

Getaway

Travel like an insider

Arniston

12 holiday finds we rate

JOBURG QUICK BREAK

ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP FOR BEER LOVERS

BEST DREAM TRIPS

- Self-catering Seychelles
- A (really) secret Karoo retreat
- Learn to fly-fish in Rhodes

you can afford!

PHOTO SPECIAL
How to ace mountain shots pg 30

The water here was 26°C

Tested

► Best budget tripod for travellers

► These 5 items = your perfect braai kit pg 61

MARCH 2017

R36,50 Other countries R32,02
getaway.co.za

FOOD

Paella is the new potjie
(Your weekend camping menu sorted!)

ON THE COVER Anse Patates on La Digue island, Seychelles





Trail run



Live Music



Food Court & Market



Wine Village



Getaway **CAPE SHOW 2017**



Visit www.getawayshow.co.za or contact Kathryn Frew on **021 530 3308**



MTB Challenge



Family Fun



Travel & Taste Theatre



Gear Specials

31 March - 2 April 2017

FRIDAY 10AM-6PM • SATURDAY 9AM-6PM • SUNDAY 9AM-5PM
LOURENSFORD WINE ESTATE, SOMERSET WEST

- **Friday** Adults R50, after 3pm R40 • **Saturday/Sunday** Adults R80, after 3pm R40
- **Friday, Saturday and Sunday** Pensioners/Students R40
- Family Pass (family of four) R150 • Kids 12 and under free



03.17

IN THIS MONTH'S GETAWAY

UPFRONT

5 ED'S LETTER

Look around you. Sonya Schoeman bets you'll find beauty, big and small

6 CONTRIBUTORS

Meet this month's plucky travellers

7 THE TRAVELLER

If fly-swatting was a sport Darrel Bristow-Bovey still wouldn't make the A-team

8 INBOX

Your thoughts, your views and the winners of our BFG 'Where On Earth Am I' competition

TRAVEL

64 VALLEY OF 1000 HILLS

Teagan Cunliffe took her family on a road trip into these iconic hills. Here's why you should too

70 SEYCHELLES

There's a way to explore this dream destination without crippling your credit card. It's also the most fun, writes Caroline Webb

80 SNEEUBERG

No sorrow can't be soothed by the bigness of the Karoo. Pippa de Bruyn found a peaceful hideaway to heal

90 TROUT FISHING IN RHODES

This is the place to learn the meditative art of catch and release, writes Chris Davies

98 HIKING ITALY

Nikki Werner and Brandon de Kock discover a world of high-altitude trails in the Dolomites, perfect for beginners and experts alike

▲
Peer over the edge of this ancient valley in KwaZulu-Natal. There's more to explore than first meets the eye. Page 64.

ESCAPE

12 WISH YOU WERE HERE

You'll never guess where this penguin calls home

14 FIRST LOOK

The Langeberg gets a new set of cabins

16 NATURE

Nine great eco films to look forward to

18 GEAR

Is this the best tripod for travellers?

20 ADVENTURE

Three tough-as-nails mountain bikers share tips

22 BITES

Fare worth travelling for

23 CALENDAR

Four top events this month

25 NEIGHBOURHOOD

Cape Town's Green Point mixes old and new with an international buzz

27 INSIDE GETAWAY

Nothing ruins a romance quite like a photographer, writes Tyson Jopson

PHOTOGRAPHY

30 MASTERCLASS

Conquer your mountain shots with these top tips from experts

34 GALLERY

Five spectacular images from around our beautiful continent

THE FINAL CUT

40 ARNISTON...

is the seaside break you know you deserve. Here's where to stay

FOOD

47 PAELLA

Move over potjie, there's a new pan in town

ROAD TRIP

52 BEER PLEASE!

Chris Davies finds the best craft breweries and pubs on an epic weekend route out of Johannesburg

GEAR

61 THE ULTIMATE BRAAI KIT

These are the only five flame-taming items you'll ever need

GEAR SHOP

104 NEW CAMPING KIT

Find out what's new in the world of the outdoors

INSIDER'S GUIDE

123 WATERBERG

Melanie van Zyl roots out the region's top escapes for your next bush break

COMPETITIONS

28 LUXURY BREAKS

Win six nights at three opulent Eastern Cape escapes, worth R42 320!

39 SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Win great prizes for your best images, including a trip for two to Botswana

25% off

12 issues for only R329

Subscribe and get a free Bobble Bottle – see inside back cover





Getaway

CAPE SHOW 2017

31 March - 2 April 2017

LOURENSFORD WINE ESTATE

WWW.GETAWAYSHOW.CO.ZA



LIVE MUSIC



WINE VILLAGE



FOOD COURT & MARKET



TRAVEL & TASTE THEATRE

DATE: 1 and 2 April • TIME: 11am - 4pm • COST: Free

Getaway

Editor Sonya Schoeman Publisher Neil Piper

EDITORIAL TEAM

Deputy Editor Tyson Jopson
Copy Editor Michelle Hardie
Food Editor Nikki Werner
Gear Editor Melanie van Zyl
Photographer and Photo Editor Teagan Cuniffe
Multimedia Journalist Ondela Mlandu
Intern Nandi Majola

CREATIVE TEAM AND PRODUCTION

Art Director Marisa Steyn
Senior Designers Leo Abrahams, Leigh Taylor
Group Production Manager Keryn Rheeder

DIGITAL TEAM

Digital Content Manager Kati Auld
Multimedia Journalist Welcome Lishivha
Group Digital Business Manager Wendy Lucas
Group Web Development Manager Cicero Joseph
Campaign Manager Nawhaal Fakir
Group Digital Designer Bianca Liebenberg
Webmaster Lizelle Leonard

CONTRIBUTORS

Darrel Bristow-Bovey, Chris Davies,
Pippa de Bruyn, Brandon de Kock

BUSINESS AND SALES TEAM

Group National Sales Manager Andre Stadler (011-449-1077)
National Sales Manager Glynis Kearney (011-449-1092)
Getaway Travel Claudia Hodgkinson
Travel Assistant Inshaaf Amos
Gauteng Adèle Rhodes (011-449-1090)
Coastal Ingrid Versfeld (021-530-3113)
Getaway Gear Mike Parr (011-449-1089)
Getaway Guide Erika Pienaar (021-530-3114)
Ad Sales Co-ordinator Victoria Sanga

MARKETING, EVENTS AND CIRCULATION

Group Marketing & Sponsorship Manager Dean Dicks
Group Events Manager Kathryn Frew
Events Promotions Manager Monique Brevis
Group Events Coordinator Janice Bekker
Group Promotions Manager Amanda Africa
Retail Marketing Manager Dalene Gallagher
Subscriptions Marketing Manager Liz Joseph
Group Show & Events Sales Consultant Melissa Lewis
Subscriptions Operations Karin Mulder
Subscriptions Administration Lynn Heiberg



OPERATIONS

Director Jacques Breitenbach
Group Publisher Neil Piper
Finance Manager Zanfre Gorgosilich
HR Officer Emmelia Fouche

CTP LTD DIRECTORS

T D Moolman, J Edwards, P G Greyling, T J W Holden,
A C G Molusi, A N Nemukula, N Sooka

DIVISIONAL DIRECTORS

J Breitenbach, N L Piper

Published by RamsayMedia, a division of CTP Ltd

Company registration number: 1971/004223/06 ISSN number: 1682-5136

Cape Town head office Tel 021-530-3100 Fax 021-530-3291
36 Old Mill Road, Ndabeni, 7405 or PO Box 180, Howard Place, Cape Town, 7405
Johannesburg office Tel 011-449-1100 • 368 Jan Smuts Avenue, Craighall, 2196, Gauteng
editor@getaway.co.za @GetawayMagazine • **getaway.co.za**

RamsayMedia supports press and media freedom, the defence and advancement
of freedom of expression and access to information for all South Africans.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system
or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying or otherwise without the prior
written permission of the copyright owners, RamsayMedia, Howard Drive, Pinelands 7405.
While reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure the accuracy of advice and information
given to readers, the editor, proprietors and publishers cannot accept responsibility for any
damages or inconvenience that may arise from incorrect information.

Printing CTP Printers, Boomplies Street, Parow
and distributed by RNA, 12 Nobel St,
Industria West, Johannesburg.



Average monthly sales
ABC total 41 836, paid 31 263
(Jul to Sep 2016)



Keeping our eyes wide open

In 1883, Krakatau Island in Indonesia exploded violently and with a loud bang that was heard 4 600 kilometres away. As it collapsed into the sea, water rushed in to fill the vacuum, columns of magma and rock shot up into the sky and, falling back to sea, caused a tsunami 40 metres high that had repercussions around the world. Only the southern end of Krakatau remained, and that was covered in a layer of pumice 40 metres deep and so hot no life could survive it.

Yet just nine months later, a French expedition there found a microscopic spider spinning a tiny, delicate web. How it came to be there is, to me, one of the most beautiful stories about how nature regenerates.

The spiders are members of aeolian plankton – insects, seeds, fungus spores, bacteria and other small creatures – all of which are carried by the wind and whose purpose is long-distance dispersal. They land where they land – they have no control. It happens continuously, all around us, so delicately and unobtrusively that we don't see it. But wherever these 'plankton' land on Earth, they spread life.

This issue, I feel, is one of our most beautiful yet, filled with destinations the team and I dream about. There's Associate Editor Caroline Webb and photographer Teagan Cuniffe's trip to Seychelles, filled with invigorating blues and greens and saucy sunsets (there's also a useful guide on how to visit on a budget, page 70). There's writer Pippa de Bruyn's touching story about the vast subtleties of the Sneeuwberg in the Karoo, and its deeply healing space (page 80). Former *Getaway* journalist Chris Davies' story about learning to fly-fish takes place in the clear,

crisp rivers of Rhodes, which cut through honeyed grass hills and fields rich with bird calls (page 90). Paging through this issue, it all feels so beautiful and delicate, this natural world.

As I write this, the Department of Environmental Affairs is about to permit the export of 800 lion skeletons to Asia, a move that is seen as tacit support for the canned lion industry – and the use of endangered animal parts in traditional medicine. At the same time, the leopard hunting ban has been extended for another year. There are losses and wins happening in SA all the time.

I believe we must keep our eyes open, watch closely what our government agrees to, applaud the positive changes it implements but make it known loudly that we disagree when the poor decisions are opened to public comment. We must object to moves that threaten the people and wildlife and places we love and need. For now, we live in a Trump world, a time when heavy-booted people will march carelessly where we believe in treading lightly, and they'll only be emboldened by a climate-change denialist in high office. This puts our beautiful natural world at risk.

Which brings me back to the tiny spider that ballooned into my office window as I was writing this, as if to say: remember, human, it's all about the numbers. Go out there and get the numbers. Perhaps, with enough people and voices and time, we can regenerate even the most barren and cynical of environments.

Sonya

4 things to look out for in this March issue

VALLEY OF 1000 HILLS

Photographer Teagan Cuniffe exquisitely records this culture-rich and mountainous area (page 64).

DAWDLING IN THE DOLOMITES

After reading this story, the Dolomites in Italy's Alps is on my wish list. Just turn to page 98 and tell me you can't see yourself hiking those exquisite views.

PAELLA IS THE NEW POTJIE

You can pack just one pan and have your weekend cooking sorted – these three recipes will take you through breakfast, lunch and dinner (page 47).

KEEP INFORMED The SA Eco Film Festival has a host of great movies (page 17). Also, follow these sites: hsi.org, wildaid.org, conservationaction.co.za, environment.co.za.

★ THE GOOD-VALUE STAR

Each *Getaway* issue holds a wealth of good-value accommodation, places to stay in for under R550 pp (some for less) and that we think offer good value.

TO OUR READERS

If you read *Getaway*, it's your magazine and we want to hear your views. Mail us at editor@getaway.co.za



Chris Davies
Road trip, page 52
Fly-fishing, page 90

Chris has been on the road a lot recently, undertaking some exceptionally difficult assignments: drinking beer and fishing. Fortunately, he's had plenty of experience in the former, which he put to use seeking out the best craft brewpubs on a road trip from Joburg. Learning to fly-fish was slightly more challenging, but if there's one place in South Africa to try it, the stunning Eastern Cape Highlands is it.



Melanie van Zyl
Insider's Guide:
The Waterberg, page 123

Recently qualified as a field guide, our Gear Editor suspects it has something to do with spending her childhood covered in mud, picking up beetles and looking at tracks in the Waterberg. Melanie has been writing and travelling for *Getaway* for over four years, but still loves returning to her precious bushveld. Lucky for us, she's decided to share her favourite spaces.



Teagan Cunniffe
Seychelles, page 70
Portfolio, page 64
Sneeuberg, page 80

Teagan cycled alone to Anse Source D'Argent on La Digue island – one of the most beautiful places on Earth – to watch the sunrise. Our *Getaway* photographer reckons you should visit Seychelles at least once in your life. If that's too far afield for now, the thousands of folded hills north of Durban and the vast, silent Sneeuberg will surprise you: underrated beauty in your own backyard.



Caroline Webb
Seychelles, page 70

Our Associate Editor loves islands (some say she IS an island), and she was thrilled to tick off another on her list. One of many thoughts that struck her in the Seychelles was: sitting on any beach, staring out at the sea, there is almost always another island across the way. And you can't help but wonder ... what's it like over there? What are *those* people doing right now? No other place has encouraged wanderlust in quite the same way.



Going overboard

Our landlubber columnist finds himself all at sea, facing storms and invading forces and nautical terminology

If there's one thing I can do, it's swat flies.

At least, that's what I told myself as we bobbed on a warm, muggy afternoon on Chesapeake Bay. Somewhere on the salty horizon was the coast of Virginia, and somewhere on the other horizon was Maryland with its crab cakes and cold beer. I was on a boat with my friend Jacques and his father Jacques, and with each passing hour I was becoming more and more aware that I'm not a sailor.

It's not just the seasickness. I can live with seasickness. Many fellows who've spent a good deal of their lives at sea have been seasick – Charles Darwin, Captain Cook, Admiral Nelson, Mr Smee from *Peter Pan* – but all of them managed some basic level of competence in their day-to-day duties. Not me.

I'm not all that handy when I'm ashore, but on the water something comes over me. It's as though I've been struck over the head by a frying pan or a large marlin: I become less coordinated, dim-witted, I fumble and blink in bafflement. Imagine Des van Rooyen on his first day on the job as Minister of Finance – that's me on a boat.

The two Jacques spent a great deal of time patiently trying to teach me to tie a knot, or batten down a hatch, or tie a simpler knot, or simply latch a door. I would nod and seem like I was listening but inside my head it was all flashing lights and panic. When a storm came rushing across the oyster-coloured sea toward us like a CGI special effect, my job was to close the windows so that everyone's bedding wouldn't get wet.

'Have you got it, Darrel?' called one of the Jacques from the bow, where he was single-handedly weighing anchor and belaying things.

'Yes!' I called back. Of course I did. Who can't close a window? It's insulting even to think that I might not be able to close a... Then the storm struck and the windows all popped open and the rain came

flooding in as though from five different fire hoses.

After that, they no longer trusted me with shipboard duties. They scuttled about tying things up, keelhauling other things, splicing the main brace or whatever, and I would just stand there like a barrel of salted pork.

It doesn't do swell things for a man's self-esteem, so when we were attacked by the swarm of bitey horseflies, I finally saw the chance to be useful. I grabbed the solitary on-board fly swatter – a magnificent thing, perfect for its task – and went to work. One fly dead. Two dead. Four! Two in one swat! This was great! They wouldn't be sorry they'd brought me, no, they'd be grateful. They'd be sipping their grog in a wharfside dive in years to come, saying, 'Arrghh, thank goodness we had Darrel as our shipmate when the flies attacked!'

I started describing ever more elegant swatting motions, exaggerating my follow-through, holding my form like John McEnroe at the net. I felt useful. I felt valuable. And then, I don't know, there was a fly hovering above me, insultingly near, and I went for an overhead smash and the tip of the swatter must have just caught the roof because there was a snap and a whoosh and a plop and a plug as the head of swatter broke clean off and flew through the air and landed in the sea and sank.

I stood there staring at a fistful of useless handle. The horseflies slowly realised we were unarmed and rallied themselves to return. The Jacques glared at me like a pair of Poseidons.

'Man overboard,' I said, and threw myself into the sea.

Darrel.

INBOX

Travellers share their thoughts

A good case for the simples

There is so much to be said about spending a weekend camping in the Porterville area. So I'll begin with the German word *fernweh*, which can be defined as 'an ache for distant places'. This recent camping trip has reignited that flame within me. I needed a weekend getaway, without having to worry about the future, finances, drama, stress or keeping up with the fast pace of living – and that's exactly what I got. The pure bliss of simplicity and being surrounded by mountains was just what I needed to feel alive again.

After a rainy evening drive with mist covering the view, my arrival at Beaverlac felt like heaven. We set up my new tent in about four minutes, opened the first drink and started a fire. There was a perfect balance of quietness and excitement among fellow campers, as everyone wanted to enjoy the peace yet also the laughter of kids playing games.

Early on Saturday morning I was woken by the sound of birds, the smell of campfires and the hard, very uncomfortable ground I'd slept on. I did not even think of a sleeping mat (note to self: go buy one!). I downed my coffee, got dressed and headed out for a hike to the rock pools. They were amazing to float around in, for inflatable tube races and to fully enjoy nature. Thankfully we had river shoes on as we discovered only later that there were leeches in the water. After the expedition, we headed back to the campsite to make a fire, and then we just sat back

WINNING
LETTER



and relaxed. These kind of moments make me feel alive and remind me that there is so much more to life than what we put ourselves through every day in our fast-paced cities.

– Tilana Schwartz, Paarl

WIN! Tilana wins a pair of Storm Waterproof hiking boots from Hi-Tec for her next outdoor expedition! The boots are designed for durability, breathability and comfort, and are worth R1 099. Email your letters (no more than 250 words) to editor@getaway.co.za. Getaway reserves the right to edit letters to style.



The best quest in Budapest

During my gap year abroad I was lucky enough to visit 21 different countries in Europe. Upon my return, I was continually asked where my favourite place was. The city that stood out was Budapest.

I think having no expectations led me to fall in love with the 'Paris of the East'. Gathering eagerly in the common room of our hostel, we were taken on free pub crawls through the heart of the city – and they were the most beautiful pubs I've ever seen. Called 'ruin pubs', they are housed in old

factories and abandoned buildings. Scattered fairy lights illuminate crumbling walls lined with ivy, bands play in various nooks and you can't help but be transfixed by the mystical atmosphere.

When we weren't bar-hopping, we were treating ourselves to lengthy soaks in the renowned outdoor thermal baths. I will never forget floating under a velvet sky, face chilled by the icy wind as clouds of steam danced around me.

– Kelly-Anne Ellis, Cape Town

FROM FACEBOOK

WE ASKED: How has travelling changed your world view?

It has opened my eyes. There is more to life than work and home. All the different cultures, different places, have made me realise there is so much more to explore and experience, and it's so much better doing it with someone you love.
– Tanya Swanepoel

The more I travel, the more I want to! Both locally and internationally – the world is a beautiful, interesting and inspiring place.
– Joan Stow

Travelling has changed my perspective by teaching me to be a better person. I appreciate the small things in life. It has also made me want to see more and more so that I can continue to learn new things.
– Patrice Belmonte

I am a lot more accepting of different cultures and ways of thinking.
– Matt Carter

Fighting for our land

I fell in love with Niq Mhlongo's article, *The Value of Sand* (October 2016). I am a member of the Olifants Estuary Advisory Committee on the Cape's West Coast and we are facing a similar threat: the same mining company, MRC, is applying for rights to mine sand on the northern boundaries of our estuary. The simplicity of Niq's article resonated with the very projects we foresee in the future for the communities here to capitalise on their natural assets and heritage. The estuary is home to birds, dunes, salt pans and fishermen.

We are collaborating with BirdLife, the Wildlife & Environmental Society of South Africa, CapeNature, Department of Environmental Affairs and Western Cape Environmental Affairs & Development Planning. The Department of Rural Development is to improve the existing hiking trail (the West Coast Crayfish Trail), which will benefit the community and raise awareness around tourism in the area.

I strongly believe that land use should be determined by the long-term interests and assets of a community, especially since decisions on the location of activities and specific land use



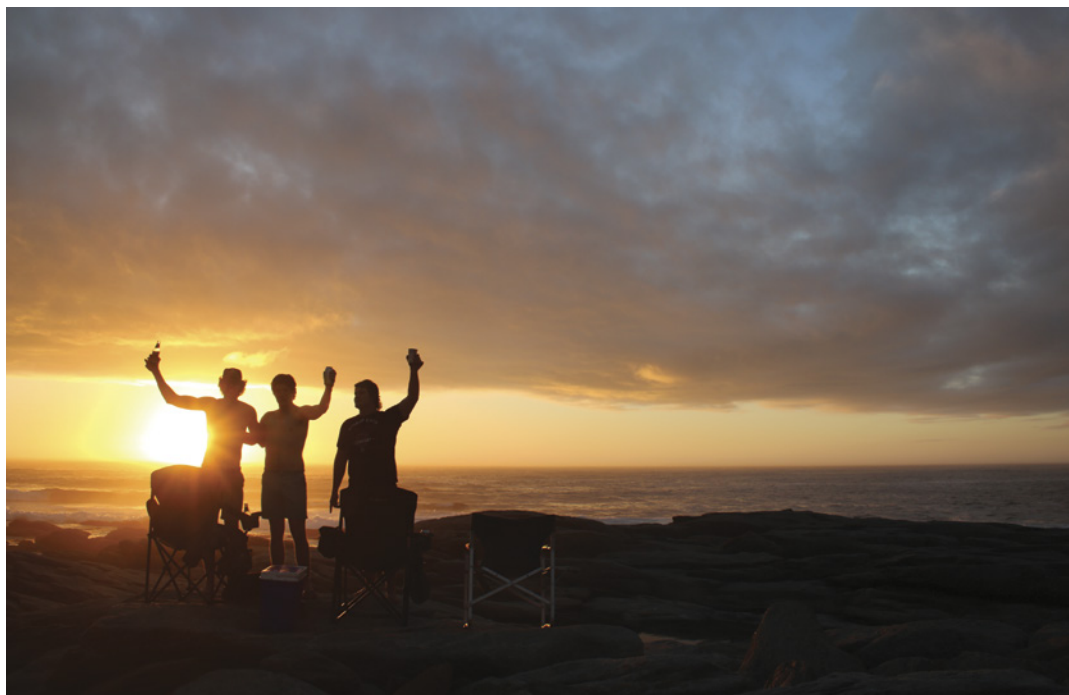
have a long-lasting effect on the pattern and structure of human settlements.

After five years of meetings and workshops, we are now actively registered as interested and affected parties against the proposed mining to ensure the estuary survives and that there is water – a nursery for sea fish, birds, salt marshes, soil and a continuum of our natural resources. It would be wonderful to see some deliberate movement forward from government stakeholders.

– Suzanne du Plessis, Doringbaai

Xolobeni update

The case between Amadiba Crisis Committee and Tormin Mines is still pending in the North Gauteng High Court. 'As a community, we must have the constitutional right to say no to mining developments that we feel will set us back,' says the committee's spokesperson, Nonhle Mbuthuma. The proposed mining area falls within a one-kilometre wide conservation zone, declared by the Transkei Military Council in 1993 and validated by the Supreme Court of Appeal in 2007. It protects the area from activities (such as the removal of soils and vegetation) not under permit by the Minister of Environmental Affairs. 'We want to ensure this law is upheld against mining companies the same way it has been upheld for years against citizens,' adds Mbuthuma.



SNAP OF THE MONTH

I went on a road trip this past December with three friends. We did 4 869 kilometres across the country from Pretoria, via Kgalagadi and the Northern Cape. This is us at the Groenriviermond Campsite in Namaqua National Park.

– Dihael Prins, Melkbosstrand



WIN! Tag us in your images on Instagram using @GetawayMagazine and you could win a R400 gift card from Outdoor Warehouse. outdoorwarehouse.co.za

SPEAK TO US getaway.co.za | facebook.com/getawaymagazine | Twitter and Instagram: @getawaymagazine

Winners!

FROM TREACHEROUS PASSES TO IDYLIC PANS, OUR READERS CERTAINLY GET AROUND. WE'VE SPENT MONTHS ENJOYING YOUR BEAUTIFUL IMAGES FROM ALL OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE BFGOODRICH 'WHERE ON EARTH AM I?' COMPETITION. AND NOW THE VOTES ARE IN



Action and Adventure

Goerapan's notorious 'springduin' near Upington.

– **Magda Scholtz, Vryburg**

Magda wins a set of BFGoodrich KO2 tyres and a self-drive holiday to Botswana.



The Iconic Spot

All-terrain specialists at Hakskeen Pan in the Kalahari.

– **Ferdinand Veer Jr, Ashkham**

Ferdinand wins a set of BFGoodrich KO2 tyres and a self-drive holiday to Botswana.



Readers' Choice Award

Travelling to untouched places with a Land Cruiser and some BFGoodrich tyres. Getting to those scenic spots near Umzinto on the South Coast of KZN. – **Yusuf Desai, Durban**

This photo received the most votes (94) from our readers, winning Yusuf a set of BFGoodrich KO2 tyres.

Lucky voter!

Just for voting in the Readers' Choice category, Frances Stirling has won the use of an Avis Safari Rental vehicle for a week anywhere in Southern Africa



Buffalo City

EAST LONDON . BHISHO . MDANTSANE . KING WILLIAM'S TOWN
EASTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA

Makirwa Media 043 722 5312

Turning Moments into Memories in Buffalo City

With all the creature comforts of a modern metropole, coupled with uncrowded, sun-kissed beaches and a wide range of in and outdoor leisure attractions, Buffalo City is a perfect getaway destination.

Dine in the company of dolphins

From fine dining to quaint beach cafes and robust burger joints, Buffalo City offers the most picturesque lunch and dinner spots on the Sunshine Coast. Excellent food enjoyed against spectacular views.

Sip a sumptuous cocktail with the waves crashing at your back

Stylish beach and river front hotels and chic cocktail lounges offer a splash of glamour and glitz as you indulge in your favourite cosmopolitan pursuits.

Pamper yourself!

Buffalo City's wide range of general and specialist massage, beauty and wellness boutiques and spas ensure a rejuvenating experience, whether you're visiting for business, sport or leisure.

Be inspired by our liberation icons

Steve Biko is recognised as one of South Africa's greatest liberation icons, alongside fellow Eastern Cape leaders Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Raymond Mhlaba. His remarkable legacy lives on in the Steve Biko Garden of Remembrance and the Steve Biko Centre, in Ginsberg, King William's Town. Be sure to also visit the Bisho massacre and Egerton memorials, The Wall of Fame in Dimbaza and the Mxenge family graves.

Marvel at our natural history artefacts

The East London Museum curates three of the international science community's most prized artefacts: the prehistoric coelacanth, a 40 000 year old humanoid skull and the world's oldest human trace fossil footprints, dating back an incredible 124 000 years.

Discover our golden beaches

Whatever your beach fantasy – rock or surf angling, snorkelling, diving, surfing, beachcombing or just soaking up some bronzing rays – Buffalo City has the perfect seaside spot for you and your family. From Hamburg to the beautiful coastal villages dotted along the Sunshine Coast, our city boasts a spectacular stretch of coastline that lends itself to a diverse range of marine activities and leisure pursuits.

East London Airport
27 Taylor Street, King William's Town
Wall of Fame, Main Road, Dimbaza
tourismunit@buffalocity.gov.za
www.bctourism.co.za

08h00 - 18h00
08h00 - 16h30
08h00 - 16h30

Tel: 043 736 3019
Tel: 043 642 1215
Tel: 040 656 2062

Visit South Africa's oldest aquarium

The very first such facility built in South Africa, the East London Aquarium continues to delight with its unique and eclectic collections and fish tank displays, seal shows and penguin colony. Don't forget to take a stroll out over the Indian Ocean on our whale watching deck.

Hug a hippo!

Arguably the most famous hippo in the world, Huberta, enjoys pride of place at the Amathole Museum in King William's Town. Learn all about her amazing journey to Buffalo City, and don't forget to check out this excellent museum's other impressive claim to fame: the second largest mammal collection in South Africa.

Marvel at exquisite Victorian architecture

Named after King William IV of England, King William's Town boasts many exquisite examples of Victorian architecture at its most impressive, including numerous churches, monuments and military buildings that reflect this area's unique British and German heritage.

Enjoy a sunset cruise in South Africa's only river port

The Port of East London is a small but dynamic port with an exciting waterfront development named for one of our most famous residents, Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer. Harbour and open-sea cruises are piloted daily, on demand, offering visitors a unique opportunity to frolic with the playful and inquisitive dolphin pods that frequent the harbour mouth. River cruises are also available on the Nahoon and Buffalo rivers.

Discover authentic Xhosa culture

In addition to our popular and very informative township tours, Buffalo City is the perfect place to discover authentic Xhosa culture. Our expert guides will introduce you to a traditional Xhosa homestead where you can meet, eat and visit with Xhosa families still well-steeped in authentic, traditional Xhosa culture.

Catch the Big 5

Get up close and personal with the Big 5 at any of a number of game reserves in close proximity to the city centre. Our reserves are well-stocked and expertly managed to ensure the best and most rewarding game viewing experiences.

