

CAPE TOWN



Your HOLIDAY READING is...

...LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

STAY IN: CAPE VIEW CLIFTON
 We challenge you to find a hotel with a better view. Clinging to the mountain high above Clifton Beach, Cape View looks directly onto the peaks of the Twelve Apostles, with a boulder-strewn beach below. There's the loveliest terrace with plunge pool, where you'll want to decamp with a book for a MONTH (which is how long it will take you to read Madiba's tome). And the rooms! White and dove-grey, vast beds, big balconies (that view...). Mitch, the cool GM, lets you treat the place like your own. capeviewclifton.co.za



ABOVE, MOUNT NELSON HOTEL

...THE MAN IN THE BROWN SUIT

STAY IN: BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL
 Pink as a sunburnt colonialist, the Nelly is the place to go if you want to stay somewhere ladylike and be addressed as 'madam'. It's old-school traditional, but the chintz is being replaced with a lighter, brighter feel: silver and cream wallpaper, slate-grey velvet armchairs. High tea is all tinkling china and teeny cakes on the lush lawns (avoid at weekends, when you have to fight to get to the scones). belmond.com/mount-nelson-hotel-cape-town



...SOUTH AFRICAN ART NOW

STAY IN: ELLERMAN HOUSE
 Art is *everywhere* here: on the walls, dotted about the grounds, crammed into the little gallery. Rooms are sumptuous – deep velvet sofas, marble bathrooms and private terraces with whacking views of the Atlantic, perfect for whipping out sketchpad and charcoal. The newest villa is a hit – modern bedrooms, private chef and wine 'gallery', with 7,500 types and a giant corkscrew installation, filled with bottles. ellerman.co.za



RIGHT, LLANDUDNO BAY. LEFT, ELLERMAN HOUSE



Camps Bay. Left, Cape View Clifton. Below, Paranga restaurant

Your MUST-PACK BEACH ITEM is...

...SAND-PROOF BLANKET

GO TO: CAMPS BAY
 Pack a picnic, rent an umbrella and set up for the day. It's a summer-camp atmosphere at Camps Bay: lithe youths bounce around playing volleyball; families build sandcastles and munch sandy sandwiches. It's relaxed and low-key, although everyone still seems to look awesome in a swimsuit.

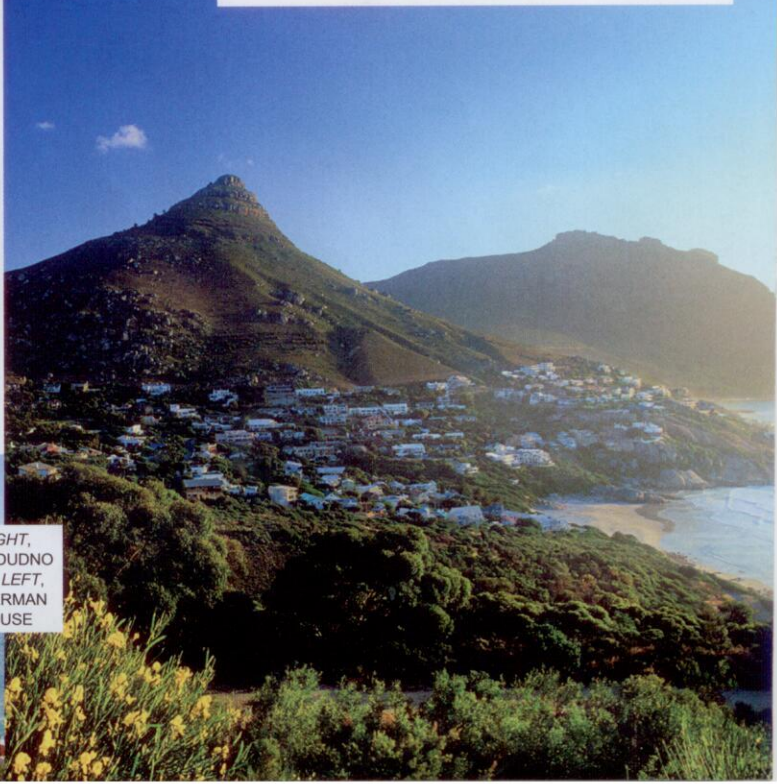
...TINY MELISSA ODABASH BIKINI

GO TO: CLIFTON
 A gorgeous series of bone-white crescents of sand, dotted with giant grey boulders and washed by scarily cold, turquoise water. This is where the beautiful people come to tan (they are very tanned), swim (they are very fit) and share bottles of mineral water (they are very thin). Damn them.



