagined Colonial Jewel

Rated #8 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Durban Country Club is a prestigious private club with a colonial air, evident it its traditions and gabled clubhouse. The golf course boasts a naturally undulating dune layout near the sea, with holes flowing through dense tropical vegetation. The course is scenic, with the Indian Ocean and Durban seafront visible from several tees. But also demanding offering challenge even to the skilled golfer, Durban CC will be enjoyed, but rarely mastered. To score well, you have to play well.

Elevated tees and greens are guarded by an array of tropical bushes, tall trees and large bunkers. This, together with the narrow fairways and steep slopes make for a challenging course. The foliage is breath-taking, with virtually every tropical plant imaginable, creating a colourful, scented backdrop to your round.

Durban· Parkland 6 157m · Golf Carts

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Durban

Where to stay

Umhlanga Rocks is just 20 minutes' drive north of Durban with its golden sandy beaches and ocean views. The five star Oyster Box Hotel is one of the loveliest options to stay.

Another option is Sala Beach House, a litte further north, a boutique small hotel.

Both options give great access to other KZN golf course (eg Umhlali, Mount Edgecome or Princes Grant.)

8. East London

A Coastal Challenge
Rated # 9 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2024)

East London Golf Club is a stunning coastal course that offers breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. The course's unique links-style layout, characterized by rolling fairways, deep bunkers, and undulating greens, provides a challenging and memorable golfing experience.

The elevated tee boxes offer panoramic views of the coastline, making it one of the most scenic golf courses in South Africa. With its challenging holes and stunning vistas, East London Golf Club is a must-play for any golf enthusiast visiting the Eastern Cape.

Near East London

Where to Stay

Prana Lodge is only 40 minutes from East London. You can relax in ultimate comfort, surrounded by stunning natural beauty. The lodge's serene ambiance, coupled with personalized service and exceptional cuisine, creates a truly unforgettable experience.

Unwind in luxurious accommodations, explore the nearby savanna, or immerse yourself in a rejuvenating wellness treatment. Prana Lodge is the perfect destination for those seeking a tranquil escape between rounds.

9. Pinnacle Point

Golf in 360 degrees
Rated # 10 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Perched dramatically on the cliffs overlooking the Indian Ocean, Pinnacle Point is a world-class golf course that ranks among the best coastal courses globally.

This South African gem shares the stage with iconic courses like Pebble Beach, Old Head, Kauri Cliffs, and Playa Grande.

This Clifftop course, surrounded by fynbos vegetation, offers a challenging layout, dramatic views and breath-taking terrain. It's characterised by 7 majestic holes that line the Indian Ocean rock cliffs, four of which are played over ocean and cliff. All holes have been designed to fit the contours of the land.

The dramatic elevation changes, undulating fairways, and strategically placed bunkers demand precision and skill.

Mossel Bay, Garden Route • Parkland 6 465m • Caddies

Pinnacle Point

Where to Stay

Pinnacle Point does offer accommodation on site, but we recommend the five star Views Hotel or Simbavati Fynbos on Sea.

They are further away but closer to the rest of the Garden Route and its real claim to fame are the magnificent views over Wilderness Beach right below the hotel – glorious for evening strolls at sunset after an enjoyable day of golf.

10. Fancourt Montagu

A classic parkland course, one of three at Fancourt
Rated #11 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

The Fancourt Montagu is considered one of the best conditioned golf courses in South Africa with a glorious parkland layout covering large tracts of varying terrain on rolling land. Mature trees, flowerbeds, shrubs and water hazards provide a colourful contrast. It is cleverly designed, picturesque and presents a challenge to golfers of all levels, taking in a setting of mountains, water and wildlife. This superbly manicured course has been updated with several holes being redesigned and two completely new holes ensuring that it can hold its head up with the new golf pretenders.

The warm-up area, featuring a full-length range and a chipping and bunker practice area, is available to all golfers before play.

Signature hole: 17th - par 3 - 190m - This is scary for the average golfer with its long carry over water. But the green is large & receptive so go for the flag.

George, Garden Route • Parkland • 6 714m • Golf Carts

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The more I practice, the luckier I get

Gary Player

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11. Zimbali

A dramatic golf experience
Rated # 14 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Tom Weiskopf, renowned golf course architect, faced a unique challenge when designing Zimbali. The dramatic terrain, with significant elevation changes, presented a unique opportunity to create a truly memorable golfing experience.