Experience it all in Buffalo City!

f Buffalo City Tourism

@bcmtourism

buffalocitytourism

buffalocitytourismBCT

DOWNLOAD THE
BC TOURISM APP



Available on the
App Store

Available on the Android
App Store

Get it on
Google play

SPORT

CULTURE

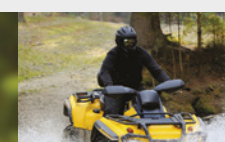
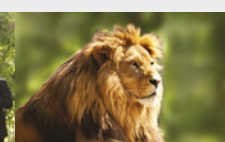
FAMILY

BUSINESS

ROMANCE

NATURE

ADVENTURE



ESCAPE

THE FIRST STEP TO YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

WISH YOU WERE HERE

RATA FOREST, ENDERBY ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Like something out of a spooky fairy tale, the trunks of southern ratas twist out of the ground, growing almost prostrate and forming arches, bridges and burrows on the forest floor. For a shy bird that loves to hide away (the only penguin species that shuns colony life to live alone), this is ideal. And the more remote the forest is, the better. Enderby, 460 kilometres off New Zealand's South Island, is part of the Auckland Islands group – the only sub-Antarctic islands with forest. It also has the largest population of yellow-eyed penguins, one of the most endangered of their kind (less than 4 000 left). Enderby has other 'specials': the southern royal albatross, Hooker's sea lion and flightless birds such as the Auckland snipe and Auckland teal (the world's second rarest duck). Access to Enderby is strictly controlled and numbers limited (most visitors arrive from the handful of cruise ships that do this route once a year). The penguins and rata trees are also found in a few locations on New Zealand's mainland. yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz



21 March is International Day of Forests.
We checked out some new woodland cabins
that you'll love. See page 14

Green days

This new eco-friendly spot provides a quick escape to the forest, says CHRIS DAVIES

Grootvadersbosch Cabins

NEAR SWELLENDAM

Until now, one of the Cape's most beautiful forest reserves had only a single cottage and a small campsite available to overnight visitors. After two years of fraught construction, delayed by fires and dramatic flooding, 11 brand-new self-catering cottages provide unprecedented access.

At just 250 hectares, Grootvadersbosch is dinky but it packs a wonderful diversity into such a small space. More than 200 species of birds have been

recorded, although from the chorus that greets the sunrise you'll think there are far more. A network of sun-dappled trails starts just metres from your doorstep, twisting beneath giant redwoods – some almost 60 metres high – and up onto the fynbos-covered foothills of the Langeberg. You'll almost certainly spot a bushbuck bounding off between the trees.

Each timber-clad cabin has a deliberate treehouse-like feel, especially the covered braai

room, which is raised on low stilts and attached to the cabin via a short passage off the kitchen. It has retractable canvas screens along two walls, allowing an easy conversion from airy deck to cosy *kuierkamer*, depending on the weather.

Although most of the building materials were reclaimed from pre-existing staff housing, nothing about the cottages feels ramshackle. The bathrooms (shower only)

Hike to a beautiful swimming spot on the Duiwenhoks River, 1½ hours this way

Cabins 5 to 10 are higher up on the ridge and have the best sunset views.



THE BRIGHT, SPACIOUS INTERIOR

are large, and the kitchen and living areas comfortable and well equipped. The eco-conscious ethos has been continued with gas ovens and stoves, and solar power supplements the mains supply.

The cabins are well-spaced but the site is still very new, so until the host of indigenous saplings that have been planted between them have had a chance to grow, book Cabin 7 at the top of the ridge

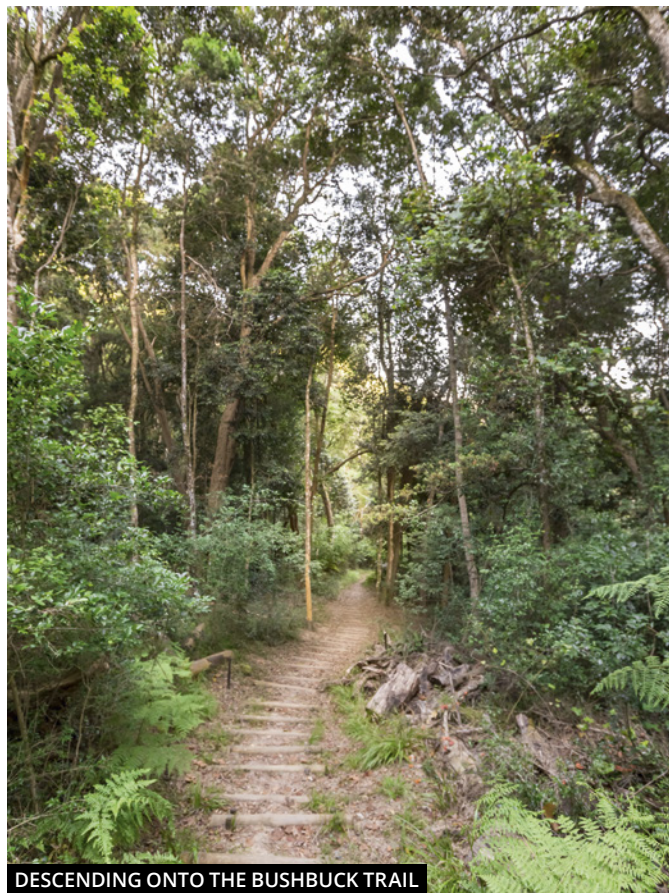
for the best views and maximum privacy.

BEST FEATURE Definitely the protected inside-outside braai room. The weather can turn quickly in the mountains, and this easily converted space can save your evening plans.

★ **COSTS** R950 per cabin (conservation fee R40 adults, R20 kids)

SLEEPS 4

BOOK 021-483-0190, capenature.co.za



DESCENDING ONTO THE BUSHBUCK TRAIL

ESTD 1886
JAMES SEDGWICK
DISTILLERY

HOME OF SA WHISKIES



ENJOY AN EXCLUSIVE WHISKY AND FOOD PAIRING EXPERIENCE AT AFRICA'S ONLY COMMERCIAL WHISKY DISTILLERY.

Nestling in the quaint town of Wellington, is the James Sedgwick Distillery, home to South African whisky and where we craft our internationally award-winning range of Three Ships Whisky and Bain's Cape Mountain Whisky.

To book your unique tour and tasting, visit www.webtickets.co.za

Due to popular demand, booking and payment is essential 48 hours in advance.



www.threeshipswhisky.co.za



www.bainswhisky.com

THE NEXT GENERATION

The theme of the UN's World Wildlife Day on 3 March is 'listen to the young voices'. Here are two youthful stories to celebrate

1

'It is as important to grow rhino births as it is to address losses due to poaching,' says Jo Shaw of WWF-SA's Rhino Programme. With this in mind, the KZN-based Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP) has been focusing on increasing the population of black rhino in South Africa. Since 2003, more than 70 calves have been born on newly established project sites – offspring of the 163 rhinos that have been translocated to new protected homes, moved in groups of 15 to 20 to create new populations. In the process, BRREP has pioneered the airlifting of rhinos out of thick, bushy terrain to a place where they can be loaded into vehicles to be driven to their new homes. The 11th translocation is planned for this year. wwf.org.za/rhinos

2

YOUTH 4 WILDLIFE

According to the UN, nearly a quarter of the world's population is aged between 10 and 24. Recognising that it is the responsibility of each generation to safeguard the environment for the next one, the first-ever resolution on youth was adopted at the 17th annual CITES conference held in Joburg last year. A group of 25 young delegates from different countries met, and South Africa founded the Youth & Conservation Programme to engage young people in wildlife protection. #YoungVoices, #youth4wildlife.



+ DANIELSRUST GAME FARM NEAR JOBURG IS HOSTING A NIGHT-TIME 'EARTH HOUR' FAMILY TRAIL RUN/WALK ON 25 MARCH. R100 PP. QUICKET.CO.ZA



A TASTE OF THE SA ECO FILM FESTIVAL



'Gangster gardeners' in South LA transforming a community (in *Can You Dig This*), and seed keepers protecting a 12 000-year-old food legacy (in *Seed*).



A British engineer's attempts to use sea water to green the deserts of Qatar (think Matt Damon in *The Martian*).



Learn the shocking true cost of our beloved tech gadgets (in *Death by Design*) and our sweetest addiction (in *The Chocolate Case*).



See what climate change has done already – on all five continents and the Arctic – in Leonardo DiCaprio's *Before the Flood* (free screening).



Consider the 'weight of humanity's footprint' in a film that looks at population explosion and over-consumption.



In *Tawai*, travel with Bruce Parry as he seeks out the last remaining indigenous cultures – and what they can teach us about 'tawai' (connection to nature).

Look and Learn

Why would a woman in her 60s spend four-and-a-half years on a solo, self-funded journey to a dozen countries to find answers? A serious global problem, that's why

'I'm already living in a parallel world,' says filmmaker Renée Scheltema. 'I've been thinking green for over 40 years.' In her documentary *Normal Is Over*, she aims to get to the bottom of the issues plaguing our planet, concluding that it's our economic systems that are most harmful. Many of the experts and academics she consulted said she was 'crazy' to take on this subject matter. 'I'm glad I came to understand the big picture. And I'm relieved I got it right!' she laughs, based on feedback from people within the financial sector.

Many documentaries 'just present the drama' and she did not want to do that; it's the solutions and hope presented in her film that make it stand out, and which have moved audiences to tears – and to action. 'People need to first deeply understand the issues, and then they can contribute on their own level.'

Dutch-born Renée moved to South Africa in 1992 to 'give my kids resilience and a sense of nature'. It's not something she mentions in the film, but she believes South Africa has a lot going for it. 'There is still so much left to protect, or which can be regenerated and expanded. We can do things

differently here. We have to be radical now – if we change course, just one per cent, that will make a difference.'

• ***Normal Is Over* will be screened at the SA Eco Film Festival, 23 – 30 March, at the Labia Cinema in Cape Town. Tickets R50. Full programme and Joburg screening dates to be announced. saecofilmfestival.com**



It's better on the big screen, but if you can't make it, many of the films can be watched online (including Renée's: normalisoverthemovie.com)

TESTED
THIS
MONTH

The best thing on three legs

Photo Editor TEAGAN CUNNIFFE and Gear Editor MELANIE VAN ZYL went in search of a tripod that is small, sturdy and great value

A reliable tripod is an important investment if you want to take better photos: it's essential for great landscapes and long exposures. You need one that is light and compact enough to fit into a backpack, but still sturdy enough to get good shots. Our budget was less than R2 000 so this ruled out carbon-fibre options (a popular lightweight

material used by professionals) – they come with a hefty price tag. Instead, we focused on the slightly heavier aluminium tripods. We found the best option in our price range (well, actually, R95 over budget) is the **Sirui** (pronounced su-ray) **T-005X 5-Section Tripod with C-10X Ball Head**. It has a packed length of 30cm (a ruler), weighs 1kg, is made from quality material and has a one-year warranty. It extends to a maximum height of 1,39m (not as high as we'd have liked and a bit flimsy at full extension) and can hold up to 4kg, which is good for medium-sized DSLRs with regular lenses but not sturdy enough to hold a telephoto lens. Still, it's great value and the absolute best we could find in its price range. R2 095, ormsdirect.co.za

For beginners, we liked the **Rollei Compact Traveller Star S1 Tripod**. It can hold up to 2kg (good for mirrorless cameras and smaller, entry-level DSLRs), weighs just less than 600g and packs down to 29cm. R495, ormsdirect.co.za

✱ Another option that intrigued us is the **Manfrotto Compact Action Tripod**, which is a good budget alternative with great reviews online and a better maximum height of 1,5m. Ultimately we decided the Sirui is more travel-focused, being shorter by 15cm and weighing 160g less. R1 299, makro.co.za





MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE: 1 APRIL 2017

Some of the most breathtaking mountain bike trails are in the Helderberg, and the Cape *Getaway* Show Mountain Bike Challenge is the perfect opportunity to experience them with your friends and family. You can either take part in the 10km, 20km or 40km ride.

Venue Lourensford Wine Estate,
Somerset West

5km @ 8am (R50)

A non-technical family fun ride.

20km @ 7.30am (R200)

An ideal route for beginners on a jeep track with moderate climbs.

40km @ 7am (R300)

A challenging, technical ride, mostly single track.

Book online ticketpros.co.za

Cost is per rider and includes free entry for the rider plus a partner to the Cape *Getaway* Show.

TRAIL RUN: 2 APRIL 2017

Join us for the *Getaway* Trail Run, a fun 13km trail route through the beautiful Lourensford Wine Estate. It takes place on 2 April 2017 (the final morning of the Cape *Getaway* Show). There is limited space so book now to avoid disappointment.

Venue Lourensford Wine Estate,
Somerset West

Time 7am

Cost R100

Book online ticketpros.co.za

Cost is per runner and includes free entry for the runner plus a partner to the Cape *Getaway* Show.

Visit getawayshow.co.za
or contact Monique Brevis on monique.brevis@ramsaymedia.co.za

**Sportsmans
Warehouse**
winning starts here!

DIMENSIONS
TENTS + STRUCTURES



Questions we've always wanted to ask a cyclist...

There are three big races in the Cape this month. We ask a trio of competitors to be honest with us

THE RACES

1. Cape Epic

19 – 26 March
691km in 8 days

2. Cape Rouleur

5 – 9 March
600km in 5 days

3. Cape Town

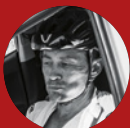
Cycle Tour 12 March
109km in one day
(+ MTB Challenge
4 – 5 March)

THE CYCLISTS



HANNELE STEYN

The only woman to have completed all 13 Cape Epics.



STEVE SAUNDERS

Ex-pro cyclist who's done two Rouleurs.



JAMES REID

Has ridden both versions of the Cape Town Cycle Tour (road and MTB) twice.

What's going through your mind on the starting line?

HS Make peace with pain!

SS I ask myself: Have I trained enough? You can never be certain.

JR I think about the strategy, the length of time I'll complete the race, and also my levels of fitness and looking after the bike.

Lycra?

HS If you've ever tried to ride an Epic stage in something else, all your inhibitions about Lycra will disappear.

SS Lycra should strictly be worn on a bicycle and not in general.

JR It isn't very stylish but it's non-negotiable as a protective covering.

Toilet breaks?

HS When you race that hard you don't get those needs. But, if it happened, I'd look for a big bush or tree with a view.

SS We are skilled enough to pee on the go. This means relieving yourself on a bicycle going 45km/h.

JR I'd suggest that you have a sizeable breakfast about three hours before the race to let your digestive system work the food out of your system. And manage your hydration intake correctly.

How do you avoid a sore bum?

HS After four or five hours, everyone's bum is sore. Very important is to invest in a good saddle – and use barrier cream every day.

SS It is well worth spending money on chamois cream.

JR It's about the quality of your shorts and the hygiene aspect (don't wear cycling kit twice without washing it).

What's worth stopping for?

HS During the Cape Epic: the top of Groenlandberg (near Elgin).

SS During the Cape Rouleur: the Franschoek Pass, heading out of town towards Grabouw.

JR During the Cape Town Cycle Tour: the base of Chapmans Peak, going into Noordhoek.

*FOUR ROUTES RECOMMENDED BY OUR CYCLISTS

JAMES The trails around Howick in KZN are a paradise for riders.

HANNELE The Bottellary Hills outside Stellenbosch, and Kanonkop – the view at the top will leave you speechless.

STEVE From Noordhoek, along Chapman's Peak to Hout Bay. Have a coffee at the beach and head back along one of the most beautiful roads in the world.

NEW GEAR

SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE

The Meade Infinity 90mm Altazimuth Refractor telescope will help anyone start stargazing.

The 95x magnification offers detailed views of familiar objects such as Saturn's rings and Jupiter's tiny moons, but the training software also displays more than 10 000 celestial objects including galaxies and nebulae.

To further simplify night-sky observation, the mount has an altitude lock and slow-motion controls that track the objects as the Earth moves (it's quicker than you think!), and the prism corrects images so you can also use the scope to check out birds and other life back on land. **R4 495, ormsdirect.co.za**

WIN!

See page 104 to win this telescope and find other camping upgrades.



Don't invite them in!

Don't let garden and household pests take over. The Efekto range of products offers easy to use effective solutions to help you protect your home and garden.



NO INSECT INDOORS SC

A pyrethroid insecticide as a suspension concentrate for the control of household insects.

- Controls cockroaches, mosquitoes, flies, bedbugs, ants and fishmoths in dwellings, animal houses and industrial premises.

Customer Service Tel 086 133 3586 | info@efekto.co.za | www.efekto.co.za

Registration holder: Agro-Serve (Pty) Ltd, Reg No. 1973/000868/07. Distributed by Efekto Care (Pty) Ltd Reg No. 2009/006357/07, PO Box 652147, Benmore, 2010. Efekto and the Efekto logo are registered trademarks of Agro-Serve (Pty) Ltd. All rights reserved. NO INSECT® INDOORS SC Reg No. L8290 Active Ingredient: Deltamethrin (pyrethroid) 25 g/l (Harmful). Product is registered under Act No. 36 of 1947. NO INSECT® is the registered trademark of Agro-Serve (Pty) Ltd.

EFFICIENCY GET_9448/E





How to stock your bush kitchen? This woman will teach you all

It might sound obvious, but asking locals where they buy things and heading there often results in finding real foodie treasures,' says food writer and TV chef Sarah Graham. On her show *Sarah Graham's Food Safari*, she prepares wholesome, 'close-to-the-earth' food while travelling around Southern Africa's wilder parts. Her recipes and tips, including how she stocks the ultimate on-the-road 'bush kitchen' (all available on her website), will be invaluable to anyone embarking on similar travels.

In the first series, which has now been screened in 40 countries, she went back to her roots in Zimbabwe, whipping up such treats as rosemary *stokbrood*, goat stew with beery dumplings and

banana and peanut-butter ice cream, while visiting wildlife sanctuaries and Vic Falls.

This time round, she's taking in Mozambique, Maputaland and the greater Kruger area. In episodes screening this month on M-Net, she visits conservation projects and goes on walks with local guides to learn some bush lore. Along the way Sarah rustles up a fireside bush feast for the 'Black Mambas' and a picnic on the edge of the Blyde River Canyon – a visit to which, she says, 'should be on everyone's bucket list'.

Follow her journey: Mondays at 6pm on M-Net 101 and on sarahgraham.co.za

Don't miss: Sarah swaps bush for bay when she hosts a dinner on 16 March at The Project Bar, a new Knysna hotspot. knysnaliteraryfestival.co.za

DON'T MISS THE BUS The Bus Stop is the newest arrival at Welmoed Farm in the winelands – a yellow 1980 Bedford bus parked in the middle of the pond, which dispenses craft beer, waffles and wood-fired burgers and pizzas. It will have a vital role at the Stellenbosch Vineyards Pizza & Wine Festival (25 – 26 March). R160 pp (under 18s free). stellenboschvineyards.co.za, thebusstop.co.za



CHEFS ON HOLIDAY



Graham Neilson of 9th Avenue Bistro, Durban

My kind of holiday is somewhere quiet and remote, where we can self-cater. I love it especially when you can get your ingredients from the area.

We often return to Lake Naverone in the Underberg (wonderful chalets on the water), Sungubala Eco Camp near Bergville, and an amazing converted church called St Andrew's Retreat in the Midlands.

Everyone should go to the Kosi Bay river mouth. It's absolutely beautiful. Spend a day on one of the tiny islets there exploring and snorkelling.

I was about 13 when I first had oysters in Knysna. At first I couldn't believe that anyone would eat them on purpose, but I developed a love for them pretty quickly!

On our last trip we found the most wonderful restaurant at Fynboshoek cheese farm in the Tsitsikamma. That was well worth the detour.

My most memorable overseas trip was South America with my fiancée.

Peru and Bolivia were the best, especially on our tiny budget. Wonderful people and astonishingly good food.

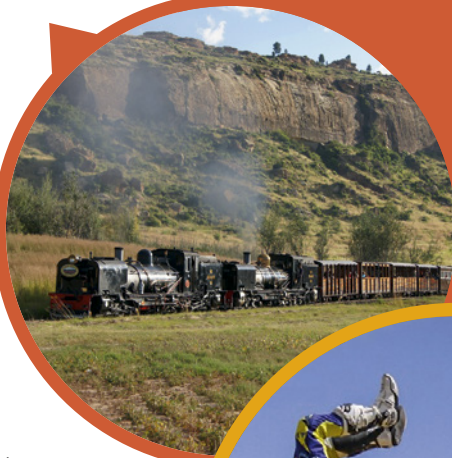
9thavenuebistro.co.za

4X4

This month's most travel-worthy events

Ride a steam train, and more

For nostalgic types, there's nothing quite like vintage trains, planes, cars and other machines. Sandstone Estates in the Free State, bordering Lesotho, is a keeper of such relics, and proudly displays them at its annual **Stars of Sandstone** festival (some 300 old-timer tractors alone!). Visitors get to interact with Sherman tanks, rare steam-traction engines and Tiger Moths, among others, plus the world's largest collection of narrow-gauge locomotives. Best of all, they can board the Mountain Wanderer steam train and head into the hills (kids will love the mini sugar-cane locos) and even sleep in the coaches. Registration is required, except for the last two days when day visitors (**entry R228**) are welcome. **Camping R285 pp, sleeper coach from R170 pp, self-catering room R912 pp (entry fee included).** 30 March – 9 April. sandstone-estates.com



Be a sports star

You'll get muddy and sweaty and wet, you'll be shot at (with balls, not bullets) and shouted at, you'll crawl and climb and run and ride, and even if you're just sitting on the sidelines, you'll be amazed. This year the **Cape Argus SportShow** offers The Grind obstacle course, a Tag Rugby tournament, Fives Futbol in a bespoke soccer cage, a world-class paintball court and a pumptrack – all open to anyone to participate. There's a trampoline and parkour show, plus Man vs Machine which pits a motorbike champ against a cyclist, and the acrobatic Lords of Gravity return to show off their basketball skills.

It's the place to learn how to hold your breath for a long time, buy the latest gear and hear thrilling tales from real-life adventurers. **Entry R150, kids R80. 24 – 26 March.** sportshow.co.za



The Lords of Gravity hold the record for the longest slam dunk: from 7,55 metres away

Find out how things work

Grahamstown's **SciFest** turns 21 this year ... time to spread its wings. The theme this year is Tour de Science, which touches on journeys of discovery, delving into mysteries and 'time-travelling' through a long history of accomplishments. The festival will also explore the rising trend in edutourism – travel for the purpose of learning (which, if you attend, you will be doing already!) – and new developments in space tourism. A highlight is sure to come from the Sansa (SA National Space Agency) boffins, who will reveal everything you've ever wanted to know about satellites – and sprites (optical gas discharges that occur between the tops of thunderstorms and space, recorded in SA for the first time). **Free entry, lectures or workshops cost R25. 8 – 14 March.** scifest.org.za



Camp out – with a cool soundtrack

Freecaps & Teeshirtz, The Ts & Cs, Jol Stranky, Zolabudde – you gotta love the names local bands come up with. These are some of the 60-odd that will be at this year's **Mieliepop** festival (more famous names on the line-up include Desmond & the Tutus, Majosi, Shortstraw and Grassy Spark). Billed as a 'rock, reggae and blues' fest, there's also folk, world music, a Rave Cave (DJs) and Cool in the Pool dance floor (electronica). The venue, Tolderia Farm near Lothair in Mpumalanga, is a watery, hilly playground with rivers, pools, fields, caves and a lake – the latter of interest to anyone who's interested in trying SUP yoga, which will be offered at the Yoga Flow Festival running concurrently.

Tickets from R650 (includes four days of camping). 17 – 20 March. mieliepopfestival.co.za

+ CHEER UP! WEST END HIT THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG WILL HAVE YOU CRYING WITH LAUGHTER. FROM 24 MARCH (JOBURG, THEN CT). PIETERTOEREN.CO.ZA

DStv

As seen on DStv *Big Cat* HB 58616/OJ

GAME FOR A DRIVE?

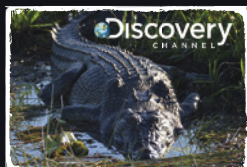
Looking to spot Big cats? Well train your eyes onto The Lion Queen on Animal Planet. For those who live in full adventure mode, why not journey through more awesome reality programming on Nat Geo Wild, BBC Earth and the History Channel.

TRY IT. YOU WILL LIKE IT.

For even more larger-than-life nature shows, why not try:



The Lion Queen,
Animal Planet, Ch 183,
Thursdays @ 21h00



Legend of Croc,
Discovery Channel, Ch 121,
Thursdays @ 20h00



Africa's Hunters,
Nat Geo Wild, Ch 182,
Wednesdays @ 18h00



The Great American Thaw,
BBC Earth, Ch 184,
Sundays @ 17h00

www.dstv.com



Green Point, Cape Town

This harbourside neighbourhood has blossomed into a cosmopolitan, trendy playground, with several new mixed-use developments changing its look. Business owner **Sue Vith** gives us a local's tour

Owner of Out Of This World

'My mother-in-law, Paula, was one of the first people to sell authentic tribal art and furniture in South Africa in the 70s.' The legacy continued after a South American holiday turned into a gathering of exotic artefacts for Sue and her husband Peter, and today their warehouse also stocks items from India and Oceania. 'Green Point has such an upbeat energy. There are always people out and about, from all walks of life – there is something for everyone here. It's innovative and the creativity here is inspiring.'

1 Braemar Road, 021-434-3540.
outofthisworld.co.za



THE LOCAL CUISINE

'We've had some exciting evenings at **El Burro**, a fantastic Mexican restaurant with a warm, welcoming atmosphere.' (It's also renowned for having one of the biggest tequila collections in town.)

'I always have the churros for dessert.'

81 Main Road, 021-433-2364

UNIQUE FINDS

'A cute new shop called **Mash** has lots of local designer stuff up for grabs.'

Portside Centre, 021-286-1270.

Gold Restaurant specialises in a 14-course African feast. 'With djembe drumming and dancing and puppets, it's an incredibly cheerful way to engage with the culture'.

15 Bennett Street, 021-421-4653



GO GREEN

'We love going for a walk in **Green Point Urban Park**, a little piece of paradise in the city. I love that it is an eco park that educates visitors about biodiversity (tours R35, 021-417-0111). It showcases a rich variety of Cape flora, and is perfect for exercising, romantic walks or playing with your children. There is a wetland that attracts a lot of birds – it's really cool to sit on the benches and check out the birdlife. The Parkrun on Saturdays (parkrun.co.za) starts outside the stadium and winds its way into the park. Or hire a bike at the Waterfront or Sea Point promenade (from R60, upcycles.co.za) and ride through the park.'

GRAB A COFFEE

'We go to **Giovanni's** to get a coffee – the cappuccino is always a winner. Their food is real home-style cooking and the vibe is always great. The deli also has interesting ingredients if you want to make meals yourself.'

103 Main Road, 021-434-6893



GET THE VIEW

'Cape Town by day is beautiful but when you see it lit up at night, it is absolutely magic. One of our favourite places is **The Vue Sky Bar & Lounge** to have a drink and tapas – we love the peanut and chilli wontons.' 15th floor, 40 Chiappini Street, 021-418-3065

SEYCHELLES



The **Eden Island Luxury Accommodation** Portfolio has a selection of self-catering Apartments, Maisons and Villas offering the perfect location for holidays or longer-term rentals – all with access to Eden Island's unique facilities.



Eden Island
SEYCHELLES

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

For information & reservations contact:
+248 434 6000 or e-mail: reservations@edenisland.sc
www.edenisland.sc



Amazing Grace

UNCHARTED LUXURY

Seychelles Inner and Outer Islands

Jarryd +27 (76) 077 7698 | www.oceancharters.sc

SPECIALS AVAILABLE FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

TAKE ME TO THE ISLAND



MAURITIUS

8 DAYS FROM

R 14 990 PPS

ROMANTIC 4-STAR
RADISSON BLU



ZANZIBAR

8 DAYS FROM

R 17 810 PPS

BAREFOOT LUXURY
AT GOLD ZANZIBAR



REUNION

8 DAYS FROM

R 16 730 PPS

SELF-DRIVE THIS
FRENCH ISLAND



BALI

8 DAYS FROM

R12 430 PPS

SOAK UP
THE SUN

Packages include: Return flights ex JHB, airport taxes, airport transfers, accommodation, selected activities and meals.

Prices are subject to currency fluctuations • High season supplements may apply

ENQUIRE NOW

Contact Claudia on 021-530-3380 or travel@getaway.co.za
For more packages visit getaway.co.za/travel

Getawaytravel



Black hawk down

On a dreamy honeymoon island our photographer discovers that love is everywhere, except in the air

You don't see all that many gigs advertised for honeymoon photographers. Weddings, sure. Birthdays, yeah. Corporate events, all the time. But for life's more personal moments, most of us would prefer not having a photographer pop out from some nearby shrubbery, take aim and snap the latest addition to their much-anticipated *Deer in the Headlights: Couples Edition* portfolio.

Nowhere, aside from gossip rags, do those lines cross more than in travel photography. Public spaces contain people (mind-blowing, I know) and while we'll *always* ask for permission to take someone's portrait, getting a release from everyone between your lens and the Taj Mahal is a little trickier. Adjunct to that, our quest to bring you unique perspectives and uncover 'secret' spots sometimes collides with others' quest to find a place as far away from people as possible.

Teagan Cunniffe discovered this while shooting a story in the Seychelles, an island I'd always thought was exclusively occupied by honeymooners. Turns out (see page 70) it's a fine place to go whether you're attached, resolutely unbound or recently severed. Still, every year thousands of honeymooners are lured in by its powder-white beaches, warm water, secret coves and two very naughty words: package deal. 'Authentic' travellers will turn their noses up at the notion, but they're lying to themselves if they say the phrase 'all inclusive' doesn't send a little hedonistic tingle down their spines. I got goosebumps just typing that.