...SEX WAX

GO TO: LLANDUDNO
 The wild one. No shops, no bars (no loos) – just groups of buff young surfers throwing themselves into the freezing waves, lounging around on the baking sand and generally showing off.



Your IDEAL LUNCHTIME VIEW is...

...THE BEACH

EAT AT: PARANGA, CAMPS BAY

Nab a table at this airy seafood joint right on the seafront, where Capetonians lounge on banquettes, nodding their heads to music. The seafood platter is just that: huge, groaning with grilled calamari, prawns the size of poodles and glorious West Coast crayfish that will leave you swearing you'll never eat anything else ever again. The service is charming too.

...TABLE MOUNTAIN

EAT AT: MONDIALI, V&A WATERFRONT

This new venture by Peter Tempelhoff (local celebrity and Relais & Chateaux Grand Chef) is the first posh restaurant at the Waterfront in yonks, so we're excited. Opt for a table on the left terrace for stonking mountain views, and then tuck into brasserie staples – the wagyu burger with truffle fries and Umami ketchup is deliciously moreish. Look out for the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, due to open in 2016 in an old grain silo, with a stunning penthouse hotel up top.

...VINEYARDS

EAT AT: BISTRO SIXTEEN82, CONSTANTIA

This chic little number on the Steenberg wine estate is a modern, California-gorgeous bistro, with groovy driftwood installations and a sexy terrace with shimmering pools. Lunch might include golf-ball-sized spicy fishcakes, or slivers of smoked trout with a herby salad, followed by fat West Coast mussels cooked in Steenberg's sauvignon blanc, or a luminous summer pea and mint risotto. Take your time so you can sniff out the fabulous wines – the 2011 Magna Carta is mouthwatering.

Bistro Sixteen82

Robben Island

24 HOURS IN FRANSCHHOEK

Feeling frisky? Opt for a va-va-rrrrroom tour on the back of a chauffeured

Harley-Davidson through Africa Travel (see next page). A

more sedate option is a stroll around the insane car collection at L'Ormarins wine estate. Then pop over to Babylonstoren, a fabulous farm with rooms and divine lunch at Babel. Next, hook up with effervescent Jacquie Spiers from the Kusasa Project (thekusasaproject.org) and do the worthy (and very rewarding) thing by helping out at a local school.

Then it's to your perfect room in La Residence (laresidence.co.za), filled with antiques and art from around the globe. Sundowners on the lawns are followed by a hugely enjoyable supper at the chef's table, with the fiercely knowledgeable Evan plying you with different wine pairings.

You're FEELING...

...INSPIRED

VISIT: ROBBEN ISLAND

You've heard all about Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 27 years of his life. But nothing prepares you for the reality of it: the bleak isolation, the flat, featureless landscape, the tiny cells, the heartbreaking view back towards Cape Town. Its story is told by the guides – all former inmates. Soul-stirring.

...ENERGETIC

VISIT: TABLE MOUNTAIN

Zip up to the roof of the city in a spinning cable car, then hop out and get your bearings. Wander over the rocky top, look out over the city and glittering ocean, and say hello to the dassies, or rock hyraxes – sweet, guinea-pig-like creatures leaping about. If you're feeling *really* energetic, you can hike back down, but with a guide only, please – Africa Travel can get you one.

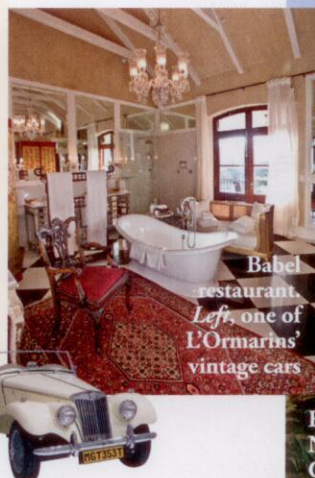
...LAZY

VISIT: KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Grab a picnic from the Tea Room and kick back on the lush lawns. There are few more glorious spots for a languid lunch – killer views of the mountains, rolling, rollicking vegetation and, in the more secluded pockets, only the odd guinea fowl or clawless otter for company. Bliss. ▷

ABOVE, ROBBEN ISLAND. BELOW, THE CABLE CAR UP TO TABLE MOUNTAIN

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, CAMERA PRESS, 4CORNERS, ALAMY, H-IMAGES, ISTOCK



Babel restaurant. Left, one of L'Ormarins' vintage cars



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden



ABOVE, TAPAS AT LA PARADA. BELOW, RUMBULLION AT THE ROUNDHOUSE



ABOVE & BELOW, BREE STREET



A shop on Bree Street



Food at the Test Kitchen



You're HOMESICK for...