The course meanders through the rolling hills, with stunning ocean views and challenging golf holes. With its strategic bunkering, undulating fairways, and fast-running greens, Zimbali demands precision and accuracy. So it offers world-class conditions for top players and higher handicap players alike.

Zimbali has an abundance of natural features: constant changes in elevation, mature indigenous trees and beautiful wetland areas with natural steams and ponds. The course thus combines links, coastal and parkland vegetation and offers one of the most breath-taking and scenic golf experiences in the world.

The Zimbali course has two distinct sides, with some holes in former sugar cane fields and others cutting through indigenous forest and coastal wetlands. It boasts spectacular sea views from the 14th to 18th holes.

Signature Hole Par-3 13th hole - is probably the most scenic on the course, bordered by natural wetlands.

Dolphin Coast • Parkland 6 524m • Carts available

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Zimbali

Where to Stay

The Zimbali Golf Estate offers a choice of two hotels on site, the smaller more intimate Zimbali Lodge which is set back from the Ocean and the Zimbali Resort which is larger, hosts most of the facilities and has its own beach club.

12. Gary Player Country Club, Sun City

The Legendary Gary Player Course

Rated # 15 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

A golfing icon, the Gary Player Course has captivated players and spectators alike for decades. This world-class championship course, nestled in stunning Pilanesberg National Park, has hosted numerous prestigious tournaments, including the Million Dollar Challenge..

Designed by legendary Gary Player, this course offers a challenging yet rewarding experience for golfers of all levels. The strategic layout, featuring water hazards, undulating fairways, and fast-paced greens, will test your skills and leave you wanting more.
It features two holes that have ranked in Golf Online's list of the 500 best holes in golf: the 9th and 18th holes.

But enough about its credentials. This course is one of the toughest in South Africa with especially punishing roughs. It places a premium on accurate approaches, with plenty of bunkers and water hazards to test even the best. Stray shots are likely to end up in the bushveld – not an easy place from which to play a recovery shot.

Although this tree-lined parkland course is fairly flat, the many water hazards, cunning-sited bunkers and hidden pin placement make up for the lack of gradient. However, it can be enjoyed by both keen amateur golfers and professionals alike.

Sun City, near Pilanesberg • Parkland 6 550m • Carts

Bonus: Lost City Golf Course, Sun City

A bonus course is the 2nd option at Sun City
Rated # 81 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

The Lost City course defies being bracketed into any particular genre, having elements of mountain, desert and even African parkland in its make-up.

The rich green fairways of the course offer a dramatic contrast to the arid bushveld backdrop and the barren waste bunkers – a special feature of this intriguing course. The desert style design of the golf course is quite unique amongst South Africa's green parkland and links courses. Baobab trees and cacti are among the aesthetic attractions, and baboons are often seen on the course. The views of the countryside and the Palace are breath-taking.

Signature hole: 13th - par 3 - A green in the shape of Africa bordered by a crocodile-infested waterhole. So it's best to leave your ball if you hit a wayward shot into water!

Sun City • Parkland 6 983m • Golf Carts

Sun City

Where to Stay

The best option is the Palace at the Lost City, the 5 star flagship hotel within the Sun City resort.

However if you are looking for something a little more low-key, then the elegant four star Cascades Hotel could also fit the bill nicely. We offer 3 and 5 night golfing packages.

Beyond the golf course, Sun City offers a wide range of activities for the whole family, including a world-class casino, thrilling waterparks, and stunning natural beauty.

13. Royal Johannesburg – East Course

A golfing tradition

Rated # 16 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Royal Johannesburg Golf Club boasts two exceptional parkland courses, with the East Course widely regarded as one of Africa's premier championship layouts. This historic club, established in 1891, has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of golf in South Africa.

The **East Course** offers a challenging and rewarding golfing experience, with strategic bunkering, undulating fairways, and pristine greens. This parkland course offers stunning vistas where mature trees abound.

The clubhouse is still a proper clubhouse and not a boutique hotel. The West course is also highly rated at No 27.

Johannesburg • Parklands 6 940m • Carts available

Johannesburg

Where to Stay

Being in Johannesburg, there's a wide array of boutique hotels to choose from. It just so happens that one of our favourite hotels is close to the Royal Johannesburg. The Residence is a small boutique hotel in the historic suburb of Houghton in northern Johannesburg.