I imagine Seychelles to be the kind of place where those package options are endless: 'Hi. Yes we'd like the Honeymoon Plus package, the all-you-can-eat buffet and two secret-cove experiences, please.'

'No problem. Unfortunately the Krauthammers in Room 208 have booked the secret cove for sunrise. How about the sunset slot? Here's a map.'

On this particular day, on the small island of La Digue, it was a French couple who got that proverbial sunset slot. And as it happened Teagan was converging on the very same spot, driven by something more ethereal than love even: dusk.

Now if there's one thing you should know about photographers, it's that

something very strange happens to them when the light turns pink and soft. They lose all common sense and morph into black ops combatants. They can hurtle over jagged rocks in slops at tremendous speed and clear entire bays in a single stride, all with one eye firmly pressed to their viewfinder while rattling off the shutter like machine-gun fire. Anyone between them and the last rays of light becomes Canon fodder – immortalised in print as a nameless, faceless silhouette. This is how I imagine Teagan arrived at said cove, around the same time that Monsieur and Madame Package Deal began swimming out towards the endless horizon that one of them was no doubt comparing to their endless love.

As if the presence of a photographer wasn't enough, Teagan pulled out a secret weapon that would kill the mood quicker than spinach in the teeth: a new drone. It rose from behind two boulders like a military chopper, blades whirring and navigation lights flashing like there'd been some sort of crime. Using all of her thumbs and none of her prudence, she steered the offending aircraft out to sea beyond the couple, who had in that time moved straight from shock to archetypal French contempt.

And then the drone did something that 100% of helicopters do in movies. It fell out of the sky. And into the drink. (The problem was later diagnosed as a dispute between the controller and its operator.) And then the couple laughed, which I guess means there's only one thing more satisfying than swimming in a secluded cove with your new bae. And that's watching a brazen photographer fish a soggy drone out of the Indian Ocean.

Tyson

WIN six nights of luxury for two in the Eastern Cape

Worth R42 320!

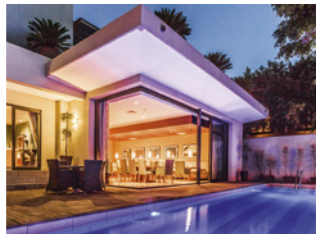
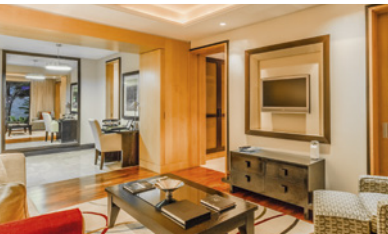
One lucky winner and their partner will win two nights at each of these upmarket Mantis hotels in this nature-rich region

1. Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve

Featuring five-star luxury and unsurpassed hospitality, this seaside escape near Port Alfred combines the serenity of a bush break with spectacular views over the Indian Ocean. oceanareserve.com

PRIZE INCLUDES:

- two nights for two in an ocean suite, including all meals, Wi-Fi and a game drive, worth R9 320.



2. No5 by Mantis

Nestled in the upmarket beachfront suburb of Summerstrand in Port Elizabeth, this world-renowned hotel is less than 10 minutes from the airport and within 100 metres of the Indian Ocean. no5boutiquearthotel.com

PRIZE INCLUDES:

- two nights for two in a presidential suite, including breakfast and dinner, worth R8 000.

3. Founders Lodge by Mantis

Once the private residence of Adrian Gardiner, founder and visionary of Mantis Collection, this luxury lodge is set on a 400-hectare private concession with direct access to Shamwari Game Reserve. founderslodgebymantis.com

PRIZE INCLUDES:

- two nights for two in a luxury suite, including all meals and two game drives or guided walks per day, worth R25 000.

ALL PRIZES EXCLUDE:

Spa treatments, telephone, laundry, any off-site activities, alcohol, beverages, flights and transfers.

HOW TO ENTER

SMS the keyword 'Mantis' followed by your name, surname, email address and region to 32697 or enter online at getaway.co.za/competitions.

No5

OCEANA
BEACH & WILDLIFE RESERVE
★★★★★

Founders Lodge
BY MANTIS



Hotels, Eco-Escapes
& Lifestyle Resorts

Unearthing the Exceptional

From the World's finest Hotels, Lodges, Eco-Escapes, Lifestyle Resorts & eXtreme Holidays, Mantis is synonymous with quality, excellence and distinction – a brand that will go beyond every expectation.



Founders Lodge by Mantis | near Port Elizabeth



No5 by Mantis | Port Elizabeth



Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve | near Port Alfred

PHOTOGRAPHY

EXPERT TIPS TO CREATING BETTER PICTURES



MASTERCLASS

MOUNTAIN MAGIC

To take epic shots of grand scenes is a challenge. *Getaway* photographer TEAGAN CUNNIFFE explains how to make the most of an enormous environment, using this image by Carl Smorenburg

Carl says...

This is the head of the Rockeries Pass, a four-kilometre road with a 1 000-metre descent into the Ntonjelana Valley. To show scale in a vast area such as the Drakensberg, I'll ask people to stand in a certain spot. January to March has dramatic weather with afternoon storms, while August to September are the best months to get snow shots. The weather changes fast – be safe and always take a guide. carlsmorenborg.co.za

Equipment Canon 5D Mark II, Canon 16-35mm f/2.8 L

Settings f/11, ISO 100, 1/500 sec



CARL'S TIPS

Due to weight restrictions, I take only two lenses: a wide-angle Canon 16–35mm and a Canon 24–105mm f/4. These lenses give me enough scope to shoot very wide as well as zoom into specific places.

GOOD LOCATIONS TO HIKE

UPCOUNTRY Magaliesberg, Blyde River Canyon, Golden Gate National Park, Magoebaskloof
WESTERN CAPE Cederberg, the Overberg, Table Mountain
KWAZULU-NATAL Northern Drakensberg, Valley of 1 000 Hills, Oribi Gorge



Take it yourself

Getting to the best location is the first step; often this means tackling a multi-day hike. Here's what gear to pack, and some tips on how to capture the full effect of your next trek

EQUIPMENT

Keeping your backpack light is a necessity on multi-day hikes. Invest in a carbon-fibre or lightweight-aluminium tripod, such as the Sirui T005-X we review on page 18.

SETTINGS

Landscape images need detail. Set your mode to Manual or Aperture Priority and a narrow aperture (f/8 to f/16). Use a low ISO (100 to 400) and adjust your shutter speed to get a balanced exposure.

PRACTICAL

Find an original angle in the scene in front of you. Go off the beaten track to look for your own spots and create a unique perspective of an iconic scene.

Include a foreground element, such as a rock outcrop or a person standing

on a ledge, to give the landscape a sense of scale and story and to make it easier for viewers to imagine themselves being there. Keep your foreground a third or less of your image to prevent it from distracting from your scene.

Use panoramas to capture the full spread of mountains. For seamlessly stitched panoramas, use a focal length of between 24mm and 50mm (prime lenses work well) and overlap each image by a third when you pan from side to side.

Be ready for light that best shows off the landscape. Sunrises and sunsets throw craggy faces into relief and give the landscape texture. Adverse weather such as clouds, mist and the aftermath of storms make for more dramatic photo opportunities.

STARTER TIP Use a polarising filter to cut through glare and increase colour saturation.

AMATEUR TIP Scout your shots ahead of time by using Google Earth and an app called The Photographer's Ephemeris (photoephemeris.com). It's available on iOS and Android for R78, but the desktop version is free.

PRO TIP Try your hand at HDR: take three to five images of an identical scene, from under-exposed to over-exposed. Merge these into one final image using automated software (Lightroom and Photoshop have this feature). For best results, learn how to manually blend exposures using luminosity masks (see page 32).



LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS? Carl's teamed up with fellow landscape photographer Mark Dumbleton to offer multi-day guided photography tours in the Drakensberg. Tours start from R5 900 pp. markdumbleton.com/workshops

Know your stuff

What are luminosity masks and how would you use them?

Cameras are capable of capturing limited dynamic ranges – the difference between the lightest and darkest areas in a photo. Taking multiple exposures of the same scene and combining them into a final image with a high dynamic range (HDR) is one way of capturing detail in shadows, midtones and highlights. You can create HDR images by using luminosity masks.

Luminosity masks are layers that enable you to isolate specific luminosity (brightness) ranges in an image. Stack two or more images with different exposures in Photoshop. Then use the masks to select what parts of the images you want to reveal or hide.

- For more (and to see what images look like before and after masks are applied), see Jimmy McIntyre's tutorial: iso.500px.com/luminosity-masks-in-digital-blending



WHAT'S NEW?

The annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas reveals the latest tech available. Here are three new things on the photographic front

The Nikon D5600

is great for the creative beginner and enthusiast, packing Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and time-lapse features into a touch-screen rotatable LCD and 24.2 megapixel sensor. Lens kit bundle priced at R14995. outdoorphoto.co.za



Fujifilm unleashed

the handheld **Fuji XP120** fit for the adventurous. It shoots at depths of 20 metres, is shockproof to 1,8 metres, freezeproof to -10°C, has a 16.4 megapixel sensor and a 28–140mm lens. Orms will be stocking it soon. orms.co.za



Polaroid celebrated its 80th birthday by announcing the **Polaroid Pop** instant digital camera. It produces the classic 3x4" prints, has a 20 megapixel CMOS sensor, built-in flash, touch LCD, connects to your phone and records 1080p HD videos. polaroid.com

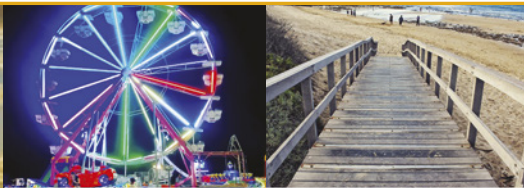
Drones dominated the 2017 show. Revolutionary was the underwater drone: the **PowerVision PowerRay** with 4K camera.





A WHOLE LOTTA ADVENTURE!

NELSON MANDELA BAY
#SHARETHEBAY



ENDLESS FUN!

The Nelson Mandela Bay Pass, is an access card that provides you with free and discounted admission to a variety of attractions and activities in Nelson Mandela Bay. This includes amongst others museums, game reserves, scuba diving, art galleries, sightseeing tours and many more. It also entitles you to some great discounts in selected stores for shopping, activities, entertainment and more. **GET YOURS TODAY!**



nelson mandela bay
TOURISM
PORT ELIZABETH | UITENHAGE | DESPATCH



NMBT Call Centre: +27 (0) 41 582 2575
Email: info@nmbt.co.za
Website: www.nmbt.co.za
NMB Pass: www.nelsonmandelabaypass.co.za

[f](#) Nelson Mandela Bay-South Africa
[t](#) @NMandelaBay
[e](#) blog.nmbt.co.za
[i](#) [nelsonmandelabay](https://www.instagram.com/nelsonmandelabay) #MyNelsonMandelaBay

Getaway Gallery

Africa's premier photography competition

FINALIST

Busy Coral Reef

I followed this turtle around a remote unexplored reef in the Outer Islands of the Seychelles. It was not concerned by my presence at all and I remained with it until late in the afternoon, waiting for better light. I eventually took this image when some rabbitfish arrived on the scene.

– **By Rainer von Brandis, Cape Town**

Nikon D200, Nikkor 10.5mm f/2.8 DX fisheye, ISO 100, f/10, 1/60 sec







FINALIST

Pollen Freak

This macro image is of a dragonfly enjoying the pollen of a flame lily that I have growing in my garden in Mpumalanga. It flew off shortly after I took the shot.

– **By Leon Pelser, Kriel**

Sony A55, Sigma 105mm f/2.8 EX DG, ISO 200, f/11, 1 sec



FINALIST

In Their Presence

We'd been searching for these cubs and their mother for two days in Londolozi game reserve when finally, late in the morning of an overcast day, we found the female cub in a marula tree. We waited with her for a few hours and eventually the young male came to join his sister.

After a highly entertaining play session, they settled down on the branch, right where we had wanted them to. We hoped that they would do this, but could never have predicted that they would lie this perfectly!

– By Nick Kleer, Hazyview

Canon 7D Mark II, Canon 300mm f/2.8L, ISO 1250, f/6.3, 1/800 sec





FINALIST

Baboon Blast

Baboons have complex social structures. Ensuing political scheming in the troop results in altercations between members, as shown in this image taken in the Greater Kruger National Park.

– **By Elmar Venter, Pretoria**

Canon 5D Mark III, Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II, ISO 800, f/7.1, 1/2500 sec

FINALIST

Dawn

This is Africa to me. Waking up before sunrise, walking along the semi-dry Bloukrans River in Colenso, being chased by plovers and Egyptian geese, stumbling upon a herd of kudu – all while the cool morning breeze ushers in that fierce African sun.

– **By Justin Pringle, Kloof**

Nikon D750, Nikon 10-24mm, ISO 125, f/13, 15 sec



WIN

Enter the 2017 Getaway Gallery and you could win these amazing prizes!

GRAND PRIZE

A Pangolin Photo Safari in Botswana for two worth R100 000* + one of the three gear hampers below worth up to R29 790 each



WILDLIFE PRIZE worth R28 385

The prize includes:

- a Lowepro ProTactic 450 AW backpack;
- a Manfrotto MMXPROA3 monopod;
- a Tamron SP 150-600mm f/5-6.3 Di VC USD G2 Lens.



LANDSCAPE PRIZE worth R29 790

The prize includes:

- a Parrot Bebop 2 FPV kit with Parrot Bebop 2 drone, FPV glasses, controller;
- a Tamron SP 15-30mm f/2.8 Di VC USD lens.



CULTURE PRIZE worth R27 785

The prize includes:

- a Lowepro Flipside Trek BP 450 AW backpack;
- a Manfrotto MK055XPRO3-3W tripod kit with a three-way head;
- a Tamron SP 85mm f/1.8 Di VC USD lens.



HOW TO ENTER

Email your entries (about 1MB in size, maximum five per month) with your name and contact details to gallery@getaway.co.za. Include a title, some information on how and where you took it, and details on the camera, lens make and model.

*Find full details of the prize, restrictions, travel dates and competition rules at getaway.co.za/photo.

BONUS ONLINE PRIZE

We'll also be giving away bonus prizes every month to the best images as voted by you, the readers. Visit getaway.co.za/photo for more info.

VICTORIA FALLS & MORE



ZIMBABWE FALLS
5 DAYS FROM
R13 700 PPS
5* VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL



HWANGE
4 DAYS FROM
R23 505 PPS
IVORY LODGE
WILDLIFE SAFARI



ZAMBIA FALLS
4 DAYS FROM
R18 840 PPS
5* DAVID LIVINGSTONE LODGE



LAKE KARIBA
6 DAYS FROM
R21 020 PPS
ALL-INCLUSIVE
HOUSEBOAT

Packages include: Return flights ex JHB, airport taxes, airport transfers, accommodation, selected activities and meals.

Prices are subject to currency fluctuations • High season supplements may apply

ENQUIRE NOW

Contact Claudia on 021-530-3380 or travel@getaway.co.za
For more packages visit getaway.co.za/travel

Getaway travel

THE FINAL CUT

PUTTING TRIPADVISOR TO THE TEST, WE RATE THE BEST BEDS

Arniston as seen from Waenhuiskrans
Nature Reserve. It's 43 kilometres to the
southern tip of Africa from here

EXPERT REVIEWS BY **PIPPA DE BRUYN**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TEAGAN CUNNIFFE**

12
SELECTED
29
INSPECTED



Arniston

WITH MILES OF UNSPOILT WHITE BEACHES AND ITS WARMER WATERS, THIS PRETTY VILLAGE IS A FANTASTIC WEEKEND ESCAPE. AND IN THREE MONTHS' TIME, THE WHALES ARRIVE

HOW TripAdvisor lists accommodation rated by guests, but as much as we love peer reviews, they don't offer a comparative voice. So how do we know if Number 1 really is the best? Pippa de Bruyn, who has reviewed accommodation for 18 years for the likes of *Frommer's* and the UK's *The Telegraph*, scours TripAdvisor and other online sites when researching a destination. For Arniston, she created a longlist of 29 to inspect. The following made the cut.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

- *Affordable luxury* pg 42
- *An Arniston original* pg 42
- *A hotel stay (no cooking!)* pg 43
- *A modern beach house* pg 43
- *A farm-style getaway* pg 44
- *Space and sea views* pg 44
- *Something for a small group* pg 45
- *Blow-the-budget luxury* pg 45

WHAT I FOUND ABOUT ACCOMMODATION IN THIS VILLAGE

- There are two letting agents: Arniston-Etnas has the largest selection, with 62 options (arniston-etnas.co.za). Arniston Letting has fewer (36 options) but represents some of the best properties (arniston-letting.co.za).
- It's a predominantly self-catering destination so TripAdvisor representation is thin. There are no stand-out B&Bs. Self-catering is geared to larger groups with few one- or two-bedroom options (for the best, see *Worth A Look*, page 45). Most are two-day minimum rentals.
- Given the beauty all around, it's surprising how run down and shoddily maintained many places are. Needless to say, the properties featured on these pages are all in top nick.
- A large indoor braai – in the kitchen and/or enclosed lounge or sunroom – as well as an outdoor braai is a common feature of many Arniston houses. Nifty for those who really love to braai when the wind is blowing (which it does).
- Just about everything is within walking distance, so unless you really want a seafront location, it's not that important. When booking, do ask how long the walk to Roman (best swimming) Beach and Harbour Beach is.



DON'T MISS THIS

- Kassiesbaai, the 200-year-old fishing village at the harbour – home to Willeen's craft shop and restaurant (083-729-0651), Wanda's Waenhuis (078-367-6672), also a restaurant, and the fish and chips shop (Richman Poorman, 073-931-6816).
- The Sterna Hiking Trail is a seven-kilometre circular route through nearby De Mond Nature Reserve, taking in coastal forest, fynbos and dunes. 028-425-3708
- Long beach walks over dunes towards endless horizons (you may spot the ribs of the *Arniston* wreck poking out the sand), and long swims in safe, warm waters at Roman Beach.
- Waenhuiskrans Cave.

THE FINAL CUT ARNISTON

BEST-VALUE LUXURY WITHOUT A SEA VIEW

Pirate Hill

UNLISTED

Artist Linda Radford has spent a decade transforming a double-storey barn-like structure into a character-filled space that is much more textured than the more predictable beach-house style. The central open-plan living area, centred on a large fireplace, is filled with an interesting collection of furniture, much of it mid-century modern mixed with some Cape vintage pieces. Walls are a deep green sage and industrial steel-framed windows create a good contrast with the traditional thatched roof. The kitchen – modern and well equipped – is made for entertaining, overlooking a 10-seater dining table. The whole feel is eclectic and cosy, and who cares about the sea when you're watching the sun go down over the fynbos plains from the upstairs deck? Linda's managed to coax a fairly lush fynbos garden from the thin Arniston soil.

ROOM TIP The two upstairs bedrooms with king-size beds are the ones to bag, but all four are en-suite and in their own wings – two upstairs on either end of a mezzanine walkway, with the same configuration mirrored below.

★ **COST** From R2 000 (sleeps 10).

CONTACT 083-305-5140, arniston-letting.co.za



MOST ATMOSPHERIC BEACH COTTAGE

Busch House

UNLISTED

One of the first holiday homes to be built in Arniston, this charming low-slung 1940s house with its thatched roof and thick whitewashed walls has been in the same family for almost 50 years and exudes a well-loved aura. Kyra Schlebusch (of Inhoek Farm, see page 44) inherited it two decades ago and has slowly but surely imprinted her distinctive decor style, 'doing something new every year': a fireplace one year, a deep watertank-style plunge pool the next, built-in seating in

the back garden, a decadent walk-in shower room, an outside en-suite guest room, and so on. The result is a barefoot-chic, easy-living beach house that feels more Churchhaven than Arniston, only more affordable. There are four bedrooms (sharing two bathrooms) in the house, plus the outside unit.

ROOM TIP For privacy, bag the outside suite.

COST From R3 600 (sleeps 10).

CONTACT 082-899-1549, inhoek.com



BEST HOTEL STAY

Arniston Spa Hotel

TRIPADVISOR NO. 1 OF 2 HOTELS

There is so much to like about this welcoming, unpretentious four-star hotel. Affordable, spotless, comfortable accommodation right on the seafront is already a big tick, but staff are also super, food satisfying and the rooms generously sized, with up-to-date bathrooms. Then there's the value-for-money rate that encourages an interesting mix of clientele – tattooed locals in slip-slops and tracksuits next to tables murmuring German

or French, all gazing at the many-hued blues that draw the world to Arniston. There's a bit of rust in the lift and staircase (that corrosive sea air) but overall maintenance is great – I inspected 10 rooms and they were all in great shape. Breakfast is a hot-meal station and great big buffet that serves up just about anything you could possibly want to kick-start the day, including bubbly. **ROOM TIP** The best are those facing the sea on the top two



floors. With the exception of rooms on the ground floor (where privacy can be an issue), it's definitely worth booking a sea view (from R370 more) – but they are popular. Number

223 is the best pool-view room, with an oblique view of the sea from the bed and balcony. **COST** Doubles from R1 100 B&B. **CONTACT** 028-445-9000, arnistonhotel.com

BEST CONTEMPORARY BEACH HOUSE

Whale House

UNLISTED

If you want to be a lob from Roman Beach and enjoy wrap-around sea and harbour views, and prefer modern interiors, then Whale House is a class-act choice. This airy open-plan beach house, on an elevated foundation, has been artfully renovated by its Franschhoek-based owners to create a main living space upstairs with large glass windows and sliding doors onto a large deck, really making the most of the elevated views. On the same level are two en-suite bedrooms. Very sensibly they have created two more bedrooms downstairs (sharing a bathroom) on either side of an open-plan TV lounge with fireplace, making this a cosy hideaway for kids. By far the best option on sought-after Harbour Street.

ROOM TIP There is only one double bed. Suitable for families travelling with children old enough to sleep on another level (downstairs).

COST From R2 700 (sleeps eight). Minimum stay three nights (in season, seven nights). **CONTACT** 083-305-5140, arniston-letting.co.za



THE FINAL CUT ARNISTON

BEST FOR BIG GROUPS AND CELEBRATIONS

Inhoek Farm

UNLISTED

When Kyra and Tom Schlebusch purchased this farm on the outskirts of Arniston (five minutes' drive; 'close enough to hear the sea'), it was derelict. Too small for agricultural purposes, the couple started chopping out aliens and transforming a swampy 6 x 8m hole into a fabulous swimming dam while they continued farming nearby. In 2013 they sold that farm and decided to build a large four-bedroom holiday house (fabulously furnished, with a wrap-around veranda, this is a real spoil). From here the project grew. 'After the house came the cottages (Thelma, Madeleine and Mo), then

someone said the sheds would make a marvellous function venue.' They are too; recently Kyra – bowing to popular demand – opened a pop-up restaurant in one. 'Sometimes I feel I'm bullied into things,' she quips, 'but things just fall into place.' A very good place, as it happens.

ROOM TIP The farm sleeps 22 in total. The two bigger cottages are quite far from the farmhouse but close to each other – a great getaway if you're six or eight people.

COST Farmhouse from R5 600 (sleeps 12). Cottages from R1 400 (sleep two to four).

CONTACT 082-899-1549, inhoek.com



BEST FOUR-BEDROOM SEA VIEW

The Beach House

UNLISTED

A contemporary, double-storey classic beach house, predominantly white, and well-furnished by owners Mike and Linda Pitt. Cleverly designed to provide sea views from three of the four bedrooms, and the decision to place the main living area upstairs delivers a wonderful sense of space beyond the large open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge, and outdoor balcony with braai enjoying great views. There is one en-suite bedroom on this floor; downstairs are two sharing a bathroom, an en-suite bedroom (shower only; no view) and another living area. Close to the hotel and Harbour Beach.

ROOM TIP There is an outside room that the owners are loathe to rent out – it's not in the same class as the rooms in the house but it is neat and clean. Worth knowing if there are nine or 10 of you (strictly no more!).

COST From R3 500 (sleeps eight).

CONTACT 083-305-5140, arniston-letting.co.za



BEST THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE

Slipway

UNLISTED

A classic thatched Arniston cottage built on a slightly raised stone-clad foundation, with partial sea views from the downstairs deck and a good sea view from the upstairs one. It accommodates four people in two bedrooms in the main house (sharing a bathroom, making this more suitable for family than friends) and two in a spacious en-suite cottage (as opposed to a converted garage or staff quarters, as is often the case). Furnished with practical, pleasing pieces (not a plastic chair in sight), there is an enormous hearth-like fireplace on the deep, semi-enclosed

veranda and another in the kitchen, plus a wind-protected outdoor braai. The house is set back one block from the harbour area, a two-minute stroll from Harbour Beach. A great option for a small, multi-generational family. **ROOM TIP** If Slipway is full, enquire about Seaview, a large apartment (attached to a house) that also sleeps six. It was occupied so I couldn't inspect interiors but the location is super and it even costs slightly less (from R1 500). **★ COST** From R2 060 (sleeps six). **CONTACT** 082-818-4529, arniston-etnas.co.za

BEST LUXURY SEAFRONT HOUSE

Pirates Landing

UNLISTED

If there is no budget restriction then this is the best option in the village: a large, luxuriously dressed house with a prime location on the elevated ridge overlooking the harbour and hotel. Harbour Beach is a minute's walk away; Roman Beach is five to 10 minutes' stroll from your front door. It's a great house for a large group: the open-plan living space is huge, the four bedrooms are all en-suite, there's a plunge pool in the wind-protected back courtyard and three braai

options (sea-facing braai pit, in the pool courtyard or a built-in braai in the kitchen). Decor is classic beach house – all white walls and white wicker chairs with tasteful stripes. It's pricier than The Beach House or Busch House, but that doesn't stop it being booked out months in advance.

ROOM TIP If you have first dibs, opt for the upstairs loft-style room in the eaves. There is also a separate en-suite flatlet.

COST R6 700 (sleeps 10).

CONTACT arniston-etnas.co.za



WORTH A LOOK

★ Clydesdale House

A nondescript exterior hides a smartly decorated home with a modern kitchen, scrupulously maintained by owner Sunell Human. There's a fairly unobstructed view from the patio towards the hotel and harbour. Sleeps six in three bedrooms. From R2 500. 082-444-6967, capestay.co.za

★ **Napier Street** The best self-catering option I saw for a couple, solo traveller or small family. It comprises two compact ground-floor flats under the main house. Unit 1 sleeps two adults and a child, and has a small private patio (from R500); Unit 2 sleeps three or five (an extra room with a double bed can be added) and has a sea view from its balcony

(from R900). A smattering of antiques add character. arniston-letting.co.za

★ **Nautilus** Another house owner who has partitioned off the ground floor for rental. It's a one-minute walk to Harbour Beach, is well furnished and has one of the classic indoor braai hearths in the kitchen. Sleeps seven in three bedrooms. From R1 400. arniston-letting.co.za

★ **Full House** This large, good-value place has partial sea views and is very conveniently located for either of the swimming beaches, and has a good wind-protected courtyard. The Stellenbosch owners are clearly fastidious – the house is impeccably maintained and equipped. Sleeps 10 in four bedrooms. From R2 500. arniston-letting.co.za



10001/TW

— **BE A FAN** —

VODACOM SUPER RUGBY

Your team. Your rugby.

23 FEB - 5 AUG ON 



FOOD

YOUR TRAVEL KITCHEN MADE EASY

This hearty feast of chicken, chorizo and red peppers will be ready in an hour and costs about R44 per head

Paella, the new potjie

Feed a crowd from breakfast
to supper with one pan
plus these three recipes

WORDS & STYLING BY FOOD EDITOR **NIKKI WERNER**

PHOTOGRAPHS & WINE ADVICE BY **BRANDON DE KOCK**

THE PAN



Whether enamel or polished steel, a paella pan is super-thin so heat transfer is quick and effective, with a big surface area for cooking sizeable quantities. Once it comes off the braai, just plonk it in the middle of the table and serve.

At Takealot.com, a 36cm enamelled mild-steel paella pan costs R360, while a 42cm traditional polished steel pan is R329.

THE PEPPERS

Peppers are hardy veg that don't need refrigeration, and roasting them makes use of a braai fire when it's still too hot to cook. Just before breaking down the coals (the wood has almost completely burnt down but there is still some flame), place the whole peppers on the grid. Turn periodically until the skin is blistered and charred. Be bold! They should resemble the Sith Lord, Darth Maul. Place the peppers in a container, seal tightly and leave to cool. Peel off the skin and pull out the seeds, saving all the juices, and add to your paella or turn into a salad.



Roasted-red-pepper salad

Feeds 4

- 3 peppers, roasted, peeled and seeded (retain the juices)
- extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- red wine vinegar
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- capers, drained (optional)

Tear the peppers into strips and toss with olive oil and garlic. Season with a little red wine vinegar, salt and pepper. Scatter with capers (if using) and serve with bread to mop up the juices for a light lunch.

Eggs in a spicy-tomato sauce

This is an easy tomato sauce built on garlic instead of onion.

Feeds 8 – 10

- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 large garlic cloves, very finely chopped
- 2 x 390g boxes crushed tomatoes (from Woolies; lighter than tins and easier to pack)
- 2 cups water (used to rinse out any remaining tomato from the cartons)
- 1 dried red chilli, crumbled
- sea salt and black pepper
- 10 eggs
- sweet kitke rolls

Allow the coals to cool to a medium heat.