...WEST LONDON

SHOP ON: LONG & BREE STREETS

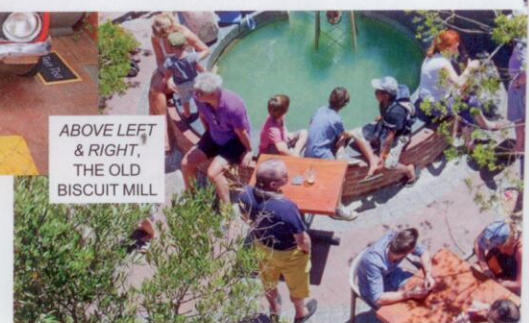
Start on Long Street, home to Merchants on Long – owned by local cool kid Hanneli Rupert. Her two-storey emporium is full of curated goodies from around Africa, like Malawian tie-dye shirts and colourful Bantu swim shorts, as well as her own Okapi handbags, *below right*. Next, it's to Bree Street in the CBD, where Avoova sells ostrich-eggshell bowls and jewellery from the Karoo region (sounds hippyish; looks incredibly smart); a few doors up is SAM (South Africa Markets), a converted warehouse stocking handmade leather bags and statement T-shirts. In January, Cape Cobra opens opposite – a temple to exotic (ostrich, croc et al), ethical leather goods. Up Bree you go, to the retro prints at Skinny laMinx, and to Missibaba, with its joyous leather bags printed with banana trees and disco-colourful belts. Collapse with a craft beer in &Union, or something stronger in the Orphanage Cocktail Emporium (it's on the corner of Orphan Street, not staffed by orphans).



...EAST LONDON

SHOP IN: WOODSTOCK

Remember the old Shoreditch? Gritty, grotty, a bit scary? That's what Woodstock used to be like. Used to. Because, much like Shoreditch, it has been transformed into the absolute coolest part of town. Centre of the fun is Albert Road, filled with groovy interiors shops and home to the Old Biscuit Mill, where you'll find dozens of little boutiques. Come on Saturday, when the Neighbourgoods Market takes over: two massive courtyards crammed with fabulous food and crafts stalls. Lounge at the shared tables, listen to live music or stroll around the shops: Imiso, for contemporary ceramics; brilliant local wines at Wine @ the Mill; Abode, for quirky souvenirs and accessories. Get cuffed up with the best cappuccino of your life at Espresso Lab. Finally, when the crowds are thinning out, hit the Pot Luck Club for sharing plates – crispy pig tails, fish tacos and a zingy blood-orange and gin sorbet. If you're here in 2015, bed down in the super-cool new Stack hotel (thestack.co.za) – a former Victorian warehouse. ▷



ABOVE LEFT & RIGHT, THE OLD BISCUIT MILL

You're HUNGRY for...

...SOMETHING WEIRD & WONDERFUL

DINNER AT: THE TEST KITCHEN, WOODSTOCK

Luke Dale-Roberts, South Africa's very own Heston, shows off his most jaw-dropping skills at this former warehouse. His five-course menu will knock your sandals off. Sesame and aubergine purée and goat's-cheese mousse get things going. Then there's delicate scallops, sensational pork belly with herby apples, citrusy fried kingklip with potato and cucumber salad. The wines? South African, and proudly so – the Sequillo white had me grinning like a Cheshire cat. The hottest ticket in town – book months in advance. thetestkitchen.co.za

...WINE!

DINNER AT: RUMBULLION AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

Arrive around 5pm and bag a table on the highest lawn here – our favourite sundowner spot in the city. Order a glass of Methode Cap Classique (the delicious local fizz) and put together a posh picnic – feta-stuffed peppadews, truffled cream cheese, cajun chicken pizza or a not at all tapas-sized Caesar salad. Eat, drink and join in the rumbullion. And here's a clever idea: pay R25 (£1.35) and they'll bring a little bag of toys for the kids, so you can indulge in (relative) peace. theroundhouserestaurant.com/rumbullion

...TAPAS

DINNER AT: LA PARADA, BREE STREET

This cool tapas joint is popular with a new breed of wonky-haired Capetonian. Hop onto a bar stool, stare at the retro flamenco posters and shout *si!* to octopus with potatoes, crunchy ham croquettes and calamari with salsa verde. After that, dive into a bowl of cinnamonory rice pudding, which you'll want to order again straight away. *No website; 00 27 21 426 0330*

BOOK IT Africa Travel (africatravel.co.uk) offers two nights at the Cape View Clifton and two nights at La Residence from £1,995 a person, including breakfast, hire car and flights with British Airways.