The hotel exudes an air of quiet, charming sophistication. Take a stroll through the lush, terraced gardens, enjoy a game of tennis, or swim a few lengths in the pool.

14. Pezula Golf Estate

A coastal golfing masterpiece
Rated # 18 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Perched high above the picturesque town of Knysna, Pezula Golf Course has a breathtaking setting that has captured the hearts of golfers worldwide. Renowned for its dramatic clifftop setting and stunning Indian ocean views, Pezula offers a truly unforgettable golfing experience, surrounded by beautiful fynbos,

Designed by renowned architects Ronald Fream and David Dale, the course takes full advantage of the natural terrain of rolling hills and dramatic cliffs. The front nine offers panoramic views of the Knysna Lagoon, while the back nine takes golfers on a thrilling journey to the edge of the Indian Ocean. The 14th hole is built right on the breach of the cliffs.

Pezula course is challenging to the expert, yet it has five tees to every hole which makes it accessible to social players. It's an experience that is both rewarding and challenging. The succession of forest, cliff and sea locations, changing elevations and clever bunkering offers a true test of skill.

Knysna, Garden Route • Parkland 6 355m • Carts available

Pezula

Where to Stay

Of course the obvious place to stay is the Pezula Nature & Spa Hotel itself and it certainly boasts a stunning setting and spa.

However if you are looking for something a little more intimate and personal, again we recommend the hospitable Kanonkop House which also has Pezula membership so that its guests get to play at Pezula for reduced rates.

15. Humewood

A true Links Course in the Eastern Cape
Ranked # 19 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Humewood Golf Club is a true gem among South African golf courses. Recognized as one of the world's few genuine links courses, it boasts a rich history and a challenging layout that will test even the most skilled golfer.

Designed by renowned golf architect, 'Bob' Hotchkin, Humewood's classic links style is characterized by thick coastal bush, humps and hollows with deep bunkers, and fast-running greens. The course's unique layout, featuring two distinct nine-hole loops, offers a variety of challenging holes and stunning coastal views. Its pristine condition and commitment to preserving its authentic links character make it a must-play for any golf enthusiast visiting South Africa.

The fairways are exposed, undulating and wide to compensate for strong winds. But the rough that borders them is unforgiving. The holes are simple, the greens are fast and firm, the few bunkers are well positioned with tough, steep faces and no water hazards.

Signature hole: 13th - par 4 - 408m - This hole runs uphill with a tough semi-blind approach to a tiny green hidden behind a mound with rough to the right, a bunker to the left and thick bush behind it.

Port Elizabeth • Links • 6 390m • Walking course

Port Elizabeth

Where to Stay

Combining contemporary chic with classic comforts, No5 Boutique Art Hotel is an ideal stopping off point between the Garden Route and the private game reserves of the Eastern Cape. The hotel is a short walk to the Kings Beach and the Blue Flag Humewood beach.

Another option is The Windermere Hotel in Port Elizabeth is a hip, stylish hotel situated in the beach suburb of Humewood.

16. Champagne Sports Resort

A Mountain Golfing Experience
Rated # 20 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Located in the beautiful Drakensberg area, this course has to be rated as one of the most scenically memorable golf layouts in South Africa.

Designed by Hugh Baiocchi and Kevin Curren , this parkland course winds its way through rolling hills and offering breathtaking views of the dominant peaks of Champagne and Cathkin Peaks. It incorporates several holes with blind tee shots. providing a challenging yet enjoyable experience.

Both the Professional and novice alike will appreciate the 84 well-appointed bunkers that line the fairways and greens.

Though the drama of the mighty mountains dominates the eye, the course also enjoys gentle vistas where the lower hills create a kaleidoscope of colour blessed with trees, rivers and dams to add even more of a challenge.

Drakensberg • Parkland 6 694m • Carts

Champagne Sports Resort

Where to Stay

The Drakensberg Mountains are known more for their mountain scenery than their golf courses and this is of course this is the attraction of playing in such majestic mountain scenery. You'll need to stay at Cathedral Peak Hotel or **Champagne Sports Hotel** if you want to play there.

We prefer Cathedral Peak Hotel – with its more modest 9 hole golf course - if you wish to combine golf with mountain walks because of its superb location.

17. Highland Gate

An elevated experience

Rated# 21 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Highland Gate is one of South Africa's newest courses, a spectacular one too which fully embraces the beautiful landscape of our country. It occupies a unique setting in a scenic mountain valley in the Drakensberg escarpment of Mpumalanga. The Ernie Els signature design provides adrenalin-pumping high-altitude golf away from the beaten track.