Add the oil and garlic to a cold pan (this prevents the garlic burning quickly). Place the pan on the fire and cook the garlic for a minute or two, stirring constantly.

As soon as it starts turning pale golden, add the tomatoes, water, chilli and a teaspoon of salt. Stir to mix through.

Supper

Paella-esque rice

This recipe takes full advantage of the fire at every stage. Paella purists might balk at the chorizo but it's robust enough for travel, acts as a shortcut to flavour and lends colour if your budget can't stretch to saffron.

Feeds 8 – 10

- 3 red peppers
- 500g skinless, boneless chicken thighs (plus kebab skewers)
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 litres chicken stock (we used tetrapak boxes of organic stock from Woolworths)
- 1 sachet saffron, optional (available at Woolies)
- 225g (1 sausage) chorizo, thinly sliced
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2T extra-virgin olive oil
- 1½T smoked sweet paprika
- 390g box crushed tomatoes
- 4 cups risotto or arborio rice
- 2 bay leaves

- parsley, finely chopped
- lemon wedges

The marinade (optional)

- 2T extra-virgin olive oil
- zest of 1 lemon
- 2 sprigs rosemary, leaves picked

If marinating the chicken, do so overnight or a few hours ahead. Toss the chicken with the marinade ingredients and refrigerate in a sealed container.

Roast the peppers just before breaking down the coals. Cook and prep them as described in the salad recipe (see left).

Once you have a bed of coals that are still hot, thread the chicken thighs onto skewers,

Breakfast

Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring regularly until it is thickened and saucy.

Break the eggs into the tomato sauce and season the yolks with salt and pepper.

Cook until the eggs are done to your liking. (You can cover the whole pan with heavy foil to cook the exposed whites and keep the yolks runny.)

Serve immediately with kitke rolls for mopping up the sauce.



season well with salt and pepper, and grill for a few minutes a side until nicely browned. (This develops colour and flavour – they'll finish cooking in the paella.)

Allow the coals to cool. You're aiming for an even, medium-high heat for 30 to 40 minutes. Heat the stock in a pot and add the saffron, if using. Keep it hot.

Add the chorizo slices to a cold paella pan, place on the grid and cook, stirring now and then, until the

orange oil has rendered and the discs are crisp.

Add the onions and a teaspoon of salt and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring, until the onions are softened, reduced in size and starting to caramelize. They should be cooking at a brisk bubble.

Add the garlic, olive oil and paprika to the pan and cook, stirring, for a minute or so, then add the tomatoes and some water (from rinsing out the carton) and cook for a few

minutes until the tomatoes are reduced and thickened.

Add the rice, bay leaves and roasted peppers and stir to distribute everything well. Pour in the hot stock and do not stir again. From the moment it comes back to a boil, cook for 15 minutes.

Slip the chicken off the skewers and place throughout the rice. Cook for another 10 minutes. Remove the paella from the fire, cover with a clean dishcloth and rest for 10 minutes before serving.

Think ahead...

- Once the process starts, there's no stopping. As with stir-fry, have every ingredient prepped and ready to go.
- Check the grid is level so the liquid stays in the pan.
- Avoid hot spots by spreading the

bed of coals wide enough to cover the entire diameter of the pan.

- Start with fewer coals underneath the pan and add more if necessary to keep the right temperature.
- The pan and handles get crazy hot. Use braai gloves.



WHAT WINE?

To pronounce Rioja properly, pretend you have a furball in your throat when you get to the 'j'. It is Spain's most famous wine region, where Tempranillo grapes reign supreme with Garnacha (or what the French and the rest of us call Grenache) at their feet. Although the former is popping up as far afield as Argentina and Australia, and the latter has been widely planted worldwide for ages (it's the main ingredient in France's famed Châteauneuf-du-Pape), both are as native to Spain as flamenco skirts and afternoon naps. And since we're eating paella that's fiery in colour and robust in flavour, you might as well be adventurous and try some vine juice that traces its roots back to the banks of the Ebro River in northern España.

WHAT LABEL?

The expert choice Yes, Riversdale is 300 kilometres away from the Cape Winelands and no, you're not mad for thinking that this is an odd place for our first really competitive Tempranillo to be born. But it was and it is, and the savoury, spicy, meat-friendly **Baleia Bay Tempranillo 2015** (R120, cybercellar.com) has more gold medals on its beautifully designed chest than Usain Bolt. PS: Best served slightly chilled.

The crowd-pleaser South Africa's retailers have embraced affordable imported wine, and the Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes for Woolworths' **El Toro Spanish Red** (R70) were grown in the region of Cariñena. So the party starts when everyone tries to say that properly! I get spice and cherries, you might only get a deliciously smooth red – either way, it comes in a one-litre bottle so everyone's a winner.

The green option For most of its life in Africa, Grenache was relegated to the 'blending' barrel, but single varietal offerings increase every year. For an excellent, easy-drinking, 100 per cent Earth-friendly version, you can't go wrong with **Waverley Hills Grenache Noir 2015** (R115) from Tulbagh's original organic champion.

Do the Paso Doble

This day trip through the Tankwa Karoo will get you up and down two hot mountain passes and one night at a cool campsite. *Getaway's* TYSON JOPSON drove it in the new Toyota Fortuner

THE TANKWA KAROO IS FULL OF

SURPRISES. On every visit, I discover something new. Most recently, with some time to test drive Toyota's new 2.8 GD-6 4x4 Automatic, I headed for the hills on a day loop from Ceres to Die Mond campsite to drive two lesser-known gravel passes that have been on my radar for years.

Ouberg Pass

A short drive up the R46 from Ceres got me onto the long gravel R355 north, notorious in this part of the Karoo for its pitiless appetite for tyres. I'd been lucky in the past. This time, just outside Tankwa Padstal, my luck ran out. But, plugged and pumped with the help of padstal owner Hein Lange, I was back on the undulating gravel, bounding north and then north-west at the sign for Tankwa Karoo National Park, along the southern bank of the bone-dry Tankwa River, then over it and onto Ouberg Pass. One of the first-ever routes up the Roggeveld plateau, this gorgeous gravel road doubles back on itself, climbing ever higher with each view back over the gnarled Karoo better than the last.

Gannaga Pass

With the mercury nudging 36 degrees, it was windows up and aircon on as

Ouberg Pass (my favourite of the two), has no fewer than eight hairpin bends before it straightens out near the top.



TOYOTA FORTUNER

2.8 GD-6 4x4

AUTOMATIC

ENGINE 4-cylinder

turbo diesel

GEARBOX

6-speed automatic

SEATS 7

FUEL TANK 80l

CONSUMPTION

7,8l/100km

(claimed combined)

PRICE R617 900

(includes

3-year/100 000km

warranty and

5-year/90 000km

service plan)



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE Getting the right pressure back in the plugged tyre; photo stop on Gannaga Pass; plenty of boot space in the Fortuner; Tankwa Padstal.

I crested the plateau, took a left at Twee Riviere Farm and set my sights on Middelpos. Passing farms with bleating sheep that sound like humans imitating sheep, the road was a mix of hard-pack, gravel and soft-but-shallow sand beds. After Middelpos the sun began its slow roll towards the horizon and I reached the hot crust of Gannaga Pass. Shorter than Ouberg, this little gem of tight switchbacks and severe edges pulled me back down, steeply, into the heart of Tankwa. At the foot of the pass, I pointed the Fortuner south and zigzagged through the Tankwa Karoo National Park passing pronking springboks and back briefly onto the R355, then west to Die Mond campsite. There, I had just enough time to cool off in the lake, throw a few *choppies* on the flames and relive the best bends before the night grew cold, the moon full and my head sleepy.

TIP While neither of these passes is strictly 4x4 (a high-clearance vehicle will get you through), I found the Fortuner's DAC (Downhill Assist Control) in 4H gave me the perfect speed to descend Gannaga without having to drag the brake too much – more control, better safety.

TRAVEL PLANNER

Need to know

It's a 540km round trip from Ceres, so make sure you have enough diesel. You won't get any en route. Access through Tankwa Karoo National Park is currently free if you're not staying over, but call ahead in case things change. 027-341-1927, sanparks.org

Do this

Loer in at Tankwa Padstal. The faces are friendly, the colas cold, and you might even get the recipe for Hein's beetroot and cacao shooter, said to knock you for six. hlange@breede.co.za

Stay here

Die Mond is a superb, well-shaded campsite set on a small lake that seeps out from the Doring River. Camping is R70 pp. Cash only. 023-317-0668



ROAD TRIP

SOUTHERN AFRICAN ROUTES WORTH TAKING

Best book ahead if you want
a table under the trees
at Black Horse Estate

Black Horse Estate's popular restaurant has a beer-friendly menu (and doesn't skimp on portion sizes). Gin, whisky and vodka are also distilled on site. **OPPOSITE** Bockwurst and a fine dark lager on Brauhaus am Damm's outside deck.



Got a beer in your bonnet?

This route from Joburg into the North West takes you past nine microbreweries where you can slake your thirst, no matter if it's an ale or a lager you're after, writes CHRIS DAVIES

When you date a Belgian, there are three things you learn never to dispute. First, French fries are *not* French. At the very least they make them better in Belgium. Second, Belgian chocolate is the best. Swiss is very good, of course, but Belgian is indisputably superior. Third, and most important: Belgian beer is the finest in the world.

And it's that last one I have trouble with. Not that Belgium doesn't make a fine beer, it's just that while chips are chips and I'm content with a Kit Kat, beer is very dear to me. It was even my first word as a tottering toddler – in that sweltering Grahamstown summer an ice-cold Lion Lager was never far from my father's hand. Or perhaps it was a Castle. Maybe a Carling... Anyway, it was one of the three. Because that was the 70s in South Africa and the drink of choice was oh-so-simple: lager, lager, or a lager anyone?

Chris Davies' first sip of milk stout was as a toddler. He still holds his beer glass with two hands today.



RIGHT Words to live by at Chameleon Brewhouse, which started out making Weiss and now has four ales and an oatmeal stout.



No weak lager will cut it for a beer-loving Belgian, but there's variety in South Africa these days. Craft beer, artisanal breweries – they've exploded like a bar tab at a bachelor party – and since Ann and I first met I've been on the lookout for a local beer that would impress. Then a few months ago we had some days free in Joburg and it seemed an opportunity too good to miss. Based in the Cape, I knew nothing about craft beer in Gauteng. Maybe up here I'd find my grail. A road trip of discovery was in order.

An impromptu road trip is a tricky thing and frantic Googling followed. We both like pubs that brew on the premises, and while there were a few scattered across Gauteng, an intriguing cluster beckoned from over the North West Province border. We'd drive towards Rustenburg and Brauhaus am Damm, we decided, then follow the Magaliesberg mountains to Hartbeespoort, before a loop through Pretoria and home.

First stop: Copperlake Brewing Co in Broadacres. We bought supplies at the



DON'T MISS

Launched last year, the Pure & Crafted Festival combines great music, motorcycle lifestyle and some of the best craft beer SA has to offer. 25 – 26 November 2017 in Muldersdrift. Early bird tickets from R300 for both days. pureandcrafted.co.za

ABOVE It's bright and breezy inside Copperlake Brewing Co.
RIGHT Blackhorse Brewery's pink Gingerberry beer is not for the purist (but, actually, I quite liked it).

shopping centre, then grabbed an outside table and a beer-tasting tray. They went down fast and, as Ann was driving, I ordered a pint of my favourite, the 'all-day IPA' (Indian pale ale). I've always liked the story of IPA – it reminds me of the lengths people will go to for a good beer. In pre-refrigeration, colonial days, India proved too hot for brewing so the Brits, undeterred, shipped the stuff all the way from England. Hops are a preservative, so to help the ale last the voyage they added more than usual, giving the distinctive bitter aftertaste that's the hallmark of IPA. Love it or hate it, it's a taste of history and a fine beer to start a journey.

We had miles to cover so it was one beer only then back in the car and west, through the last of the suburbs and into the rolling hills beyond. Past Magaliesburg we caught >



ROAD TRIP NORTH WEST BEER ROUTE

our first sight of the eponymous mountains, looming up on our right as we sped north towards Brauhaus am Damm. Over our menus a few minutes later, I snuck a glance at Ann. German beer probably wasn't going to win the day, no matter how good. Our orders arrived and sure enough they were great, especially the Bavarian dunkel. It was all as authentic as it comes as far as I could tell ... but not authentically South African and not quite what I was looking for. The thought lingered as I flipped chops on the braai that night, and surfaced again as we retraced our route south for lunch at the Black Horse Estate's brewery the next day.

'That's Jacques Brel!' exclaimed Ann as we waited for our tasting tray. French music drifted down from the speakers. I stared back blankly. 'He was one of Belgium's most famous singers,' she explained.



This place was more like it. Kids and dogs played on the grass and a crowd of regulars laughed and chatted with owner Dirk van Tonder as he pulled himself a measuring jug of beer for his table outside. We ordered two pints of the same – a rich, golden buchu-infused brew – and took a long, satisfying sip. Ann smiled. And so did I. It wasn't quite an IPA and it certainly wasn't a dunkel, but under the slight hoppy bitterness there was a unique, full flavour that neither of us had tasted before. A moment later we were squeezed up next to Dirk, Ann and he in enthusiastic conversation about how to get buchu beer exported to Belgium.

I sat back and sipped, gazing out onto an unkempt garden that suddenly reminded me of a childhood in Grahamstown. Finally we'd found it, I thought with a grin, as the old jug of beer, an unlikely grail, was passed around the table again. **A**

'Under the slight hoppy bitterness there was a unique flavour neither of us had tasted before'

I looked up at the painting above our table – a bucolic European village scene – then through the towering French windows to the beautifully manicured lawns outside. The food was excellent and the beer good, but this was no way to convince a Belgian.

'She's got beer and Brel back home,' I thought, as we climbed back into the car. It was time to head to Harties. Perhaps there I'd find it: not just a good beer, but a uniquely South African beer. We sped east, past stud farms and darkening fields, the setting sun a dazzling glow in the rear-view mirror.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and the water flashed and sparkled on Hartbeespoort Dam. We were on our way to Ale House, a last throw of the dice before turning home. Pulling into the car park the omens looked good. Although open barely half an hour, it was packed, the sprawling garden already full of thirsty customers. Beyond the trees an unassuming hut served as the bar and there was a long row of tasty-looking pizzas queued up at the wood-fired oven alongside.



ABOVE Ale House barman Russel Webb pulls a pint below a sign that reads: 'If only closed minds came with closed mouths'.

RIGHT One of my favourites of the trip – Lazy Lizard's American Pale Ale.

DID YOU KNOW?

Current Gauteng licensing regulations place restrictions on brewing and selling at the same premises. As a result, the region's newest brewpubs are generally found in neighbouring provinces, while Gauteng brewers rely on specialist outlets such as Capital Craft Beer Academy, which stocks over 230 local and international craft beers and ciders.



Capital Craft Beer Academy has two branches – in Pretoria (pictured here) and Centurion.

ROAD TRIP NORTH WEST BEER ROUTE



THE ART GUESTHOUSE

Beer Route

Day 1: Joburg to the Magaliesberg

Distance 120km **Allow** 6 hours

Start with lunch and a beer-tasting tray at Copperlake Brewing Co (1) in Broadacres Centre. You can fill up at the BP and stock up at Woolies or Spar; Liquor City sells bottled Copperlake beer to take with you. Leave north on the R552. Turn left onto the R114 to Gilroy Brewery (2) and get some beers for the braai tonight. Then it's west on the N14, right onto the R24 and 45 minutes to Brauhaus am Damm (3) for a pilsner. Thirsty Falls Guest Farm (4) is 16km back down the R24. Time to braai.

Day 2: Magaliesberg to Hartbeespoort Dam

Distance 75km **Allow** 5 – 7 hours

Have a morning dip in Thirsty Falls' eco pool. Return down the R24 but turn left before Magaliesburg and take the R98 to White Dog Taproom (5) for one of the weekend's best pints, or Black Horse Estate (6) for lunch under the trees. Continue east on the R98, then left onto the R96. Turn left again onto the R563, right onto the R560 and head north round the dam. Your final stop is Chameleon Brewhouse (7) – right onto the R104 – before check-in at The Art Guesthouse (8), 4km down the road.



HALLOUMI AT LAZY LIZARD

Day 3: Hartbeespoort to Pretoria and home

Distance 95km **Allow** 6 – 8 hours (depending on the patience of your designated driver)

Drive back along the R104 and turn left onto the R512, following it south around the dam wall to Lazy Lizard Brewhouse (9). Start the perfect Sunday there with a tasting tray and brunch, and buy some takeaway beers to get you through the week ahead. Then it's back up the R512 to Ale House (10) for an even lazier afternoon of buchu beer. If your driver permits, head to Capital Craft Beer Academy (11) in Menlo Park, Pretoria, before turning sadly for home.

Directory and map

1 Copperlake Brewing

it comes, as are the German beers (R40 a pint). 014-004-0382

4 Thirsty Falls Guest Farm.

The three self-catering studios have a patio, braai and beautiful views. From R800 (sleeps two). Its self-catering houses are more secluded but must be booked for two nights over weekends. From R450 pp sharing (sleeps up to six). 082-464-7376

5 White Dog Taproom.

Informal, friendly, with excellent, reasonably priced beer (R25 a pint) and an unpretentious pub menu (from R55 for a burger and chips). 082-330-0646

6 Black Horse Estate.

With French music and a sophisticated air, this is a grand place for a beer under the trees (R5 for a taster glass, R35 per pint). Booking advised. 082-453-5295

7 Chameleon

Brewhouse. A friendly roadside pub with plenty of outside seating and six craft brews on tap

(R35 a pint). Pizzas cost around R75. It closes at 7pm on weekends. 072-369-2309

8 The Art

Guesthouse. A quiet retreat with three double rooms amid an effusion of Frida Kahlo-esque colour. From R600 per room. 083-344-1759

9 Lazy Lizard

Brewhouse. A new

brewpub just across the North West/Gauteng border. You'll get an excellent IPA (R45 a pint) and full English breakfast (R65). Opens from 7.30am on weekends. 082-568-3809

10 Ale House.

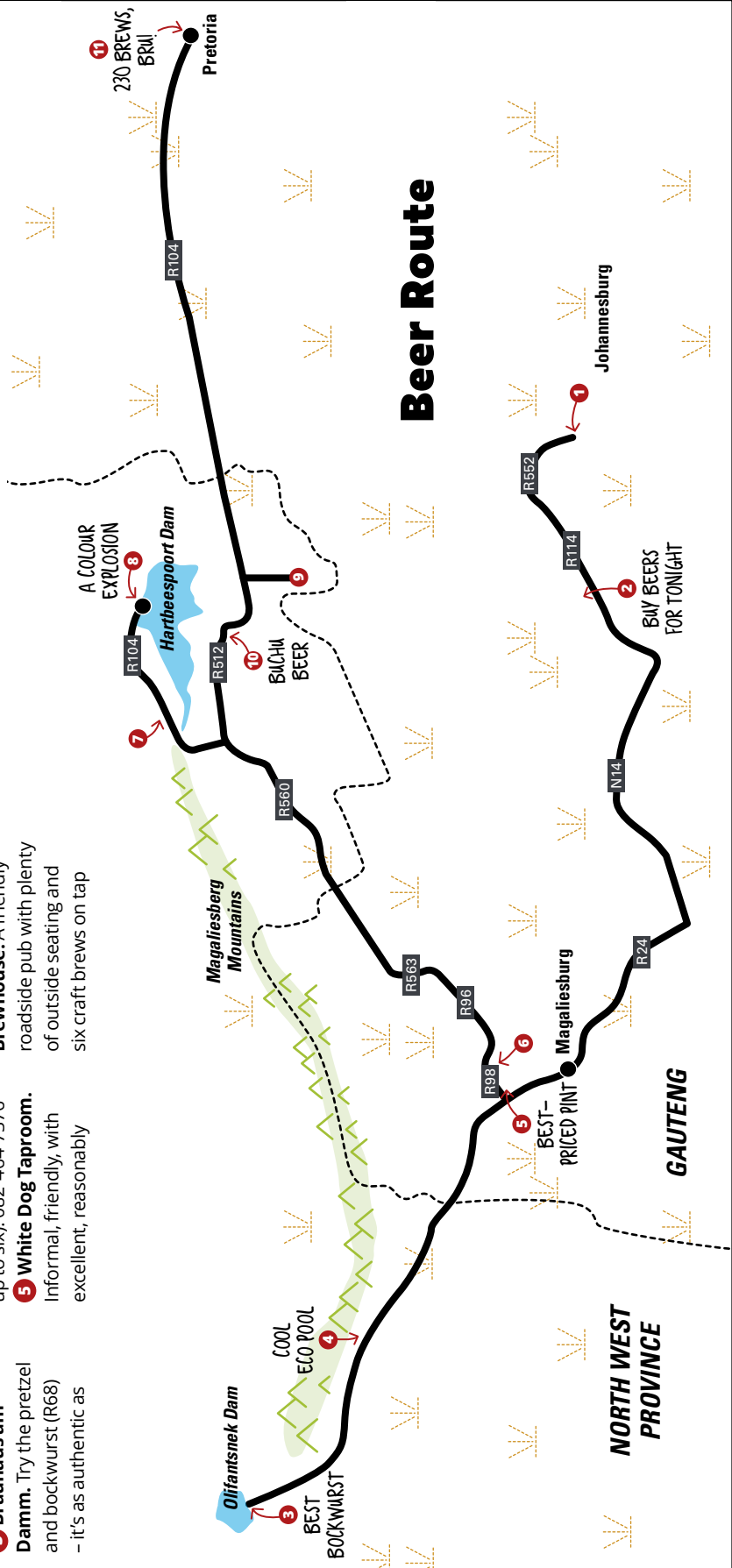
The home of uniquely South African buchu beer (R30 a pint). Pizzas R75. Recently relocated to

new premises opposite Pecanwood Estate on the R512. 082-464-9387

11 Capital Craft Beer Academy.

This is the ultimate final stop: over 230 beers and ciders available (from R32 a pint). Open until 8pm on Sundays. 012-424-8601

*Prices correct at time of going to print





OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE

for every adventure

**Southern Africa's greatest selection of quality gear for
hiking • camping • off-road • braais & picnics
and many other outdoor activities**



E&OE

Call toll-free 0800 003 051 for your nearest store
Shop online in South Africa: www.outdoorwarehouse.co.za



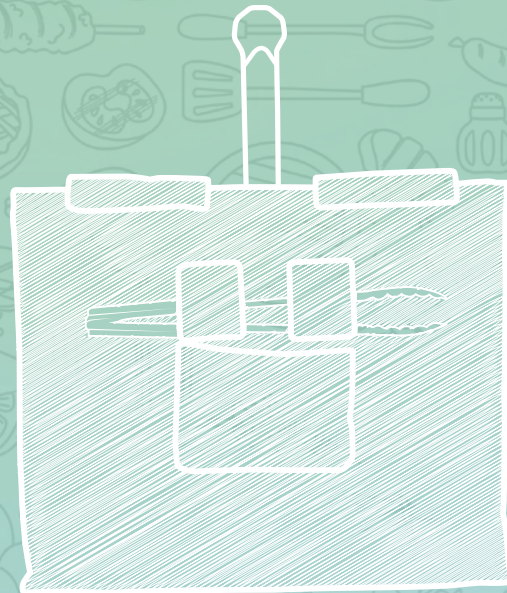
OutdoorW



Outdoorwarehouseza

GEAR

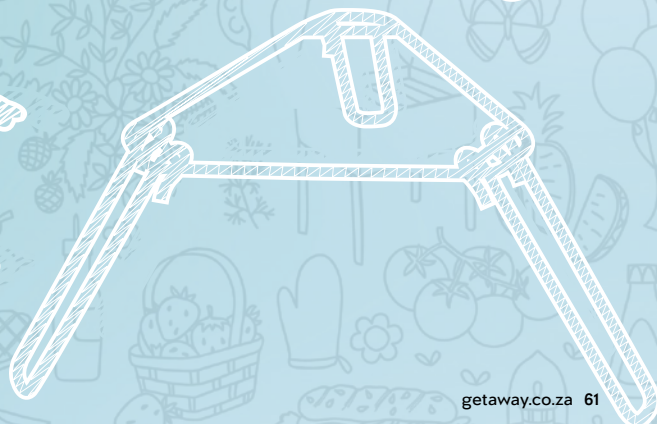
TRIED-AND-TESTED PRODUCTS



One braai kit to rule them all

Gear Editor MELANIE VAN ZYL found and tested the only five items you'll ever need for cooking on coals

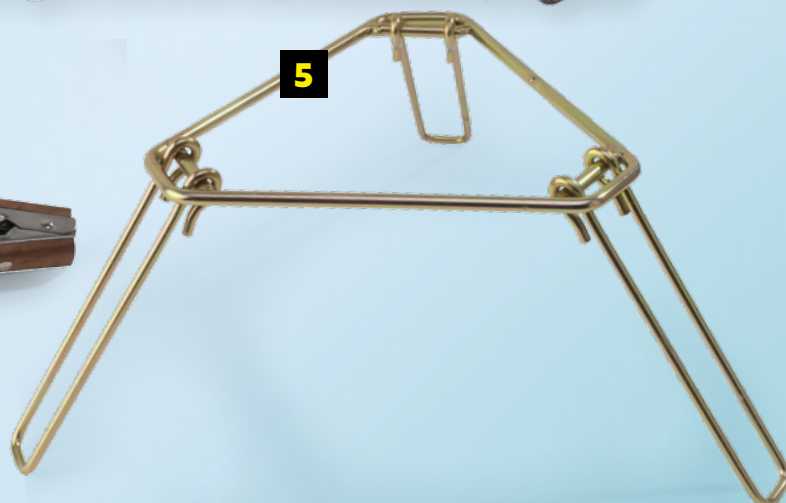
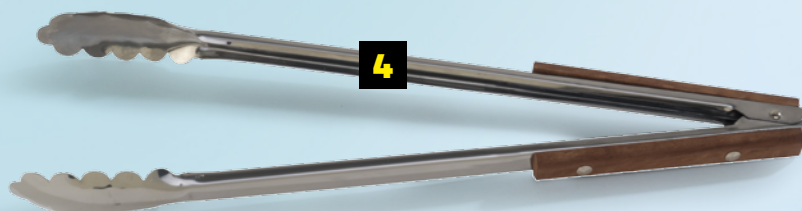
TOTAL
COST OF
R1274



GEAR BRAAI KIT



Don't expose to direct flames - place it over hot coals only



1

Enamel Roaster Pot

This classic white 2L enamel pot is handy for marinating your food or using as a serving container to keep the steaks warm while the potatoes finish off in the coals. It may chip with rough use but I reckon this only adds character – use wooden utensils when scraping or stirring to prevent this, and give it a light coating of oil before use for easier cleaning. It comes in a bigger size but this 20cm one (small) is perfect for keeping four chops and a roll of wors warm. **R240, woolworths.co.za**

4

BBQ Tongs 40cm

After testing flimsy scissor tongs and small nylon-ended ones, these classics from Pick n Pay are still my favourite because of the scalloped edges, which properly grip anything from mielies to chicken pieces without piercing or tearing them. The wooden handle is comfy, and the tongs are long enough to keep your hands from burning but short enough to still give you control. The spring has just the right amount of give, and they're cheap enough to get two – one for coals and one for food. **R80, picknpay.co.za**

2

Camp Cover Braai Grid Cover Large

Most grids can stand a knock but it's better to protect yours with a canvas bag (it also keeps food grit from dirtying other items). This one has loops that fit the tongs we recommend and keep them securely in place. There's also a pocket to stash a small box of firelighters. The heavy-duty ripstop canvas wears well and can be washed down easily by hand, plus the Velcro fasteners are more durable than zippers. **R225, outdoorwarehouse.co.za**

5

Fireside Folding Braai Tripod

This sturdy tripod is a camping necessity: it balances the grid easily, is essential for boiling water over the fire, and will lift a potjie pot off the coals for a gentler simmer. It's relatively light and flattens to pack easily into a kitchen box or the grid cover featured above. **R130, outdoorwarehouse.co.za**

TIP I always pack an emergency bag of two-minute pap. Perfect for potjies or an easy pap-and-wors meal, White Star Quick Par-Cooked Maize Meal cooks fast and is a super-tasty basic to keep in the braai kit. **R12,95 for 1kg, woolworths.co.za**

3

LK's Big Box Grid with Sliding Handle

Your most important piece of equipment is the grid, which is why I recommend high-quality stainless steel – it won't rust and if looked after properly should last a lifetime. The LK has slightly thicker stainless-steel rods than other grids (less likely to burn away over time) and the sliding handle makes it perfect for packing: it fits snugly into a traditional ammo box (51 x 40 x 25 cm). Steel rings keep the upper grid firmly secured to the base grid and make for a sturdy hinge, and the handle is easy to turn because it fits neatly into your palm (although it does get hot, so pack a dishcloth or pot holder). Raised edges keep boerie from rolling off if you're using the grid in the folded-out position, and the 2cm depth makes it ideal for braai broodjies as it doesn't squash the bread. It's also dishwasher safe (if you can fit it in!) **From R599, takealot.com**

Four 'flavour makers' that caught our eye

These items claim to add extra taste to your braai meals. So we put them to the test



MY BUTCHERS BLOCK SMOKING PLANKS

Of the four options available (cherry, oak, cedar and maple), the maple plank had the strongest flavour. That said, the taste wasn't showstopping when I braaied chicken breast. However, when I used one (pre-soaked in water) to cook large mushrooms with garlic and butter, it worked a treat – the shrooms were beautifully steamed. **R149 for two, mybutchersblock.co.za**



TRAIL REUSABLE BRAAI MAT

I was surprised by this mat. It conducted heat amazingly and even the meat cooked on it was browned. It works exceptionally well for foods such as kebabs because they can cook in the marinade that would usually drip through the grid. It was also a breeze to wipe clean. **R99, mrpsport.com**



OUTSET CEDAR GRILLING PAPERS

Of all the items tested here, I found these papers added the most flavour and also retained more moisture because the thin sheets wrap around each piece of meat (I used chicken). Not very cost effective, though, at R48 a sheet. **R289 for six, yuppiechef.co.za**



MY BUTCHERS BLOCK SMOKE SHAVINGS

Available in four flavours (oak, maple, cedar and cherry), these chips are an affordable way to add a smoky essence (albeit subtle) to your meal: simply sprinkle them over coals to add flavour to food. I used half the bag and it smoked relatively well, but you need a closed Weber for best results, not an open-pit braai. **R49 per packet, mybutchersblock.co.za**

VALLEY OF



1000 HILLS

TUCKED JUST BEHIND KWAZULU-NATAL'S COAST LIES THE MOST MAGICAL TERRITORY,
A PLACE YOU MUST GO SEE, A PLACE WHERE LIFE IS RHYTHMIC AND TRADITION IS STRONG.
TEAGAN CUNNIFFE WENT TO EXPLORE

Sunrise from the edge of the Monteseel cliffs. Below, the clamour of roosters and people signal the start of the KwaNyuswa community's day.



