

THE BEST TRAVEL MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD

ISSUE 66 | APRIL/MAY 2020

FREE DIGIMAG

# TRAVEL IDEAS

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PANIC!

WE BRING YOU  
THE LOCKDOWN ISSUE

# WTF!

## WANT THE FREEDOM?

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THE MARVELS OF MADAGASCAR! · WHERE TO GO IN WINTER IN AFRICA

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“WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD...”



Photo by Neil Jennings



TINTSWALO

FAMILY CAMP  
*at Welgevonden*





# TINTSWALO LODGES

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Photo by Dave Jacobs



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## FROM THE FLIGHT DECK



I won't even mention the "Big C" and how it's keeping us all locked down. Instead, I'll recapitulate just how almost eerie it is to see the "Big Sea" and her beautiful beaches here in Cape Town completely devoid of sun-worshippers and surfers - especially on a warm, post-summer's day. I live at a beach and I can almost hear my neighbours drooling on their surfboards and crying out to the waves that are almost taunting them. Surreal scenes indeed.

But the ocean is relentless and more waves will come, just as the earth will keep turning and opportunities to travel will once again present themselves. Borders and airports will re-open, and, who knows, we might even see a greener, bluer, healthier world out there when we re-emerge. The lack of human intervention on the great outdoors has already seen dolphins returning to Venice's canals and I'm sure there are a lot of other pleasant, natural surprises

waiting for us in the "outside world".

So, let's fast-forward to the (hopefully not-too-distant) future. Wanderlusts will almost certainly resume their thirst for travel by first gingerly dipping toes into local rivers, rather than immediately plunging headfirst into the big blue. And that's a great idea. Begin with the freedom of a regional roadtrip or flight to the coast or countryside. As Angel Campey (@YesReallyAngel) says, "When all this is over, take your holiday INSIDE South Africa, buy from small South African businesses. Go to local theatre, local comedy, small restaurants. Support local like never before. We will ALL need it."

And indeed we will. Smaller guesthouses, game lodges and domestic tour operators will appreciate your business more than ever before and you'll be helping to rebuild the local economy whilst exploring more of your own country. I'd go so far as to say that trips into the rest of Africa will benefit us too, which is why we've included the "Best Places to go in Africa this winter" along with the

largely local-focussed content in this issue.

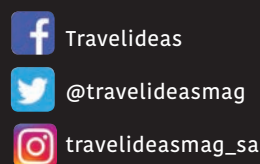
We also trust that you haven't cancelled any future bookings or travel plans, but merely postponed them - travel suppliers in our amazing country will soon be ready to welcome you with open arms - stretched wider than they've ever been stretched before.

Be safe and we'll see you out there!!

Guy

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Or visit our website [www.travelideas.co.za](http://www.travelideas.co.za)

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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE  
**Mile High  
Club**

BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN

LOVE IS ALWAYS IN THE AIR, SO MAYBE THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO GAIN MEMBERSHIP TO THE EXCLUSIVE MILE HIGH CLUB? TO BE ALLOWED ENTRY, ONE MUST GO ALL-OUT AMOROUS AT 5,280 FEET, ALTHOUGH CRUISING ALTITUDE (IN BOTH SENSES OF THE WORD) OF AROUND 35,000 FEET IS MORE COMMON.





*If you're considering enrollment, we give you some facts, a few words of caution and some tips for those deciding to buy a ticket to paradise.*

♥ **You might become (in) famous**

A 20-year-old British woman, who had had a bit more red wine on a 4-hour flight than appropriate, was asking male passengers to join the Mile High Club with her. Not only did Demi Burton get no takers, she became boisterous and ultimately ended up with a jail sentence. Just remember: Joining the club requires a clear mind and the ability to make strategic moves. Therefore we recommend drinking in moderation.

♥ **Join the ranks of thousands**

Of course, more people talk the talk than walk the walk when it comes to doing the deed at lofty levels. So stand out by putting your money where your mouth is. According to a Jetsetter poll, the number of frisky fliers is 15% of adults. That would mean that, if you are sitting on an Airbus A380, which is the largest commercial airplane, the chances are that 75 out of the 500 passengers are already in it or will be joining the club.

♥ **Get in line with A-listers**

If you do happen to score, you'll be in infamous company. Self-proclaimed mile-high celeb members include John Legend, Kim Kardashian, Janet Jackson, Liam Neeson, John Travolta, Gwyneth Paltrow, and, of course, Richard Branson. During a chat on Tyra Banks' talk show when asked where the craziest place Janet Jackson had done it was, she replied, "On a plane... an airplane... commercial." And when Tyra asked her if it was in the bathroom, Janet said, "No. That's what makes it worse, it was in my seat."

♥ **A time-honored tradition**

As the story goes, charter member Lawrence Sperry, inventor of the

automatic pilot, found a creative way to use his hands when not flicking the flight knobs. On a 1916 flight with a married socialite, the autopilot was accidentally disengaged, resulting in the couple, wearing only their birthday suits, ending up in the Atlantic Ocean near Long Island, New York. Although their altitude was way shy of a mile, an idea sprung to life, as did the tabloid headline "Aerial Petting Ends in Wetting" (Sperry was no slouch. He's also credited with the turn and bank indicator, seat pack parachute and retractable landing gear).

♥ **Nourish your mind and body**

Relationship advisers say that occasionally moving the action from the bedroom can raise the temperature and reignite the passion. Physiologically speaking, the sense of adventure when flying and the forbidden aspect along with a plane's hum and vibrations can heighten the sensations!

♥ **Exercise your rights (and thighs)**

Reports of would-be members contorting themselves to make love in the lavatory include mentions of charley horses, twisted backs and strained necks. What better motivation do you need to get those muscles moving and finally make use of that gym membership you've been paying for?

♥ **Add some luxury to your high flying**

Lovebirds can make it easier on themselves by flocking to their own nest. Some private aviation companies in the United States of America target twosomes, offering them their own canoodling cocoons. Love Cloud Aviation, for instance, zips across Las Vegas in a

Cessna with a customized romantic interior that includes sex position pillows. A curtain and the pilot's noise-cancelling headphones allow privacy. Flamingo Air, which flies out of Cincinnati, offers a bed behind a private curtained-off area, as well as "champagne, chocolates and a very discreet pilot".

♥ **Win naming rights**

If your consummation results in conception, you can rightfully name the kid Sky. Fun fact: David Copperfield's daughter's name is Sky (born in 2010), so maybe he's joined the club already? If you don't like the name Sky, other options include Alya (meaning "sky, heaven" in Arabic), Azzurra (from "azure, sky blue" in Italian) and Lani (meaning "sky, heaven, royal and majesty" in Hawaiian).

♥ **The solo option**

For a more convenient buzz, bring your own vibrating apparatus. According to various Transportation Security Administrations, adult toys are allowed in carry-on bags (as well as checked), but beware that airlines in some countries do have restrictions on these kinds of toys, so do your research before getting that buzz on.

♥ **Do it between the book covers**

For the shy ones, isn't it easier to just read a book? Start with the classic "Coffee Tea or Me?" first published in the swinging '60s and written as a memoir by two randy stewardesses. More recently, there's "The Mile High Club" in the Kinky Friedman series; "Mile High Club: First Class All the Way with the Rich and Famous"; and so many more. Or snack on a smorgasbord of "true tales" at the official Mile High Club's very own website, which can be found at [www.milehighclub.com](http://www.milehighclub.com)





**FOR THOSE SO INCLINED TO DO THE DEED, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS ON HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT...**

- International flights are best, as there's less attention, so therefore more opportunity to get away from prying eyes. If you want to join the club in style and not be cramped up in a tiny lavatory, check out the Emirates Airbus A380, which has two showers in First Class. Of course, the First Class flight attendant-to-traveller ratio is very low, so watch out.
- For the rest of us in Economy, some carriers have larger lavatories in the middle. Sneak peeks before you sneak off.
- Bonus points for handicap accessible bathrooms, which are roomier and have bars, which help with positioning and stability.
- Don't enter the restroom together, and don't exit at the same time either.
- Aim for late at night when passengers are sleeping or during food service when crew members are clustered in one area and passengers are distracted.

**Stay Sexy and Safe!**

**♥ Avoid things going very wrong**

It could happen like it did on "The Mindy Project", where Mindy and her paramour try to get it on in the airplane lavatory. They not only fail, but his arm gets stuck in the trash bin and her hair is flushed down the toilet. Not so unrealistic, actually, so remember to tie your hair back first.

**♥ Shrink away from shrinking lavatories**

While the average public toilet stall is 90cm wide, many planes flown by major carriers have shrunk their lavatories to 60cm wide to make room for more seats. That's barely enough room to turn around, much less follow the Kama Sutra. Plus aren't airplane bathrooms off-putting enough already without exposing even more of your body for longer periods of time?

**♥ Keep up with the times**

Mile-high hanky-panky is very 20th-century. The days of free-wheeling flying fun are coming to an end, due mostly to heightened security measures. Also, flight attendants are trained to size up passengers and keep an eye on them, the opposite of what you want if you're going for the gold.

**♥ Keep the law off your back (and your shirt on)**

Your legal rights when engaging in on-board escapades, especially if you stay seated, are as murky as the overhead PA system. Better to not flirt with getting booted, arrested or publicly humiliated. ☹





## Golden Ring – the soul of Russia

Though Moscow and St Petersburg are Russia's face to the world, it is the Golden Ring that is the true origin and spirit of Russia.

If you are after the heart and soul of Russia, then get yourself to the Golden Ring – a circle of ancient towns which is the birthplace of modern Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church. Our small group tour takes you to the core of the Ring with visits to Sergiev Posad, Suzdal and Vladimir.

The Trinity-Sergius Lavra monastery in Sergiev Posad is the most revered of all Orthodox institutions. The saying goes that as long as Trinity-Sergius Lavra exists, so too will Russia. It is from here that the unifier of Rus, Sergius of Radonezh, brought about the revival of Russia in the 1400's after centuries of repressive Tatar-Mongul rule. Of all the Trinity and Assumption cathedrals are the most important. The first, built in 1422, houses the famous Trinity icon of Andrei Rublev, as part of its very impressive iconostasis. Assumption was commissioned by none other than Ivan the Terrible and is known for its four blue domes with golden stars.

On the Golden Ring one sees rural Russia at its finest. Quaint towns, all living museums where ordinary Russians go about their lives untroubled in their typical timber houses with elaborately decorated window and door frames – all with distinctly different designs.

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## Russia

10 – 23 September 2020

Fascinating Russia – a tough reputation and yet filled with artistic finery. Discover Moscow – glorious history and unique architecture; the Golden Ring – a circle of ancient towns, the cradle of modern Russia and the Orthodox Church; de luxe overnight sleeper train to St Petersburg – grand cultural capital, her boulevards and surrounds filled with the opulence of the Tsars.



## Peru & Argentina

13 – 29 September 2020

Exotic Peru: Lima and the Amazon, three nights deep in the pristine jungle in a superior eco jungle lodge; Cusco – a city high in altitude and attitude; the Sacred Valley; magical Machu Picchu – mountain-top citadel high above the Urubamba River. Journey to the majestic Iguazu Falls and then fiery Buenos Aires – vibrant beauty and passion.



## Morocco

16 – 29 October 2020

Exotic land with fabled cities: Casablanca, Meknes, Fez and Marrakech – meandering alleys of the ancient medinas, across the High Atlas into the desert – lush green valleys, the vibrant colour of burnished mud-brick kasbahs, a night in a Bedouin tent under the brilliant stars of the Sahara, and the quaint white and blue of Essaouira – a sensory overload!



## Japan

17 – 28 October 2020

Fascinating Japan in autumn - Iconic cities Tokyo and Kyoto – a mix of the futuristic and traditional; the natural spectacle of Mt Fuji; hyper modern superfast bullet trains; the perfected beauty and calm of Zen gardens; rich and unusual culture; history - from the ancient, Miyajima and Takayama to the more recent past in Hiroshima – a reminder of Japan's darkest hour.



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# The SA Game Lodge Bucket List

ENTICING, BEAUTIFUL GAME LODGES IN MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES ARE PLENTIFUL, BUT SOME ARE MORE SPECIAL THAN OTHERS. HERE ARE 'SIX OF THE BEST' DESTINATION LODGES YOU'LL EVER VISIT – AND THEY ARE ALL WITHIN OUR BORDERS. SO NO PASSPORT IS NEEDED TO VISIT THEM ALL. **BY KERI HARVEY**

Tintswalo, Lapalala and Family Camp





## #GAMELODGES



### Tintswalo – Lapalala and Family Camp, Waterberg

These two magnificent properties in the malaria-free Waterberg are just a couple of hours' drive – or under an hour's flight – from Johannesburg. So without any ado, you can be deep in the bush in no time at all.

Tintswalo Lapalala gives guests access to one of Africa's most diverse offerings of wildlife and bird species. Situated in the Lapalala Wilderness Reserve within the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Tintswalo Lapalala's spacious tented suites are magical. Décor is magnificent, pared



Sanbona Wildlife Reserve, Dwyka Tented Camp

down opulence that reflects different iconic African cultures from the stoic Masai and Turkana to the nomadic Himbas and Tuaregs, and even includes the local Zulu and Xhosa cultures.

With access to over 44 000 hectares of woodland and savannah in the reserve, both grazing and browsing wildlife are plentiful. Zebra and antelope, giraffe and black rhino all live here along with all the predators and many other species too. Plus, the reserve is renowned for its research and breeding programmes for rare and endangered species such as Roan antelope and buffalo.

While Tintswalo Lapalala certainly welcomes families, Tintswalo Family Camp is thoroughly family focused and equipped. In the Waterberg's 40 000-hectare Welgevonden Game Reserve, Tintswalo Family Camp is a single-use space for family groups or executive getaways. It has one-, two- and three-bedroomed suites that are beautifully spacious and named after iconic birds – from the Eagle and Owl suites to the Kingfisher and Crested Barbet suites. The camp is also in the heart of Big Five territory, plus there are another 50 mammal species and over 300 different bird species to see here. It's a wildlife

wonderland and a magical escape to the beautiful bushveld.