At a height of some 2000 meters above sea level it is thought to be the highest Top 100 course in South Africa. Highland Gate has glorious views, bracing mountain air, and a golf course that is fun to play with generously wide fairways.

Dullstroom • Parkland 6 717m • Carts available

Highland Gate

Where to Stay

Walkersons Hotel & Spa is set amidst the highland lakes and mountains near the town of Dullstroom. It is a 1,500-acre sporting estate with a beautiful thatch and stone homestead.

The manor house is very traditional in style, reminiscent of a Scottish hunting lodge with a formal a la carte dining room, comfortable sitting room, bar and a more casual dining room. Meals can also be taken outside on the terrace. Handpicked antiques and fine paintings grace public areas of the manor house.

18. Simola

Unmissable Garden Route Course
Rated # 22 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Perched high above the picturesque town of Knysna, Simola is a golfer's paradise. Designed by the legendary Jack Nicklaus, this stunning course is renowned for its dramatic elevation changes and breathtaking views of Knysna Lagoon. Given the challenging terrain, golf carts are essential for navigating the course.

Untroubled by the wind that plagues so may coastal courses - and boasting an unusual configuration of five par-5s and five par-3s, Simola offers challenging and rewarding golf for pros and high-handicap players alike.

Garden Route • Parklands 6 401m • Golf Carts

Simola near Knysna

Where to Stay

There are some beautiful boutique options in Knysna. We recommend the hospitable Kanonkop House, which also has Simola membership so that its guests get to play at reduced rates.

Another option is Villa Afrikana that offers glorious views from every bedroom over Knysna Lagoon and Knysna Heads. It is also perfect for keen golfers with golfing long stay rates on offer.

19. Fancourt Outeniqua

Golfing excellence and adventure

Rated # 23 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

The Outeniqua course, set in rolling parkland, has the stunning backdrop of the Outeniqua Mountains after which it was named.

This course is similar in design to The Montagu, being shaped by the legendary Gary Player. It offers world class conditioning and a setting that takes in mountains, water and wildlife. However this parklands course is regarded as the easier one being more open in appearance, yet it has its share of challenges and risk-and-reward moments.

As with all Fancourt courses, there are a variety of tees from which to choose to play, ensuring that you never feel overwhelmed by the course.

Signature hole: 14th - par 4 - 421m - No surprise this is the toughest hole with its intimidating tee shot over water. If the flag is on the left of the green, play conservatively for the middle as there is water lurking at the back left.

George, Garden Route • Parkland 6 312m • Golf Carts

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Fancourt – where to stay

Where to Stay

We recommend the more exclusive boutique Fancourt Manor House.

This is a sort of hotel within a hotel, which has access to all the facilities of the larger hotel including its glorious Spa and the three golf courses, the Links, the Outeniqua and the Montagu.

“

On the golf course, as in life, the biggest hazards are the ones we create for ourselves

Unknown

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20. Erinvale

The scenic experience

Rated #25 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Perched on the slopes of the Helderberg Mountain, Erinvale Golf Club is an 'American-style' parkland course designed by Gary Player. The setting is stunning with the Hottentot Holland Mountains as a backdrop. However, this beautifully manicured championship course boasts some of the country's most challenging and spectacular holes.

The course has two distinctly different nine holes to challenge the enthusiastic golfer. Erinvale's demanding front nine meanders through park-like terrain Whilst the back nine is particularly spectacular, with elevated tee boxes offering panoramic views of False Bay. The 10th tee provides a breathtaking vista of the course and the mountains. On the 15th hole you crest the hill and enjoy a spectacular view of Gordons Bay before you.

Again, water and bunkers feature heavily with the additional challenge of the gradients! It has a driving range, putting green and chipping green for practice.

Cape Winelands • Parkland 6 506m • Carts available

Erinvale

Where to Stay

Erinvale Hotel & Spa offers superior accommodation around an original Cape Dutch homestead in the beautiful Helderberg Valley of the Winelands, close to Somerset West.

This 57-room hotel has been extensively renovated and offers an ideal base for exploring the many wine estates and the lovely walking country around.

21. Prince’s Grant

A coastal escape
Rated # 30 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

The Prince’s Grant Estate has a beautiful setting in the sugar cane country on KwaZulu Natal’s Dolphin Coast. It offers a unique blend of natural beauty, world-class golf, and a tranquil atmosphere. It is bordered by lush sugar cane fields on one side and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean on the other.