JOBURG

Your BEDFELLOW is...

...CANDICE SWANEPOEL

STAY IN: ATHOLPLACE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

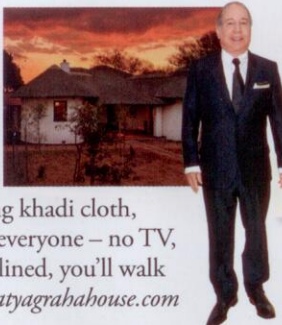
A colonial-style clapboard house, all white linen and handcrafted bowls and pretty silver teapots, with nine suites: some big and beautiful, some fronting the pool, all with Africology products in the bathrooms, which we LOVE. The company owns the lovely Morukuru properties in the Madikwe Game Reserve, a one-hour flight away (perfect for a frisky weekend). atholplace.co.za



...PAUL SIMON

STAY IN: THE SATYAGRAHA HOUSE

Fact of the day: Mahatma Gandhi spent 20 years of his life in South Africa. Today, his restored home is both a museum and seven-room bolthole. There are simple thatched rondavels, spinning wheels and wafting khadi cloth, plus morning meditation and yoga. It's not for everyone – no TV, meat, booze or pool – but if you're that way inclined, you'll walk in, take a deep breath and never want to leave. satyagrahahouse.com



...CHARLIZE THERON

STAY IN: THE RESIDENCE HOTEL

Live the charmed life of a rich local at this smart spot. The suites overlook manicured gardens, two pools, a tennis court and spa, and are a mere putt away from the golf course. A Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit is at your service, and returning guests will find monogrammed pillowcases on their beds. We love the sumptuous breakfasts, G&Ts in the rooftop Sky Lounge, eclectic collection of model boats and cut-glass bowls filled with lollipops. theresidence.co.za



ABOVE, A JOHANNESBURG SUNSET. RIGHT AND LEFT, AMATULI FINE ART. BELOW INSET, CUSHION FROM THE 1886 BOUTIQUE

SHOPS WE ♥

Amatuli Fine Art, in Kramerville

Max out your credit card at Amatuli, stuffed to the rafters with Congolese beaded chairs, cushions printed with Barack Obama graphics and antique colonial maps. Owner Mark Valentine is as bewitching as the store is bewildering. 'I just bought a palace from a maharaja in Jodhpur,' he tells us, 'which is in a shipping container somewhere.' We want it all, and we want it now.

1886, in Maboneng

Lauren Winchester has sourced oodles of Johannesburg-branded merchandise to create – genius! – the chicest souvenir store EVER, from crockery featuring iconic Joburg architecture to purses printed with the local hand signs used to flag taxis.

Iwasshot in Joburg :), in Arts on Main

Brilliant project where at-risk youths are given a disposable camera to take photos of the Joburg they know and love. The best are for sale here. Seek out Pritchard, a darling poster boy for the enterprise, who works the till. He'll tell you his story – and make you want to buy the lot.



Above right, right and far right, the Iwasshot in Joburg :) project

You're HANGING with...

...DAVE MATTHEWS

HEAD TO: BRAAMFONTEIN

Get your student groove on in the streets around Wits University. Juta Street is where young artists and designers while away their days in coffee shops (Post and Fatherland are good). Pop into the groovy City Kitchen restaurant at the Bannister Hotel, and on Saturdays slouch around Neighbourgoods Market, *above*, cramming onto shared tables to drink and be merry.



...DESMOND TUTU

HEAD TO: MABONENG

This once dodgy but now terribly cool district is where trendsetters and trendspotters hobnob under olive trees. Explore William Kentridge's studio and Bailey's African History Archive (selling covers of *Drum* magazine, *above*, which reported on township life under apartheid). Then shop for NewBrow's men's jeans and Anisa Mpungwe's bold-print jackets at Loin Cloth & Ashes.



