

SANLAM CAPE TOWN MARATHON 2027

First Abbott World Marathon Major in Africa · 23 May 2027

Travel Period: 20 May 2027 – 26 May 2027

The Sanlam Cape Town Marathon has been confirmed as the first Abbott World Marathon Major to be held on African soil. Following the successful staging of its 2026 race on 24 May, the event has passed the second and final stage of its Abbott World Marathon Majors (AbbottWMM) assessment, becoming the eighth member of the most prestigious series in marathon running globally.

The race joins seven of the sport's most celebrated marathons — Tokyo, Boston, London, Sydney, Berlin, Chicago and New York — and will formally enter the series at its next edition on 23 May 2027. Yet while becoming the eighth Major is a singular achievement, it is the event's standing as Africa's first that defines this moment in history.

Cape Town Marathon Experience

More than just a marathon, this is an unforgettable running adventure in one of the world's most spectacular destinations.

Join us for an extraordinary journey where breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, wildlife, and the excitement of race week come together to create a truly unique experience. Whether you're chasing a personal best or simply looking to earn your next marathon medal, Cape Town offers an atmosphere unlike any other.

Your journey will be personally led by Dragos Pirnog, a passionate runner, explorer, and experienced Cape Town enthusiast. Having visited Cape Town seven times, he knows this incredible city far beyond the typical tourist routes. He had the privilege of running the Two Oceans Marathon, Ultra-Trail Cape Town, and the Cape Town Marathon 2026, giving him first-hand knowledge of the races and everything that makes this destination so special.

Throughout the trip, he and our local guides who accompanied the group in 2026 will share their experience, local insights, favourite places, practical race tips, and help ensure that every participant enjoys an unforgettable marathon adventure — from arrival to the finish line.

Besides the main event, we have put together an exclusive travel programme for exploring what Cape Town and its surroundings have best to offer: the Cape Winelands wine region, Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, the penguin colony at Boulders Beach, Fast Track Tickets to Table Mountain — one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World — and many other memorable travel experiences.

Local Experiences

- Admire Cape Town from Table Mountain
- Climb to the lighthouse at the Cape of Good Hope
- Visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach
- Try Malay cuisine in the Bo-Kaap district
- Taste South African wines at one of the vineyards in the Cape Winelands

Itinerary

DAY 01 – 20.05.2027: WELCOME TO CAPE TOWN

After arrival at Cape Town International Airport, you will be met by the driver and transferred to the hotel. Please provide your flight details at least 2 weeks before arrival — we will arrange a shared shuttle transfer with other runners travelling on the same flight.

Check-in at the hotel from 15:00. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax in your room, at the pool, or for a stroll around the hotel.

We will be staying at the President Hotel Cape Town, located in Sea Point — an ideal area for runners. The entire promenade is used daily by locals for running, walking, and cycling, allowing you to adapt to the temperature and the marathon route along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The start and finish area of the marathon are easily accessible from the hotel. On marathon day, our local team will take care of every runner: there will be a morning transfer to the start and a shuttle back from the finish line to the hotel. For travel partners, a minivan with a local guide will be arranged to catch runners at two points along the course and explore parts of the city.

In the evening, we will meet in the hotel lobby for the Marathon Briefing with full information about the programme for the following days.

Accommodation	President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room
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Meals	–
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Experience	Welcome to Cape Town & Marathon Programme Briefing
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DAY 02 – 21.05.2027: CAPE TOWN CITY TOUR

We start the day with a morning run. Our hotel is in Sea Point, a runner's paradise. Right in front of the hotel is the promenade — we will run along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean on part of the marathon route. This is a local route used every day by local runners; the area is safe and offers a great view of the city at sunrise.

After breakfast, we head to the Marathon EXPO for kit collection.

Following the EXPO visit, we invite you on a tour of Cape Town. We will pass by the Castle of Good Hope and the City Hall, and make a stop in Company Gardens — surrounded by some of the city's most important buildings: Parliament, the Planetarium, and the National Museum of South Africa. We continue with a visit to the colourful Bo-Kaap neighbourhood, home to Cape Town's Muslim community, whose specific architecture and stories make it unmissable.

District Six Museum is also on our list — a powerful testament to the city's complex and often painful apartheid history.

Lunch stop at Time Out Cape Town (not included), followed by a free afternoon at the Waterfront area or at the hotel.

Accommodation	President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room
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Meals

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Experience

Cape Town City Tour & Marathon EXPO

DAY 03 – 22.05.2027: TABLE MOUNTAIN & CAPE TOWN

Today we visit Table Mountain — a symbol of Cape Town, listed as one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World, offering superb panoramic views of the city. We have included Fast Track Tickets so there's no waiting in line, and we will use the cable car.

Free leisure time in the afternoon. We recommend a stroll at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront — one of the main attractions of the city, full of shops, restaurants, and pubs, and also the safest area in Cape Town.

This is an easy, relaxed day: a light walk on Table Mountain and short bus transfers. This will give us a good rest before the marathon.

Evening pasta dinner at a local restaurant close to the hotel — the perfect preparation for race day.