Traditional healers have a strong influence here. I met Gugu Ndlovu at her home where she shared the story of her journey to becoming one.

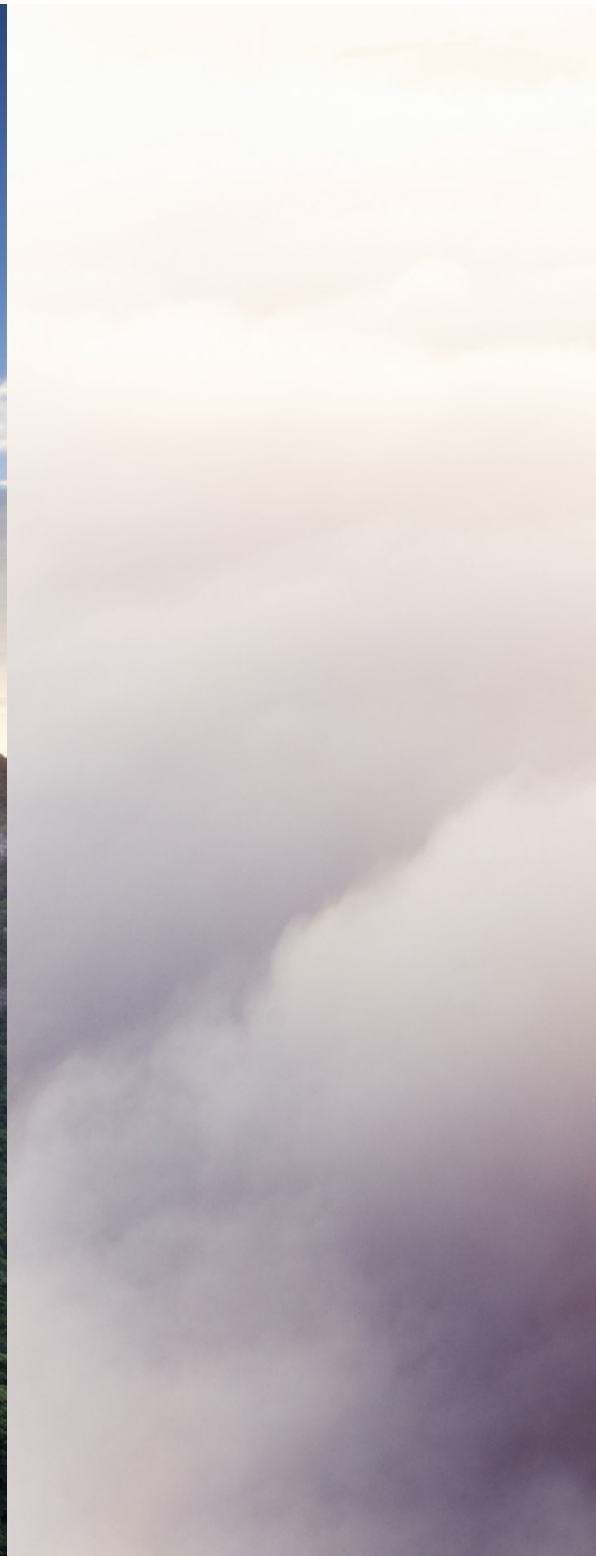
THE UMGENTI RIVER'S RAPIDS
BECOME STILL, HERE IN THE
INANDA DAM. THEN THEY PICK
UP AGAIN AS THE RIVER
CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY
TOWARDS THE SEA.



FROM THE TOP
OF EMALANGENI
HILL, KZN'S OWN
TABLE MOUNTAIN
RISES BEYOND ONE
OF THE RIVERBENDS.




Starting from Cato Ridge in the west, the Valley of 1000 Hills stretches to Krantzklouf Nature Reserve in the east, where day trails lead to gorgeous pools and waterfalls.



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

In her three years as a *Getaway* photographer, Teagan Cunniffe has walked barefoot with Shembe pilgrims, up a volcano on Reunion Island and through stinging nettles in pursuit of gorillas in Rwanda. She was thrilled that for this one we let her use a car. teagancunniffe.com

A misty, golden-hour landscape with trees and a winding path. The scene is bathed in warm, orange and yellow light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. Mist or low clouds fill the valley, partially obscuring the ground. Several trees are visible, some standing alone on small hills or along a path that winds through the landscape. The overall mood is serene and atmospheric.

AND THEN IT'S ANOTHER DAWN
IN THE VALLEY – THE SUN
WAKES AND WARMS THE AIR.
AT FIRST THE BLANKETS OF
MIST DISAPPEAR SLUGGISHLY,
THEN QUICKLY AS A CHANGE
IN PRESSURE SPEEDS AN EAGER
WIND UP THE CLIFFS.

HOW SHE GOT THE SHOTS

I spent the first day on a tour through KwaNyuswa with Vuk' Africa Tours (vukafricatours.co.za). Then I bundled my family and dogs into a car and followed the iSithumba Route along the uMgeni River from Kloof to Inanda Dam and past iSithumba. Popular with 4x4 drivers and off-road motorbikers, it takes you along the valley floor, high up along its side, across rivers and past scenes seldom explored. Pack a braai and stop for lunch along the water's edge. We did. durbangreencorridor.co.za



ABOVE Snorkelling around Chauve Souris, you will hear 'clicking' noises from the busy coral reef and feel the occasional pinprick sting from tiny organisms in the water. **OPPOSITE** The palm trees at Vallée de Mai, a World Heritage Site, are up to 30 metres high and hundreds of years old.

A full-page photograph of a dense tropical jungle. In the lower center, a person is standing on a set of stone steps that lead up through the foliage. The jungle is filled with various types of palm trees and large, broad-leafed plants. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light and shadows. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, with some brown tones from the tree trunks and steps.

*I fell
head
over
heels
for*

simple Seychelles

Is this magical island holiday your wildest travel dream?
Here's a way to do it without cracking your credit card

WORDS BY **CAROLINE WEBB**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TEAGAN CUNNIFFE**

Y

ou won't believe me, but I felt a little sorry for the guests at the resorts. I sat in the rosy twilight, sipping a piña colada and staring at the same magnificent view as everyone else on Beau Vallon beach, but I was

getting that little something 'extra', more authentic, from my sundowner experience. My delicious cocktail had been served in a plastic cup by shy 13-year-old Christopher at a street market stall, had cost me just 75 rupees (around R75, a bargain, believe me!) and I'd merely strolled straight onto the beach to enjoy it – a unique experience for a South African, where drinking on beaches is not allowed. Sure, the hotel guests had their pretty cocktails and their loungers and their waiter service, but weren't they somehow missing out?

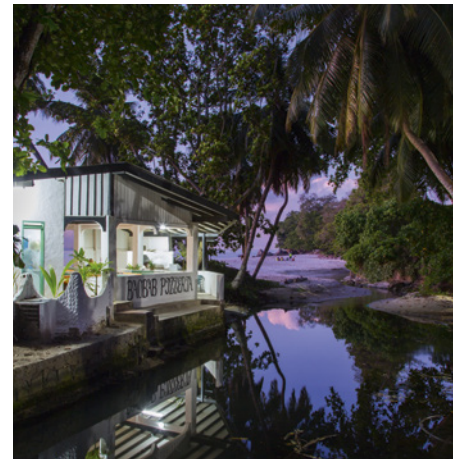
Pretty soon they'd be going to dinner, probably at their resort, which meant they might never be humbled by a meal at Baobab Pizzeria... It's nothing grand; a small, plain, open-walled structure with about 20 tables at the far end of the beach. There's no booking, no greeting when you arrive – just wait for

a table to empty and grab it. It's presided over by one woman who runs it like clockwork. You might feel ignored at first, but just as impatience and doubt set in, she arrives with menus, and from this point on everything flows effortlessly. There's no fake friendliness, no 'professionalism', no frills: the restaurant of my dreams – and cheap for the Seychelles.

Afterwards, Teagan and I ambled down the road to The Boat House – it specialises in pricey Creole buffet dinners (420 rupees per person), but we paid 100 rupees to take our pick of the desserts. Not exactly a bargain but it has a great vibe, two wandering minstrels strumming reggae-pop on guitars (live local music is a rare find, unless it's carnival time), and the unique decor alone is worth the price. At the end of the night, we felt we'd had a fairly genuine and interesting evening's entertainment we would not have been able to replicate anywhere else in the world. As we walked back to our apartment, along the now-dark beach, we felt happy and safe. There's no price for that.

Dispatched to the Seychelles, like Cinderella to the ball not in glass slippers but tackies, we had instructions to do it on a budget. We'd be staying in B&Bs, self-catering apartments and chalets; we had >





TOP ROW Chalets d'Anse Forbans, just 10 steps across the lawn to the shore; large palm fronds and umbrella-like takamaka trees provide shade on most beaches; a boatman waits for customers at Cote d'Or on Praslin. **MIDDLE ROW** The braai lunch on Curieuse island included fish and chicken, Creole mango salad and spicy relishes; fresh coconut is offered everywhere (like chips or peanuts in SA); step off the beach into Baobab Pizzeria in Mahé's buzzy resort area. **BOTTOM ROW** Jules, the owner of Chez Jules on La Digue, shows how it's done; Georgina's Cottage at Beau Vallon; frangipanis and other tropical blooms are everywhere. **OPPOSITE** The perfect perch to wind down the day, at Anse Kerlan on Praslin.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT These people are looking at the tiny black-and-white striped fish that crowd around bathers at Anse Lazio on Praslin; Curieuse island, once a leper colony, is now for giant turtles only – hundreds roam free here; cycling rules the roads on La Digue.

to use public transport (there is a bus service on Mahé and Praslin); and we had to feed ourselves without feasting. Would we still have a happy ending?

I was rather surprised by the Seychelles – my impression, echoed by everyone whose response when I said I was going there ('Ooh, la-di-dah'), was that it is expensive, upmarket and relegated to that 'special holiday' category (honeymoons, anniversaries). In reality, there is all that but also a down-to-earth, real and distinct Creole culture.

It felt like a place where normal people live and work. The paradise element is there, of course – the powdery white sands, curvaceous boulders and tropical seas – but there are also wild jungly interiors (great for forest hiking), one of the cutest capital cities in the world, and the delightful oddity of seafaring Rastas raving around in their motorboats.

There is also what must be one of the best bicycle rides in the world – on La Digue. Riding beside a turquoise ocean, along the east coast's concrete road shaded by towering palms and dotted with interesting dwellings and beach shacks selling fresh fruit juice, I felt like I could burst with sheer giddy happiness. Freewheeling downhill, hair blowing in the breeze, I soaked up the pinch-me-I'm-*actually*-in-paradise feeling. We pulled over often to take in the view or cool off in the sea, and watched the owner of Chez Jules cafe expertly chop

open a coconut, after which he offered some to us. There are over 2000 bicycles on the island, and (almost) no vehicles – this cycling culture allows visitors freedom to explore at their own pace and to feel truly part of life here. It made me fall hard for La Digue. That, and our nightly entertainment: riding down to the jetty, sitting on the quayside, eating a takeaway dinner, looking at the stars – and watching the resident giant stingray glide gracefully around in the shallows right below us.

After our first Seychelles sunset, we determined to always seek out a spot to wind down the day. Twilight is special on the islands – like when falling snow turns the world quiet... That first night at Beau Vallon, it was as if people were trying to squeeze the last drop out of the day – going for a final dip, playing beach bats, bringing boats in or heading out, sunbathers catching the very last rays, people standing around in small groups, all increasingly becoming silhouettes. Even the island dogs came out in packs, along with the fruit bats circling

above. The whole world on pause for just an hour...

Landlubbing is all very well, but it's the magnificent sea studded with islands in every direction that would prove too great a temptation to resist. Swimming is free, of course, but any other water-based activity comes at a price. Nearing the end of our trip, on Praslin we finally splurged on a half-day excursion, arranged on the spur of the >

**'Twilight is
special on
the islands
... the whole
world on
pause for
just an hour'**



ABOVE There are beach bars everywhere selling fresh fruit juice. This remote one on La Digue was a most welcome sight, after a long, thirsty walk amid Anse Source D'Argent's boulder tunnels. We paid a very touristy 100 rupees for a drink here, but it was the most perfect setting ever.

TRAVEL SEYCHELLES



A WEEK OF TWILIGHTS We discovered that sunset (at least in Seychelles) goes through three phases over an hour: a blazing, fiery spectacular, followed by an almost washed-out, pastel light (when one is tempted to think it's over and leave) and a final phase just before darkness falls that has deep, beautiful, velvety tones. (Go online to watch Teagan's time-lapse collection at getaway.co.za/blog)

Top row: Anse Kerlan, east coast of Praslin; Beau Vallon, north-west Mahé; Anse La Reunion, near the jetty, west coast of La Digue.

Middle row: From Belle Vue in the centre of La Digue, looking west to Praslin; Sunset Beach, north-west Mahé; a salute to the local rum at Grand Anse, east coast of Praslin. **Bottom:** Anse Forbans, south-east Mahé.



ABOVE A final late-afternoon swim at Anse Forbans. The sun rays shining through the water created a beautiful aquarium effect.

moment with a taxi driver. It included visiting the free-ranging giant tortoises on Curieuse island, a short hike through a mangrove swamp followed by a beach barbecue and snorkelling around Chauve Souris islet. Sure, it was touristy (we were a motley crew of nationalities thrown together) and it seriously dented our wallets, but given that it included transfers from the other side of Praslin, the boat trip, food, cold drinks and a terrific little adventure, it was worth it.

But it was our search for sundowner spots each day that would ultimately create some of our best memories – feeding stale bread to swirling schools of tropical fish from the terrace of the Sunset Beach Hotel (and paying a spluttering 200 rupees for a cocktail there!); sitting on the lofty wooden deck of a local family's house above the jungle canopy of the highest point on La Digue; the next day taking a last dip in surprisingly hot water on the island's western shore; watching Rasta families play amid fallen-over trees on Praslin's Anse Kerlan; finding a rock outcrop covered in daisy-like flowers jutting into the sea at Anse Forbans, a turtle beach in Mahé's quieter south.

This daily routine was a simple act of engaging in local life on some level, not tucked away in a luxury hotel. We rarely knew what to expect, or what we'd find when we got there, and often it didn't cost us much at all. There are tourist attractions, to be sure – and we visited many of them – but sometimes just being out and about in the 'real world' was enough. Happy ending? You bet. **A**

8 super-useful Seychelles budgeting tips

- 1 Accept that you will want to splurge** on certain things – one special meal every other day, a watersport activity or boat trip, taxis to hard-to-reach beaches.
- 2 Look for local takeaway shops** for basic meals (stir-fries, curries, stews, burgers). These can be real hole-in-the-wall kind of spots but the food is generally okay. We had a few hits and a few misses, but when you're paying around R50 (as opposed to over R150 in a smarter restaurant), you can't be too fussy.
- 3 Groceries** can be a bit more expensive than in SA, or quite a lot more. Some examples: long-life milk R20, box of tea bags R44, single yoghurt R22.50, cereal R50, chicken thighs R200, rice R88, eggs R32 for a box of 10, local lettuce R10, imported tomatoes R60 (800g), steak R100/kg. Fruit and veg stalls, markets (for fish) and bakeries in your area will be cheaper than supermarkets. Many self-catering places kindly offer daily transfers to the shops.
- 4 Drinks are expensive** – local beer (Seybrew, about R65) is the cheapest option, while a G&T can set you back around R125, cocktails even more. We bought a bottle of Takamaka rum (around R265, and mixed it with ginger ale as the locals do) for our sunset excursions, which lasted the week.
- 5 Bring your own snorkelling gear** – there are countless places to pop your face into the water right off the beaches, and you won't have to hunt around for a place to rent from.
- 6 The inter-island Cat Cocos ferries** cost from R680 (Mahé – Praslin) and R195 (Praslin – La Digue), but if you're on a strict budget there is no real need to island-hop lest you 'miss out'. The three main islands are very similar – all have various kinds of beaches (each has at least one super-stunner), a forested interior, the same Creole culture... Choose one based on your interests: buzzy Mahé has more activities and attractions, although the south is quieter; Praslin has a slower pace but also several villages; tiny La Digue is the most provincial, with only two resorts and one vibey port town straight out of a storybook.
- 7 The 'budget' places we stayed in** were above average, and a couple were right on the beach. All had ceiling fans *and* air-con, a kettle, fridge, TV, good beds and linen, and towels and toiletries supplied. All had Wi-Fi (but not for free); and 100MG of data (R98) on a local SIM card did not last long. Note that guest houses often give the choice of self-catering, B&B, half-board or dinners on request.
- 8 If you're not on a bus, transport is pricey.** Petrol costs around R17 a litre (note: petrol stations are not open 24 hours); car hire starts from R500 a day. A 17km taxi transfer across Praslin cost us R584, but one advantage is that you can get good info out of taxi drivers. We recommend Marlon Panagary on Mahé (+248-252 6770) and Mike Victor on Praslin (+248-261-9441) – not because they're cheaper but because they were informative and helpful.

Plan Your Trip

GETTING THERE

Air Seychelles flies from Joburg, Cape Town and now Durban (launch special R5 000 return valid until 30 September). Normally from around R7 000 pp. airseychelles.com

WHEN TO GO

It's near the equator, so the temperature is pretty much the same all year. There are trade winds from May to October.

NEED TO KNOW

Seychellois are rather bemused by South Africans' love of camping. There is no camping – not on the beaches nor in the (protected) forests. Unless you're an experienced and fit hiker, don't enter the forests or try to scramble over boulders to remote beaches without a guide (guides are compulsory at some places). As beautifully perfect as the sea looks, it can be deceptive – even dangerous. Some places are too shallow for a proper swim, or the seabed is too rocky, or there are undertows. The islands' roads are narrow, twisty and very steep in places – only for confident drivers. Bus rides can be quite thrilling, and note that there is often no verge for pedestrians to walk on.

Mahé

STAY HERE

Georgina's Cottage is a double-storey beach house with different types of rooms (some self-catering) run by friendly

Eddy. Super breakfasts on the stoep, and it's across the road from Beau Vallon's beach and close to restaurants and bars. The bus stops right outside. From R1 230 double room B&B; family room with kitchen R1 740 (sleeps four). Stay eight nights, get one free. georginas-cottage.com

La Fontaine, amid the forested hills behind Beau Vallon, is a very pleasant Creole-style apartment complex with a pool and braai area. The stylish, serviced flats have all the mod-cons. Free shuttles to the beach but it's actually a quick, if steep, walk there. From R2 234 for two (kids under 12 free). lafontaine.sc

Chalets d'Anse Forbans in the quiet south-east has very pretty, well-equipped cottages right on the beach. If you're looking to chill, this is it. Apart from protecting the hawksbill turtles, the owners are involved in community projects. From R2 220 for two, R3 510 for four (includes a discount voucher for a meal at the Hilton next door). forbans.com

EAT HERE

Baobab Pizzeria packs them in for two hours over lunch and three hours in the evening. A delicious pizza and a glass of wine costs around R180.

La Reduit is a best-kept secret up in the hills on the south-east coast. Chef 'Mr Gerry' has a restaurant in his house amid the trees (spot the fruit bats), cooks inventive Creole food – and will send a driver to fetch you from Chalets d'Anse

Forbans (no cost). Starters from R105, mains around R300. +248-436-6116

DO THIS

Stroll around Victoria, the capital city. There's a picturesque market, a Hindu temple, the grandest priest's house ever – and a Chinese pagoda coming soon.

See exquisite model ships at the Domaine de Val des Près craft village, made by Jean-Louis Marchesseau. Then drive down the road to the Takamaka rum distillery. takamaka.sc

Praslin

STAY HERE

Britannia Hotel at Grand Anse on the east coast was one of the first hotels on Praslin. The beach, 250m away, isn't great for swimming (free bus three times a week to the best on the island) but the hotel has a lovely pool plus stylish, spacious, modern rooms. R2 422 double B&B (a child under 12 sharing costs R260). Free nights for stays of four or more days. Bonus: the restaurant serves fantastic, slightly retro Creole cuisine. Dishes from R250. britanniapraslin.com

EAT HERE

Bonbon Plume is right on stunning Anse Lazio beach – tables under thatch, sand under your feet, mostly-seafood menu (grilled on fires round the back of the bar area). Dishes from R260. Booking essential. +248-423-2136

Boats parked at Grand Anse on Praslin – but this same scene is repeated just about everywhere in Seychelles.

DO THIS

Marvel at the Vallée de Mai, home of the coco de mer palms. There are three short trails you can follow yourself but it's worth booking a guide to tell you all about these fascinating plants.

Entry R300 pp. +248-432-1735

Hike into the interior. There are several trails through the forests and up to viewpoints – for example, 200m from the Vallée de Mai entrance is a 1km trail. Consult locals for advice.

Take a boat trip, whether a simple lift to a beach only accessible from the sea, or

to a nearby island. We used Lyly's Boat Charter to go to Curieuse Island to see the tortoises, have a beach BBQ and go snorkelling. R1 300 pp. +248-251-2461

La Digue

STAY HERE

Chez Marston is a short walk from the jetty and very central. It's owned by a real character who is full of stories (Marston St Ange, the maverick brother of Seychelles' tourism minister). It's primarily a restaurant, with a few rooms out back. R1 520 double B&B, add dinner for R215 pp more. chezmarston.com

EAT HERE

Fish Trap is an attractive, trendy spot next to the jetty, with a little beach and tables on the sand as well as indoors. Dishes from R125. +248-251-2111

Belle Vue is on top of the 300m hill right in the middle of La Digue. Tables are on a rustic wooden deck built onto a local house – good for sundowners. It also does a special Creole dinner for R500 pp (transport included – a good thing or else it's a long, steep walk). +248-252-7856

Chez Jules, a thatched cafe beside the sea at Anse Banane (on the east coast bike route) is a welcome refreshment stop – for cold bottled water, fresh fruit juice or something light to eat.

DO THIS

Rent a bicycle and ride everywhere. It can just be left wherever you stop – no locking up, no worries. From R100 a day.


Visit the famous Anse Source d'Argent (within the historic L'Union estate, entry R100 pp), a gorgeous, narrow beach backed by an intriguing labyrinth of boulders. Keep walking south as far as you can to escape the crowds.

Go snorkelling at Anse Sévère (just past town on the cycle route) – the best spot on the island. However, the Cocos Islands nearby are said to be one of the best spots in *all* of Seychelles. Find Hyacinthe Bouchereau at La Passe jetty; he charges R725 pp for a half-day trip there. +248-271-6220

* Prices and conversions correct at time of going to print



THE PLACE YOU



On Sneeuberg's vast plains, an enormous sky dwarfs age-old rocks, flora, and you.

WHERE CAN BREATHE

Need to recalibrate? The Karoo's vast wilderness and isolation has the power to absorb all

WORDS BY **PIPPA DE BRUYN**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TEAGAN CUNNIFFE**





LEFT One of a number of places to light a fire at Kliphuis.

OPPOSITE The tufty grasses pixellate to create rugged pelts that cover the mountains.

Nature Reserve. A kind of solace settles as I advance across treeless plains into an uninhabited horizon. A world strewn with rock, indifferent to the tiny rental car shooting dust in its wake. The grasses – more silver than gold, tufty and tough – are a rugged pelt draped around the base of the mountains, cuffing the striated cliffs. This time I don't stop for photos – they won't come close to capturing the 360-degree majesty of the landscape. Barrelling alone on the tinder-red road I wind the window down to let in the wind, the smell of baked earth and grass. It is the smell of horse, rekindling an old longing.

I first visited Sneeuberg in January 2015. Lew Rood, who always knows everything worth knowing in the world of travel, had slid a printout across the table as we ordered our second bottle of wine. 'This, my dear, is very special,' he said in the conspiratorial manner of a keeper of illicit secrets. I pored over the grainy monochrome photos, listening.

Charlotte Daneel, the proprietor, lived abroad for 30 years before starting La Grange Interiors in Franschhoek in 2004 with her Dutch partner Derk Blaisse. Sneeuberg was initially created as a getaway for family and friends; then Helen Untied sniffed it out and listed it in *Perfect Hideaways*. Lew's enthusiasm was typically understated, but I could tell he had been impressed by his visit. And it was my kind of decadence: French antiques and fine linen, stone walls and huge hearths, deep verandas and enormous potted agaves, and, above all, the luxury of solitude. One can dismiss the unease of sharing >

rid landscapes bring on big thoughts. A mental aerate of sorts. Life stripped out to reveal the world's bones, the ancient geology of rock and sand highlighting the puny nature of our joy, our sorrow.

It has been five days since the horrific news. My beloved friends' infant daughter, drowned in the few minutes it took her to get past the barricade to the pool, lured by the ripple of water. It is human instinct, as we stumble and fall, to deduce a reason, a silver lining, a lesson. But an accident like this offers nothing. 'There are no words,' I repeated helplessly, hand on aching chest.

Our collective grief is like an umbilical chord that spools out behind me on the long drive east, connecting me to them as I circle again the why that trails every tragedy. The psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross suggested that children are unafraid of the Return, may in fact embrace it, their job – whatever it was – done. I wonder whether water is a womb of sorts. How to mend a wound this deep.

It has been some time since I drove the N9 from Graaff-Reinet to Middelberg, that big and empty road that skirts Camdeboo National Park, and taken the second turn off to Nieu Bethesda, a dirt road that bumps over a railway line, passing deserted station houses – the last sign of human habitation before the final turn to Sneeuberg

A landscape photograph showing a grassy hill in the foreground with scattered rocks. In the background, a prominent conical mountain (Mesa) rises against a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with a warm glow on the horizon.

'I ADVANCE ACROSS TREELESS PLAINS
INTO AN UNINHABITED HORIZON'



'MY KIND OF DECADENCE:
STONE WALLS AND HUGE
HEARTHES ... AND, ABOVE ALL,
THE LUXURY OF SOLITUDE'



The large shaded stoep at Kliphuis from which to contemplate the universe.



ABOVE Sneeuberg is a wonderful reserve to explore on foot and bike, allowing fairly close up encounters with antelope and zebra. **OPPOSITE** Kliphuis is one of four rental options, each very different.

the planet with 7.5 billion people when you're sitting on the stoep of one of just four dwellings on a 14 500-ha reserve in this Karoo.

It had worried Charlotte when I planned that first visit. 'It is a little lonely if you are on your own,' she wrote. She checked again on my arrival. 'You're sure you don't want to rather stay in the cottage here at Gordonville?' I demurred. 'Well, a glass of wine first?'

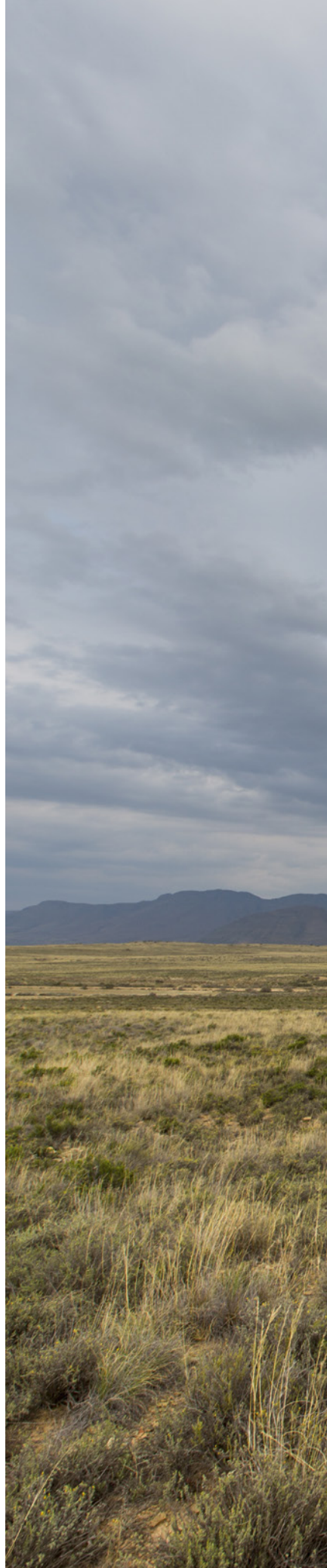
I took an instant liking to Charlotte, a regal Afrikaner whose melodious voice switches between languages effortlessly. Sitting on her broad porticoed stoep in the soft light, she told me how she and Derk had come to own Skilderkrans and Coetzeesfontein, then Gordonville, Poplars, Davidsfontein, Hartebeesfontein – the farms they stitched together to create Sneeuberg Nature Reserve.