### Sanbona Wildlife Reserve, Little Karoo

The Karoo is magical, a place to exhale and appreciate distant horizons. It's also where antiquity lives, along with magnificent rock art and wildlife in Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. At 58 000 hectares, Sanbona at the foot of the Warmwaterberg is the size of Singapore so wildlife has ample space to roam freely. Plus, the reserve protects endangered riverine rabbits and



## #GAMELODGES



has conservation and research projects happening all the time. This is also one of the only places in South Africa to see white lions in the wild – and we were lucky enough to find them as they took an afternoon saunter.

Sanbona has diverse accommodation options too. From historic and secluded Tilney Manor set in gorgeous gardens and with sweeping views over the Little Karoo, to eco-friendly Dwyka Tented camp set amongst dramatic rock formations, and Gondwana Family Lodge overlooking a dam and resembling a traditional Karoo homestead, Sanbona caters for all tastes. The lodge also offers a special ‘kids on safari’ programme to engage young ones in environmental matters. Sanbona Explorer Camp offers guests the chance to savour the Karoo on foot, and sleep in absolute comfort and style and enjoy evenings around a camp fire. All the accommodation options are evocative and beautifully created with guests’ comfort and interests top of mind.



### Tau, Madikwe Game Reserve, North West Province

Madikwe is a special place. The 75 000 hectare game reserve is malaria-free and is a meeting point of diverse habitats. So species seldom found living together occur naturally in Madikwe – like springbok and impala, gemsbok and sable. And at the heart of Madikwe Game Reserve is the

‘place of the lion’, Tau Game Lodge.

Built in an arc and overlooking a languid natural waterhole, the lodge is designed to showcase the enchanting surroundings. Tau exudes classic bush lodge elegance and is appointed in warm earth tones and textures. Guest suites each have a private deck where you can enjoy sundowners with an unobstructed view of the waterhole.



### Hamilton’s Tented Camp, Kruger National Park

There’s an enchanting and luxurious ‘out of Africa’ experience without going all the way to Kenya. Just head for the Kruger National Park and Hamilton’s Tented Camp, about two hours inside Orpen Gate – but there are various fly-in options too. If you love olde world Africa, you’ll be swept off your feet at the nostalgic charm of this







# TAU

## GAME LODGE MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

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## #GAMELODGES



Hamiltons tented camp



unique camp. It's so beautifully appointed, you almost expect Karen Blixen to be seated in a corner casually reading a book.

The six exceptionally private suites are tented on elevated decks with river views. The N'waswitsontso River flows seasonally, and when it's dry, wildlife frequents the riverbed right in front of your suite. Interiors are simply exquisite, with vast beds festooned in mosquito nets, beautiful teak floors and furniture and sepia pictures on the walls. There's a slipper bath and an outdoor shower, depending on your preference, and private decks to read and game watch and sip afternoon tea if you choose.

Of course there are twice daily game drives too to enjoy all the diversity that Kruger has to offer. Meals are sumptuous and service is impeccable by traditionally

dressed butlers who anticipate your needs flawlessly. You will feel thoroughly indulged and completely refreshed if you visit Hamiltons – named in honour of Colonel James Stevenson-Hamilton, the first warden of the iconic Kruger National Park.



### !Xaus, Kgalgadi Transfrontier Park

Nobody arrives at !Xaus by accident. The trip to get there traverses 91 red sand dunes and takes you deep into the magnificent Kalahari Desert. It's like driving a soft sand rollercoaster and when you arrive at !Xaus the landing is also soft, welcoming and warmly hospitable. !Xaus is much more than a gorgeous space to escape the world, it's owned by the Khomani San and Mier communities and

symbolises their spirit of reconciliation and dedication to conservation. !Xaus means 'heart' in the Nama language, and this is exactly where their hearts lie.

Right in front of the lodge is !Xaus pan, and of course it is also heart-shaped and red, which lends a little extra love to the !Xaus story. The earthy suites, built along a ridge are off the grid and off the radar. Here it's all about following the sun, with early morning and late afternoon game drives to avoid the heat of the day. Naps are normal, as is stargazing at night into diamond-studded skies.

!Xaus is not about the wildlife, though you will see oryx and other game in the area, it's about silence, serenity and an authentic Kalahari experience with the traditional people of this land. To the Bushmen, the desert is a vast pantry and





authenticity of this way of life. !Xaus is unforgettable for so many good reasons.



### Imbali Safari Lodge, Kruger National Park

The epitome of outside-inside living in luxury is Imbali. There are just 12 spacious suites, decorated in calm neutrals with splashes of colour,

pharmacy and listening to the stories of their lives will leave you changed and humbled. There are certain twigs used for stirring, the Shepherd bush is used to make a coffee equivalent, other bushes produce 'toothbrushes', and then there are all the wild fruits too. And then you return to the lodge to enjoy delectable meals, sleep in comfort and reminisce about the

and each with French doors spanning the length of the room and leading out onto a private deck. When you open the doors, you are communing with the African bush – but in absolute comfort.

Suites are completely private, sublimely spacious and each has not only a private deck but also its own plunge pool. Just imagine, going for a dip in the pool and

watching a heard of elephant silently pass by. Marvel at a myriad birdlife going about their business or antelope sparring for territory – all watched from your private deck. Or kick back on your lounge, read a book, nap, or listen to the sounds of bush dwellers around you. Spa treatments are also available in the comfort of your suite, and there are gym bags if you want to work up a sweat.

Delectable buffet breakfasts and lunches are served at the main lodge – but there's always the option to enjoy these in suite too. High tea before heading out on the afternoon game drive is a magnificently decadent affair, and dinner is served under the stars – either at the lodge or in the rustic outdoor boma. All this is a three-hour drive from Kruger Gate, just six hours' drive from Jo'burg or a short flight from just about anywhere. 🌿



Imbali safari lodge







# Breaking Down Barriers

BY ECOTRAINING

**I**n modern society we are often faced with all kinds of barriers. These barriers come in all forms and sizes. It can have an impact on individuals, different cultures, languages to name a few, but they also have a major impact on wild animals and natural ecosystems.

For years we have put up fences to enclose our properties to prevent access to outsiders, or prevent the escape of animals that were meant to be kept within these fences. It might seem like a sensible plan in the short term, but do you really know what the consequences are to wild animals or ecosystems in the long run?

### What is the impact of fences?

When we fence-in or fence wilderness regions off from one another we essentially affect the movements of most large mammals. This in-turn plays havoc on their ability to migrate and therefore decreases the genetic diversity within the species.

Decreased genetic diversity will usually result in weakened immune systems, this will in turn have a massive impact on natural selection and those species' ability to improve themselves over time.

Another impact of fences on wildlife is that certain animal species within the region will see an exponential population growth rate, whilst others will see a decreased population due to lack of resources and increased competition. This essentially effects the biodiversity of a region negatively.

So, what does this all mean? Due to these



fences and the affect they have on animal movement, these areas will need human intervention to maintain biodiversity. The smaller the fenced area, the greater the amount of intervention that's needed in the form of micro-management of the species.

### What are the benefits of not having any fences?

As animals start to move more freely, we generally see balance slowly being restored to the natural world. Animal populations start to regulate more naturally, genetic diversity increases, biodiversity of species increases and human intervention decreases into a from of macro-management of ecosystems, rather than micro-management of animals.

Some may believe that by dropping these fences we open ourselves up to increased poaching as these wilderness regions may become more accessible to poachers. The reality is that a fence has never stopped a poacher. Instead of fences, we need to

concentrate our efforts and funding on well trained anti-poaching units, providing boots on the ground. We need to continue to increase our understanding of the poaching crisis... and the ways we can combat it. One of the best ways to combat the poaching crisis is through education.

EcoTraining recently gave each one of their employees the opportunity to break some barriers of their own. This barrier in particular was a fence between the Pridelands property and the rest of the greater Kruger National Park. "The fact that each one of us could play a part in opening space into the Kruger Park was not only symbolic in our personal lives of breaking down fences, but it gave us a sense of power. We had the power to redeem a habitat that existed many years ago", says Annemi Zaaiman. "We had the power to give animals more space to roam freely, without any barriers preventing them from doing so. We had the power to restore the ecosystem."

The time is NOW to make a difference. The natural world is in crisis and it is time for everyone to realise that we need to take a step back... do what you can to improve your immediate surroundings. In time, it will cause a positive ripple effect. The natural world does not belong to humans alone, it belongs to all living organisms. Let's break down all those barriers, let's find a way to live in harmony with everyone and everything on this planet. It was done centuries ago, so why not today? 🌱





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Accommodation | Meals | Selected Activities of Destination | Opera in the Kitchen Experience | Flights & Transfers where applicable



### WATERBERG

Entabeni Manor Lodge & Legend Mountain View Lodge – Limpopo

Dates:

7 – 9 August | 14 – 16 August  
(One day workshop dates TBC)

Cost: From R6500 pp/sharing



### MOZAMBIQUE

Dugong Beach Lodge, San Sebastian Peninsula – Vilanculos

Dates:

21 – 24 August  
(One day workshop dates TBC)

Cost: From R25 000 pp/sharing



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#CEDERBERG

# On top of the world

HOW DO YOU GET 'FAR FROM THE MADDING CAPE TOWN CROWD' WITHOUT TRAVELLING FOR DAYS? HEAD UP THE N7 THROUGH CLANWILLIAM AND TURN RIGHT TO CEDERBERG RIDGE WILDERNESS LODGE. IT COULDN'T BE EASIER. OR MORE REFRESHING FOR YOUR SOUL. **BY KERI HARVEY**



**O**n top of a mountain one feels untouchable, invincible and unfettered. There's an air of freedom and pervading calm. The ascent in second gear to Cederberg Ridge Wilderness Lodge is steep, but when you arrive at the top you immediately exhale. Down below and not

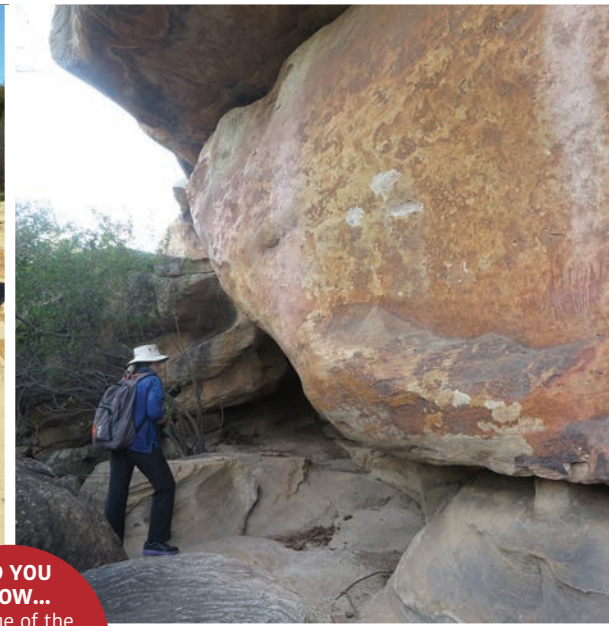
far away is the town of Clanwilliam, yet it feels distant when you're swathed in the serenity of the mountain top. And suddenly the world is ok again.

The Cederberg is wild and rugged, raw and beautiful. In summer, temperatures soar; in winter there may be snow in the mountains, but these extremes make

one feel fully alive and connected to the elements. This place has a special feeling, an authenticity that is hard to find and harder to articulate.

It's 40C when we arrive in the afternoon. "Don't worry," says vibrant assistant manager Itu Mathole, "the wind will come up any minute and it will be cooler." She's





**DID YOU KNOW...**  
the age of the Cederberg paintings ranges from 8 000 to 100 or 200 years.



spot on, and the breeze arrives as we do at our suite. And then we exhale again. All the suites have panoramic views over the rocky Cederberg and are exquisitely appointed. Neutral natural textures and simplicity pervade, botanical pictures are on the walls and fynbos sprigs rest in vases. There's just a swish of colour in washed protea and

sage, both of which also grow wild in these mountains along with a thousand other species of fynbos. The window seat will certainly be enjoyed on lazy afternoons, as will the private veranda to watch the last light of the day dance over the mountains. And later at night, there are the star-spangled

skies to admire. There's also a reading nook outside in the sunshine and an outdoor shower for an al fresco experience. The white and glass bathroom is spa-inspired, though there is also a full spa with an extensive pamper menu. We brew cups of rooibos tea and dunk home-baked biscuits as we take in the view and slowly unwind.



## #CEDERBERG



Today is for chilling; tomorrow will be active.

The surrounding Cederberg is named for the Clanwilliam Cedar Tree which grows at over 1 200 metres and is both endemic and endangered. These trees were virtually eradicated by European settlers who used the beautiful sweet-smelling wood to make furniture – and even as poles. However, the unusual spelling of Cederberg has always been a conundrum – now no more. In English it should be spelt Cedarberg; in Afrikaans it's Sederberg, so the unusual spelling is a synthesis of the two namings, making Cederberg correctly spelled. This is also the world of rooibos tea, which grows wild and is the only place in the world that it does – and there's plentiful rock art with over 2 500 documented sites. The rock art trail is first on our list of things to do tomorrow morning, and in the afternoon a lazy cruise on Clanwilliam Dam sounds enticing.

However, there is a whole menu of diverse activities with plenty of unusual ones too. Many are to enjoy on your own terms like self-guided walks and mountain bike trails. There's

also the option of guided walks and bike trails, excursions to the High Cederberg and to see waterfalls, tours of the grape and citrus farm, rooibos farm tours, excursions to the West Coast, flower tours in spring and even town tours of Clanwilliam. That's if you don't want to kick back in the spa or chill in your relaxing suite. At night there is stargazing into the big open skies above – which is exactly what we do before tucking in to bed in absolute comfort.