The Peter Matkovitch designed course with sweeping views of bush, lush vegetation and the ocean, is a mecca for local and international players alike. The artful design of greens, hazards and bunkers makes it an interesting challenge for the higher handicap, and provides ample reward opportunities for the top golfer.

It’s also a wonderful year-round destination. In winter golfers are lured there by clear, windless days and warm temperatures.

Dolphin Coast, KwaZulu Natal • Parkland 6 196m • Carts

Dolphin Coast.

Where to Stay

You can stay at the Princes Grant hotel. Or, if you would like to sample a range of courses such as Princes Grant, Durban Country Club, Cotswold Downs (#50), Mount Edgecombe (#52) and Umhlali (#63), then we recommend either the Oyster Box Hotel, or Sala Beach House.

The Oyster Box Hotel – one of the finest hotels on the Dolphin Coast at Umhlanga Rocks.

22. De Zalze Golf Club

A picturesque golf estate in the winelands
Rated # 31 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

De Zalze was designed by well-known golf architect, Peter Matkovich, who's made the most of this stunning Stellenbosch setting with a course that places a premium on accuracy. The course is set among vineyards and orange groves of the Cape Winelands, alongside the Blaauwklippen River. With magnificent mountain backdrops, this exquisite parkland course presents an exciting challenge to golfers of all standards.

The course has a memorable layout with many challenges, especially the second nine. The oak tree lined Blaauwklippen River which winds its way through the golf estate comes into play at various intervals. The short par-four 12th is played from an island tee over a large stretch of water to a green that can be driven if you're brave enough to carry the water. The par five with two fairways is another interesting hole set amongst the citrus trees.

The golf course is renowned for its beautiful layout and challenging holes. The white-walled homes and the scenic waterways add to the charm of this exclusive estate.

Cape Winelands • Parkland 6 385m • Carts available

De Zalze Golf Club

Where to Stay

The contemporary, five-star Hazendal Hotel and Spa, lies to the north of Stellenbosch surrounded by rolling vineyards with the Bottelary and Simonsberg mountains in the distance.

Hazendal prides itself on five-star service of heartfelt hospitality, delivered with genuine warmth and polished service.

For the sports enthusiasts, there is a driving range, an 18-hole par 3 golf course (not yet rated) and a padel court. Art and culture enthusiasts can explore the Classic Car Collection and Marvol Art Gallery. Families with kids can enjoy the Putting Park and Wonderdal Edutainment Centre.

23. Hermanus

Whales and views
Rated # 36 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Hermanus Golf Club, a historic club founded in 1907, offers a world-class golfing experience. The club underwent a significant renovation in 2006, expanding to a 27-hole facility.
The course, originally designed by Bob Grimsdell, has been modernized and enhanced by Peter Matkovich.

The stunning layout, framed by pine trees and fynbos, offers golfers a challenging and enjoyable experience. The course's unique routing and breathtaking ocean views make it a must-play for any golf enthusiast visiting the Garden Route. The variety of holes is a feature, as is the number of strong challenging par 4s.

Hermanus • Parkland 6 027m • Carts available

Hermanus

Where to Stay

Birkenhead House is perched high on the cliffs of Hermanus, overlooking the whale watchers' paradise of Walker Bay. This sophisticated boutique hotel is decorated to reflect the beauty of its coastal setting, and is adorned with rare maritime antiques and impressive contemporary art works. It is an unusual mix of beach house style and opulent furnishings.

Indeed no expense has been spared in making Birkenhead House the ultimate coastal retreat.

24. Royal Cape

The oldest and one of the best
Rated # 42 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

South Africa's oldest golf club has a parkland course with a scenic backdrop of the Cape Peninsula mountains. This flattish layout is fringed with lovely mature trees and enhanced by numerous lakes.

Founded in 1885, Royal Cape is a club that remains steeped in history & tradition, providing a quality experience on & off the course.

The course has fast greens presenting a real challenge and wind exposure. On a windless day Royal Cape can be forgiving, but in a stiff breeze it can be an absorbing challenge, although the mature trees lining the fairways do help. The fairways are narrow, demanding accuracy off the tee. Wayward shots can be heavily penalized amongst the trees and the greens are well bunkered.