'Beautiful as Europe is, the sky is so low there, even on a sunny day. I wanted Derk to see the place that was really, for me,

“I WAS ALWAYS HAPPIEST HERE.
I GUESS A PART OF ME TOOK ROOT”

a spiritual home, As a child I visited Gordonville often. My parents left me here with their friends for many school holidays while they travelled abroad. I was always happiest here. I guess a part of me took root.'

To her delight Derk experienced a similar pull. The couple relocated to Franschhoek, and purchased a 4000-ha farm near Gordonville. It was a farm in zoning only; the remnants of a long-buried farmer's hopes, the stone ruins and granite uprights that had been dug into the hard soil with the fortitude of the migrant. Charlotte and Derk rebuilt the ruins into a luxurious four-bedroom barn they called Kliphuis. Then Gordonville came on the market. 'I wanted to buy it. Derk said no, it was becoming too big for us. The responsibility I didn't think about at the time. I knew nothing about farming or conservation. You cannot just own land; you must





be its custodian. And yet, I felt such a sense of loss when someone else put an offer in.'

When that offer fell through, Derk and Charlotte took the plunge. 'We realised then that we would have to change our relationship, that there were choices we had to make. We were lucky that we were old enough to understand that we did not have to be together all the time to be happy. Derk is gregarious; he enjoys and needs people, the vibrancy of the city, while I wanted to spend more time here. Some places have a certain vibration, a healing property. I have lived in many parts of the world but there is something here, the air, the smell, the quality of the light, a particular stillness that feeds some part of me. It's in my blood.' We stared into the pink-tinged horizon until the Southern Cross winked at us, and then Charlotte dropped me off at Karoo Cottage.

A year later and I regularly take the memory of the night at that cottage out like a good-luck pebble. I had felt a twinge as she departed, leaving me alone with no car or cell-phone reception, but the crackle of a fire and soft plop of a removed cork dispersed these doubts. I sat at the rough-hewn dining table, typing, the bottle of wine beside me slowly evaporating. Every now and then I walked out and lay down in the inky night, the star-splattered sky like an enormous Jackson Pollock painting. The next morning I sat on the stoep watching the swooping acrobatics of birds born for flight. They say that swifts mate and even sleep on the wing. I felt tearful then, for some reason, a teasing sense that life was moving too fast, that I was growing old without doing enough of something, perhaps not doing enough of nothing; addicted to a certain kind of sadness, I sat content. >



Sneeuberg reserve is home to a number of antelope but it is the 800-strong herd of Nguni that keep the grasses grazed.

When Charlotte fetched me just before midday I was still on that stoep, zoned out, recalibrating something intangible but important. I knew I had to return, stay longer, but for a variety of reasons the return trip was delayed, cancelled, rescheduled. Finally I had settled on an immovable date. And then, the terrible news.

I will return for the memorial service in three days time, on Thursday. My state of mind perhaps not best suited to being alone, it returns like a tongue to a missing tooth, probing the hole, the ache.

I am not a superstitious person – I will stroke a black cat and walk under ladders – but the day I became a parent I blew just one

but again I wrote, the solitude provoking an uninterrupted flow of words. They were not beautiful or useful, but cathartic. Sometimes that's all words have to be.

The next morning there was a small herd of zebra perhaps a hundred metres from the house. They watched me, ears twitching, as I approached. The brave ones teased me by waiting until I was just a few metres away before cantering off and stopping again to study my advance. It was a delightful game until something spooked them, and they galloped over a ridge, leaving me alone in the enormity of this arid landscape, the cottage hidden from sight.

I experienced a stab of fear, a sense of my insignificance in the face of this huge, empty valley, the smudge of distant mountains. I broke into a half run, spurred on by the kind of imagination that used to make me swim like hell, suddenly convinced there was a shark in the deep end of the pool of our Hillbrow apartment block. In no time I was back at Kliphuis, out of breath. Sheepish.

It's not easy to accept the universe's indifference; that we won't always get what we want or deserve. Some of us turn to religion, others to places where our souls feel lighter. For some it's the ocean; others seek forests, or mountain tops, or streams. Deserts are a more astringent balm. I settle into a chair on the stoep. Still two days to recalibrate. Two unseen birds begin a song in perfect unison. One provides the backtrack to the other's whistle, a long and poignant note of yearning. They stop and, as if on cue, the wind now washes over the plain, a long slow exhale whispering through the kareeboom, the clean-scented breath of the universe gently turning its leaves over in the dust. **E**

'WE STARED INTO THE PINK-TINGED HORIZON UNTIL THE SOUTHERN CROSS WINKED AT US'

wish over every birthday cake, the same plea tossed into the well with every coin: 'Please,' I begged, 'let my children be the ones to bury me.' It is hard to comprehend this burden of love. 'You are only as happy as your saddest child,' a wise woman once said to me, shocking me out of my young-mum complacency. Even so, there is always the chance that one can make the sad happy.

A dead child is simply an unbearable weight.

That first night I sat on the Kliphuis stoep and stared into the darkness. This time it did not bring the same happy contentment,

Plan your trip

THREE GREAT DAY OUTINGS

1. Take a day trip to the Valley of Desolation, one of the great iconic vistas in the country. Here, sheer cliffs and columns of dolerite rise 120 metres from the valley floor backdropped by the vast plains of the Camdeboo. Entrance is from R35 pp. sanparks.org

2. Visit Nieu Bethesda. It's within cycling distance of Sneeu Berg but given the inclines I'd opt to drive. Helen Martin's Owl House (entrance from R60 pp) never fails to move, and a stop at The Brewery and Two Goats Deli (R35 for a draught) turned me into an ardent supporter.

049-841-1733,
049-841-1602

3. Have lunch at the Drosdy Hotel in Graaff-Reinet. It's just under two hours from Sneeu Berg Nature Reserve so best visited en route. The Cape Dutch streetscapes are a delight and lunch in the beautifully refurbished Drosdy memorable. Meals from R85.

049-892-2161

GETTING THERE

From Graaff-Reinet

take the N9 towards Middelburg. Turn left at the second gravel road to Nieu Bethesda (47km from Graaff-Reinet). Pass the old station houses and then turn right at the Sneeu Berg sign.

From Johannesburg

it's about seven hours, travelling via Middelburg and then the R389 to Richmond.

WHEN TO GO

Visit in winter to see why these mountains are called Sneeu Berg. It's also a great summer destination – every accommodation option has access to a pool.

NEED TO KNOW

The gravel roads are safest travelled in a high-clearance vehicle and I'd recommend either a 4x4 after heavy rain or taking the alternative route via Richmond. There is no reception soon after the gravel turn off and no Wi-Fi at Karoo Cottage, the Poplars or Kliphuis – ideal to defrag but not so good if you're worried about affairs at home. The cottages are well-

equipped for self-catering and most have outdoor firepits and braais but you can also – given prior warning – have meals delivered to heat, Karoo *braaivleis*, or picnics. Rooms can be serviced daily, or less depending on your preference. Well-behaved pets are welcome.

DO THIS

Walk the Compassberg Trail

on an adjacent farm. It's an eight-hour hike with a climb of roughly 1 700m up to an elevation of 2 505m (for fit and energetic hikers only).

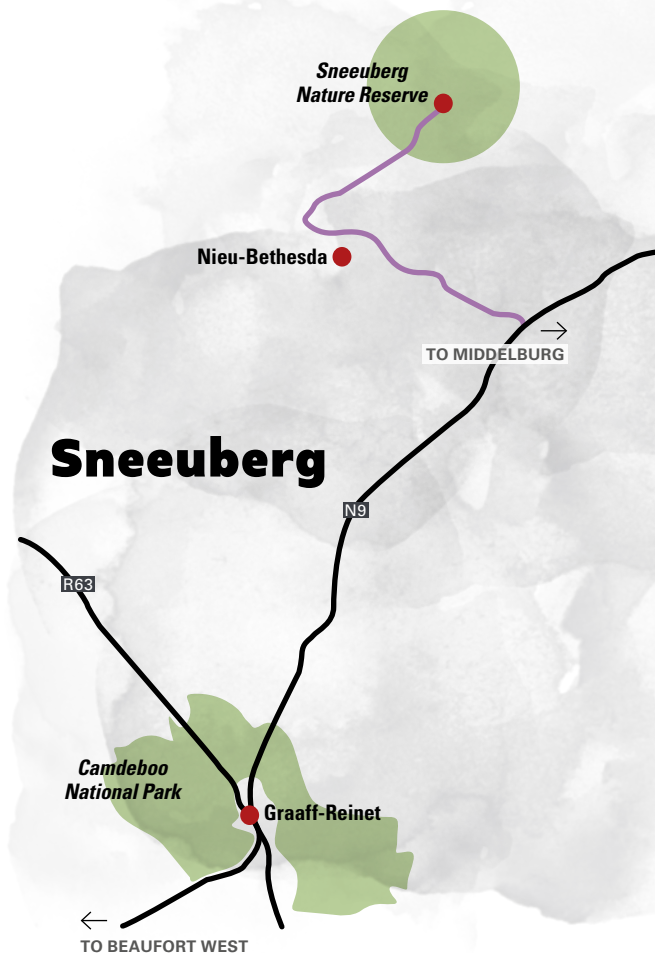
Drive your 4x4 along the roughly 200km of mountain trails (also open to mountain biking and hiking).

Arrange a game drive in the farm vehicle.

Aside from a herd of some 800 Nguni cattle, the reserve is home to kudu, mountain and Vaal rhebok, black wildebeest, plains zebra, springbok, eland, and countless birds. Activities are free for guests but must be arranged in advance.

sneeu Berg.com

THE VALLEY OF DESOLATION



STAY HERE

Kliphuis is a four-bedroom custom bolthole magicked from the stone ruins of the first farm Charlotte and Derek bought. It's the most remote, a stark contrast to the luxurious decor and fittings. From R5 200 (sleeps eight).

★ **The Poplars** is a beautifully furnished traditional farmhouse with a wonderful pool and long pergola-shaded outdoor table (one of several dining options) and lawns. Three of the five bedrooms are en-suite. From R3 000 for six and R400 pp thereafter (sleeps 10).

Gordonville is a grand gabled 1925 house furnished in French-Karoo chic with a deep wrap-around porch that

sleeps eight adults in four en suites and seven kids in a dorm-style room.

The old sheep-shearing shed has an enormous heated pool, a billiard and ping-pong table, fireplace and lounge making it the ideal location for special-occasion gatherings. From R6 000 (sleeps 15).

★ **Karoo Cottage** is my personal favourite; it's a comfortable, unpretentious three-bedroom semi-stone cottage on the same werf as The Poplars. The kitchen-dining room, with the table set in front of a large raised hearth, is a real highlight. From R1 000 for two; additional persons R350 pp (sleeps six). sneeu Berg.com

* Prices correct at time of going to print



THE **BEGINNING** OF THE **LINE**

Learning to fly fish is
one of life's most pleasurable
experiences, discovers our writer.
Plus there's no more beautiful
place to not catch a fish than in
the Eastern Cape Highlands

**STARTER
FISHING
TRIP:
R1780**

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS DAVIES



Chris Davies' first-ever cast caught on camera (don't judge).

T

he chilly water climbs past my knees as I inch carefully out into the stream. It moves slowly here, through a long, shallow pool, and the barest of eddies drifts

gently behind as I glance down to check my footing. It's early spring in the Eastern Cape Highlands and cotton-wool clouds hang bright and fluffy over 2500-metre peaks. The Bokspruit is running pure with snowmelt and my waterlogged boots are clearly visible on the stream bed below.

I pause, unfamiliar rod in hand, trying to recall the morning's torrent of instruction. From the nearby bank my guide and persevering teacher, Fred Steynberg, sees my hesitation and calls out encouragement: Keep your elbow in,

don't throw. Wrist straight. Aim beyond that 'V' of moving water.

I cast – an inexperienced waft – and line and fly zip by perilously close to my ear. Surprisingly I land more or less on target and remember to lower the rod tip quickly, then slowly take in the slack. My eyes fix on the tiny white fly as it floats on the current towards me.

Wait, was that a...

'Strike!' shouts Fred, and I pull – left hand down, right hand up as he's taught me – but I'm too slow. The fly jerks but there's no resistance. The hook is empty as I once again reel my fishless line back in.

I hadn't known what to expect when I arrived in Rhodes the day before. Dead winter grass covered the mountainsides and pockets of snow still clung to the shadowed heights. Spring had, so far, reached only the rivers, their twisting banks bedecked in bright green ryegrass, weeping willows and newborn lambs. This is arguably the finest rainbow-trout fishing destination in Southern Africa, for both the fishing and the scenery, but I'd last held a (toy) rod when I was maybe five years old, and in my entire life I've never actually caught a fish.

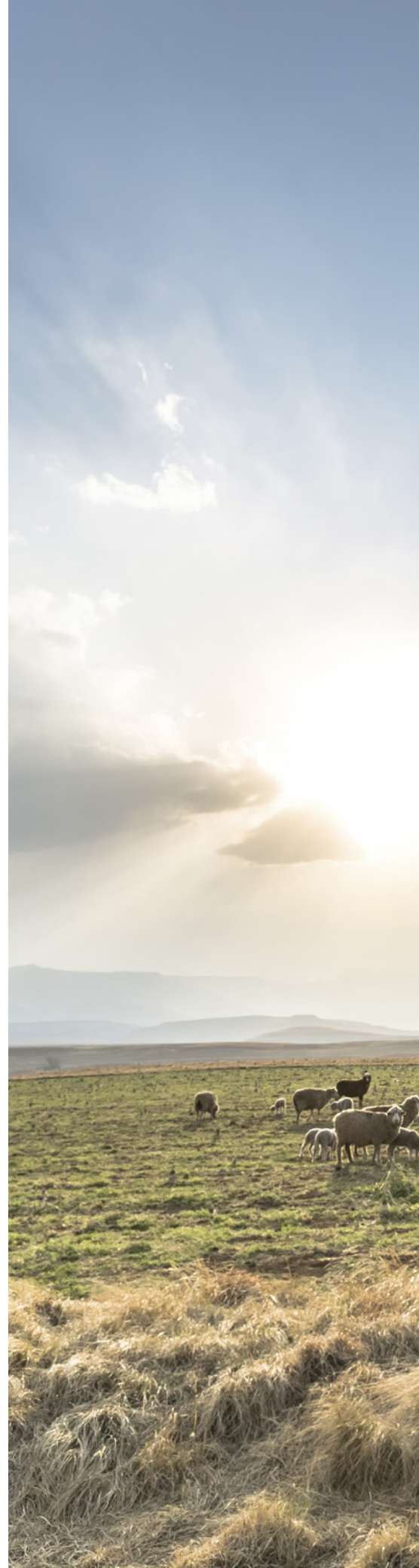
'It's a first for me too,' said Fred when we'd met for the first time that evening. 'I've never guided anyone who's not even held a fly rod before.'

'Think I'll catch anything?' I asked.

'We call it fishing, not catching,' he'd replied with a smile. 'Look, it's early in the season, and the drought has been >



Peach blossoms between Barkly East and Rhodes bring a splash of spring colour to the still-wintery highlands.



**‘With fish that seem to learn
and spurn flies with
disconcerting regularity,
any edge you can get
is an advantage’**



ABOVE Fly tying is an obsessive art. If possible, Fred Steynberg gets up at 5am daily for two to three hours of dedicated tying, spending up to 15 minutes per fly. **LEFT** Newborn lambs explore the fields below Naudé's Nek.





ABOVE The paraphernalia of fly tying includes both natural and synthetic materials.


RIGHT Prospecting a shallow pool along our own stretch of the Bokspruit.

tough on the fish population. All we can do is get out there and see.'

Now, back on the riverbank, Fred is striding upstream. That failed attempt has spooked the fish and they won't go for anything in this pool for a while. I finish reeling in, secure my line and wade back to the bank. With bungling like this I may never land a catch but, although I know Fred very much wants me to, right now it hardly matters. White pear blossoms dance in the breeze and from behind us a fish eagle calls. It's a beautiful day in the southern Drakensberg and it seems to me that the trout are just an excuse to be here. With squelching boots and a smile on my face, I set out after Fred, who's already begun scouting the pool up ahead.

They say fishing is easy to teach and hard to learn, but that undersells what can be imparted by a skilled tutor. Fly fishing in particular is an arcane art, a world of 'white Wulff wings' and 'peacock woolly buggers' (just two common fly patterns used in the area), and with ever-changing conditions and fish that seem to learn and spurn flies with disconcerting regularity,





Fly fishers from around SA gather for the Wild Trout Association Festival in Rhodes on 16 – 20 March. wildtrout.co.za

any edge you can get is an advantage. The basics of cast and strike are not hard to grasp, but mastering the nuances takes patience and skill. It's one thing to land your fly on a particular piece of water, quite another to know which of the hundreds of flies, nymphs and worm imitations the fish might go for. Fly fishing is in large part trial and error, but if you want to catch, and not just fish, joining someone who's erred before will certainly maximise your chances.

Fred can't remember exactly when he started fishing, but thinks it would have been shortly after he arrived in Rhodes in 1980; a 14-year-old moving with his family who for a time ran the village's only hotel, general store and two-pump fuel station. Becoming a full-time guide in 1993, Fred now takes clients on fresh- and salt-water fly-fishing trips from Cuba to the Seychelles. I was lucky to catch him in what is still his home town, between back-to-back tours into nearby Lesotho. Having fished all over, he has no doubt that the area around Rhodes is one of the top fly-fishing regions in the world.

'If you come fishing here for three months I'll get you on a new stretch of water every day,' he tells me as we make our way to another promising pool. Yet again, I'd had no luck (or skill) at the last. 'This is true mountain-stream fishing. It's as much about being in the environment as it is about the fish.'

I nod in agreement. I may be new to fly fishing but it's obvious there's an element of meditation to this piscine obsession: >

WHAT IT COSTS

Full-day permits R150 pp, half-day R80

For beginners Professional guide Fred Steynberg charges from R1 780 pp for a day excursion, including local transport, flies and rods, permits and lunch. He also sells flies (from R8) and rents out rods (R150) from his fly shop in town. linecasters.co.za

Lessons R480 pp for the one-day Linecasters Beginners Academy on 16 December 2017. R2 350 pp for the three-day Advanced Fly Fishing Academy, 14 – 15 September 2017.

a recognition of the joy in anticipation, of patience and practice, of painstaking repetition and indefinite response. And on these hundreds of kilometres of stream, each fishing permit gives sole access to a specific stretch of water. This section of the Bokspruit was ours for the day – for

Association is deep in a game of dominoes at the bar. He and Fred are two of the village's 25 permanent residents, and the pub is so small you'd struggle to get all 25 in. Fishing caps line the walls and a plaque above Dave's head proclaims: 'We are too small to have a village drunk so we take it

and Juan-Marie Naudé rear sheep and host fly fishers on their working holiday farm. Their large, shallow dam holds trout, and the surrounding hills gurgles with fishable streams.

Greg Carstens is ensconced in one of the Naudé's cottages, tying flies when I arrive. Unabashed, I knock, and with what I'm starting to feel is the characteristic hospitality of fishermen, he's more than happy to invite me fishing the next day.

I rise bright and early and follow Greg along bumpy dirt roads to his chosen morning beat, Bradgate-se-loop, a small mountain stream 45 minutes from the farm. We park, shoulder our packs and set out upstream. A light breeze rustles the willows as his line zips back and forth. There's not much chat, just cast, pause and move on. Vultures wheel above us and cool, clear water swirls around our feet. I look around, drinking in the scenery, and wait for a strike that never comes. **6**

'Vultures wheel above us and cool, clear water swirls around our feet'

uninterrupted contemplation on the prospect of fish.

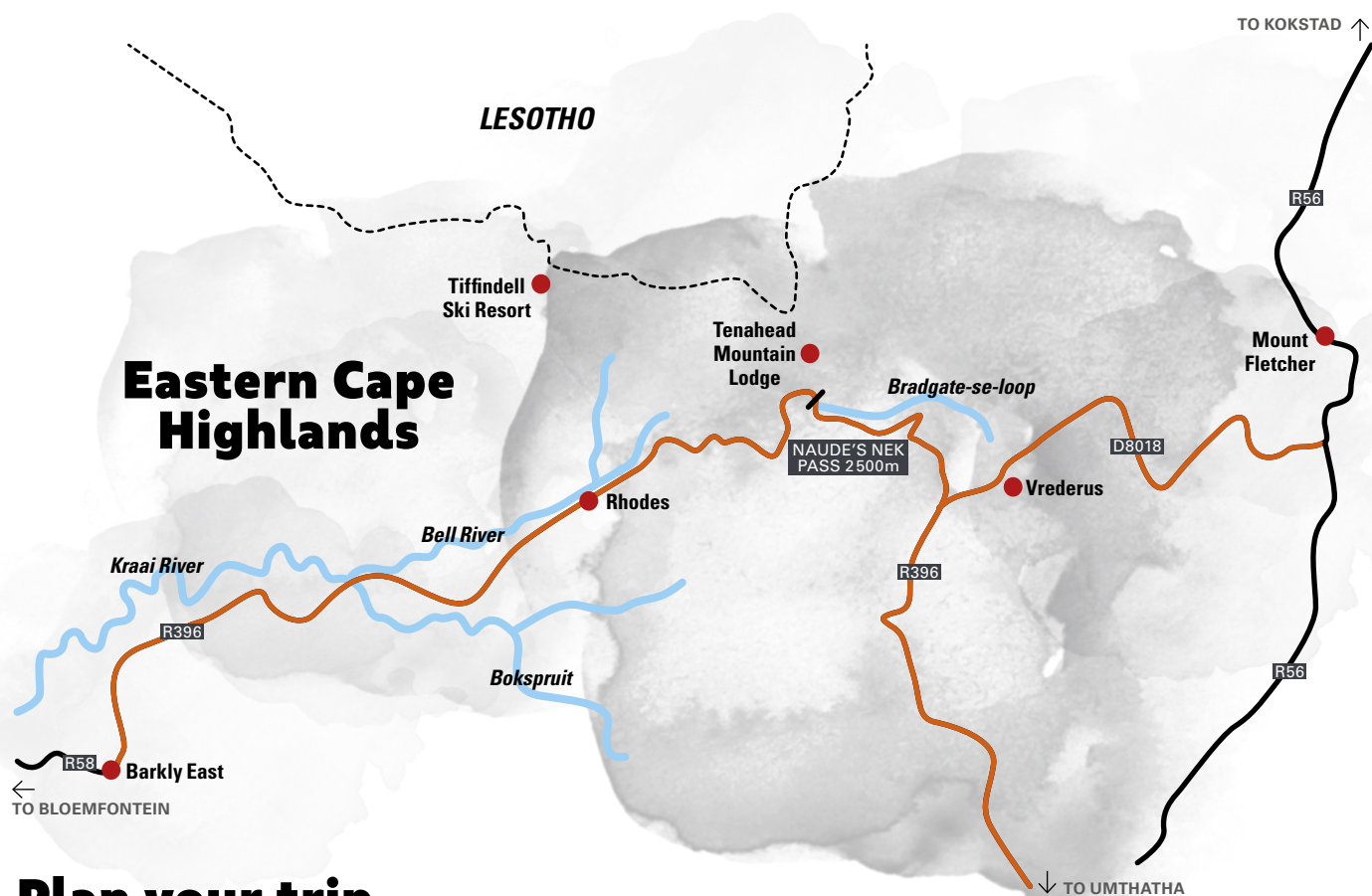
Prospecting, however, has no guarantees, and I'm still fishless as the sun starts to dip and we climb up out of the now-steep valley for the long hike back to the car. Back in town we grab a beer and pizza at Walkerbouts Pub, where owner Dave Walker, chairman of the Wild Trout

in turns.' It's cosy inside – the kind of place you could spend hours spinning yarns and bemoaning the one that got away.

We bid our farewells and I leave Rhodes the next day, heading east over Naudé's Nek. At Fred's suggestion, I'm making one last fishing stop before leaving the Eastern Cape and, after a spectacular two-hour drive, I pull into Vrederus where Donie

In good weather a high-clearance vehicle is fine to tackle Naudé's Nek, but the pass may be closed completely after rain or snow.





Plan your trip

GETTING THERE

Rhodes is seven hours from PE and Durban and eight hours from Joburg. The R396 is a dirt road but sedan-friendly from Barkly East; Naude's Nek requires high-clearance vehicles. Rhodes has no petrol stations.

WHEN TO GO

September to mid-May is good for rainbow and (occasional) brown trout, with migrating smallmouth yellowfish in October and November. March and April are the locals' favourites, when the trout are plentiful and world is resplendent in autumn colours. While droughts are known to reduce fish numbers, they tend to increase individuals' size – so now's the time to try

for a trophy fish (45 – 60cm long). Early 2017 is showing signs of recovery due to heavy snowfall and good spring rains in 2016.

NEED TO KNOW

The Eastern Cape Highlands has 300km of streams, strictly fly fishing only, and supports catch and release. Each multi-kilometre 'beat' is booked as sole access. Get permits and rods from Linecasters Fly Shop (linecasters.co.za), Walkerbouts (see Stay Here) and Rhodes Info Centre (rhodesinfo.co.za). The climate ranges from -15°C to 35°C and conditions can be extreme any time of year. The nearest doctor is in Barkly East, an hour

from Rhodes (045-971-0285). Get detailed maps and fishing info from the Wild Trout Association. wildtrout.co.za

WHAT TO PACK

You'll need waders or wading boots and quick-dry trousers, polarised sunglasses, flies, a net, 2 to 5 wt rods and floating lines. Also pack a hat, water bottle, sunblock, rain jacket and a warm top for your fishing outings. Fishing guide Fred can equip up to five people (see box on page 95).

DO THIS

Go hiking or riding.

Hikers and mountain-bikers can utilise the fly-fishing beat system to access stream paths, and the quiet dirt roads

are ideal for both.

Try mountain boarding or grass skiing (R150 pp) out of season at SA's only ski resort, Tiffindell, 20km from Rhodes. There's also hiking, off-road motorbiking and MTB trails. No day visitor fee in summer (in winter it's R65). Skiing season runs from June to August. tiffindell.co.za

Try the local craft beer at Bernie's Brewery in Rhodes, from R29 a bottle. Open 10am to 3pm (closed on Sundays out of season). Find it on Facebook.

STAY HERE

★ **Rhodes Cottages** has 16 self-catering houses of various sizes in the village. From R500 for two sharing, plus a private farmhouse

on the Bokspruit from R1 750 for four (sleeps 10). All are serviced daily. rhodescottages.com

★ **Walkerbouts Country Inn** has B&B for R625 pp sharing, six cottages in the village (from R225 pp sharing), and collects the fees for the village campsite: unpowered stands are R65 for two. walkerbouts.co.za

Tenahead Mountain Lodge is a spectacular five-star hotel at the top of Naudé's Nek pass. From R990 pp sharing B&B. riverhotels.co.za

★ **Vrederus** has two beautiful stone cottages: Boatman's costs R800 for four, Stonefly is R1 200 for eight (or R300 pp up to four). vrederus.co.za

*Prices correct at time of going to print




A mighty fine place to dawdle

**COST OF
TRIP:**
R15 000
for two
(excl flights)

The Dolomites in Italy's South Tyrol are
an exquisite – and comfortingly safe –
environment for hikers new and experienced

WORDS BY NIKKI WERNER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRANDON DE KOCK



The Dolomites, known as the Pale Mountains, change colour with the time of day and the season

The back of Schatzerhütte and beyond, as seen from the Panoramaweg – the writer's first foray into real mountain hiking.

C

ome,' said the 60-something blonde Berliner, beckoning me into the hall. 'I have something to show you – it's like cowbell but not.' She was referencing the bell that signals dinner at Pension Briol, one of the unspoken codes all guests (except us) seemed to know about because they'd been coming here for generations. Hesitantly, I followed. 'It gets cold at night so you will need one of these,' she said, lifting a wool blanket to reveal a pile of hot-water bottles. 'You can take two,' she added with a smile.

I still don't know their names but she and her brother, also guests, took it upon themselves to initiate us in the ways of Briol. It was our first night in a mountain hut and our first night in South Tyrol, a province in Italy's northern extremes that's home to the Dolomite range. On mentioning we were from South Africa, Berliner number two look astonished. 'Quatsch!' he exclaimed, which can mean anything from 'rubbish' to 'bullshit' depending on the context. 'Is it not beautiful enough?' Fair point. Why did we travel 2 000 kilometres to be immersed in nature?

That's a question Brandon (The Love of My Life) kept asking too. I'm a keen runner but he's more au fait with ambling, and I'd persuaded him a few days in the Dolomites was a good idea because it's a World Heritage Site and there would be vineyards (read Riesling) en route. >

I picked our first stop, Pension Briol, based on heritage and design. We were fresh off an urban food-hunting adventure but here's the rub: hiking is how you access Briol, and we had wheelie suitcases in tow. Did I mention we don't really hike?