Breakfast is a genteel experience, served out on the sunny deck of the homestead. There's an exquisite cold buffet and a hot menu with unusual options – like a Salmon Bowl of smoked ancient grains, seared salmon and poached egg. Lunches are as light as a club sandwich or as heavy as eland steak, always gorgeously presented. Dinners are decadent with a diverse menu for all the courses.

After breakfast we are well primed for the rock art trail, and we head out for the four to five hour hike along the Brandewyn River. There will be plenty of clambering, since the rock art is mostly in rock overhangs. The day is heating



Breakfast is served out on the sunny deck of the homestead.







*We exhale again. All the suites have panoramic views over the rocky Cederberg and are exquisitely appointed. Neutral natural textures and simplicity pervade, botanical pictures are on the walls and fynbos sprigs rest in vases.*

up too, so we head out clutching our lodge branded waterbottles, personalised with our names. The rock art is enchanting, and of people and wildlife, hunts and daily life. It's an evocative glimpse into the lives of the ancient San people who called this rough terrain home. Some of the scenes are naturally faded, others remain vibrant. Some sites require short bursts of rock climbing, to see others you need to lie on your back and look up at the paintings. It's a memorable experience with the sense of being part of antiquity. The San were deft artists for sure.

Back at the lodge we enjoy lunch, a cool shower and some down time in air-conditioning before heading out for a sundowner cruise on Clanwilliam dam. After being nearly empty in the drought that gripped the Western Cape, the scenic dam is now full and its waters twinkle in the sunshine. Skipper Peter sees us from the opposite bank and heads over in his small

elegant speedboat. We step in and he briefs us on the trip. There are just four of us on board, and the Finnish couple are relishing the summer heat. "It's snowing in Helsinki now," she says, and he adds: "You just don't know how great your weather is."

When the dam is full you can cruise 25km upstream, but we won't go that far today. Peter turns the boat and we head off, enjoying the breeze as we go. We pass spurwing geese and a mango farm on the banks, and then he slows down and pulls up close to a cave on the bank and points. "If you look very carefully you'll see a painting of an oryx inside." And we do. Then it strikes us that we are actually viewing rock art from a boat, which is certainly unusual. This morning we were clambering to see it; now we are sitting comfortably and being driven right up to the rock face.

A little further on, Peter cuts the motors and offers us sundowner drinks and snacks.

What a way to enjoy a fiery sunset, on water and surrounded by mountains. Life could definitely be worse. Peter talks about the area and what it's like to live here. It's certainly hot in summer, but the people are just as warm hearted. A few years ago Peter swapped corporate life in Cape Town for a slower pace in Clanwilliam and he has never looked back. "When it gets too hot in summer, I just head to the dam and take a boat ride," he smiles. "If getting hot for a few weeks of the year is all we have to worry about, then we have no worries at all. Here we have a great life." ☺

## CONTACT

### Cederberg Ridge

Old Klawer Road, Clanwilliam, 8135  
South Africa [www.cederbergridge.co.za](http://www.cederbergridge.co.za)  
Reservations: 087 151 4520  
Lodge: 027 470 0136  
Email: [res@cederbergridge.co.za](mailto:res@cederbergridge.co.za)





# Left field Montagu

SMALL TOWN, BIG EXPERIENCES

ON ARRIVAL INTO MONTAGU I WAS DETERMINED TO SEEK OUT A FEW INTERESTING THINGS TO DO IN THIS “MIDDLE OF NOWHERE” TOWN ON THE CAPE’S ROUTE 62. I NEEDED TO FIND THINGS WHICH MAYBE NOT MANY OUT-OF-TOWNERS KNEW ABOUT. SO I ASKED THE OWNER OF A LARGE SHOP IN TOWN IF THERE WAS, MAYBE, ANYWHERE I COULD PICK FRUIT? HE SAID A DEFINITE NO AND TOLD ME THAT THE FRUIT SEASON WAS OVER. SO I ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER EXPERIENCES I SHOULD TRY. HE ANSWERED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING, ONLY RUGBY! WELL, WITH THAT ANSWER I DECIDED THAT PERHAPS I SHOULD TRY AND SEEK OUT ADVENTURE ON MY OWN, AND SO THE SEARCH BEGAN. AND BOY WAS I PLEASANTLY SURPRISED - THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO DO IN THIS SMALL FRIENDLY TOWN THAN INITIALLY MEETS THE EYE. YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK.

**BY LISA STEFFEN**







### Cycling on arty Dutch-style bikes

Cycling through the quaint town with Tour Guide Marchelle from Flying Feet Guided Town Tours is as much relaxing as it is informative and fun. The bicycles are single speed with upright handle bars so that you can actually enjoy the town views, and it's great for the back and spine as you don't have to lean hunched down with eyes focused on pavements. There are definite bells and whistles added to the bikes used. To begin with, they all have bells. Yes, and so wonderful to click them and hear them ring as you pass friendly pedestrians. Motorists cruise by, cheering hearty hellos to Marchelle who is well known in the town, and you become part of this friendliness with a return ring from your bike in greeting back. The bicycles are each painted by different local town artists in their own colours and designs, and a short description and picture of the artist is on a leaflet for you to read. On arrival at Flying Feet, the colourful bright bikes greet you, as does your tour guide for the ride. Take a seat on the comfy leather chairs as Marchelle does a short safety briefing. Grab a water or an Energade, the sunblock



on offer, and pop them in the backpack provided. (and don't forget your camera). All that's left is for you to grab your helmet and choose your bike.

We had a wonderful 2 hr bike trip with great photo stops and an opportunity to sip some water and listen to the history and stories of how Montagu was born. We cycled through lover's lane, over small bridges, on bumpy off-road sidewalks and ended with a much deserved Muscadel

tasting. This is when you realize a backpack is essential for carrying that delicious sweet taste of Montagu Muscadel back to the finish line.

### Avalon Hot Mineral pools

Nothing heals or destresses better than a soak in a hot mineral pool fresh from Mother Nature. If you don't have time to book a few days at this resort/hotel, then the good news is that they welcome day

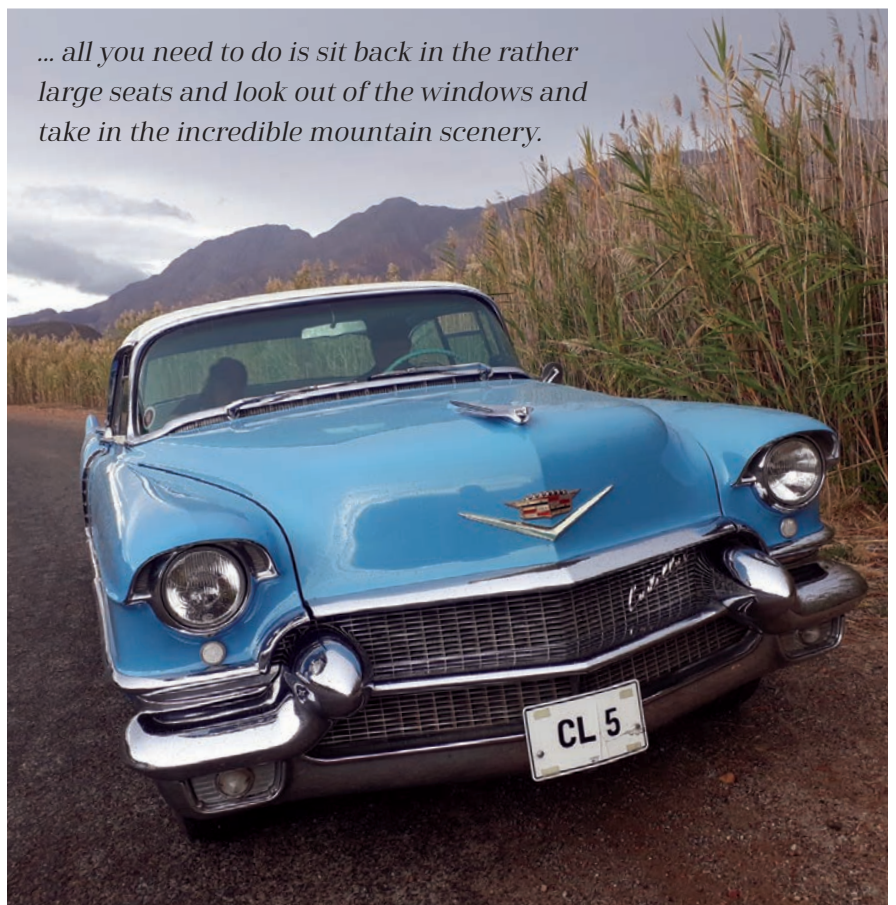




visitors. But be warned: the weekends are packed with excited children! The resort has two different pool areas, one for overnight guests and one for day visitors. The day visitors' section also has a few small pools for children and a super tube. There's even a pool table and braai facilities, so bring meat! As a hotel guest you have the privilege of using both sections of the grounds, as well as the indoor heated pool - a nice, quiet retreat where one can just sit on the seats in the pool and soak up the hot waters. Hotel guests also get to enjoy the first source of the hot mineral waters that come out of the mountains and into the Jacuzzi. The hotel has two restaurants, a take-away cafe near the pool area and a pool bar where cocktails are the order of the day (and night).

**A trip down memory lane**  
With a choice of three well restored muscle cars, American Dream Cars will chauffeur drive you around on a mini road trip like no other. Pierre-Jaques is your driver/guide, and is also manager at the Montagu Country hotel. And it's just as well that he drives, the steering wheel in on the

*... all you need to do is sit back in the rather large seats and look out of the windows and take in the incredible mountain scenery.*







“wrong” side of the vehicle! As he drives Pierre-Jaques tells you some fascinating tales of the town, so all you need to do is sit back in the rather large seats and look out of the windows and take in the incredible mountain scenery. Our particular car drove quietly and smoothly, an opulent drive in large-spaced luxury. Choose between a trip to nearby McGregor, or a visit to Robertson for wine tastings. Price options range from 1 to 4 hr trips. We did a short trip through Montagu’s town centre, and PJ showed us the newer and older areas of Montagu whilst chatting on about



ther town and even his old neighbourhood. Rain started to fall but that certainly didn’t dampen the mood or the American dream. We ended off by enjoying old school scones and tea at the Montagu Country Hotel.

### Muscadel tastings

Montagu is known for its unique wines and its rich Muscadel (many Western Cape hotels have Montague Muscadel as their welcome drink - or even in the in-room decanter one often finds in your room). The recipe for the original Montagu Muscadel dates back to the 1930’s when it was first made by the Brink Brothers - who established this winery as the leader in the production of Muscadel in Montagu. Varieties include Ruby and Hanepoot, so give them a taste before you make your purchase. They also sell miniturized Muscadel bottles, which make a great gift or as a reminder that you need to go back soon.

### Spa treatments

A must for any woman on holiday!! Men have also recently started enjoying treatments and taking care of their bodies too, so whether you’re a sports enthusiastic or a nature lover, visit one of Montagues spas and complete your holiday in the hands of a professional. I visited two different spas. The Montagu Country Hotel uses Cspa, a South African product brought in to help support the locals. I did the “back up package”, focussing on my back - with an exfoliation and full body massage.

The pressure was perfect and my masseuse expertly located pressure points

on my neck and shoulders. My shoulder blades were massaged and each muscle was professionally worked - a fantastic treatment!

The second spa I visited was at Avalon Springs Hotel. Here there are no frills or little extras, but the lady who worked on me was brilliant. She introduced herself as Marisa and used grapeseed oil mixed with lavender and rosemary during my Swedish massage, which uses pressure points to get rid of toxins. After the treatment, Marisa reminded me to drink lots of water and not to shower for an hour so that the oils could seep into my skin. If you make your way to Montagu, do pop in and book with Marisa, you won’t regret it. Plus...your children can enjoy the hot springs while you enjoy your much needed lift.

### Buy a book at The Book Shop

You might wonder why this would be on a list of “experiences”, but books have something especially fascinating about them. Firstly, the suspense of reading a book to find out if the cover really showcased what the book is about, hence the saying “you can’t read a book by its cover”, is especially true of this little book store filled with unusual books, lots of character and the lady with a passion for books who runs it, Jo. It is not a massive shop, but it has loads of books to choose from, as well as two old book press machines which are an insight into the olde world of book production. So, if you belong to a book club (which we all know is more about enjoying some wine and



## #MONTAGU



*a juicy Eland loin served with porcino mushroom sauce, baby corn, cauliflower, green beans and soft potato fritters. The Eland loin was cooked to perfection - tender and juicy - and the sauce was aromatic and creamy.*

For dessert we enjoyed hazelnut Crème Brulee served with chocolate fudge pieces, gooseberries and kiwi on the side, drizzled with berry coulee., an explosion of senses. So, whether you love Fine Dining or simply a good plate of home cooked meals, the Mimosa Lodge is the place to be. The Restaurant is open to everyone, so booking is essential.

Guana Caves for the fit and able The hike to the Caves is an experience on its own as you ramble up, and up, to get to the final stop. The two hour trip is a photographer's dream, it's so majestically

beautiful and peaceful and you'll get some incredibly scenic shots. One starts with a tractor ride before ending up by climbing many stairs to the actual Guana Caves themselves. This trip is available all year round, but bats are not always flying around. If it rains or the grounds are very wet, you might find it a touch muchy, so take water, sunblock and good hiking books. This hike is especially great if you love the outdoors, photography, the outdoors and loads of fresh air. I personally loved it more than I thought i would so believe me, Montagu, I'll be back! 🌟



### CONTACTS

American Dream Cars (we were chauffeured around in a 1956 Cadillac Sedan De Ville. PJ Basson 023 - 614 3125

Cycle Montagu: Flying Feet - Marchelle 076 891 3623

Guana Caves Booking: 084 553 4187

Mimosa Lodge: Fine Dining Experience 023 614 2351

Avalon Springs Hotel and Spa: 023 - 614 1150

Muscadel tastings: Montagu Wine & Spirits: 023 - 614 1340

www.montagu.org.za  
www.montagu-ashton.info

chatter than talking about that books you read)grab one of Jo's books a reignite the passion amongst your fellow readers with these weird and wonderful titles.