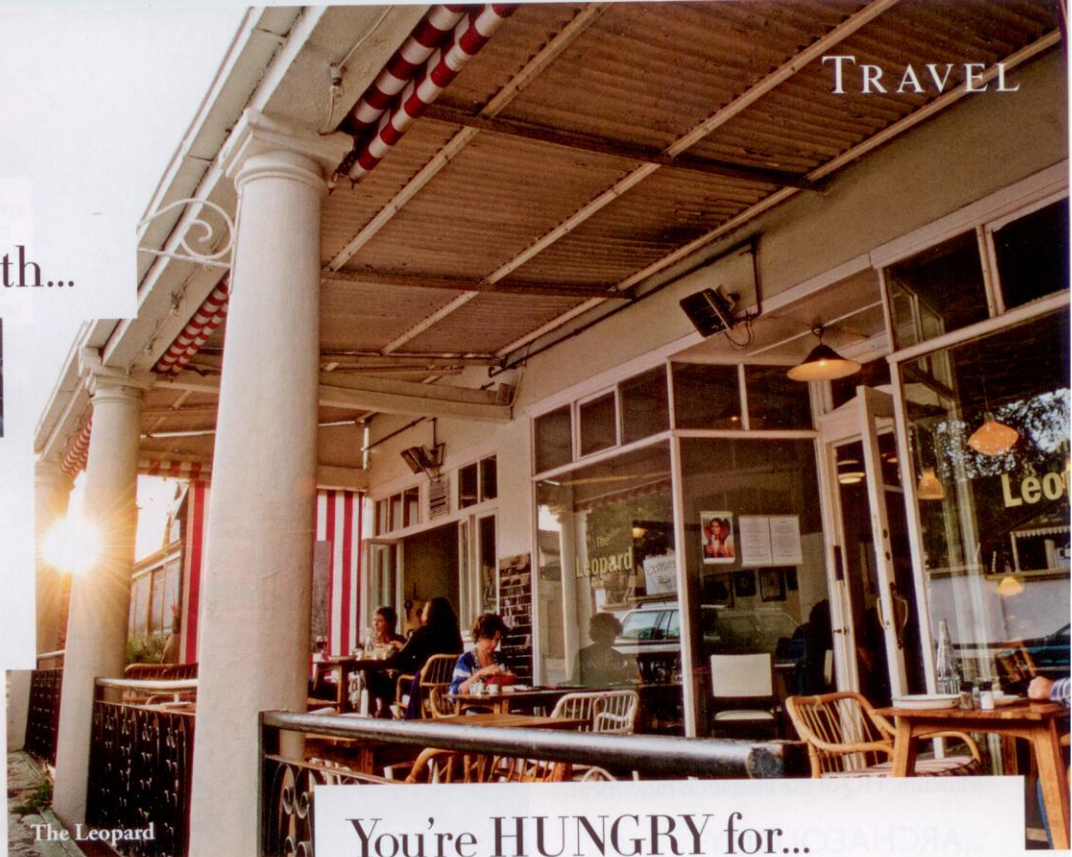
...MARK SHUTTLEWORTH

HEAD TO: 44 STANLEY

This converted former flour mill is the place for one-stop, one-of-a-kind shopping. Seek out: Lisa Jaffe's waisted dresses at Guillotine; furniture and accessories at Anatomy Design; Gallery AOP for sharp art; The Atelier, *above*, for enchanting picture books and limited-edition prints; lascivious lingerie at Méchant & Gentil. Then slump with a fair-trade coffee at Bean There.



Right, the Foundry in Parktown



The Leopard

You're HUNGRY for...

...SOMETHING DIFFERENT

LUNCH AT: THE LEOPARD

Opt for peri-peri quail. The Leopard is as cool as it gets, discreetly tucked away under a red-and-white awning down a side street in boho Melville, with furniture from a retirement home in Buenos Aires and a menu using only grass-fed beef, free-range poultry and sustainable seafood. leopardfoodcompany.com



RIISING STAR

**Four Seasons Hotel
The Westcliff**

A new Four Seasons will open in Joburg in early December, taking over the Westcliff hotel and its cliffside garden estate. To come: a three-Michelin-star French chef, pool and whacking great spa. fourseasons.com/johannesburg

...A SUPER-SALAD

LUNCH AT: THE FOUNDRY IN PARKTOWN

The signature salad here is a maxed-up version of the Caesar, piled with avocado, white tempura anchovy, poached egg and pancetta. This brasserie-cum-diner also serves steaks, seared scallops and sourdough pizza, and there's craft beer on tap (don't miss the Jack Black) and craft whisky (ditto the Peat Monster). foundrycafe.co.za

...MEAT!