The alternative – Taxi Torggler – appeared to be an octogenarian in an SUV with F1 aspirations. He wore dark glasses, a khaki cap emblazoned with a red-knitted

square and 'taxi' embroidered in white, and met us at the skew church spire in Barbiano, the town below. For 20 euros he deposited our luggage at the pension while we tackled the relentless incline. Clearly we wouldn't be making many return trips. Finally, when the foliage cleared, an alpine nymph in dirndl and Nikes welcomed us with a grappa – things were looking up.

Briol's spartan rooms, with scrubbed spruce floors and 1920s light switches and lampshades, felt part convent, part grandparents' holiday home. (Communal bathrooms are a great leveller and I got used to exchanging nods with a woman from Zurich when we met on the landing, clutching our toiletry bags.) Briol's guests usually open a deck chair in the meadow or head up the Rittner Horn mountain. We opted for a gentle stroll to the waterfall.

*'An alpine nymph in dirndl
and Nikes welcomed us'*



Our second location, Schatzerhütte, has a reputation for good food. It lay beyond the vista we could see from our balcony at Briol and higher, at about 2 000 metres. I came across it as most people do, by word of mouth.

If finding Briol was a challenge, so was initiating contact with Schatzerhütte. There is a website but no email and bookings are taken by telephone only. Fortunately a kind, English-speaking waitress called Maria answered my call. This time we were collected at no charge from the parking lot by Daniel Pescolderungg, a tall, strawberry-blond ski instructor wearing a royal-blue apron tied just under his ribcage. His puppyish enthusiasm was engaging and if he's that happy working the off-season, I'd love to see him at 'play' on the slopes.

Daniel welcomed us in English but is fluent in German, Italian, Portuguese and Ladin – South Tyrol's official language. Historically South Tyrol fell under Austrian rule so when you enter the province, toll officials say 'Danke' not 'Grazie' and 'grüß Gott' is the common greeting. The German clientele, who clearly feel quite at home here, enjoy hiking from hut to hut, said Daniel. But since driving from winery to winery is more Brandon's speed, he advised us to follow the Italian *modus operandi* – take the ski lift, admire the view and return for lunch.

We found owner Franz Pernthaler, a Cordon Bleu-trained chef, at his wood-fired oven between jars of pine-cone-infused *zirbenschnaps* and the wooden mill where he grinds rye flour for sourdough. Franz has bright turquoise eyes, a gentle

manner and a sing-song 'hmmm-mmm' to let you know he's listening. Since his uncle handed over Schatzerhütte 35 years ago, he's built a water turbine and chalets made from *zirbel* or Swiss stone pine. The aromatic oils in this wood, explained Franz, have a calming effect, lowering heart rate and improving sleep.

In the cosy, pine-panelled dining room parents play spirited card games with their children and friends toast each other, but the atmosphere is most joyous when guests cram in for dinner. It might start with warm slices of Franz's wholegrain loaf spiced with nutmeg, pepper, coriander, anise and caraway, moving onto a haunch of lamb cooked for hours until tender but still pink and rolled in fresh herbs before carving, and finishing with an almond soufflé all puffed up over a bed of berries. >



The view that greets you at Schatzerhütte. This is the Aferer Geisler, a group of mountains in the Dolomites.



During the day, Schatzerhütte is a pit stop for passing hikers who lunch al fresco at wooden tables turned grey by sunshine and snow, ordering Franz's elderflower cordial by the tray. We joined the happy crowd with our books and soaked up the soporific effect of the afternoon rays, staring at a head-on view of the Aferer Geisler. Their festive mood planted a seed. Were we missing out? And by the time they'd gathered their Nordic walking sticks and donned their felt hats, we'd resolved to tackle the four-hour Panoramaweg the following morning.

After breakfast hikers of all levels dispersed on different routes. Young families set out on the flatter paths connecting alpine-lodge refreshment stations and seasoned hikers in neon Lycra and earmuffs embarked on the eight-hour Günther Messner Trail. Franz handed us a worn folded map. Daniel winked and waved us goodbye, promising he'd have a Forst draught waiting for Brandon on our return. We set out alongside a woman, until our paths parted ways and we began our hike, heaving slow, rasping breaths.

In true Teutonic style, the routes are clearly marked with well-maintained red-and-white pointers. This wouldn't be a repeat of the Kirstenbosch contour path,

ABOVE, FROM LEFT Daniel Pescollderung and his wife Debir are part of the Schatzerhütte team; a wooden sign points the way; hikers setting off for the day from Schatzerhütte.

when on asking a passing local for directions he informed us we were already on it. All we had to do was follow the signs, and they appeared with reassuring regularity. I started to relax. With each changing view we were emboldened to see what lay around the next corner, to go further and, eventually, to reach the top.

The magnitude of the grey rock face, jutting out jagged and square, gave me vertigo. Mountains were stacked layer upon layer, and beyond that, snow-capped peaks as far as the eye could see. On Mount Plose we hit a snow belt and were now warm enough to have shed a few layers. Plose is considered Italy's best mineral water by some, so we celebrated the good fortune of being at source by scooping up icy handfuls and quenching our thirst with 'free mountain lollies', as Brandon nicknamed them. The endorphins had kicked in. As we descended on a slippery slope of pine needles, I vowed to return a more accomplished hiker.

By sunset I'd experienced an exhilarating combination of natural beauty, high altitude, pristine air and Aperol Spritz. And when we took our place at dinner,

freshly showered and rosy cheeked, I felt fully entitled to seconds of osso bucco with creamy wholegrain polenta from Trentino and – a nod to South Tyrol's Austrian influence – sauerkraut on the side.

I scanned the room for the woman we'd started out with and was relieved to find her waving at me. For our fellow European travellers, a lone hiker's worst fate is injury. I now had the answer for my Berliner: travelling here afforded me not just a change of scenery but a real sense of safety, and for South Africans that is true luxury.

That night I climbed under a duvet cover that reminded me of something my mum might pull out if I came to stay. Feeling content and completely at home, I inhaled deeply and was reminded of Franz's words: zirbel never loses its scent, even after hundreds of years. Drifting off to the distant clanging of cowbells from the valley below, my mind wandered. I remembered an inscription we'd seen along our path and willed myself to remember it long after I was back home. 'I wish you time, not time for haste and running, but time so you may feel at peace.' **6**

Plan your trip

GETTING THERE

We flew with Emirates to Milan (R8 500 return) for our food adventure, which took us on a road trip to Bologna, and then we tacked on six nights in South Tyrol for a bit of R&R. To get there, we hired a car from Sunny Cars for about R500 per day and drove to Barbiano (3.5 hours). emirates.com, sunnycars.com

WHEN TO GO

The autumn months of September and October when the skies are mostly clear and the air is cool.

NEED TO KNOW

South Africans need a Schengen visa to enter Italy (R915 for adults, R534 for minors). A working knowledge of German or Italian is advisable. Having our own transport made it easier – we could lock

our excess luggage in the boot when we had to access more remote huts on foot. Hiking boots are preferable but on the advice of *Getaway's* Deputy Editor, Tyson Jopson, I wore my running shoes with hiking socks for support, which worked well for a first foray into hiking. Some places are only open for the summer or winter season. At both places we stayed, cell-phone reception was limited and there was no Wi-Fi. For more information on South Tyrol, transport and accommodation, see suedtirol.info/en

STAY HERE

Pension Briol has been preserved and maintained by the women of one family since it was built in 1928. We stayed in Haupthaus (the original main house) where there



KNÖDEL (DUMPLINGS)



IN OUR BEDROOM AT BRIOL

is no heating or curtains in the rooms and bathrooms are shared. Down the hill are House Settari apartments, which have kitchenettes en-suite bathrooms and heating. Hike up or call Taxi Torggler (about R300 one way; +39-0471-650-004. Pension Briol opens from 27 April to 22 October 2017. From R1 200 pp including a Continental breakfast buffet, lunch salad buffet and three-course dinner (excluding wine and drinks). briol.it

Schatzerhütte was built in 1926 by owner Franz Pernthaler's grandfather. We took a spacious private chalet that had heating, a shower and toilet. There was also a loft bed (perfect for children). Hike up or arrange to be collected. From R1 018 pp for two sharing including a Continental breakfast and three-course dinner (excluding wine and drinks). schatzerhutte.com

*Prices and conversions were correct at time of going to print

CAMPER'S LITTLE HELPERS

These nifty new upgrades for the outdoors will make camping easier and more fun. By MELANIE VAN ZYL



▲ REVEAL ALL R129, trappers.co.za

Let your kids discover a glowing natural world at night. The compact Zartek Scorpion UV Light ZA-490 will reveal scorpions hiding in the bark and knots of trees from a safe distance of 10 metres. The intensity of the scorpion's fluorescence depends on its size, but even a shed exoskeleton glows in the dark under this torch.

▶ KEEP IT COOL ▶

From R750, outdoorwarehouse.co.za

It's easier to pack a soft cooler into a tight space in the car than to fit one with a hard shell. The Natural Instincts Platinum Series Soft Cooler has solid foam insulation and a thick PVC exterior to protect against snags. It's a breeze to carry and ideal for padkos as it fits neatly behind the front seat. Two sizes hold 36 or 60 cans.



For hot drinks, the GSI Infinity Backpack Mug is made from clear polypropylene and comes with an insulated sleeve, which helps to maintain the temperature of your drink. It's also lightweight at 100g (I strapped one to my backpack on the Otter Trail and it worked a treat) and completely recyclable. R210, rammountain.co.za



◀ MAKE SOME ROOM R3 999, makro.co.za

Get extra packing space without buying a trailer. The 370L Camp Master HitchMate Box can carry up to 50kg and locks securely to the back of any standard tow bar. There's no need to register it separately; you just need a copy of your vehicle's number plate for the rear.

WIN! A Meade Infinity 90mm Altazimuth Refractor telescope worth R4 495. Turn to page 20 to read more about it, then visit getaway.co.za/competitions and answer this question to win it: **What magnification does the Meade Infinity have?**

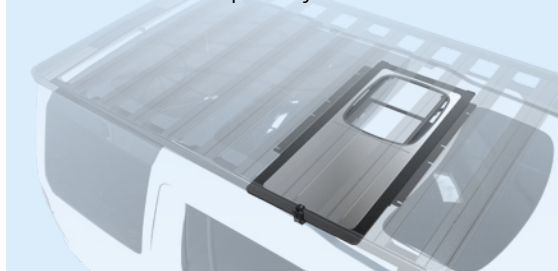


▲ BOIL AND BUBBLE R1 499, makro.co.za

Two independent cooking surfaces are better than one – especially when you want to boil the kettle and fry eggs at the same time but only have one gas bottle. The new Cadac 2-Cook Deluxe camp cooker uses a refillable LP Gas cylinder and comes with modular pieces so you can boil, fry or griddle, and it has rubber feet for stability.

PERFECT PACK R2 945 (includes fitment kit), frontrunneroutfitters.com

This Front Runner Stainless Steel Prep Table is ideal to transport as it slides underneath the Front Runner Slimline II Roof Rack. It also ticks all the boxes of a good camping table: the wide and stable footprint and locking legs provide stability; it has a cutout to fit a 30-litre basin for washing up; and the stainless-steel top is easy to clean.



➔ Find out how to make your own camping table for under R350 at getaway.co.za/gear

Supplied

THULE[®]
SWEDEN



➤ **Bring it all with ease.**

New

Thule Motion XT Roof Box

SlideLock System - automatically locks the lid in place & indicates when box is closed securely.

Grip-friendly outer handles & supporting lid lifter make the box easy to open & close.



Extra wide, pre-installed PowerClick quick-mount system makes the box easy to mount.

Sport	M	XL	XXL
300L	400L	500L	610L

For more information visit [thule.com](https://www.thule.com)
To find the perfect fit for you, click on **Buyers Guide**
To find a store near you, click on **Dealer Locator**

Bring your life
[thule.com](https://www.thule.com)



Your Gas/Electric Specialist

With the current high electricity prices

GAS SHOULD DEFINITELY BE THE WAY TO GO!

180L GAS/ELECTRIC CHEST FREEZER.

We specialize in silent operation absorption Fridges and Freezers!



GR265
Gas/Electric Fridge

For your closest dealer and for our full range of products...

Tel: (010) 207 1600

**Visit our website
www.zeroappliances.co.za**



Keep mosquitoes (& other biting insects) away...

...with
Mosquito guard
INSECT REPELLENT

Available in **FACTOR 5 & 10**

Natural
• NO DEET



Available at selected pharmacies & at the following leading retailers...



Checkers **some makro** **warehouses** **Pick n Pay** **Dis-Chem**
KZN stores Inspired by you

STAINLESS STEEL FLASKS FOR HOT OR COLD WATER



ISO Certified
BPA Free Certified
SABS Approval Pending

100% REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE!

ATLASWARE

ISO CERTIFIED

At last, a flask that actually works!

Visit www.atlasware.co.za for a full listing of countrywide Atlasware agents.

Tel: +27 12 345 3108 | enquiries@atlasware.co.za

T & C apply. Guarantee applicable on manufacturing default. Not on lids and o-rings.

SECOND BEST PRODUCT AT THE CAPE GETAWAY SHOW



THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD!

TO ADVERTISE



CONTACT

Michael Parr

+27 (0)11 449 1089

michaelp@ramsaymedia.co.za

www.getaway.co.za

ECHO 4x4 CENTRE
www.cho4x4.co.za

NEW FROM:

WWW.ECHO4X4.CO.ZA

NEW ARRIVALS!



NEW & IMPROVED

Slimline Spotlight

51W 9-32V 3570 Lumens



Square Flood Light

27W 9-32V 1755 Lumens



▲ 12W 10-30V
1080 Lumens

Bumper Lights

▼ 18W 10-30V
1620 Lumens



WD-3S5

15W
1 350 Lumens

WD-6S5

30W
2,700 Lumens

Light Bars

WD-12S5

60W
5,400 Lumens

WD-21S5

105W
9,450 Lumens



Call 011 452 2855 for your nearest stockist "Lumeno" the brand you can rely on.

FOX AND SONS

www.foxandsons.co.za | www.lumenoled.co.za

T 011 452 2855 | 011 452 5380 | F 011 452 6965

E reception@foxandsons.co.za

LUMENO®

The **HEAVY DUTY** Safari
Seatcover that started it all



MELVILL & MOON

041 484 6631 • www.melvillandmoon.com

Still handmade in PE.

NOW SHIPPED WORLDWIDE

DEMO DAYS

**TRY BEFORE
YOU BUY**



Sit-inside Kayaks



**NEW SHOWROOM
AT
WATERWORLD**
234 Malibongwe Dr
Randburg



Fishing / Sit-on-top Kayaks

Wide range of Touring kayaks.
Sit-on-top/Fishing kayaks, Canoes, Pedal boats
SUP's, THULE roof racks + Suzuki 2.5-15hp

+27 011 807 8111* info@canoeandkayak.co.za * www.canoeandkayak.co.za



Custom Fit Cotton Canvas or Waterproof Seat Covers

Spare Wheel Covers

Overland Bag

Map Wallets

Laptop Bag

CALL US
021 706 0440

VISIT US
WWW.ESCAPEGEAR.CO.ZA

EMAIL US
INFO@ESCAPEGEAR.CO.ZA

LIKE SPIKE
FACEBOOK.COM/ESCAPEGEAR



Bright, in a smart way...

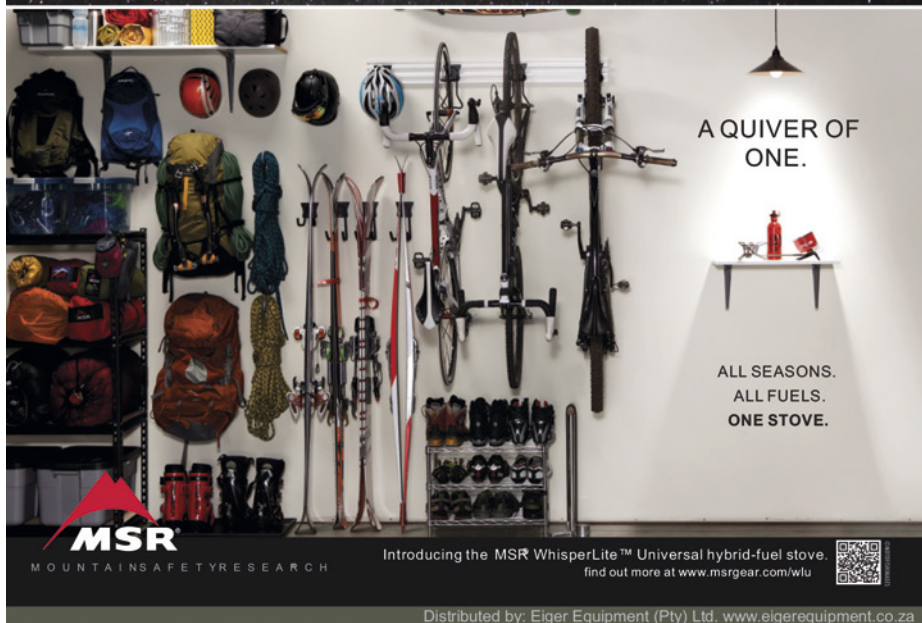


The new **Petzl Actik** headlamp offers 300 lumen brightness, a mixed beam, red lighting, a reflective headband, emergency whistle, is powered by three alkaline batteries but is also compatible with the Core rechargeable battery.

Check out the whole range at www.petzl.com

A QUIVER OF ONE.

ALL SEASONS.
ALL FUELS.
ONE STOVE.



MSR
MOUNTAIN SAFETY RESEARCH

Introducing the MSR WhisperLite™ Universal hybrid-fuel stove. find out more at www.msrgear.com/wlu

Distributed by: Eiger Equipment (Pty) Ltd. www.eigerequipment.co.za

TO ADVERTISE



CONTACT
Michael Parr
+27 (0)11 449 1089
michaelp@ramsaymedia.co.za

www.getaway.co.za

oddesse

**RELIABLE & LONG LASTING
SEWAGE PUMPS**

ADVANTAGES

- Patented cones for cutting system for clog-free pump operation in terms of critical materials
- No tearing or chopping
- Cutting all possible articles in sewage water eg. condoms, sanitary towels, rags, panty hose
- Even with large articles after cutting there will be no clogging etc

Supplied by:

ernest lectro engineering (Pty) Ltd. 

370 Kruger Road, Strijdom Park, Randburg South Africa
Tel: (011) 792 9550/1/2 Fax: (011) 792 9553
e-mail: eeeam@mwweb.co.za Website: ernestee.co.za



ADVENTURE LIFESTYLE

Make this your daily grind



Waking to hear a percolator bubbling over the campfire is the outdoor coffee many of us remember, and the 6 cup Stanley Adventure Percolator reminds us that grandpa's way was often best. Robust stainless steel construction and a sturdy handle with removable silicone grip upgrade the experience of brewing over an open flame, and with a six cup capacity, you can share that nostalgic brew with your whole crew.



Since 1913, the Stanley brand has been an important part of countless adventures and even more shared memories.

STANLEY
A BRAND OF PMI

Distributed by: Eiger Equipment (Pty) Ltd. www.eigerequipment.co.za

Adventure Tech

www.snipertorches.com

gavin@adventuretech.co.za

011 021 3869

KHS H3 TRITIUM MILITARY WATCHES

Equipped with H3 Triglites. Triglites are sealed glass tubes, filled with tritium gas



REAPER R3999

It is robust, lightweight and equipped with the very popular H3 colour scheme "Red Halo"

SHOOTER

R4999

This KHS special operations watch is characterized by its tactical features such as the H3 color scheme "HiCon" with 16 Triglites



SN8053 SNIPER "PREDATOR" R2299

2500 Lumen Dual Power. 25 Watt LED Spotlight. This light is rechargeable but can also run directly from the vehicle

SN1014-12M SNIPER GAME/SECURITY CAMERA R5499



Stealth Security Monitoring. Invisible Infra Red LED Flash. 15M Night Time Distance. Triggers on motion and sends photo to your phone or email (3G).

Takes HD Video. Weather proof. 0.4 seconds Trigger time. Runs on Batteries so can be placed anywhere. Excellent for security or game spotting

SNIPER
HIGH POWERED SPOTLIGHTS

S'KHUMBA CRAFTS

For the best Handcrafted Leatherware Coffee & Atmosphere

Open 9am-5pm
Closed Mondays
Closed Sundays out of season

Call/email for electronic brochure
039 3168212 info@skhumbacrafts.co.za
Situated between Ramsgate & Southbroom, KZN

ECHO 4x4

CHOBE

www.echo4x4.co.za

NEW FROM:

ECHO 4x4 CENTRE

WWW.ECHO4X4.CO.ZA

LEADERS of canvas tents in Africa

SINCE 1992

TRAILER TENT



SA'S
NO.1 BEST
SELLER

(Trailer not included)

Jnr Tent to Fit 1.3m(h) - **R10460**
Jnr Tent to Fit 1.45m(h) - **R10620**
Snr Tent to Fit 1.6m(h) - **R14610**

h: Trailer height from floor to top of roofrack



PRICE
FREEZE!

BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND

SNR DOUBLE BOW EXT



R3925 Extension only
To fit any 3m x 3m bow tent

GAZEBOS



SNR 3m x 2.8 x 2.3m
R2220
Side walls with
windows available

PRICE
FREEZE!

WANDERER BOW TENT



AFRICA'S
NO.1
BEST SELLER

RIPSTOP MATERIAL
JNR 2.5m x 2.5m x 1.8m - **R3215**
SNR 3m x 3m x 2.1m - **R3820**

SAHARA DELUXE



AFRICA'S
NO.1
BEST SELLER

DELUXE
6m x 2.9m 2.5m - **R9935**
Optional Back Bathroom

NB: Prices will vary between stores

These products are available from:



Prices Valid for March 2017 Only

20/21 BISSET ROAD
JETPARK BOKSBURG - JHB
TEL: +27 11 397 6451/2
EMAIL: info@tentco.co.za
WHOLESALE: colin@tentco.co.za

AGENTS: SEE LIST ON WEBSITE
WWW.TENTCO.CO.ZA

now on facebook

TRADE ENQUIRIES
WELCOME COLOURS,
SPECIFICATIONS AND
STOCK - E&OE



CCTV Systems



From
R1799

View your home on your Smartphone
anywhere in the world.

info@cctv-direct.co.za

www.cctv-direct.co.za

TAKLA
PRODUCTS

- Seatcovers
- Loadliners
- Takmats
- Airjacks



Contact Details
Phone : 011 466 0147
Email : sales@takla.co.za
Website : www.takla.co.za

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT

Michael Parr

+27 (0)11 449 1089

michaelp@ramsaymedia.co.za



www.getaway.co.za



experience His beauty

Dis die slim veldwoonwa-oplossing vir die avonturier wat ruwe paaie wil aanpak en tog op soek is na moeitelse gerief.



**10-minuut-opstel
2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, of 6-slaper
Kompakte ontwerp
Liggewig
Aërodinamies
Roeswerend**



Die ingenieurs by Bush Lapa Offroad Caravans (Pty.) Ltd het 'n revolusionêre 4x4-sleepwa/woonwa-kombo gevisualiseer. Hulle het op vindingryke wyse 'n woonwa ontwerp wat kompak genoeg is om soos 'n sleepwa te lyk met die ratsheid van 'n 4x4, maar jou tog in staat stel om die gemak en gerief van 'n woonwa te ervaar.

www.bushlapa.com

Bush Lapa Offroad Caravans (PTY) Ltd.

Paarl: 021 870 1277
Pretoria: 012 653 2686
E-pos: info@bushlapa.com

CAMPING & OUTDOOR GEAR?

Get it from the Outdoor Store that Rocks!



Camping Gear
Hiking Gear
4x4 Gear
Climbing Gear
& More!



Tentco Tents
@ Factory Prices!

CAMP AND CLIMB

Centurion Byls Bridge Promenade, Bloukrans Rd
Tel.012-001-7237 centurion@campandclimb.co.za
Cape Town 42 Marine Drive Service Rd, Paarden Eiland
Tel.021-510-8112 info@campandclimb.co.za

Shop Online www.campandclimb.co.za

BURGER CANES
distinguished craftsmanship
Est. 1987



Renowned world wide for our quality range of bespoke, sword canes, hiking staffs, custom canes and superior hand made folding knives. Visit us at our showroom in beautiful Munster, KZN.

Cell. 082 926 5785
swordcane.com

ARK
SERIOUS FUN

The CROC Cr2
Versatile and Rugged
2 to 3 person canoe
Commercial specification
R10 400.00 inc VAT

Boats in Bags
Have the best summer fun ever
www.arkinflatables.com
Phone 021 7831672 email ark@ark.co.za

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT

Michael Parr

+27 (0)11 449 1089

michaelp@ramsaymedia.co.za



www.getaway.co.za

BETTER THAN THE REST

Cooper tyres is the only brand in South Africa with the conviction to offer



This **FREE** mileage warranty and protection plan is standard when you buy any 4 Cooper tyres.*

Why not fit the brand with so much more?

*TyreLife is only available from TyreLife Partners.
Terms and conditions apply.



COOPERTIRES®
FROM THE ROUGH TO THE SMOOTH

VISIT WWW.COOPERTYRES.CO.ZA
TO FIND YOUR TYRE SIZE.

GetawayGuide

To advertise contact **Erika Pienaar** | 021 530 3114 | erika.pienaar@ramsaymedia.co.za
www.getaway.co.za

 COUNTRY HOTELS™ PRESENTS		www.countryhotelssa.co.za PO Box 469, Green Point 8051	
 Kathu Inn Tel: 061 667 4321 Email: book@kathuinn.co.za www.kathuinn.co.za		 Plett Lagoon Villa Tel: 021 418 0966 Email: book@plettlagoonvilla.co.za www.plettlagoonvilla.co.za	
 Calvinia Hotel Tel: 027 341 1512 Email: book@calviniahotel.co.za www.calviniahotel.co.za		 Orange River Rafting Lodge Tel: 027 761 8777 Email: book@orrl.co.za www.orangeriverraftinglodge.co.za	
 Tankwa Lodge Tel: 027 341 1512 Email: book@tankwalodge.co.za www.tankwalodge.co.za		 Springbok Inn Tel: 027 718 1832 Email: book@springbokinn.co.za www.springbokinn.co.za	
 Clanwilliam Hotel Tel: +27 27 482 2888 Email: book@clanwilliamhotel.co.za www.clanwilliamhotel.co.za		 Kuruman Inn Tel: 053 712 1666 Email: book@kurumaninn.co.za www.kurumaninn.co.za	
 Namastat Lodge & Caravan Park Tel: 027 718 1832 Email: book@namastatlodge.co.za www.namastatlodge.co.za		 Pofadder Inn New Development Coming Soon Tel: 027 718 1832	

This space could be yours for

R1 150

(excl VAT)

EASTERN CAPE



A heaven like place between sky and earth





riverhotels.com

River Hotels Central Reservations Office
0861 748 374 reservations@riverhotels.com
riverhotels.com

It's like coming home!



MORGAN BAY
est. 1946 *Hotel*



www.morganbayhotel.co.za • info@morganbayhotel.co.za • 043 841 1062

UMNGAZI BECKONS



UMNGAZI RIVER
BUNGALOWS & SPA
WILD COAST • EASTERN CAPE • SOUTH AFRICA

- Located on a picturesque stretch of the **Real** Wild Coast
- A holiday playground for couples and families
- Unlimited possibilities for outdoor living and activities
- Great value for money

FOR RESERVATIONS: Tel. +27 47 564 1115/6/8/9 • stay@umngazi.co.za • www.umngazi.co.za

Wild Coast's best beach hotels

It's beach, sun and lots of fun.
7 night or combo packages available

CRAWFORD FAMILY HOTELS

bringing you happy memories
· since 1964 ·



FAMILY OWNED. FAMILY MANAGED

CRAWFORDS BEACH LODGE

Reservations:
043 738 5000

★★★★
STAR OF THE WILD COAST
- CHINTSA EAST -

chintsa@iafrica.com
www.crawfordsbeachlodge.co.za

Enjoy the rustic romance
of the Wild Coast

Reservations: 047 575 2005
info@oceanview.co.za
www.oceanview.co.za





A barefoot walk from your room to the beach



MPEKWENI BEACH RESORT, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 (0)40 676 1026 - www.mpekwani.com - Fax: +27 (0)40 676 1040

Tsitsikamma Lodge and spa

Easy to Find, Difficult to Leave



riverhotels.com

CENTRAL RESERVATIONS

Tel: 0861 RIVERH (748374)
reservations@riverhotels.com

Wild Coast
HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS

Wild Coast Hiking Wild Coast Ponds Walk Hike in the Wall

HOTEL HIKING TRAILS ALONG SOUTH AFRICA'S LEGENDARY WILD COAST

- Accommodation Reservations
- Conference Venues
- Adventure Excursions
- Transport
- Tailored Packages

Tel: +27 (0)43 743 6181
Fax: +27 (0)43 743 6188
meross@iafrica.com
www.wildcoastholidays.co.za

"Join the **high** flyers at down to earth prices"

082 424 6267
m.getaway@cloud9balloonrides.co.za
www.cloud9balloonrides.co.za

1620

Situated in the North West Province

Do it in style

TEL (011) 705-3201
FAX (011) 705-3203
MOBILE 083 379-5296
WEB www.balloon.co.za
EMAIL m.getaway@balloon.co.za

WINNER: SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM WELCOME AWARDS 2006

GAUTENG

Mountain trails, accommodation & game reserve

Accommodation:
www.nmtrails.wix.com/nmtrails
Tel: 072 304 5802
info@ingwebushcamp.com
www.ingwebushcamp.com

KWAZULU NATAL



Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge
Tel: 058 713 6361/1 or 073 228 7391
info@witsieshoek.co.za

www.witsieshoek.co.za with online bookings

salt rock hotel

KZN North Coast

- * All rooms sea facing
- * Only 20 mins from King Shaka Airport
- * Conference facilities
- * Weddings on the beach

www.saltrockbeach.co.za
hotel@saltrockbeach.co.za

Tel: 032 525-5025



Self-catering and lodge accommodation in the Southern Drakensberg
www.penwarn.com
033 7011368

Hassle free self-catering
Beachfront apartments



Ballito &
Chakas Rock
Tel: (032) 946 2140

PARSONS
HOLIDAY LETTING
www.parsonsletting.co.za

Self-catering Holiday Accommodation



Zinkwazi Beach

North Coast of Natal

Engela Wium

Driftwood Estates

ewium@mweb.co.za

082 378 3546

www.driftwoodestates.co.za

*The place to be for your next
outdoor adventure.*



SPECIAL!