### A 5 Star Fine Dining Experience

Dining at Mimosa Lodge is a must (the eight culinary awards displayed on the entrance wall is testament to the dining quality). We chose the two course meal and started with mains -






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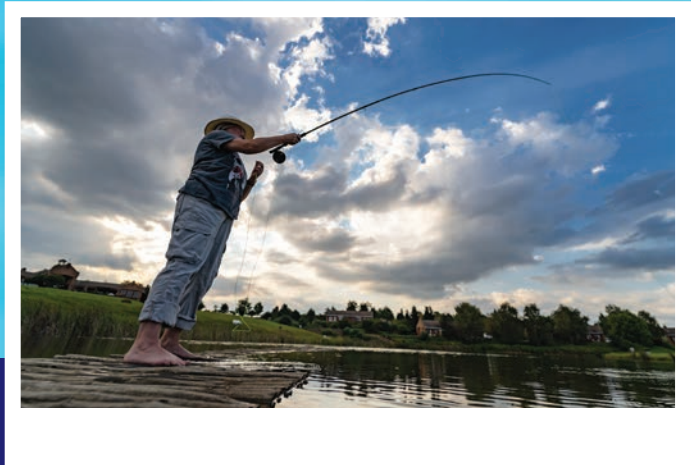
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# SIMPLE SIMON'S TOWN



120 SECONDS. IN 2008, THAT'S HOW LONG IT TOOK ERIN LAVOIE FROM THE USA TO CHOP DOWN 27 CHRISTMAS TREES AND BECOME A NEW GUINNESS WORLD RECORD HOLDER. IT'S ALSO HOW LONG IT TAKES TO DRIVE THROUGH THE HISTORICAL AND EVOLVING SUBURB OF SIMON'S TOWN ON THE CAPE PENINSULA. **SAM BOTES** PAID A VISIT.

**T**his once quiet suburb, home to the South African Naval Base, is Cape Town's secret gem. Overlooking the calm waters of False Bay, most people simply drive straight through Simon's Town to reach the world-renowned Boulders Beach, home to the famous African Penguin colony, and are blissfully unaware of the incredible activities they are missing out on.

The history of the suburb is reflected in the old buildings which hug the Main Road. The top floors of these buildings are lined





*In the centre of Simon's Town is Jubilee Square where you will find a statue of Just Nuisance, the only dog ever to be officially enlisted into the Royal Navy.*

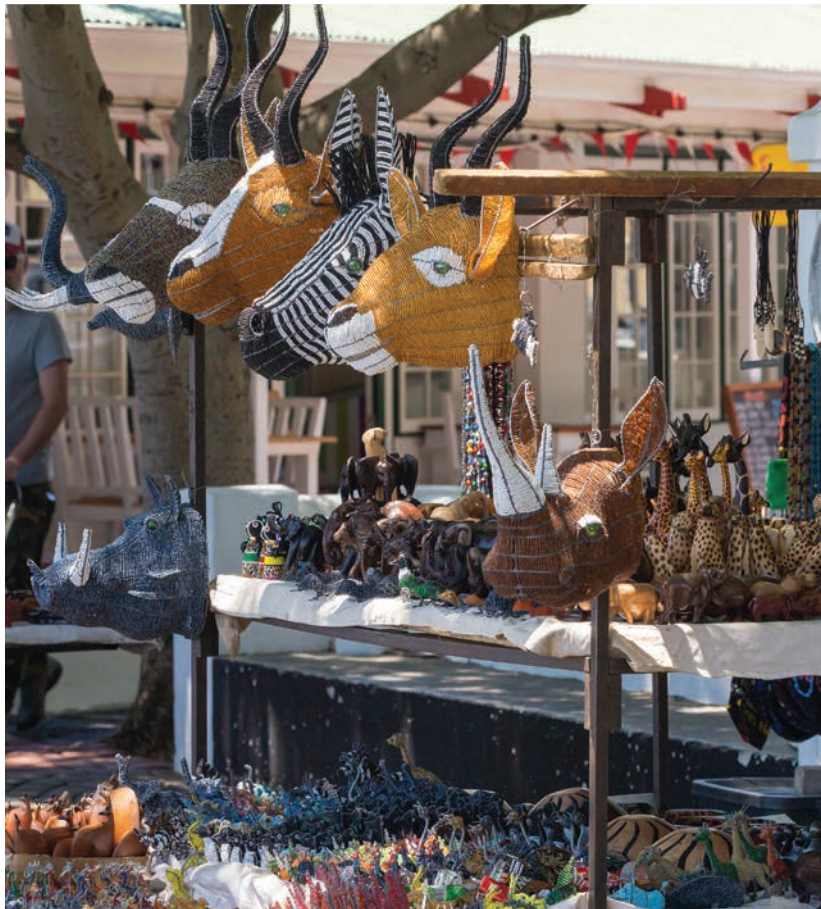


with wrought iron balconies and beautiful Cape gables depicting their existence since the 1800's. On street level you find yourself in a different time period as brightly coloured cafés spill out onto the sidewalks and European millennials chat boisterously over their cappuccinos and lattes. While no-one was looking, quaint shops have become trendy and attract a hip crowd who enjoy rummaging for that perfect antiquity, or shopping for fresh foods and ingredients void of any plastic packaging, or even selecting hand-made pearl jewelry. This is not a place of chain stores, but rather a road of uniqueness.

In the centre of Simon's Town is Jubilee Square where you will find a statue of Just Nuisance, the only dog ever to be officially enlisted into the Royal Navy. Originally this was called Market Square, where farmers would come to trade their produce, but today the traders are out selling a variety of bright African curios. Shoppers are treated to traditional music which wafts through the air from hidden speakers as these skilled craftsmen continue to bead their wire creations, polish their stone work and prepare for their day.



#CAPEPENINSULA





But the biggest change that's happened in Simon's Town is the number of activities available to visitors. You can experience the ocean in a way that suits you, whether it's stand-up paddling, harbour site-seeing, swimming at the beautiful beaches or taking a high-powered ride out into the middle of the bay.

The harbour here is the perfect spot for stand-up paddling, and Surfshack is SUP central here. Bronwyn is well experienced and leads groups on the ocean, and whether you are a novice or an experienced SUP user, small groups are well looked after and once up on your board it is possible to spot sea life below in the clear waters. You can choose to explore the harbour, passing by the beautiful yachts bobbing gently in the water, or take pleasure in a longer trip which leads you out past the huge navy ships and along the coast towards sheltered Boulders Beach. It is here that you can take a leisurely

your course is complete you're able to experience the underwater life of False Bay with Pisces Divers on a kelp dive, Blue and Mako Shark dive, wreck dives and more.

False Bay is also one of the few places in the world where Great White Sharks can be seen breaching. These apex predators surprise their prey by swimming down to the depths of the ocean and then barrel up and launch a surprise attack on an unsuspecting seal. African Shark Eco-Tourism has been operating here for many years and are well experienced to take you out for a fascinating breaching trip, or a cage-diving experience. In addition, they also offer trips to search for Mako and Blue Sharks, two pelagic shark breeds found in these waters. Spotting sharks is a bucket list item for many traveller's, so make sure that you reserve your space well in advance. If you don't want to get wet, the experience from the boat is just as thrilling as you watch the silent approach of the sharks and

*Arrive in Simon's Town and enjoy a delicious lunch at one of the local restaurants. Take a brief stroll around Jubilee Square and then head back to the harbour to enjoy a cycle across the ocean.*



stroll along the well-maintained wooden boardwalk that runs from Foxy Beach to Boulders Beach and view the penguins amongst large granite boulders and watch them waddling along the sand.

Just before Boulders is Seaforth Beach which is another gorgeous swimming beach and where the kayak trips with Shark Warriors Adventure Centre begin. For those wanting peace and calm, you will most certainly find it here as you glide along the open ocean with your oar silently cutting through the water as you witness the beauty of Cape Town from a completely different angle.

For those who want to venture under the water and tour among sharks, seals, wrecks and reefs, Simon's Town also has top facilities at which you can enroll yourself into a diving course. Pisces Divers has excellent training facilities for those wanting to learn to dive and proudly qualify with their PADI licence. They have a variety of courses available as well as an onsite pool for those who just want to test out what SCUBA diving is all about. Once

appreciate how agile they truly are.

The water activities in the harbour vie for space and are becoming more and more experiential. Cape Town Water Bikes is the latest floating addition and proving to be extremely popular - and it's loads of fun. From the elevated seat on these eco-friendly bicycles you'll stay dry, and as you peddle, the silent prop gently propels you along the surface of the ocean. This is a perfect outdoor activity for families, couples and solo travellers - and allows you some chill time in beautiful surroundings.

Back on land, Top Stones Mineral World is a place where you can enjoy a fun time with the whole family. In the Scratch Patch, visitors of all ages enjoy searching through the cool, polished gemstones for their favourites, selecting only the best ones to take home. The 18-hole Cave Golf course is also hugely popular. The well-designed holes lead players along ancient relics, past an underground waterfall and into a special UV lit section. The Rock Shop gift shop has



### SUGGESTED THREE NIGHT ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Arrive in Simon's Town and enjoy a delicious lunch at one of the local restaurants. Take a brief stroll around Jubilee Square and then head back to the harbour to enjoy a cycle across the ocean with Cape Town Water Bikes. Stay overnight in Simon's Town.

**Day 2:** Enjoy a morning Great White Shark Cage Diving or a similar experience out at sea with ASEC. On your return, head to one of the local restaurants for lunch. Work off your lunch by taking a stroll down to the penguins at Boulders Beach, then spend the afternoon enjoying a kayak paddle in the ocean. Overnight in Simon's Town.

**Day 3:** After breakfast, wander along the Main Road exploring the shops and visit the Toy Museum which has antique dolls, cars and other collectible items. Book yourself a SUP lesson and afterwards visit Top Stones Mineral World. Play a round of Cave Golf, shop for souvenirs and gifts and enjoying scratching for stones in the Scratch Patch. Have lunch over the road at the new Harbour Bay Mall. In the afternoon, relax with a massage treatment and enjoy a third night in Simon's Town, with the sounds and smell of the sea just outside your bedroom.



## #CAPEPENINSULA

unique souvenirs, jewelry and gifts for both the professional collector as well as for the visitor looking for a memento to take home.

This versatile little town offers a great variety of accommodation options too - from high-end boutique hotels like Tintswalo at Boulders or Whaleview Manor, to backpacker inns for the more adventurous.

Whaleview Manor is a beautiful boutique guest house situated on a rise offering guests unobstructed views of the Atlantic Ocean and is also well located across the road from a secluded, pristine beach. Every one of the eleven rooms are individually decorated and designed to make for a relaxing getaway. Watch the orange hues of sunrise over breakfast in the dining room, and then pamper yourself with a massage in their wellness centre.

Tintswalo at Boulders Beach Villa is the latest addition to the Tintswalo Collection and has a glamorous location above the wooden boardwalk that spans Boulders Beach. The surrounding fynbos and views of the ocean fronted by large granite boulders encompass the real meaning of escapism.

So when next in Cape Town, take yourself off to Simon's Town for an adventure filled stay. It's about an hour's drive from Cape Town CBD and also makes for an ideal location from where to explore Cape Point. And don't forget to enjoy a taste sensation at one of the many off-the-wall culinary gems found here in the deep south. ☼

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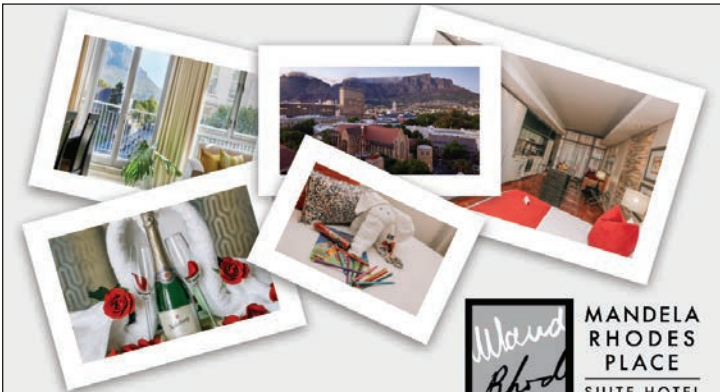
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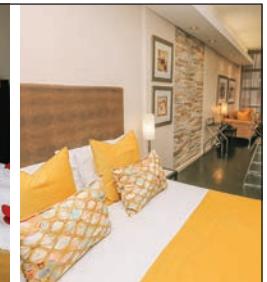
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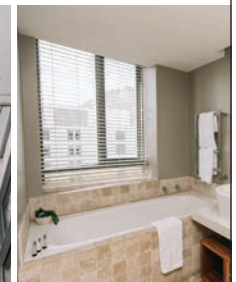


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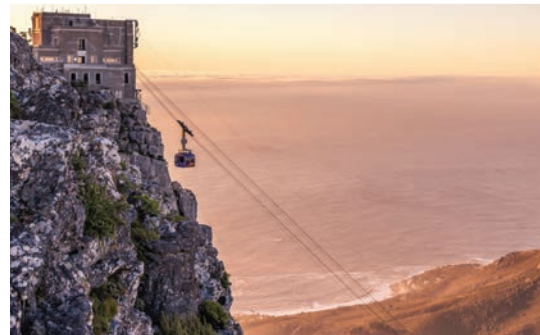
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# Introducing

## Cape Town Collection



### IN THE CITY AND BY THE SEA - A GREAT WAY TO SEE THE BEST OF CAPE TOWN!

Cape Town has no shortage of world-class restaurants, hip bars, excellent art galleries & design savvy shops. However, if you are not familiar with the Cape Town Collection, then you are clearly missing out! There's no reason why you can't have your cake and eat it too. Mandela Rhodes Place Hotel, The Bantry Bay Suite Hotel and 106 On Adderley are sister hotels. Each with its own unique flavour but

offering the same level of excellent service and facilities. While each has its own identity, they share a common commitment to creating great guest experiences.