Water comes into play on the 3rd, 4th and 5th holes, and later from the 14th to 16th holes, and from every hole you enjoy superb views of Table Mountain. The 15th hole is a lovely par 3 requiring a finely-judged shot over water.

Cape Town • Parkland 6 131m • Carts available

Royal Cape

Where to Stay

The Cellars Hotel is a gracious period hotel set in beautiful landscaped gardens in the historic Constantia Valley of Cape Town. The wine estate area of Cape Town on the slopes of Table Mountain. It backs onto the forested slopes of Table Mountain and offers stunning views over the vineyards to False Bay.

Another great option is the Vineyard Hotel & Spa.

25. Steenberg

Fantastic course with a great hotel & spa to match
Rated # 49 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Hermanus Golf Club, a historic club founded in 1907, offers a world-class golfing experience. The club underwent a significant renovation in 2006, expanding to a 27-hole facility.
The course, originally designed by Bob Grimsdell, has been modernized and enhanced by Peter Matkovich.

The stunning layout, framed by pine trees and fynbos, offers golfers a challenging and enjoyable experience. The course's unique routing and breathtaking ocean views make it a must-play for any golf enthusiast visiting the Garden Route. The variety of holes is a feature, as is the number of strong challenging par 4s.

Honorary Mentions:

The following golf courses are also highly ranked but are either in areas always well-represented above, or in slightly less common areas to visit by international guests.

Clovelly

Stunning setting on the Cape Peninsula south of Cape Town
Rated # 52 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Clovelly Golf Course is scenically one of the best courses on the Cape Peninsula as it is more varied than many of the parkland courses. The lovely colonial clubhouse enjoys a slightly elevated position above the course which takes full advantage of its coastal setting with deep sand dunes encroaching upon the fairways. It is known for its rolling fairways, undulating holes and magnificent landscaping. Wind also plays a significant factor at Clovelly! A relatively quiet course, Clovelly is a tight par 72 with a testing mix of interesting holes and elevated greens accompanied by beautiful views of Silvermine River and lakes.

Sand dunes abound the course, which has natural water features and a wide variety of indigenous fauna and flora, notably the variety of trees lining the fairways.

Where to Stay - Base yourself at the lovely Steenberg Hotel (see previous page) which also a stunning wine estate, restaurant and spa.

Cape Town • Coastal 5 890m • Carts available

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George Golf Club

A well deserved classic
Rated # 28 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

George Golf Course is a timeless classic, renowned for its picturesque setting and challenging layout. This historic course has consistently ranked among the top golf courses in South Africa, offering a delightful golfing experience for players of all levels.

The course winds its way through lush, parkland terrain, offering a variety of holes that test both accuracy and power. The stunning backdrop of the Outeniqua Mountains adds to the overall appeal of this iconic course.

Places to Stay: Plenty of options from Fancourt to or Simbavati Fynbos on Sea on the western side of the Garden Route

The Club at Steyn City

One of the grandest courses in the country
Rated # 17 in SA (Top 100 Courses 2025)

Steyn City is an expansive luxury estate, six times the size of Sandton City and twice the size of New York's Central Park. It offers a unique blend of residential living, world-class amenities, and breathtaking natural beauty.

In keeping with the grandeur and breadth of Steyn City is a world-class modern golf course by Nicklaus Design which was nearly six years in the making by course construction experts Golf Data, who continue to maintain it. Its undulating setting over an area of 90 hectares has resulted in a succession of fabulously creative holes.

Johannesburg
Where to Stay

The Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa lies in the ultra-exclusive Sandhurst area of northern Johannesburg. It is a serious contender for the most magnificent hotel in South Africa. It is quite simply stunning - a statement of modern African elegance combined with deft attention to detail.

It was originally a private residence that has been extended and transformed into possibly the only international boutique hotel with an ethnic African style. The hotel is set in six acres of lush tropical gardens with a huge pool making an architectural statement to the front, and a more approachable swimming pool set in Japanese style gardens behind the hotel.

Other Highly Ranked Courses

Here are some other options if you happen to be in these areas

Johannesburg

#6. Glendower

#22 Pretoria

#26 Woodmead

#27 Royal Johannesburg & Kensington – West course

#29 Houghton

Western Cape

#48 Plettenberg Bay

#54 Atlantic Beach, Cape Town

#60 Stellenbosch, Winelands

#73 Knysna, Garden Route

KZN & Eastern Cape

#37 Victoria, KZN Midlands

#51Cotswold Downs, Durban

#53 Woods at Mount Edgecombe, Dolphin Coast (& Lakes at #72)

#58 Wild Coast

#61 Umhlali, Dolphin Coast

Why Cedarberg Africa?