LUNCH AT: FIVE HUNDRED AT THE SAXON HOTEL

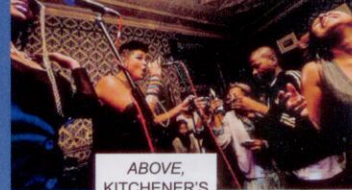
Super-chef David Higgs has a slick open kitchen and sensational tasting menu, including wagyu fillet and smoked brisket. And two of South Africa's nine official sommeliers are on the staff here; we love Lloyd's selections. More Babylonstoren chardonnay 2011, please! saxon.co.za/five-hundred ▷



STAYING SAFE

Don't over-fret about crime stats. Be street-smart and listen to local advice. For sightseeing, hire a driver-guide, who'll know where to go when (and how to avoid traffic), through Steppes Travel (see next page).

LEFT, THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND. RIGHT, SOWETO MURALS



ABOVE, KITCHENER'S CARVERY BAR. BELOW, SIR JAMES VAN DER MERWE BAR



You want to SWOT UP on...

...POLITICAL HISTORY

GO TO: THE APARTHEID MUSEUM & SOWETO

Make a beeline for this extraordinary museum, which covers everything from the rise of segregation to Mandela's release. Then take a guided tour of buzzing Soweto (through Steppes Travel – see below), nowadays less of a township and more of a thriving metropolis.

NO TIME? Visit Liliesleaf Farm & Museum, HQ of the liberation movement.

...ARCHAEOLOGY

GO TO: THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND

An hour west of the city, this World Heritage Site sheds light on our earliest ancestors – specimens date back 3.5m years. Wander around archaeological digs and timeline exhibitions and store away facts to drop brilliantly into future dinner-party conversations.

NO TIME? The downtown Origins Centre condenses the story of humankind in southern Africa, using rock art, ancient tools and state-of-the-art technology.

...ART

GO ON: AN ART TOUR

The Wits Art Museum, *left*, has arguably the finest African-art collection on the continent. Next, go to the Goodman Gallery in Parkwood (under apartheid, founder Linda Goodman would dress her artists as waiters so they could attend their own shows) and Everard Read, which has supported some of southern Africa's most important artists over the past 100 years.

NO TIME? Artist Proof Studio puts street kids through its printmaking courses and turns out limited-edition prints.



ABOVE, PORTRAITS OF NELSON MANDELA AT THE APARTHEID MUSEUM

You'll HIT THE TILES in...

...SPIKY AQUAZZURAS

The über-hip Sir James van der Merwe bar, in an old textile factory in the Kramerville district, is open every Wednesday from 4pm till late (over-27s only), touting scantily dressed locals, skyline views and a cat named Tequila. One floor up, Katy's Palace Bar is open the first Sunday of the month for the trendiest lunch in town, eaten at communal tables. Just across the street is The Collective, a clothes market held on the same day for afterparty revellers.



...BATTERED CONVERSE

Get all highbrow at the Bioscope independent cinema in Maboneng, which screens South African films and art-house classics. There's a restaurant and craft-beer bar, Chalkboard, where you can scribble on the tabletops (for late-night brainstorming). Grab the all-in-one cinema ticket + pizza + beer combo.



...GLITTERY FRENCH SOLE PUMPS

Rammed on the weekend, the Kitchener's Carvery Bar in Braamfontein is one of the oldest pubs in the city, with vintage-clothes sales from Wednesday to Saturday (on what is a dancefloor by night). Bar-hop a few doors down to Great Dane, with its rocking DJs. □



BEST BUYS (THAT TRAVEL WELL)



A six-foot giraffe – of course! – made from wire and beads (it twists up into your suitcase like a pretzel). They're colourful, characterful and will make you smile. A group of guys sell them on the corner of Jan Smuts and Chester in Parkwood, *left*. Ask for Telmore, whose giraffes are the jauntiest. And pick up handmade jewellery from Tinsel of Parkhurst, *right*, where Geraldine Fenn and Eric Loubser showcase toy-soldier cufflinks and wedding bands with punched-out hearts.



BOOK IT Steppes Travel (steppestravel.co.uk) offers three nights in Johannesburg from £1,265 a person, including breakfast, transfers and flights with British Airways.