A stone's throw from the historic Company Gardens and its neighbour St George's Cathedral is a holiday destination that's perfect for anyone who enjoys the bustle of the city but still wants peace and quiet when they come "home" from a day of exploring.

#### THINGS TO DO IN CAPE TOWN

- Cable Car up Table Mountain
- Boat Trip to Robben Island
- Visit the local Museums
- Hike Lion's Head with a Pro
- Ride a Scooter around Table Mountain
- Kayak around Sea Point
- Shop and Eat in the V&A Waterfront
- Sunset Picnics on the Beach
- Meet the Penguins at Boulders Beach
- Visit the local Wine Farms
- Explore the Day & Night Markets





## #CAPETOWNCOLLECTION

The historic Mandela Rhodes Place Hotel is situated in the heart of the CBD and offers the discerning holidaymaker the opportunity to stay within walking distance of many of the city's popular attractions.

A short walk will get you wherever you want to be - whether you love sightseeing, shopping or spending a lazy afternoon enjoying drinks in one of the city's watering holes.

With the modern self catering apartments, Mandela Rhodes Place Hotel lives up to its reputation of Luxury and Comfort. Mandela Rhodes Place Hotel features five-star amenities, including a rooftop swimming pool, wireless internet as well as undercover parking.



When you're ready for a change of pace head over to the Bantary Bay Suite Hotel less than 6 kilometres away. This hotel is smaller and much more intimate but definitely packs a punch when it comes to putting guests' comfort first. The service is fantastic and the staff, from the general manager to the barmen, go out of their way to make you feel like a valued guest.

A two-minute walk gets you to the promenade where you can enjoy a leisurely stroll along the beachfront or just sit and people watch. This hotel, in particular, is a great place for a family break. Children can play in the pool while the adults sip drinks from the adjoining bar. If you're looking for a sunny spot to relax, bring your book and grab a lounger in the fully enclosed and private courtyard.



With a cheeky minimalistic Urban approach, 106 On Adderley Micro-Apartments, located in the heart of Cape Town's CBD is merely a 5 minutes' walk from the beautiful Company Gardens. Offering free WiFi, secure parking, a restaurant and a coffee shop.

106 On Adderley offers various options, for the individual business traveller, couples exploring Cape Town or just that well needed break away. Each apartment is uniquely equipped with a kitchenette, fridge, microwave, working desk, en-suite bathroom with shower, a flat-screen TV with selected satellite channels.

The BaseCamp Restaurant offers tantalizing meals to suite the unique palate. Sit back and enjoy your meal on the beautiful open terrace and allow yourself to experience this "New York vibe" surrounded by iconic heritage buildings and arty frescos...







FIVE MUST DO REASONS TO CHOOSE THE NORTHERN CAPE AS YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY DESTINATION

## EXTRAORDINARY HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

ENDLESS SKIES, AMBER DUNE-SCAPES, AND A GREAT RIVER, ALL SET WITHIN A LANDSCAPE BRIMMING WITH DRAMATIC BEAUTY. THIS IS THE NORTHERN CAPE – REAL CULTURE, REAL PEOPLE AND REAL NATURE. NOW COME AND EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELVES AND MAKE MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME.

### 1. REWARDING CULTURAL ADVENTURES

The distinct cultural groups that make up the Northern Cape are as rich as the country's history. Unlock the secrets of the African bush in the company of the oldest human inhabitants of the region, the !Khomani San near the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Swim in the hot pools of Riemvasmaak, discover the ancient wisdom of the Nama of the Richtersveld, a world heritage site. Explore living villages, shop at craft markets, indulge in regional authentic cuisine at local eateries and be transported to the world of our ancestors through campfire storytelling and dancing. It's the best way to experience the heartbeat of the province and to take some of the soul of the Northern Cape with you on your return journey home.

### 2. ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For the active, it's an ideal environment for exploration and adventure. We have an awe-inspiring setting for any enthusiast. Whether you are stargazing in Sutherland, hunting for fossils in the Karoo or searching for San rock art deep in the caves of the Diamond Fields, experiencing the world's richest floral offering in Namakwa, camping

deep in the bush surrounded by wildlife and the famed black-maned lion of the Green Kalahari, or Kayaking down the mighty Orange River, the Northern Cape is more than an adventure, it's an enriching life experience.

### 3. FAMILY ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

The Northern Cape has always been a family-friendly destination. Its mix of culture, adventure, wildlife and wide accommodation choices, offers family fun that is both entertaining and educational. The province is home to six national parks and two of the country's largest rivers, which makes it perfect for fun activities the entire family can enjoy. These include game safaris, bird watching and leisure hikes and walks to safaris, museum visits and archaeological discoveries to disconnect reconnect and rediscover!

### 4. NATURAL BEAUTY AND WILDLIFE ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

The Northern Cape is arguably South Africa's most beautiful and naturally real province. Visitors are hard-pressed to choose between our UNESCO Richtersveld World Heritage Site and two Transfrontier Parks, the Kgalagadi and the !Ai-!Ais Richtersveld with its red and golden sand

dunes. Share the intimate bush knowledge of a Nama or !Khomani San Bushmen guide. The Northern Cape's natural beauty is enhanced by it's an iconic wildlife. From the small five to the big five, watching wild animals at dose range is something truly unforgettable. There are walking, horseback, 4x4, little five and many more safaris to incorporate in your trip in one of the 6 provincial reserves or any of the other four national parks and transfrontier parks.

### 5. A FLORAL EXPERIENCE

Each spring, the dormant and arid winter plains of the Northern Cape's Namakwa region are transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour with the arrival of the flower season. The wild flowers of the Namakwa are definitely a natural phenomenon and best discovered on foot, which makes it ultimately appealing to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. As the only arid hotspot in the world this region contains more than 6 000 plant species, 250 species of birds, 78 species of mammals, 132 species of reptiles and amphibians and an unknown number of insects, making it the world's most diverse, arid environment. This floral diversity has also made the Namakwa the richest bulb flora arid region in the world. Best times to visit is end July to early October.

For more information visit [www.experiencenortherncape.com](http://www.experiencenortherncape.com) or Email: [marketing@experiencenortherncape.com](mailto:marketing@experiencenortherncape.com)



### KOKERBOOM FOOD AND WINE ROUTE

The Kokerboom Food and Wine Route stretches along the Gariiep and includes towns like Upington, Kakamas, Keimoes, Augrabies, Marchand, Kanoneiland, Kenhardt and Riemvasmaak. The route will appeal to families as well as adventure and adrenaline seekers. Highlights include Augrabies Falls, Riemvasmaak hot springs, river rafting, fly fishing, kayaking and river cruises on the Orange River, numerous 4x4, hiking and MTB trails as well as excellent bird watching. Typical Northern Cape fare and produce is available from coffee shops, road stalls and restaurants, and there's also wine tasting at cellars along the route. Accommodation ranges from luxurious guesthouses to farm stay-overs.

Contact: +27 (0)84 244 4408,  
email: [bookings@kokerboomroute.co.za](mailto:bookings@kokerboomroute.co.za)

## EXPLORE THE ROUTES FOR MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST FOREVER

### KALAHARI RED DUNE ROUTE

Discover the essence of the province in the heart of the Kalahari. Golden dunes, wide-open skies and flat-topped acacia trees epitomise the Kalahari Red Dune Route. Stretching from Upington right to the Namibian border, visitors traverse the villages of Ashkam, Groot and Klein Mier and Rietfontein. Adventure-loving families and adrenaline seekers can enjoy dune hikes at dawn, eagle-owl encounters, sand duning and surfing in the red sand, close encounters with meerkats and guided walks with the !Khomani San to rediscover the ancient wisdom, customs and folklore of this ancient tribe.

Contact: +27 (0)82 492 3469,  
email: [lochmaree@absamail.co.za](mailto:lochmaree@absamail.co.za)

### RICHTERSVELD ROUTE

The Richtersveld is South Africa's only mountain desert and the route travels along rugged gravel roads to quaint towns such as Eksteensfontein, Sendelingsdrift, Lekkersing, Kuboes and Sandrift. The more challenging 4x4 routes in the /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park or in the Richtersveld World Heritage Area are best explored in a well equipped SUV or bakkie. Pack comfortable hiking boots, extra water and guidebooks and set out along the 600 km Namaqua Eco 4x4 Route. The Orange River presents a more leisurely pace with river rafting and the best wilderness fly-fishing in South Africa, while the entire Richtersveld is a mountain biker's dream. In the villages, the locals will entertain guests with storytelling and traditional Nama step dancing upon request.

Contact: +27 (0)78 874 1515,  
email: [bokka.diepotlepel@gmail.com](mailto:bokka.diepotlepel@gmail.com)

### NAMAQUA COASTAL ROUTE

The route includes hidden gems like Garies, Kamieskroon, Hondeklip Bay, Koiingnaas and Kleinzee. Dozens of



adventure and leisure options are available, including the Namaqua National Park, nature reserves, hidden coastal hamlets and some of the most remote hiking and 4x4 trails imaginable. Go succulent sleuthing with a botanical guide, hike the Springbok Klipkoppie for a dose of Anglo-Boer War history, enjoy stargazing, explore the countless shipwrecks along the coast line or visit Namastat, a traditional matjies-hut village. Breath-taking scenes of the Atlantic Ocean with sightings of dolphins and whales combined with great vistas of mountains and veld with endemic wildlife makes travelling in this area remarkable.

Contact: +27 (0)27 672 1752,  
email: [coast.of.diamonds@gmail.com](mailto:coast.of.diamonds@gmail.com)

### KAROO HIGHLANDS ROUTE

This route covers the southern part of the province and the small Karoo towns of Nieuwoudtville, Calvinia, Williston, Sutherland, Fraserburg, Carnarvon, Loxton and Victoria West and forms the heart of the Great Karoo. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Karoo with its wide open plains dotted with koppies (hills). The

area was named by the Khoi and San people, who left their legacy as art on the rocks. Explore many unique experiences such as stargazing at the world's largest astronomical observatory at Sutherland, the SKA radio telescopes in Carnarvon, Karoo architecture and corbelled houses, Anglo-Boer War sites, rock art, ancient Palaeo Surfaces, farm stays and great Karoo cuisine and hospitality.

Contact: +27 (0)74 030 4064,  
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#WINTERINAFRICA





# Top 10 Winter Escapes into Africa

WHEN THE WINTER CHILL FEELS RELENTLESS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF WARM AND BALMY ESCAPES IN AFRICA WHERE YOU CAN THAW OUT – AND PRETEND IT’S ALREADY SUMMER. **BY KERI HARVEY**

**S**panning both hemispheres, there is always somewhere warm to go in Africa. You don’t even need to go far, with plenty of options south of the equator that you can even drive to - thus dodging any travel bans which may still be in place. Here are 10 escapes to consider when winter gets a little too cold for comfort.

## South Africa’s Kgalagadi red dunes and desert wildlife

The Kalahari desert is beautiful, but mostly inaccessible unless you visit magnificent Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The park straddles the border between South Africa and Botswana, just 250km north of Upington. It’s magnificent big sky country, all 38 000km<sup>2</sup> of it, and home to iconic black-maned lions, quirky meerkats, regal oryx and comic wildebeest, amongst other species.

Winter in the Kalahari is warm and comforting, compared to the blazing summers, so it’s an ideal time to visit. The main rest camps of Twee Rivieren, just inside the main gate, Nossob in the north and Mata Mata in the north west offer different perspectives of the park - and there are also other tented and bush camps, camping, as well as evocative !Xaus community lodge. There’s something unforgettable about seeing lions lying on red sand dunes, oryx duelling for territory or cheetah standing on ridges surveying for prey. Kgalagadi is the real deal, an unspoiled corner of South Africa that is also home to some of our country’s oldest historic residents: the Mier and Khomani San Bushmen communities.

## Zimbabwe’s mighty Victoria Falls

It’s one of the great wonders of the natural world, a massive expanse of



gushing, leaping, crashing water: Victoria Falls. Named after his queen back in England, David Livingstone was the first to document the mighty waterfall in the far northwest corner of Zimbabwe – though of course slave traders and local tribes knew about it long before. Today a bronze statue of the intrepid Livingstone still gazes intently over Victoria Falls, which is known as Mosi oa Tunya or ‘The Smoke that Thunders’.

At 1 708m wide and about 100m high, the thundering falls have created their own surrounding garden of blood lilies, ferns, orchids and sunbirds in a fairytale misty rainforest. Rainbows regularly arch over the tumultuous Devil’s Cataract section and the perpetual spray that rises

from the gorge gives the falls and ethereal feel – that is the very ‘smoke’ that thunders. Admirers from all over the globe come to see the falls, which are fullest in late autumn and winter, when the balmy Zambezi Valley is also still comfortably warm.

## Mozambique’s Quirimbas Archipelago

In the far north of Mozambique, the Quirimbas Archipelago is all you imagine a tropical island paradise to be. It’s idyllic, lazy, seemingly lost in time, and it’s balmy all year round. Some islands have evocative, crumbling colonial towns, others are sprinkled with traditional working fishing villages, many are completely deserted but for waving palm trees. There are mangroves, abundant marine and bird life and turtles lay their eggs on the beaches here too. The Quirimbas Archipelago is a natural paradise that follows the rhythms of the sea and savours simplicity.