- **Personal safari planning, shaped around you** - We take time to understand what matters most to you, then design a safari that fits your style, pace and priorities.
- **30 years of specialist safari expertise** – we know what works, what doesn't, and how to shape a safari that feels seamless and well-planned.
- **Honest, candid advice you can trust -** We listen carefully, challenge your ideas when needed, and recommend only what we genuinely believe will suit you best.
- **Handpicked lodges, guides and experiences -** Our knowledge leads you to characterful places to stay and memorable experiences that are right for you.
- **A smoother, more effortless planning process -** We save you hours of research, cut through the noise, and bring everything together in a clear, inspiring and visual proposal.
- **Support, reassurance and financial protection -** From first ideas to travel on the ground, you have expert support behind you, plus financial security and help if plans change.

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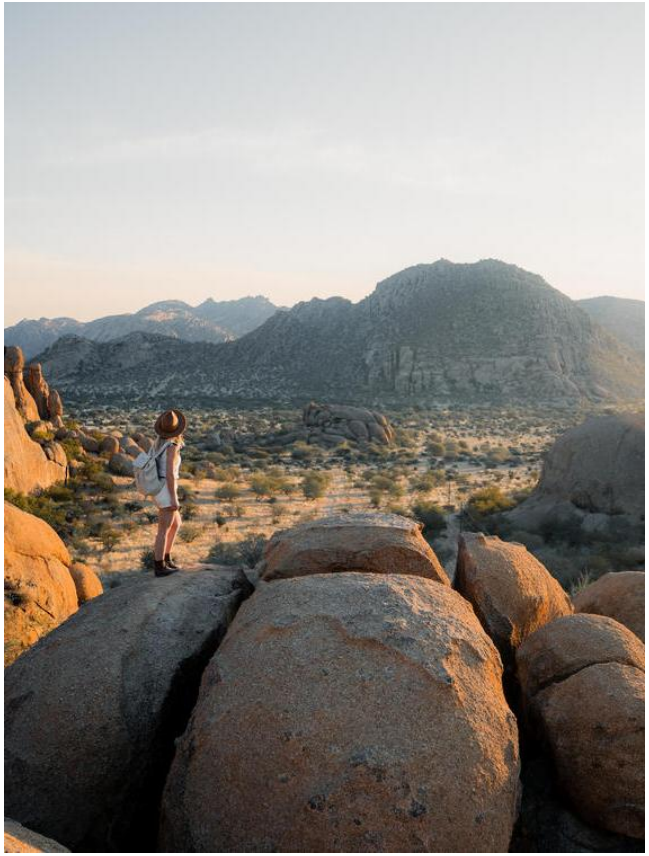
Lets Start Planning your Namibia Safari

Every safari we design is completely tailored to you

1. Chat to one of our safari specialists to discuss your Specific interests, # of nights & trip timing
2. We outline our proposed safari itinerary, balancing adventure, comfort and value.
3. Together we refine it so that it is just perfect for you. Then you look forward to your Namibia adventure whilst we take care of all the details.
4. **Request your custom Namibia proposal**. Or schedule a 15-min call with our Safari Team.



About The Author

Kate Bergh is South Africa Managing Director of Cedarberg Africa, a specialist safari company that she co-founded with her sister Ginny over 28 years ago. We help people who are unsure where to turn to for friendly well-informed safari planning.

Kate has lived in South Africa since 1993. She's travelled extensively to the countries marketed by Cedarberg. She especially likes some of the more remote areas such as Coastal Maputaland, the Makgadikgadi pans and the Lower Zambezi. Her home is in the Cedarberg mountains in the Cape (hence the name of the company) where she enjoys hiking and cycling. She has three children, who were used shamelessly, when younger, as guinea pigs to test out the family appeal of various South African hotels and safari lodges.

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Thank you!

Spectacular by Nature, Personal by Design

This Golf Guide was created by Cedarberg Africa, Safari specialist for Southern Africa.

We've been in the game for over 30 years. And we specialize in crafting trips that are as unique as your backswing – whether it's a golf holiday, a Big Five safari, or a combination of both.

Plus, we're better at planning golf holidays, than actually playing on them!

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