Stay for 3 or 4 nights & receive 15% discount or
stay 5 nights & receive 20% discount (Excl peak periods)

CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL

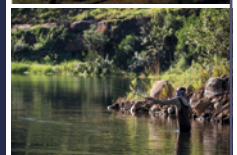
Drakensberg

Beauty with Excitement

Warm hospitality is as much a part of Cathedral Peak Hotel's tradition as is the incredible natural and cultural heritage of the surrounding mountains. The Hotel boasts a vast array of activities for the whole family, from a heated swimming pool to mountain bike trails, a 5km marked jogging trail, volleyball, squash and tennis courts, helicopter flips, horse rides, guided quad bike rides, a 9-hole golf course with alternative tees, Bushman paintings, bird spotting, FREE daily guided hikes, adventure golf, games room, a climbing wall, a full gym and a wellness centre.

Tel: 036 488 1888 Email: info@cathedralpeak.co.za

Web: www.cathedralpeak.co.za



Self Catering Cottages
Caravanning & Camping
Restaurant & Bar
Adventure Centre
Mountain bike trails

Tel: +27 (0)36 468 1031

Fax: +27 (0)36 468 1104

dpp@dragonpeaks.com

www.dragonpeaks.com

UMHLANGA ROCKS
breakers210

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, groundfloor unit.
- Fully equipped kitchen.
- Use of all hotel facilities.
- Beachfront.
- Undercover parking.
- 24 hour security.
- From R1760 per day - Low season.

Call Ina 082 572 9463
e-mail: wburgoog@mweb.co.za
website: www.breakers210.co.za

RAMSGATE HOLIDAY COTTAGES

SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION

ON THE BEACH OR WALKING DISTANCE IN TRANQUIL RAMSGATE.

PH: 039 314 4308 / 317 9173
FAX: 039 314 4761
EMAIL: ramshol@telkomsa.net
WEB: www.rhcottages.co.za

SMUGGLERS COVE COTTAGE, RAMSGATE

WALK TO THE BEACH AND LAGOON

Sleeps five, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Self catering, All mod cons, TV, Braai, Garden, Pool, Birdlife.

Tel: +27 (0) 11-887-8311
Fax: 086-610-7858
Cell: +27 (0) 82-417-5717
mstaffordmayer@gmail.com

Self Catering Holiday Accommodation

Shelly Beach, St Michaels, Uvongo
Manaba, Margate & Ramsgate,
The KwaZulu Natal South Coast

Tel: 039 315 6334

Email: relax@happyholidays.co.za

VIEW OUR ACCOMMODATION ON OUR WEBSITE

www.happyholidays.co.za

Happy Holiday Homes

ST LUCIA

Fish Eagle

holiday accommodation

Self catering, Air-conditioned, Pool, Covered parking, DSTV

Tel/Fax: +27 (0)35 590 1645
+27 (0)73 608 4367
enquiries@fisheaglesl.co.za
www.fisheaglesl.co.za

SUMELDA CABANAS



Luxury fully fitted three bedroom holiday apartments.

Tel +27 (0)39-3121022
Fax 086 7512155
www.sumelda.kzn.co.za

LIMPOPO

PAFURI
rivercamp



Main Camp

Tented treehouse accommodation. Bushbar, lapa and swimming pool. Relaxed informal atmosphere. From R400 pppn

Campsite

Secluded campsites from R140 pppn


The authentic bushveld experience

- Bordering Kruger Park's Pafuri Gate
- Birding specials include African Finch, Mottled Spinetail and Pel's Fishing Owl
- Self catering or fully catered on request

082 785 0305 | www.pafuri.co.za
rivercamp@pafuri.co.za

SEOKAMA TENTED CAMP

SELF CATERING R250PP



Malaria free, Thabazimbi/Rooiberg, 40km from Mabula, reed bathroom, kitchenette on deck, boma, plunge pool, game drives, self drives, walks, birding

seokamabookings@gmail.com
Peter 072 724 6948 • www.seokamacamp.co.za

Palala WATERBERG

Private Game Reserve

Self catering bush lodges. R250-R450 pppn

Tel: +27 (0)82 570 8474 / +27 (0)83 438 1166
www.jembisa.com
info@jembisa.com



www.lepellelodge.co.za



VAAIWATER • LIMPOPO • SOUTH AFRICA

MATINGWE LODGE

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

★★★★★

LUXURY ACCOMODATION, TENTED CAMPS, CAMPING & CARAVANING

riverhotels.com

River Hotels Central Reservations Office
0861 748 374 reservations@riverhotels.com



MPUMALANGA

DJUMA GAME RESERVE



Enjoy five-star luxury, self-catering, freedom to plan your own schedule and to savour the bush at your own pace. Like owning your own game farm without the hassle.

E-mail: reservations@djuma.co.za
Tel: +27 (0)13 735 5555 • www.djuma.com

THULAMELA

Hazyview



Cell: 082-454-8278
www.thulamela.co.za

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT

Erika Pienaar
+27 (0)21 530 3114
erikap@ramsaymedia.co.za

www.getaway.co.za



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

in the highveld with a little bushveld ...

Camping and various accommodation options.

Fishing • Hiking • Bird watching
Indoor heated swimming pool
Pedal boats • Horse rides • Table tennis
Bring your own bicycle - ample riding space

OLIFANTS River Lodge



013 243 9401
082 892 3029
www.olifants-river-lodge.co.za

KRUGER ADVENTURE SAFARIS



COME ALIVE IN AFRICA

www.krugeradventuresafaris.co.za Contact: 0815016526

YOUR STEPPING STONE TO A UNIQUE BIG 5 SAFARI EXPERIENCE, PRICED FOR THE LOCAL POCKET!




3 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE SAFARI SPECIAL @ R2490 PER PERSON
(works out to R830 per night)

INCLUDES: • Full Day Open Vehicle Guided Safari. Done by experienced and passionate guides. 80% Big 5 success rate in just one drive! Entrance Fees, Tea/Coffee and Rusk and Breakfast Pack included. • 3 Nights accommodation • Breakfast and Dinner

Eco-friendly • Newly managed • Transport offered from JHB
kavi@krugeradventurelodge.co.za

BRAND! Kruger Adventure Lodge rated "Excellent by 27 travellers"

tripadvisor

SATSA
BONDED

★★★★★
TOURISM GRADING COUNCIL



Timamoon is an exotic hideaway between Sabie and the Kruger Park. Secluded villas have fireplaces, daybeds and private pool overlooking the forest and distant mountains. Share a picnic below the waterfall, enjoy a couple's massage and then indulge on decadent cuisine in a candle lit restaurant.

+27(0)13 492 0033
timamoonlodge.co.za

TIMAMOON



Tranquil Nest

AFFORDABLE LUXURY ★★★★★

HAZYVIEW

- ★ Chalets with Private Jacuzzi's or Heated Splash Pools
- ★ Caravan Sites with private facilities
- ★ 10km from the KNP and central to the Panorama Route
- ★ Excellent Security, Back up Water and Electricity
- ★ Exciting Activities, and lovely restaurants in close proximity.

YOU DESERVE IT!


Ellen 0825569383
info@tranquilnest.co.za

CONTACT US DIRECT FOR SPECIALS

NORTH WEST

BUSH BREAKS WITH
Getawaytravel

For more packages visit
getaway.co.za/travel
Contact Claudia on
021-530-3380
or travel@getaway.co.za



Set in the Magaliesberg Mountains, this is a haven for campers, hikers, birders, budding botanists or anyone seeking peace and quiet in natural, unspoilt surroundings. No radios or noise allowed. The reserve has crystal clear mountain pools and some of the finest scenery. Log cabins, chalets, cosy huts and camping facilities are available. Day visits welcome. Booking is essential.

www.mountain-sanctuary.co.za
Tel/fax (014)534-0114 • Cell 082-707-5538 • owen@mountain-sanctuary.co.za



Tau Roara Lodge NEAR LICHTENBURG
Luxury self-catering chalets and Caravan park

Contact details: Gerhard 083 273 4129 • Carina 083 598 7112 • Lodge 018 5710233
Website: www.tauroaralodge.co.za • E-mail address: tauroaralodge@lantic.net



Bush 'n Buck near Britz

- Caravan park • Licensed kiosk
- Conference facilities • 3 swimming pools - 1 heated
- Game viewing by golf cart • 24 Chalets - 6 with private Jacuzzi's



Tel: +27 82 772 4747 • Web: www.bushnbuck.co.za

WESTERN CAPE

TENIQUA TREETOPS

Far from the maddening crowd. Eco-friendly, self-catering, private treehouse set in the indigenous forest. Romantic honeymoon hideout or family fun in the sun. Forest walks, large river pools, wonderful birds.



KNYSNA
queries@teniquatreetops.co.za ★★ ★★
 Tel: 044 356 2868 • www.teniquatreetops.co.za

BRENTON ON SEA COTTAGES

Self-catering Beachfront Resort - 16km from Knysna. Enjoy magnificent view and 7km of unspoilt beach. Accommodation varies from fully equipped S/C log chalets ideal for family vacations to cosy woodenlog cabins for couples. Daily house-keeping services. Restaurant. Convenience Shop. DSTV.



★★★ ★★ ★★
 Tel: 044 381 0082/3 • Fax: 044 381 0026
reservations@brentononsea.co.za
www.brentononsea.co.za **KNYSNA**

De Hoop - Jewel of the Cape

• Luxury self-catering accommodation • Weddings • Conferences • Restaurant



www.dehoopcollection.co.za In partnership with:  CapeNature
info@dehoopcollection.co.za, 0861 DE HOOP (33 4667) or + 27 28 5421253

GORDON'S BAY

THE BOARDWALK ACCOMMODATION

Luxury self-catering, fully equipped sea-facing single or three-bedroom apartments on the Gordon's Bay waterfront. 45 Minutes from Cape Town.

The Boardwalk, Breakwater Lane Harbour Island, Gordon's Bay
 Tel / Fax: +27 (0)21 856 3471 Cell: 082 555 9318
boardwlk@iafrica.com • www.boardwalkaccommodation.co.za



Leisure & corporate rentals in and around Cape Town & Johannesburg

fz

APARTMENT RENTALS



FZP Apartment Rentals
 +27 (0) 21 426 1634
www.fzp.co.za
info@fzp.co.za
www.facebook.com/fzapartments

Why stay home when you can stay with us...
 No time wasted with our real-time availability calendars, and reservations booking engine with instant confirmation.
Try it LIVE... www.fzp.co.za




BRENTON-ON-SEA, KNYSNA

Ferien am Meer Beach House

Self-catering holiday accommodation

This modern, fully furnished self-catering house has 3 spacious bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms. The house offers an open plan living space, full kitchen and covered patios. The accommodation is walking distance from Brenton's main beach and comes with braai facilities, DSTV, washing facilities, parking and a weekly cleaning service. Additional rooms are available at an additional cost.

Tel: 083 345 5731 or
 email: brentonvacation@gmail.com

ARNISTON

Luxurious self-catering thatched cottages fully equipped and serviced



Arniston Seaside Cottages Reservations (028) 445 9772
www.arniston-online.co.za Email: cottages@arniston-online.co.za



Paternoster Rentals

082 7603529 • info@paternosterrentals.co.za
www.paternosterrentals.co.za

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT



Erika Pienaar
 +27 (0)21 530 3114
erikap@ramsaymedia.co.za

www.getaway.co.za

MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA & SEYCHELLES

PONTA MALONGANE

SELF-CATERING AND CAMPING
www.wakene.co.za 082 494 1047



THE BEST OF MOZAMBIQUE:

Tel: +27 (0)11 465 3427 res@mozcon.com • www.mozcon.com



GATEWAY TO BOTSWANA

en route to Tuli Block, Moremi, Chobe and Vic Falls

Ideally situated on the Limpopo River at the Martins Drift Border Post, Botswana. Luxury, self catering or budget accommodation and camping available. Pool, Restaurant & Pub! Visit Kwa Nokeng Butchery for top quality meat products.

AVOID MARTINS DRIFT BORDER POST DELAYS:
WE ARRANGE VEHICLE ENTRY PERMITS

KWA NOKENG
OFF ROAD ADVENTURES
BOTSWANA



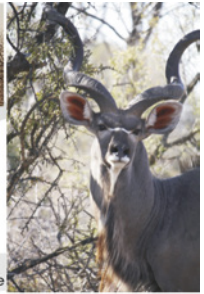
www.kwanokeng.com • clinton@botsnet.bw

Tel: +267 491 5908 • Fax: +267 491 5928 • Cell: +267 729 59949



Located just 15km's out of Botswana's Capital City, Gaborone, Mokolodi Nature Reserve offers a wonderful bush experience. The Reserve offers both chalet and camping accommodation, as well as loads of fun and exciting activities, such as: Giraffe tracking, Cheetah interactions, Game Drives, cycling, and much more.

☎: (+267) 316 1955/6 or (+267) 713 210 21 • www.mokolodi.com
✉: bookings@mokolodi.com • f: Mokolodi Nature Reserve



Self Catering Unit in Seychelles R450 P.P.P.N



- Kids Under 10 Stay Free
- Beach BBQ
- Fishing Trips ½ Day & Full Day
- Sunset Cruises
- Car Hire
- Island Hopping
- Snorkeling

All the above are at extra cost or can be arranged

Contact: Claudia Rouillon Phone: 00248 – 2595463 E-Mail: rouillon@seychelles.net



10% discount
on all bookings booked
before 30 June 2017

Subject to availability and T&C's apply.
PROMO Code "getaway"



PRIVATE, LUXURY and FULLY INCLUSIVE
charters to explore the beautiful
Inner and Outer Seychelles
Fleet includes sailing catamarans,
power catamarans, sportsfishers

CONTACT CARLI FERREIRA – carli@oceancharters.sc or +248 278 7403
www.oceancharters.sc

NAMIBIA

WHERE TO STAY.NA
BOOK YOUR NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA TRIP

- MAPS
- E-BOOKS
- TRIP PLANNER
- 80+ DESTINATIONS
- 600+ CAMPS & ACCOMMODATION

WHERE TO CAMP.NA

Uncover the Namib Desert's best kept secret!



HANSA HOTEL
Swakopmund
★★★★ TYYY

Namibia's finest address.

Great Seasonal Specials!

HANSA HOTEL



Tel Int. 264-64-414200 Fax Int. 264-64-414299
NAMIBIA • reservations@hansahotel.com.na
http://www.hansahotel.com.na

ROMANTIC GETAWAYS
WITH

Getawaytravel

For more packages visit

getaway.co.za/travel

Contact Claudia on

021-530-3380

or travel@getaway.co.za

**TOURS,
ACTIVITIES
& HIRE**

Limpopo FIELD GUIDING ACADEMY

Field Guiding Courses

Office: +27 (0)72 625 4709 • +27 (0)14 740 0153
Email: info@limpopotraining.co.za
Website: www.limpopotraining.co.za

TIFFINDELL

Come SKI S.A.'s snow.
Bookings now OPEN!



011 781 2620

www.snow.co.za



PROFESSIONAL MOUNTAIN EXPEDITIONS

Kilimanjaro, Elbrus and other destinations

www.adventuredynamics.co.za • info@adventuredynamics.co.za • +27 82 853 8769

4x4 RENTALS

Land Rover | Hilux | Land Cruiser | Fortuner



4x4 rental specialists

The ideal vehicle for self drive in Botswana

Fully equipped to the highest specifications

Free assistance with route planning



Bushlore
Self-Drive Safaris **AFRICA**

+2711 312 8084 | info@bushlore.com

www.bushlore.com



A barefoot walk from your room to the beach



MPEKWENI BEACH RESORT, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 (0)40 676 1026 - www.mpekweni.com - Fax: +27 (0)40 676 1040



GRINDROD
BANK



7-11 JUNE 2017

Cycle the beautiful untouched Wild Coast, stay at the award-winning Umngazi River Bungalows and Spa and make a difference to the lives of our local community learners!

YOU COULD WIN: A DAY TRIP TO UMNGAZI OR A LUXURY SUITE ROOM UPGRADE
ENTER THE RACE NOW AT PONDOPEDAL.COM

Springbok Inn

All Rooms are En-suite
& Air-conditioned

Free Wi-Fi, Secure Parking
& 24 hour Reception



027 718 1832 www.springbokinn.co.za

**EASTER
SPECIAL**

**DOLPHIN ROOM
R1250 PPN
MINIMUM 3 NIGHTS**



CRAWFORDS
BEACH LODGE



PARADISE ON THE WILD COAST

www.crawfordsbeachlodge.co.za
chintsa@iafrica.com
+27(0)43 738 5000



INSIDER'S GUIDE

PLACES YOU CAN GET TO IN A LONG WEEKEND

Stargazer skies at Matamba Bush Campsite. Waterberg local Philip Calcott does night-sky safaris. 083-552-2119



THE INSIDER

Getaway's

Melanie van Zyl has been visiting the Waterberg since she was eight. Both her grandfathers were born in the area: one on a farm in Naboomspruit (now Mookgopong), and the other under a tree on a cattle farm just outside Nylstroom (now Modimolle). To her, the real Waterberg lies somewhere in between. Here she is aged nine.



Waterberg, the true nature lover's retreat

Just three hours from Joburg is a place that will make any wildlife enthusiast rejoice. MELANIE VAN ZYL returns to her childhood stomping ground



ABOVE Accommodation in the trees at Bushwa.
INSET It's rustic from the outside but offers luxe comfort within.

I could probably drive to Vaalwater in my sleep.

I find myself anticipating every bend in the road and can give you the precise kilometre (240 from Joburg) where the tar road sweeps right and starts to climb. The speed-limit sign indicates I need to slow down to 70km/h, which coincidentally is just the right speed to sneak a glimpse left and catch the band of identically shaped mountains called the Seven Sisters standing guard at the entrance to the Waterberg plateau. The road becomes a hill, scrambling up and over this first set of mountains, cutting through the top so that red walls surround it at the peak, briefly terminating both radio and phone signal. This is when I know I've arrived in the bushveld – I can almost smell the biltong.

When I first started visiting Vaalwater, we used to buy meat and droëwors from Baber's Butchery, stop for supplies at the small Spar next to the Total garage, buy yellow mealie meal to have for breakfast from the formidable grain silos in the centre of town and visit the Agrimark behind them for lucerne, salt lick and other supplies for our small game farm. While Dad got the boring stuff, my mum, sister and I would peruse The Black Mamba, chewing biltong as we browsed. If I was lucky, I'd leave with a necklace, fold of printed fabric or a ring made from bone.

I still stop at the shop whenever I'm passing through – Vaalwater is a gateway for travellers driving to Botswana. Despite visiting for so many years, I only met the shop owner recently, and I remember when it used to be in the old garage building, where the Spar once was too. Now it's in a face-brick outdoor shopping complex which has become the hub of Waterberg safari life.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT If you're lucky you'll spot sable on a stroll around Matamba's property; Clive Walker shows me some of the fossils he plans to display in the new Waterberg Living Museum.
BELOW Seringa Cafe has a garden setting for outdoor eating.



Hilda Mahlako is the shop assistant and has been there since it opened. She always asks after my mum and sister despite the fact that we sold the farm and haven't visited regularly since 2010.

'I knew you from when you were very young,' she says when I'm about to leave. She makes that beautiful African hand signal, with her fingers on one hand pinched and pointed up (so as not to crush the child's soul) and holds it beside her to show how tall I was back then. I walk out with a small mat made from Chappies wrappers and two red necklaces, made from lucky beans, for R15 each.

Vaalwater looks a little different today with its small mall, but there is still only one stop street and no traffic lights. I just love that. I can't go back to the farm any more, but there are still two places in the Waterberg which make my heart beat in the same way: Lindani Lodges and Matamba Bush Campsite.

In a bygone age the Waterberg was a land of swamps and giant lakes. I know the true Waterberg by looking at its colourful, lichen-covered rocks, where you can still see waves frozen in time. I can find these rocks, warm hospitality and great value at both these places. >

3 stops to include on the way

Waterval Padstal is best for buying local peaches (R35 a box in season). It's roughly 22km from Modimolle on the R33 to Vaalwater. Keep an eye open along the roadside for other seasonal fruit on sale, such as watermelons and even golden marulas.

Geluksfontein Cheese Farm is 11km further on from the Padstal. It's a fun farm stop for kids as they can feed the animals, and the restaurant has the most affordable toasted sarmies around, or grab an old-school jaffle for just R20. Don't leave without buying some of the goat's cheese.

Mapita Farm Stall is on the right-hand side about 4km before Vaalwater, and is worth stopping at for lemonade cordial and marmalade made by locals. There are also unusual jams such as pear and watermelon. From R45 a bottle.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT My family and I around the firepit at Lindani's Skebenga Lodge – the perfect setting for a lazy potjie-making afternoon; there's an abundance of giraffes at Lindani and you'll see them when hiking or biking.

Where do the locals go?

Clive Walker, conservationist

'Seringa Cafe is excellent. It's really a super spot where most of the travel industry turn up (see opposite page). There's also La Fleur, a coffee shop with excellent food.' 014-755-3975



Hilda Mahlako, shop assistant

'Locals come to the Zeederberg Centre to shop and also the Kamatsogo NGO shop, where the ladies do embroidery and sewing.'



Sam van Collier, lodge owner

'Our favourite is to attend the Sunday morning service at St John the Baptist Church at 24 Rivers, a Herbert Baker-designed church building.'



My grandparents used to take my sister and I to Lindani Lodges during school holidays. We'd cycle, collect dung beetles and porcupine quills, and feed the orphaned black rhino, Bwana, at conservationist Clive Walker's place in the nearby Lapalala Wilderness Reserve. Lindani is also where I found a pile of nature magazines and begged my grandpa to subscribe me to *EnviroKids*, the Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa's magazine. I'd decided that when I grew up I would be a conservationist, and I fervently studied Clive's books about spoor and dung, drew my own artworks of kudu and (embarrassingly) wrote wildlife poems. I never dreamt that one day I'd photograph my childhood conservation hero for *Getaway* and be privy to his newest project, the Waterberg Living Museum.

After catching up with Hilda at The Black Mamba, Clive shows me around the museum site where several buildings and a meandering path linking them will pay homage to the natural and human history of the Waterberg. He also plans to have a research centre and an outdoor coffee shop. I'm in no doubt that the project will be a success and can't wait to visit when the museum opens around Easter.

Right now it's Christmas time and my family and I are spending the festive season at Lindani. We're staying in the

RIGHT The Christmas potjie underway and a new family favourite: creamy trinchado.




three-bedroom Skebenga Lodge, close to the Palala River and the serene lily-filled dam we all love. It's a nostalgic mix of longing and satisfaction at finding ourselves together again in the Waterberg, telling stories about the time when ... back at the farm. We take full advantage of the deliciousness coming out of the Lindani kitchen; there are a variety of freshly prepared meals, such as stews and quiches, you can order and warm up.



We're rustling up our own potjies and braais, but it's a real treat to have milk tart, apple crumble and delectable just-baked seed bread to accompany our meals.

Matamba is a little different to Lindani, offering a sophisticated camping experience that immerses you in nature. Although it's often used just as a stopover between Joburg and Botswana, Matamba deserves a full-weekend stay. All the sites are surrounded by indigenous woodland, home to relaxed sable and giraffes, and come with a generous pile of firewood for braaiing beneath the bright star canopy.

Driving back to Johannesburg I recall a story by South African travel writer Dana Snyman, who went in search of the heart of the bushveld. He drove from Britz to Thabazimbi to Bela-Bela and then carried on to Lephalale to try and find it. There's a line in his story that I read when I'm back home beside my bookshelf that strikes a resonating chord with me: 'The Bushveld isn't a place ... the Bushveld is in your heart.' I agree, and luckily there are a few pockets of pristine beauty in the Waterberg that I can visit in case I ever forget. 



Plan your trip



GETTING THERE

From Johannesburg drive north on the N1 highway. At the Kranskop Toll Plaza (about 160km) take the left exit to Modimolle and follow the R33 through the town centre. From there it's a 60km drive to Vaalwater, which is the last stop for ice, fuel and food.

DO THIS

Mountain bike or hike

along one of Lindani's many accredited trails. Day visitors are welcome (R100 pp) but arrange it two days in advance. 083-631-5579

Shop for unusual crafts

made all over Africa and sold at The Black Mamba. It also has a range of books about the area and good nature guidebooks. 073-152-2082

Get a culture fix at the Waterberg Living Museum, a collection of six mini museums covering local, natural and ancient history, accessed along a 1,2km botanical route. Entry from R50 pp (tea garden free).

livingmuseum.co.za

See the Big Five at

Marakele National Park, half an hour from Vaalwater. The Waterberg range stretches all the way to the park and it's one of the best places to gaze up at the cliffs, also home to a Cape vulture colony. It's also one of the only places in the area that day visitors (R44 pp) can self-drive in Big Five territory. 014-777-6928

EAT HERE

Seringa Cafe is the most popular spot in town for locals and tourists (khaki clothing seems to be the fashion here). Fresh juices are blended on site depending on what's in season (it was watermelon with ginger when I was there, R25) and generous helpings of reasonably priced, tasty food are served. 014-161-0643

Mike's Meat Market at 361 Voortrekker Street (on the left as you drive into Vaalwater) sells delicious, perfectly dried biltong for about R255/kg. 082-550-1831

STAY HERE

Matamba Bush

Campsite is upmarket camping: Tau Camp is spread over four hectares and has four sites roughly 200m apart, with shared ablutions, a thatched kitchen area and a small pool. From R245 pp. Exclusive-use Mara's Camp is hidden in the middle of the farm. It has uniquely decorated ablutions built around the trees. From R270 pp. matambabushcamp.com

Lindani Lodges has nine self-catering options, from the eight-bed Molohe tented camp, great for a weekend away with friends (from R250 pp) to the 18-sleeper, four-house Motseng Lodge complex (from R370 pp). lindani.co.za **Bushwa Private Game Lodges** offers a more unusual stay in an amazing tree house overlooking a waterhole. From R1 500 pp sharing including all meals and game drives. bushwa.co.za

* Prices correct at time of going to print

WHERE NEXT

A DESTINATION TO INSPIRE YOU IN APRIL'S *GETAWAY*



Donkeys visit too (but there's a low fence to keep them out of the house) so pack some carrots and apples to feed them!

3...

That's how many chickens you can expect to find strutting about in the open-plan kitchen of this beautiful farm cottage in the Overberg. You could shoo them out and roll down the large blinds to deter them, of course, but having a curious chook for company is all part of the charm of staying on a working farm, surrounded by wheat fields and salt-of-the-earth people. It's just one of 12 farmstays across the country that we've chosen to visit for our April issue – the kinds of places where your fancy phone is no good, where wholesome country meals are the standard and where home-made is the best made. Look out for it on shelves next month.

SUBSCRIBE TO GETAWAY

THIS IS ONE WATER BOTTLE YOU WON'T BE THROWING AWAY!

The Bobble has its own activated carbon filter to remove chlorine, metals and other contaminants in tap water, ensuring it's healthier and better tasting – plus you'll save on buying bottled water. The 550ml bottle is made from non-toxic, 100% recyclable PET plastic, and each filter lasts up to two months or after filtering about 150 litres. Don't miss out, subscribe today!

ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER?

Save 35%, extend your annual subscription for only R285 and receive all the benefits of the offer above.

Simply contact us with this code:
17/03/SP/GTA



FREE digital subscription
and **FREE** delivery of your magazine



**+ Get a
water-filtering
Bobble Bottle
FREE!**



getaway.co.za/subscribe



subs@magsathome.co.za



'GETAWAY' to 32698 (R1,50 per SMS)



tel 0860-100-205 | fax 0866-704-101

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This offer is valid until 31 March 2017 and applies to print subscribers with a South African address only. Subscriptions with free gifts cannot be cancelled until the annual contract has expired. The colour of the gift may differ from that shown here and is subject to availability. *Getaway* magazine reserves the right to substitute the gift for another of similar value. Print subscribers can claim a FREE digital version by emailing subs@ramsaymedia.co.za. For foreign rates and other great offers, visit www.magsathome.co.za.

FOLLOW YOUR OWN PATH



Photography by www.i-livewild.com



The **HELLA Spotlight Range** is the perfect lighting solution wherever your path takes you.



Tel: +27 (041) 996-5700

Fax: +27 (041) 996-5720

www.hella.co.za/offroad

Follow us on:  

@hellasouthafrica

#hellavasummer

#hellasouthafrica

Technology with Vision