Ibo is a working fishing island with stately Ibo Island Lodge at the

water’s edge. The coastline is peppered with mangroves and dhows ply the tepid turquoise waters on fishing sorties.

Medjumbe island is a sliver of land marked by a derelict lighthouse. It’s uninhabited but for the discreet Anantara Medjumbe Island Resort at the water’s edge. The dramatic tidal range here means the ocean gently laps close to your front door at high tide, and recedes into the middle distance at low tide. But the island is all yours to walk, explore, swim, snorkel or kick back in the sun. Or you could visit a few different islands on an organised dhow safari from Ibo Island, snorkelling and swimming en route and overnighting in comfortable camps on deserted islands - as Robinson Crusoe wished he did.





### Namibia's deserts

Deserts are good places to thaw out in winter; they're toasty by day, but can get cold at night, so camping is not a great idea.

*But getting up early to see the sun rise over the dunes of Sossusvlei or taking a hot-air balloon ride over the dune field is a fine idea.*

So too is visiting the coastline from rugged Lüderitz in the south to popular Germanic Swakopmund, and all the way up the deserted Skeleton Coast. Mist is prevalent along the coast in winter, which can make it cool until the sun breaks through.



Etosha Pan has magnificent game viewing and has milder daytime temperatures in winter, and then there's still the vast Namib to explore, and dramatically beautiful Damaraland. Searching for the elusive desert elephants that live there is a bucket list wildlife experience, plus there is unusual rock art, mysterious rock formations and unique cultures to visit. Namibia may be sparsely populated, but it has uniquely beautiful landscapes and a smorgasbord of natural attractions, many of which are just too hot to visit in summer.

### South Africa's iconic Kruger Park

World renowned as one of Africa's great wildlife reserves, the Kruger National Park is easily accessible and has something special to offer in every season. But winter is the best time overall for gameviewing and cooler daytime temperatures. The mercury still averages 26C by day and the winter bush is drier, so wildlife can be seen more easily.

At 20 000km<sup>2</sup>, Kruger has lots of space and plenty of variety too. Lion are widespread throughout the park, but chances of seeing them are even better in the east and south. Leopard are mainly

### Madagascar's Big Island

It's just the central highlands of Madagascar that can get chilly in winter, the coastline and islands are toasty throughout the year. Nosy Be – which means Big Island – off the northern coast of Madagascar, is a modern-day Garden of Eden. It's lush and aromatic with vanilla and gnawled ylang ylang plantations between tiny settlements and stilted villages; colourful bouganvillea is everywhere too.

If you love unusual wildlife and culture, Nosy Be makes an ideal base to explore the surrounding islands too. Head up to Mount Passot, the highest point on Nosy Be. Though it's just 300m above sea level, it's a great vantage point to see nearby islands and the sacred crocodile lakes. These eight deep blue crater lakes are believed to be

home to ancestral spirits. Locals may not fish in the lakes that are said to be home to crocodiles, and foreigners may not walk on the lake shores. Amparihimirahavavy and Antsahamanavaka are two of the long-named lakes – but remembering their names is not important.

If you take a 15-minute boat ride to nearby Nosy Komba island, you can commune with black lemurs very personally. Decades ago the local chief proclaimed the lemurs sacred, so they are fed and protected by locals. Lokombe Reserve on Nosy Be also protects black lemurs and nocturnal sportive lemurs in the last bit of island forest. Boa constrictors, chameleons and about 40 bird species also live in tiny Lokombe. Or you could also just laze on the beach, swim and eat seafood all day if you choose.





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THE NAMIB DESERT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A SEA OF SAND.



## NAMIB GUIDED 4X4 TOURS

Welcome to the Living Desert, the Cold Desert and the Sheltering Desert. The Namib Desert is certainly the ultimate destination for 4x4 off-road adventures. Discover the many faces of this incredible and vast region while testing your driving skills across the world's highest sand dunes. The geographical diversity of the region will captivate nature lovers and each tour promises to relax mind, body and invigorate spirits. Ideal for families, friends or colleagues who enjoy the great outdoors, the **Faces of the Namib** tour spans 550 kilometres of pristine desert landscape from the savannah-like interior section to the sparse Atlantic coast. The tour commences near Solitaire, cross the desert from east to west to finally end in Walvis Bay. On the **Lüderitz to Walvis Bay** tour you cross the high dunes while staying parallel with the coastline. The route takes you via some of the remaining relics of the diamond rush era. This is big sky country, where the daily thrill of negotiating 100-metre dune slip faces is tempered by evenings spent sipping cold drinks, eating delicious meals, and sharing jokes round a crackling camp fire. Watch the desert landscape change from day to day. Discover the secrets of the desert. Experience the ultimate adrenaline rush and nature at its pristine best.



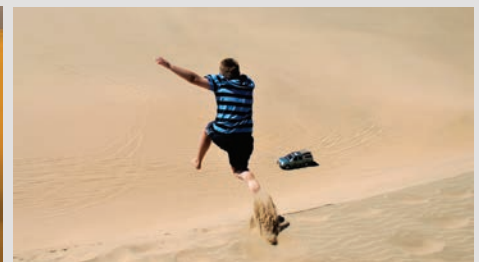
## NAMIB100 HIKE

The Namib100 hike is not your average run-of-the-mill hike, but rather in a bucket list league of its own with the likes of Kilimanjaro, the Grand Canyon and the Camino de Santiago. Our fully catered, fully supported 5-day, 6-times-a-year only slackpacking hike in the Namib, the oldest desert on earth, will overwhelm you with a sense of total freedom and inspiration. It's an area that answers to names like the Forbidden Land, Sperrgebiet and Skeleton Coast, where numerous shipwrecks stand witness to the power of nature over man. **This is a Live the Journey 'Exclusive' hike**, which entails that as a concession holder we have exclusive rights to host a limited number of hikes in the Namib Desert concession. The 100km 5-day hike originates a few kilometres outside Walvis Bay and ends at the wreck of the famous Eduard Bohlen, which stranded in 1909.

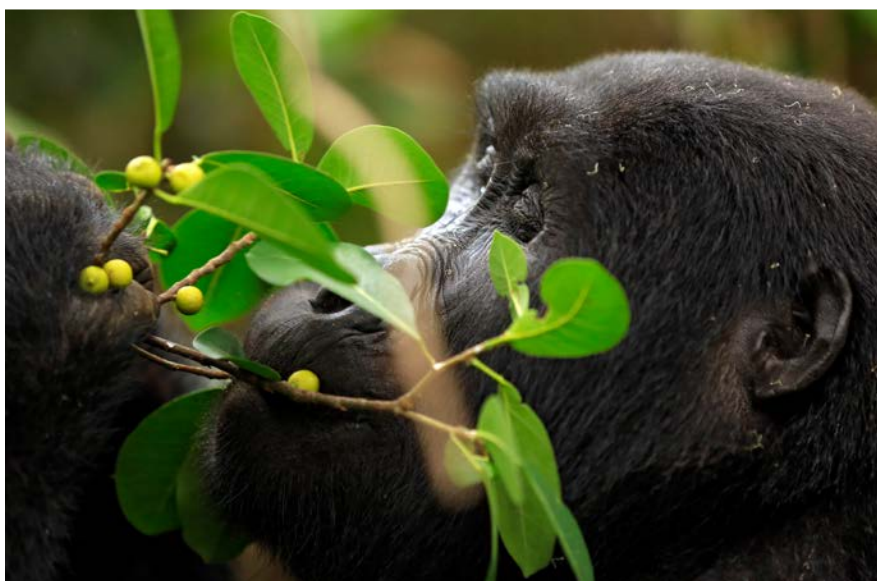
## FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED TIME

On our **Conception Bay** adventures private groups with limited time can still experience the grandeur of the Namib. This is especially true for companies that would like to reward their best performing staff with a unique and **different incentive experience**. You can opt to do a 1 to 4-day experience. Nothing like testing your driving skills, visit old mining settlements, climbing high dunes and then

to end your day with your favourite drink, an amazing sunset and overnight in a luxury tented camp. A hot shower in the middle of the desert and mouth-watering meal is much more than glamping. For the dedicated fisherman various fishing trips are available to **Meob Bay**. This is a concession area where fishing is only allowed when accompanied by the concession holder.







seen at night and prefer thick bush, hilly terrain and trees, while cheetah like open areas. To see elephant, check along river courses, while buffalo are often close to the rest camps. Birding is brilliant in the park, with over 500 species to see.

The excellent road network makes access to the different areas very easy, and you can stop at a designated picnic spot en route for lunch. When you consider that the park is the size of Israel, there's a lot of breathing space to enjoy in winter sunshine, though game viewing is always best around sunrise and sunset.

Uganda's clean green charm Churchill called Uganda 'the Pearl of Africa' and it's easy to see why. This is a heart-stoppingly beautiful corner of

the continent. It's home to the White Nile, a section of the Great Rift Valley, the towering Rwenzoris or 'Mountains of the Moon', lush verdant landscapes, and wildlife diversity that will take your breath away. And with the equator running through the middle of it, Uganda is temperate and warm all year.

*Go for the unusual wildlife, to trek endangered mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and chimps in Kibale National Park. See the gushing Murchison Falls, the lazy Rift Valley lakes, meet Pygmies, boat on the White Nile and go birding.*

With over 1 000 bird species, including rare shoebills in the Nile delta, Uganda is highly underrated. And you can straddle the equator by simply standing with your feet apart. In so many ways Uganda is a living example of 'Africa gone right' – safe, clean, green and so just so friendly and beautiful.

### Zanzibar's olde world charm, Tanzania

Life on Zanzibar island is simple, yet at the same time very ornate. Elaborate Arabic architecture, Swahili women swathed in black and others in brightly-coloured prints, spicy food and sumptuous seafood, carefully crafted dhows and vibrantly friendly people make the island an interesting fusion of East meets West meets Africa.

It takes just 45-minutes to drive across from Zanzibar, and the road traverses the Jozani Forest, which is home to the endangered and endemic red colobus monkeys. And there are giant Aldabra tortoises to be seen on Prison Island off Stonetown. If you don't go any further than Stonetown, that's also just fine. There is more than enough to experience in this old quarter with its tangle of narrow alleyways and tiny eclectic shops. Taste the delicious street food and get happily lost in the maze-like streets. A friendly local will point you 'home' when you are ready.





**UMNGAZI**

WILD COAST | SOUTH AFRICA

# PARADISE FOUND



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**Reunion's extreme attractions**  
Not just a hotspot for adventure lovers, year round hot weather is what you'll also find everywhere in Reunion. The volcanic scenery is dramatically beautiful with black sand beaches and others that are pure white; and the three cirques – Salazie, Cilaos and Mafate - that make up the island are ideal for hikers, climbers and abseilers looking for somewhere different to explore. Piton de la Fournaise dominates the island and is a very active volcano. But between eruptions, the otherworldly landscape is another favourite hiking area.

Parts of Reunion are bleak and barren, parts are chocolate box pretty and vibrantly colourful, everywhere is enchanting. From the unusual culture

that mixes French, Creole and a dose of Voodoo and plenty of Catholicism, to the hot curries and range of Madonna statues that dot the island, Reunion is captivating. Markets are vibrant, towns are quirky and the folklore and tales you'll hear en route are riveting.

#### Mauritius's mild lifestyle

An old and eternal favourite amongst sun worshippers, watersport lovers and loafers, Mauritius is a safe and easy bet for couples or families. Here the sun is always warm and so is the ocean, making for an ideal winter escape. Hotels and Air BnB options are abundant, food is spicy and delicious and fresh fish and seafood can be enjoyed across the island. Excursions

through the rolling sugarcane fields offer great views over the island, or head to the colourful markets to buy local food, tropical flowers or an array of colourful raffia wares.

The waters around Mauritius are calm and safe, so swimming is easy, as is windsurfing or an array of other watersports. Or take a boat ride to another part of the island for a fish braai or to go snorkelling or deepsea fishing for marlin. Heading to this Mascarene island is about as easy as a tropical holiday can get. It's stress free, there's something for the whole family, land and sea is safe, and the sun is always shining. What more could anyone ask for, when winter is cooling your mood at home. ☺



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#MADAGASCAR

# MADAGASCAR.

A LAST  
CHANCE  
TO SEE







*Nono took me out to see the famous dancing Verreaux's Sifakas; a variety of lemur that is so adapted to jumping from trunk to trunk, that they are physically unable to walk on all fours.*

**DALE MORRIS** PACKS HIS CAMERA AND GOES ON A PHOTO SAFARI TO THE AFRICAN ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR, HOPING TO SEE LEMURS, CHAMELEONS AND THE EXCEPTIONALLY ELUSIVE FOSSA.

**T**he book, 'Last chance to see' by the Late Douglas Adams, seemed an appropriate read whilst flying from Johannesburg to Madagascar.

Its all about one man's odyssey to track down a variety of rare and endangered animals, many of which, or so the author surmises, will soon go the way of the Dodo.

Sadly, much the same can be said about the unique fauna of Madagascar. The lemurs (of which there are some 100 species) the chameleons (also over a hundred types) the birds, and the weird things like fossas and tenrecs, all hang on to existence by the skin of their teeth.

Humanity's progress is nature's loss!

So thus, inspired by Douglas's tales of travel and engaging encounters, I set about making a list of some of Madagascar's dwindling stars. My 'last chance to see' so to speak.

First up would be the lemurs; those adorable, perpetually surprised looking primates, with their wide boggling eyes and acrobatic antics.

They are found on Madagascar, and absolutely nowhere else.

Then next, the equally odd chameleons with their independent swiveling eyes and slow and ponderous movements. Did you know they have spring loaded tongues that are over twice the length of their bodies?

