Robben Island, the unique symbol of “the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, suffering and injustice” with a rich 500 year old multi-layered history, is visited every year by thousands of people eager to understand and honour the important aspects of South Africa’s history that the Island represents.

Meeting Point:

Participants who have previously registered for the visit are kindly requested to meet at the Central Entrance of the Cape Town International Convention Centre on Sunday, 1 March, at 1:00 pm – please be on time. Transport to the ferry departure point will be provided by the South African hosts. In terms of attire, it is recommended to wear comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunglasses and sun protection cream.

Information:

You will be transported to the Island via Ferries. The ferry will depart from the Nelson Mandela Gateway at the V & A Waterfront at 3:00 pm – weather permitting. The tour takes 3.5 hours including the ferry trip to and from the Island. You will disembark at Murray’s Bay Harbour situated on the east coast of the Island and take a short walk to buses that will transport you to all the historical sites around the Island. On the way to the buses, you will pass buildings and a high wall built by prisoners during the 1960s. The buildings were used for family and lawyer visits to prisoners.

You will meet your Tour Guide when you have boarded the busses. The Tour Guides are former political prisoners from the Island. They are fully conversant and knowledgeable about the Island’s multi-layered 500 year old history. The tour route includes the graveyard of people who died from leprosy, the Lime Quarry, Robert Sobukwe’s house, the Bluestone quarry, the army and navy bunkers and the Maximum Security Prison where thousands of South Africa’s freedom fighters were incarcerated for years. The tour culminates with a visit of Nelson Mandela’s cell.

Weather forecast:

Please note that in case of bad weather conditions, the visit may be canceled.