Accommodation

President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room

Meals

Pasta dinner

Experience

Table Mountain Visit

DAY 04 – 23.05.2027: MARATHON DAY 🏃

The long wait is over — Marathon Day is here! Let's run the race and, above all, enjoy every moment of it.

Early morning breakfast at the hotel, followed by a private bus transfer to the Starting Point.

After completing the beautiful and scenic Cape Town marathon route, a private shuttle will transfer all runners back to the hotel.

After a well-deserved rest, we recommend an optional dinner at Gold Restaurant — an immersive African experience featuring a 14-dish taste-safari paired with traditional Mali puppets and live entertainment.

Accommodation

President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room

Meals

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Experience

Sanlam Cape Town Marathon 2027

DAY 05 – 24.05.2027: MEDAL MONDAY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Congratulations to all runners! 🏆

After breakfast, we head to Cape Point — not to be missed! We cross the spectacular Chapman's Peak route before arriving at the Cape Peninsula National Park, where we climb on foot to the old lighthouse at Cape Point. The day continues with a visit to the charming town of Simon's Town and a stop at Boulders Beach to admire the penguin colony. Free time for lunch or a walk on the beach.

IMPORTANT: Don't forget to bring your marathon medal — it's Medal Monday and the perfect backdrop for unforgettable photos!

Return to the hotel in the afternoon, free evening.

Accommodation	President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room
Meals	—
Experience	Cape of Good Hope & Boulders Beach

DAY 06 – 25.05.2027: CAPE WINELANDS

Today we take a trip to the Cape Winelands — a combination of small historic towns and modern wineries producing some of the highest quality wines in the world, which have made South Africa one of the largest wine-producing countries globally.

Located in the heart of this region, the city of Stellenbosch is the second oldest in South Africa and one of its most picturesque — a thriving university centre with many historic Cape Dutch buildings. We will make two stops at the region's beautiful vineyards: a wine and chocolate pairing at Boschendal, and a wine tasting at Vergelegen Wine Estate. Free time for lunch in town.

Return to Cape Town in the afternoon.

Accommodation	President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★ – Standard Room
Meals	—
Experience	Wine Tasting in South Africa

DAY 07 – 26.05.2027: SEE YOU NEXT TIME, CAPE TOWN!

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport. Thank you for being part of this amazing adventure — goodbye and see you next time!

Costs

Package Type	Price
Runner in Double Room (full Travel Excursion included)	1,500 EUR
Single Room Supplement for Runner	350 EUR
Travel Partner	1,200 EUR

By request, we can also offer a 5-night stay in Cape Town with a Guaranteed Entry for the Cape Town Marathon and without the full travel programme. For details, contact us at: dragos@exploretavel.ro

Package Includes

- Guaranteed entry for the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon 2027 (not included for travel partners)
- Finisher medal
- Marathon T-shirt
- Transfers to the start and back from the finish area to the hotel
- Transfers and local assistance for travel partners on marathon day
- 6 nights accommodation in Cape Town at a 4-star hotel
- Meals: breakfast every day + pasta dinner on Saturday evening at a local restaurant
- Guided tour of Cape Town
- Fast Track Tickets to Table Mountain
- Excursion to the Cape of Good Hope
- Entrance tickets to visit the penguin colony at Boulders Beach and Cape of Good Hope National Park
- Excursion to the Cape Winelands with 2 tastings at 2 different wineries
- All transfers and visits included in the itinerary, with private luxury transport and flat water
- Visits and excursions as mentioned in the programme with a local English-speaking guide
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and hotel staff: 20 EUR / person
- Water on the buses throughout the entire stay
- Guide services provided by Explore Travel
- Assistance in obtaining a South African visa

Package Does Not Include

- Flight tickets to Cape Town
- Visa fee (depends on nationality)
- Meals other than those mentioned in the programme
- Optional excursions and activities

Hotel

President Hotel Cape Town ★★★★★

Address: 4 Alexander Road, Bantry Bay, Cape Town 8001

Featuring an infinity pool, the President Hotel has a terrace bar with panoramic views of Lion's Head Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean. A 3-minute walk from Queen's Beach, it serves a full English breakfast.

Guest rooms are air-conditioned and contemporary in style. All rooms have a flat-screen TV, semi-self-catering kitchenettes with tea/coffee-making facilities, bar fridge, and a microwave.

The Island Restaurant offers buffet and à la carte menu options in a casual setting. The Senate Bar offers cocktails and other drinks.

The President Hotel is 6 km from Cape Town Stadium and the shops and attractions of the V&A Waterfront. Cape Town International Airport is approximately 30 minutes' drive away.

Recommended Airlines: Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways, KLM

Registration & Payment Conditions

Payment Stage	Amount	Deadline
Advance Payment	500 EUR / person	At time of booking
Second Installment	500 EUR / person	By 15 November 2026
Full Payment	Remaining balance	60 days before departure

Travel Conditions: Biometric passport valid for at least 6 months from the date of travel

Cancellation Conditions

- Penalty of 50% for cancellations between 120 and 60 days before departure
- Penalty of 100% for cancellations less than 60 days before departure

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