Last but not least would be those infrequently encountered oddities. The giant leaf tailed geckos, the spiny tenrecs, and the amazing fossa; Madagascar's answer to the leopard, and the only predator of significant size on the island.





They specialize in eating lemurs. Crunch! I didn't expect to see them all of course. The singing indris, the dancing sifakas, the ring tailed lemurs and the chameleons were all pretty much guaranteed. But the fossa? Well, nobody sees a fossa. They are very rare, terribly secretive and ever so mysterious.

And so, upon landing at Antananarivo, I handed my extensive list to Nono (short for Nonorinah Tinamalala) the man who was to guide me through the various habitats and regions of Africa's largest island.

He glanced at it, puffed out his cheeks and sighed the sigh of the exasperated.

"You're not making life easy for anyone are you?" he said, looking pensive. "But why don't we start with the dancing

Sifakas? I know just the place."

And that place was the Berenty special reserve, a little slice of protected forest, situated down in the arid South East.

It took two days of bumpy flights and bumpier roads to get there, but the subsequent wildlife sightings made every jolt and pothole worth it.

My first 'tick' off the list was a mouse lemur and a giant chameleon which were encountered at night in the region's aptly named spiny forests.

"I wouldn't go off the path if I were you." Nono tried warning me when I spotted a glowing set of eyes within the beam of my headlamp. But it was too late. Camera in hand, I had already raced off into the

darkness in pursuit of the mouse lemur, and had become immediately entangled in a web of thorny vegetation.

Struggling only made things worse.

In a spiny forest, every plant, and I do mean absolutely every plant, is covered in spikes, thorns, spears, prickles, needles, barbs and hooks.

That first glimpse of the world's most diminutive primate, an adorable creature with eyes almost as big as its body, was tainted somewhat by the disfigurements, grazes and perforations suffered as a result of my enthusiasm.

Nono, diligently came to my rescue, and expertly unpicked my twitching form from a snare of painful plants.





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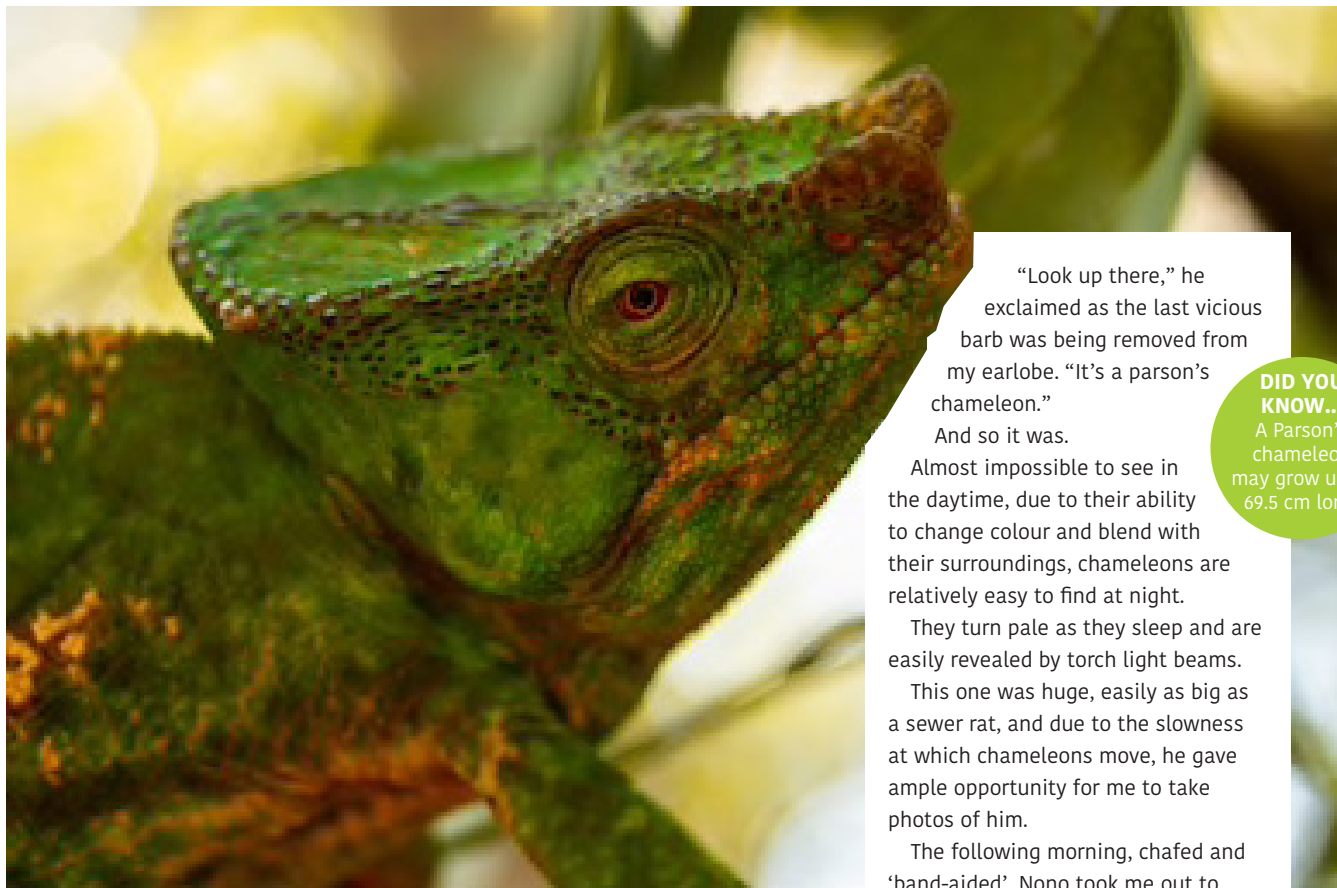


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“Look up there,” he exclaimed as the last vicious barb was being removed from my earlobe. “It’s a parson’s chameleon.”

And so it was.

Almost impossible to see in the daytime, due to their ability to change colour and blend with their surroundings, chameleons are relatively easy to find at night.

They turn pale as they sleep and are easily revealed by torch light beams.

This one was huge, easily as big as a sewer rat, and due to the slowness at which chameleons move, he gave ample opportunity for me to take photos of him.

The following morning, chafed and ‘band-aided’, Nono took me out to see the famous dancing Verreaux’s Sifakas; a variety of lemur that is so adapted to jumping from trunk to trunk, that they are physically unable to walk on all fours.

“When they come down to the ground”, Nono told me as I set up my tripod at a well known Sifaka trail, “they must literally bounce on their hind legs. It looks like they’re dancing.”

The description is accurate, and I was beguiled watching these waif like creatures pirouette, leap, hop, prance and tango. Frozen in the high shutter speeds of my camera, they appeared to be playing air guitar, doing the splits, or performing a graceful ballet.

The mouse lemur, the chameleons and the shimmying sifakas were fantastic sightings (as were the other spiny forest denizens such as brown lemurs, nocturnal sportive lemurs, pretty birds and unusual insects) but Berenty’s crème de la crème of animal interactions came courtesy of a mass mugging, of which I was the victim.

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
A Parson's chameleon may grow up to 69.5 cm long.



*Mix a wolf, a whale, and a gibbon (if you know what one of those are) and that'll give you an approximation of what an Indri sounds like. Its beautiful and very very loud.*



Berenty's open air restaurant is, understandably, a favored hang out for the park's troops of ring tailed lemurs.

They moved in on my banana crepes with all the silent stealth of ninjas, but unlike our overtly aggressive, impolite and rowdy South African monkeys, an ambush by a gang of lemurs is a comparatively gentle affair. These fluffy wisps floated almost like dandelion seeds around the table, looking at me sweetly with gentle eyes and stealing things with even gentler fingers.

There was no smashed crockery, spilt glasses, grabbing hands or tooth baring grimaces; merely a gentle change of breeze, the half seen waft of a stripy tail, and all of a sudden, a table bereft of food.

I had to order lunch again. But I didn't mind.

The next port of call for my already diminishing list of wanna-sees, were the steaming jungles of Mantadia; a rainforest national park situated more or less in the middle of the eastern seaboard. It's here that I witnessed the Indri, the largest of all the lemurs and one which resembles something akin to a panda/koala hybrid.

"If they start to sing now," said Nono as we sat beneath a gigantic tree in which sat a family of them, "you'll be blown away."

We had spent the better part of a day slogging up and down steep slippery hills, being assailed by leeches, and tripping over vines and fallen logs, but finally, exhausted and sweat drenched, we found them. Problem was, they were staying shtum.

As the eve drew in and the mosquitoes rose from their crypts, I started to lose hope that I would ever hear this legendary song of theirs, but then Nono pulled out his phone and played a prerecorded Indri call.

The animals seemed confused by the sound at first, looking this way and that, but then they reacted and the air was split asunder by a forlorn and soulful howling.

I could scarcely believe such a huge sound could come from such relatively small animals.

Mix a wolf, a whale, and a gibbon (if you know what one of those are) and that'll give you an approximation of what an Indri sounds like. Its beautiful and very very loud.

"What did you say to them?" I asked Nono as we made our way, in semi darkness, out from the forest.

"I'm not entirely sure," he replied. "I

*This scruffy looking long nosed 'hedgehog' thing is so seldomly encountered, that Nono himself had never before seen one.*



probably insulted their mothers, called their sister a whore, and threatened to eat all the fruit in their territory!"

The following days saw us tracking down black and white ruffed lemurs (they look like tree dwelling border collies), Diademed Sifakas (fluff balls with doey eyes) and the rarely seen and very fast moving Tenrec.

This scruffy looking long nosed 'hedgehog' thing is so seldomly encountered, that Nono himself had never before seen one. He leapt upon it and restrained it so that we could get a better look, and for his efforts, received several painful spines to his fingers.

I later read that tenrecs can carry bubonic plague, and so that evening I taught Nono the Ring a Ring o' Roses nursery rhyme.

I do so love cultural exchanges like these.

Whilst we still had some days left in Madagascar, and whilst Nono was still strong enough to lead me, we travelled to our final destination:- The Kirindy National Park and the Avenue of the giants.

So called because, well, its an avenue of giants.

On each side of a dusty back road one finds a row of giant otherworldly baobab trees. Sunset is the time to see these behemoths because they glow orange and silver and ochre in the fading light, but alas, its also a popular time for the tourists.

There were German, French, American and Japanese sightseers by the dozen, All of them doing a sterling job at photobombing every single one of, what should have been, magnificent shots.

I was most displeased. But come sundown, they all disappeared, leaving just Nono and myself, the trees and a million



## #MADAGASCAR

twinkling stars above.

The Kirindy National Park, which is just an hour or so further up the road, is a tropical dry forest, and is home to many species of lemur, chameleon and birds. Its also where you 'might' glimpse the almost never seen fossa, and my fingers were so tightly crossed in the hopes of seeing one, that I lost all sensation in them.

Unfortunately, we arrived during a major refurbishment to the park's infrastructure.

They were 'singing' from the top of their lungs, calling like tortured cats across the surrounding forests.

"This is the mating call," Nono told me. "An irresistible song to all neighbouring males. It'll likely draw them in."

And come they did.

In awe, I observed no less than four males arrive at the base of the tree at which point they commenced fighting and brawling.

One of them used me as a rubbing post and scent marked my legs, another leapt right over my head, brushing his svelte balls across my face in the process.

"You're probably the only person on earth who has been teabagged by a fossa," said Nono

I felt truly privileged!

Finally, after much agro and aggression, a clear victor rose above the melee and climbed up to where his prize awaited.

*"You're probably the only person on earth who has been teabagged by a fossa," said Nono*



There was hammering and sawing, noisome machinery, and more work men than one could expect to see at an open cast mine.

But much to my utter astonishment, we spotted a cat like fossa slinking with confidence among all this hubbub and racket.

We followed it past mechanical diggers and half built buildings, it took us to an open trash heap and past a series of fly ridden long drop latrines. And finally, it visited an organic waste pit where piles of rotting vegetables steamed aromatically alongside a mound of fragrantly scented chicken carcasses. Not the nicest of settings in which to have my ultimate animal encounter. But the following day was better. Much, much better in fact.

Nono took me to a 'special' tree far away from all the mayhem and construction, up which sat two female fossas.



Blood was spilled, faces were ripped and russet coloured hair filled the air like confetti.

So engaged in their battles were these males, that they scarcely paid attention to me as I snapped away, and as such, I got very close to them:- perhaps a little too close.

He mated there, nosily, whilst the routed males gazed upwards from the forest floor, jaws agape, dribbling the drool of the unsatiated.

My tick list was complete.

Hopefully I will return again to Madagascar with perhaps a few more species added to my list. If I'm lucky, they will still be there, clinging to existence against a burgeoning tide of humanity.

I do so hope that this wasn't my Madagascan 'Last Chance to See.' 🌿

### Notes

*Nono didn't contract the Bubonic plague and is alive and well. He sings Ring a Ring o' Roses to his two little children to get them to sleep at night.*

Dale Morris leads photographic expeditions to Madagascar annually. Visit [www.oryxphotography.com](http://www.oryxphotography.com).





# Discover Nosy Be




Airlink, the largest privately-owned regional feeder airline in southern Africa, offers the widest network and choice of flights. Travel directly from Johannesburg to Nosy Be, just off the coast of north-western Madagascar.

Every moment on this tropical island paradise is an adventure. With dazzling white beaches, lush forests and vibrant craft markets, there's something for everyone. Soak up the sun, swim, snorkel, or scuba dive in crystal clear warm waters, home to pristine coral reefs and exotic marine life. Look out for unique animal life, like the panther chameleon and a variety of lemurs, as you wander through the forests.



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An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue as it meets the white sand beach. The sand is bright and appears to have some ripples or patterns. The overall scene is serene and beautiful.

# UNSPOILT TROPICAL BEACHES

ON OUR DOORSTEP!  
BY LAURA PARRY (MOZAMBIQUE ISLANDS)



I wonder how many South Africans realise just how lucky we are to have a country like Mozambique right on our doorstep. Mozambique suffered a 16 year-long civil war, which meant that tourism and development was pretty much non-existent during this time. Of course it was a sad time in Mozambique's history, but one positive outcome is that the islands, coastal areas and coral reefs were left mostly untouched and unspoilt by tourism.

Fortunately, over the years, the government has recognised the risk of over-development and the need to declare many areas as National Parks and National Marine Reserves. There are now at least 7 National Parks and 6 National Reserves in Mozambique, as well as numerous protected

areas, forest reserves, and private reserves.

Mozambique has 2500 km of coastline, so a lot more than the few kilometres south of Maputo that most people think of when you mention Mozambique. There are also numerous islands, ranging from Inhaca Island in the south, just 40 km from Maputo, to the far Northern islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago, some 1800 km, by air, from Maputo!

Mozambique and its coastline, especially the islands off the mainland, remain some of the last relatively unspoilt areas of the world. Many of the islands are completely deserted and some have just one or two upmarket resorts for visitors to experience the tranquillity of these secluded havens. There are small villages on some of the islands where the inhabitants live as their ancestors did, as subsistence fishermen, although most resorts have





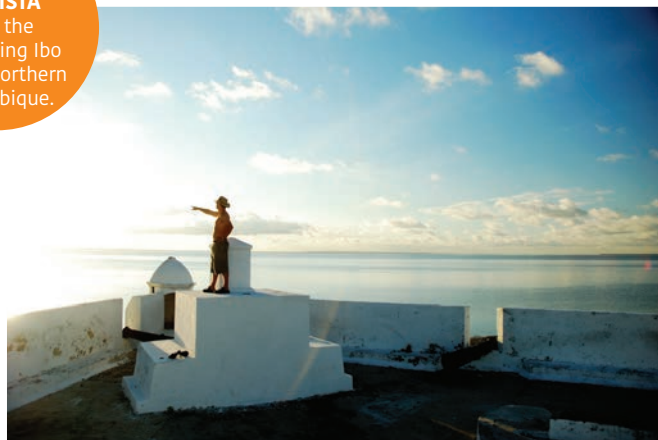
Ibo island town



**THE FORT OF SÃO JOÃO BAPTISTA** is on the fascinating Ibo Island, Northern Mozambique.



The Fort of São João Baptista



donated and raised money for the building of schools and clinics and educating the locals on the importance of conservation. Visitors to the islands are encouraged to visit the villages and contribute to the various programmes for education and upliftment of the communities.

### Quirimbas islands

In the Northern province of Cabo Delgado, stretching from the town of Pemba to the Tanzanian border, lie the mostly uninhabited islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago.

Ibo island is one of the few inhabited islands in the Quirimbas, and is home to the star-shaped Fort of São João Baptista, built in 1791. Near the fort, traditional silversmiths hand craft exquisite, intricate jewellery using ancient Arab techniques and tools. The artisan-artists are simply continuing the ancient Ibo tradition of producing fine metalwork and jewellery that is found nowhere else in the world. There are various back-packer type accommodation options available on the island, as well as the more upmarket Ibo



Island Lodge where you could find yourself accommodated in a room in one of 3 old mansions!

Quilálea is a tiny coral island with baobabs and walking trails and the upmarket Azura Quilálea Island Retreat with just 9 fabulously rustic Villas. The diving, snorkelling and fishing from this island is unsurpassed! No need to even go out by boat, as because this is a coral

island, you can snorkel or dive directly from the beach!

Further north lies the tiny island of Medjumbe, with just an airstrip and a lighthouse, and home to Anantara Medjumbe Island Resort and Spa with just 12 Beach Pool Villas on one of the most beautiful beaches in Mozambique. Part of the Anantara concession is the uninhabited island of Quissanga, where, as a guest at Medjumbe you can spend an afternoon, or even a night alone under the stars!

### Bazaruto islands

The Bazaruto islands in the southern Mozambique province of Inhambane, close to the town of Vilankulo, are increasingly popular for visitors from South Africa and internationally. There are just 5 islands in the Bazaruto Archipelago, only 2 of which currently have resorts open to guests. Magaruque, Santa Carolina and Bangué only allow day visitors, as no accommodation is available and camping is not permitted.

Bazaruto Island is the largest island in the archipelago and is home to the



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#MOZAMBIQUE



*Benguerra Island is home to Azura Benguerra, &Beyond Benguerra and latest addition, Azura Marlin Beach!*





luxurious Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa. This resort has 44 luxury Villas and offers world class diving, sailing, snorkelling and deep-sea fishing. Horse riding, tennis, dune boarding and island excursions are also offered. The beautiful and unique Santa Carolina – also known as Paradise Island is close to Bazaruto Island, and day visits can be arranged. The old Paradise Island Hotel is crumbling into the sea, but the beaches and ocean are pristine and unspoilt. If you're in the area,

this is a must-do day trip!

Benguerra Island is home to Azura Benguerra, & Beyond Benguerra and the latest addition, Azura Marlin Beach! Marlin Lodge, which suffered a fire in 2012 and has been closed since then, is now due to reopen in July 2020 as Azura Retreats' third Mozambique resort.

Azura Marlin Beach is on a one-kilometre-long stretch of white-sand beach, with all the creature comforts, including Mozambican butler-hosts to look after your

every need, fish and seafood fresh from the ocean, a fantastic range of activities and experiences, and an African Massage Pavilion for relaxation, at a community based project where local islanders will also benefit.

In other news; Azura has opened their new Peri-Peri Beach Club on Benguerra Island. Guests can spend their day lounging at the beach bar or pool, enjoying their favourite Mozambican cuisine, magnums of French Rosé wine, or creating their own

*Azura Marlin Beach is on a one-kilometre-long stretch of white-sand beach, with all the creature comforts*





## #MOZAMBIQUE

cocktails through the specially designed mixology menu. The beach club and bar incorporates a range of activities including an ocean facing swimming pool, personal grills where guests can sizzle their own seafood and on selected nights an open-air cinema! The beach club also has a Spa pavilion for African-themed massages.

Also on Benguerra Island is the ever popular &Beyond Benguerra Lodge, which lies sheltered within the canopy of an indigenous forest and swaying palm trees. Cabanas and Casinhas all offer private timber decks, rim-flow pools, sun loungers and private salas with irresistible hanging daybeds.

### Mozambique island

And of course there is Ilha de Moçambique, once the capital of Portuguese East Africa. This fascinating island is in the northern Nampula Province and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The island is connected to the mainland by a 3 kilometre long, single-lane causeway. The island itself is just 3 km long and between 200 and 500 metres wide.







Approximately half of the island is made up of reed houses and is called Makuti Town, the other half was built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and is called Stone Town. During the years of civil war, thousands of Mozambicans fled here seeking refuge. The war ended in 1992, but the ethos of peace remains. The people have a quiet dignity and smile easily. It is perfectly safe to wander alone through the winding streets and alleys at any time, day or night. Think of a mini-Zanzibar before mass tourism!

The island has beautiful old churches and museums to explore, as well as the Fort of Sao Sebastiao with 65ft-thick ramparts still as strong as the day they were built. Enclosed within the fort you will find a chapel that is the oldest standing European building in the southern hemisphere.

Just across the bay is the tranquil Coral Lodge, with just 5 large luxury villas along the beach and 5 along the mangroves. Two of the Villas are family villas with an extra bedroom for children to share. Its proximity to Ilha de Moçambique makes this a sure fire winner for those wanting to experience the history and culture of this fascinating island, as well as a relaxing beach holiday! 🌴



*At Peri-Peri Beach Club on Benguerra Island, guests can spend their day lounging at the beach bar or pool, enjoying their favourite Mozambican cuisine*

#### HOW TO GET THERE

There are flights on both Airlink and LAM to the International Airports in Pemba, Vilankulo and Nampula. Mozambique Islands can tailor make a package to one or a combination of these unspoilt and pristine islands at guaranteed best rates. Call 083 299 4321, or email: [info@mozambiqueislands.com](mailto:info@mozambiqueislands.com) for more information or quotes.





# THE HIDDEN GEM OF Barra Mozambique

Only 500km north of Maputo, a few steps from the beach you will find Casa Nas Nuvens – Portuguese for “The House in the Clouds” - at Barra, which is conveniently located at the most North-eastern point of the Barra Peninsula - a few kilometers north of Tofo and about 20 minutes drive from Inhambane.

This area is known as one of the best locations for diving with Whale-sharks - the largest fish in the ocean.

This vacation rental welcomes groups and families to enjoy unforgettable self catering holidays in one of the best Mozambican hotspots.

Our location, on the Tofo side of the Lighthouse, ensures that you are still close to the hustle and bustle of the main beach but sheltered from the disturbances that come with it. At Casa Nas Nuvens you will have a serene and private experience like never before.

## Accommodation

The self catering holiday rental accommodates 8 guests in 4 en-suite rooms which are all sea facing.

Three rooms have double beds, and one has two single beds. Bedding is supplied and the rooms are conditioned.

The living area consists of a fully equipped open plan kitchen, lounge and dining area with a pantry to store food and valuables. Please remember to supply your own towels, soap, toilet paper and dishwashing liquid, which can also be bought in Inhambane.



Casa Nas Nuvens is fully serviced daily by local helpers who can also be utilised for cleaning fish, washing boats and giving information on where to get crayfish, prawns and fish.

Activities in this area include deep sea fishing, scuba diving, spear-fishing, free-diving or just lazing on a pristine white beach. Those with their own boats will find the launches easy and have the option to explore the massive Inhambane estuary with highlights like pansy island, snorkeling in sea horse nurseries, fly fishing and more.

## Snorkeling

We are blessed with a shipwreck in knee deep water at low tide and an amazing natural tidal pool right below the light house. These areas are filled with an array of wonderful sea life that will amaze you.

## Fishing

Whether you prefer shore angling, fly fishing or trolling, this area is for you. Many species of fish can be caught in a variety of different areas ranging from offshore pinnacles, estuaries or by simply casting your bait behind the surf right in front of the house. It is recommended to bring a boat (twin engined) for offshore spear fishing.

## Whale Watching etc.

Whales, Whale-sharks, jumping Rays and Dolphins are often spotted right from the dining table. Keep your eyes peeled to witness these, seldom seen up so close, animals in action.

## Walks

Tofo is a very popular early morning hike. Alternatively, a leisurely stroll down to some of the beach bars and restaurants for a sundowner may be more to your liking.

## What you won't find here:

Shopping Malls and television (don't worry, the bars show all the major sporting events).

Staff will quickly help you unload your vehicles so you can enjoy a drink on the verandah, and start enjoying your time in paradise. 🌴

WELCOME TO  
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Clinical documentation available on request.  
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# Explore Croatia by Sea or Land



KATARINA line, the largest DMC based in Kvarner region and the leading Croatian tour operator, is also the premier small ship cruise company with weekly guaranteed departures from the end of April to mid October from the major tourist centres of Opatija in Kvarner area, and Split and Dubrovnik in Dalmatia. With a fleet of more than 60 ships, the cruise line caters to all ages and budgets with itineraries that give travellers the opportunity to explore the stunning natural environment and historical, quaint Mediterranean towns while hopping from one island to another. This unique way of travelling and exploring coastal towns is one of the most popular and easiest ways to experience THE TRUE CROATIA.

In addition to cruises, KATARINA line provides excellent land programmes using modern coaches.

The most popular small group tour is the Croatian Rhapsody programme starting in Zagreb, Croatia's capital, visiting Opatija and Kvarner area, and ending in Dubrovnik in the south.



This unique gastronomy and wine experience package is absolutely the best way to see Croatia from top to toe.

KATARINA line also offers a wide range of accommodation facilities in all regions of Croatia and neighbouring countries and provides excellent shore excursions to

cruise liners in the major ports.

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## CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

### HIDDEN GEMS

Witness spectacular coastlines and natural landscapes as you explore the many hidden islands and bays on the Croatian coastline

### HISTORIC SITES

Discover the cultural and historical aspects of Croatia. On your Katarina line cruise, you will experience centuries-old palaces and incredible islands as you make your way along this stunning coastline.

### INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Katarina Line is a small-ship cruise line, specializing in small group travel and offering intimate luxury vessels for a more bespoke experience.



EXPLORE.  
DREAM.  
DISCOVER.

ETOA

AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION  
USTOA  
United States Tour Operators Association

AGTA

NTA

RDA  
Reiseveranstalter Deutschland Verband

ASTA

STAN



  
KATARINA  
*line*

PLAN YOUR  
2020 / 2021  
YACHT CRUISE IN  
*Croatia!*



Katarina Line is a leading DMC in Kvarner - Croatia and the premier small ship cruise company. Offering weekly guaranteed departures from April to mid-October from the major tourist centers; Opatija, Split and Dubrovnik, with a fleet of more than 60 vessels in six different vessel categories. Most of our land itineraries start or end in our capital Zagreb and give travellers the opportunity to explore the stunning natural environment and picturesque, quaint Mediterranean towns while hopping from one island to another. This unique way of travelling and exploring the coastal towns is the most popular and easiest way to experience the true Croatia. With the land & cruise programs travellers get the opportunity to explore coastal and continental Croatia as well as our capital Zagreb and neighboring countries.

  
CROATIA  
*Full of life*

  
KVARNER  
*Diversity is beautiful*

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Photo Source: CNTB

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# *Elegance & serenity in the bush*

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Our wonderful staff, which are more like family, will make sure your every need is met. Enjoy “terrace game viewing”, rich bird life and a unique proximity to the animals. Zebras Crossing is ideal for children and with only 6 suites it is the perfect family getaway or ideal to book out in it’s entirety too. Enjoy hikes, guided bush walks, country meals, sunset drives, relaxing by the pool, reading on our bush beds or time out at one of the many lookout spots.



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