

NEAR & SAFARI

For over 30 years now, top-class tour operator Africa Travel has been bringing us closer to adventure, closer to jaw-dropping scenery, closer to magic. Take the trip you always said you would – visit South Africa

Beating drums. Dazzling colours. Saturated sunshine. South Africa is calling, wild and unbridled. For Frances Geoghegan – founder of Africa Travel – a love for this beautiful country became a business passion. Her aim? Delivering holidays of a lifetime. Africa Travel is comprised of experts who have either lived in Africa or travelled there extensively. The result of this impressive hive mind is a destination portfolio positively groaning with insider tips and local knowledge. Off-the-beaten-track exploration meets bend-over-backwards customer service.

With an office in Cape Town as well as in the UK, Africa Travel can advise you on the ground – about every part of your trip. Find the best safari, swankiest restaurant or greatest beach with expert help and cheap your way to 'well-travelled' status. Africa Travel can find the perfect property to suit your holiday, whether that's a chilled, seaside break or intrepid, action-packed adventure. South African Airways travels to South Africa in comfort from London's Heathrow airport. Just one direct flight lands you in sunnier climes. Ready? Wanderlust is catching...

ROYAL MALEWANE



ROYAL MALEWANE,
GREATER KRUGER AREA

A red sun sinks slowly into the bushveld's horizon. Dark branches of the baobab tree are thrown into relief by a sky suffused with pink. Birds call overhead as they sweep back to their nests. This wilderness is Kruger National Park – and Royal Malewane sits unobtrusively amongst it. It is a safari lodge like no other, tempering authentic wildlife experiences with unparalleled luxury. Here, interiors feel glamorously rustic – oodles of wood, verandas opening up to panoramic vistas and comfortable, colonial-esque furnishings. Royal Malewane is super swish, yes, but relaxed at heart. Choose from an elaborate dinner at the lodge or more laid-back fare served under the stars. There is a heavenly pool, plus a tip-top spa. And game spotting? Some of the best there is. Animals roam free in the surrounding bush and expert trackers can bring you hair-raisingly close to the Big Five. Unforgettable. This stylish lodge has true spirit.

Dipping into the Atlantic Ocean at the southernmost point of the African continent, South Africa feels like the edge of the world. Dramatic landscapes. Scrummy wine. Glitzy hotels. Paradise.

LA RESIDENCE, FRANSCHHOEK

Do you like waking up to blow-away-the-cobwebs mountain scenery? And being outdoorsy? Enjoy a glass of wine? If you answered 'yes' to any or all of these questions, La Residence might just be your dream destination. Huddled in the magnificent Franschhoek valley and surrounded by acres of vineyards, this is one pretty place. La Residence has all the feeling of total seclusion while still being just a five-minute drive from the local village. Not that you'll feel much like leaving. With a fully pampering spa and glorious pool, why would you? Oh, and the food! Reputed to be the gourmet capital of South Africa, Franschhoek boasts delicious fresh ingredients which La Residence serves up in abundance. The hotel produces three wines too and offers a range of wine-tasting experiences. Like by horseback, for example. A trek through the vineyards punctuated with a glass of wine here and there – what could be better? On the estate, you can hike, bike and get all rosy-cheeked. At night, fall into a sumptuous bed in the guest house or in one of five villas all lovingly decorated with eclectic, vintage touches.

TATLER OFFER

Try out all three Royal Portfolio properties with this package! Africa Travel offers a seven-day trip to South Africa from £3,395 per person sharing. This includes two nights with all food and activities at Royal Malewane, two nights with breakfast at La Residence and two nights with all food at Birkenhead House, plus a hire car, airport transfers and flights from London Heathrow with South African Airways.

BIRKENHEAD HOUSE



BIRKENHEAD HOUSE,
HERMANUS

There are windswept seaside hotels and then there's Birkenhead House. If you're craving a laidback beachy vibe with five-star edge, this place has it in spades. Think haute hippie on the Cape coast. Perched atop craggy cliffs and sandwiched by two impossibly perfect Hermanus beaches, this setting will bowl you over. The roar of the ocean and the tang of salt make it magic and hypnotically beautiful. It's all about the sea here. There are unrivalled whale-watching opportunities and shark-diving for the more adventurous. Try kayaking, surfing or horseriding on the strand. By then, you'll have an appetite for the fresher than fresh seafood-laden menu. Mussels are picked right on the shore! The decor is as fresh as the air – lots of white and shutter boards mixed with opulent touches. This is simply bliss.



LA RESIDENCE

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ELLERMAN HOUSE, CAPE TOWN



ELLERMAN HOUSE

Ellerman House is one of those rare gems. A boutique hotel which offers all the trappings of modern luxury while retaining bygone-era charm. Choose from rooms in the house or book one of two private villas for a more secluded getaway. Best of all, no part of this property is open to the public – it's solely for guests to enjoy. So exclusive really *means* exclusive. Once the stately home of distinguished shipping magnates Sir John and Lady Ellerman, this exquisite house, all archways and staircases, presides over Cape Town's Bantry Bay. It's an amazing spot. One which affords panoramic views out to the Atlantic Ocean and historical Robben Island. Manicured gardens and a pool complete the picture. The interiors of Ellerman House are not hard on the eye, either. Huge beds and carefully chosen art. Chandeliers and

plush furnishings. A library and a whisky bar. There are whizzy contemporary features too, like glass-fronted verandas, a fully equipped spa and infinity plunge pools in the villas. But what really makes Ellerman House so special is the art. It boasts one of the best private collections of modern South African art in the country. Guests are invited on a guided art tour to learn about the works at first hand. Ellerman House also has a Wine Gallery. This thoroughly unique concept is far more than a tasting room or cellar. Wine is showcased in a huge corkscrew sculpture which houses 1,500 bottles. Wow! Needless to say, cuisine and wine are fantastic here, with a menu hinged on organic local ingredients that changes every day. From golfing to whale-watching, there are tons of excursions to take. Or you could just sip a cocktail by that tranquil pool...that's fine too.

Fancy being lady of the manor at this exquisite house? Panoramic ocean views beckon



VILLA TWO

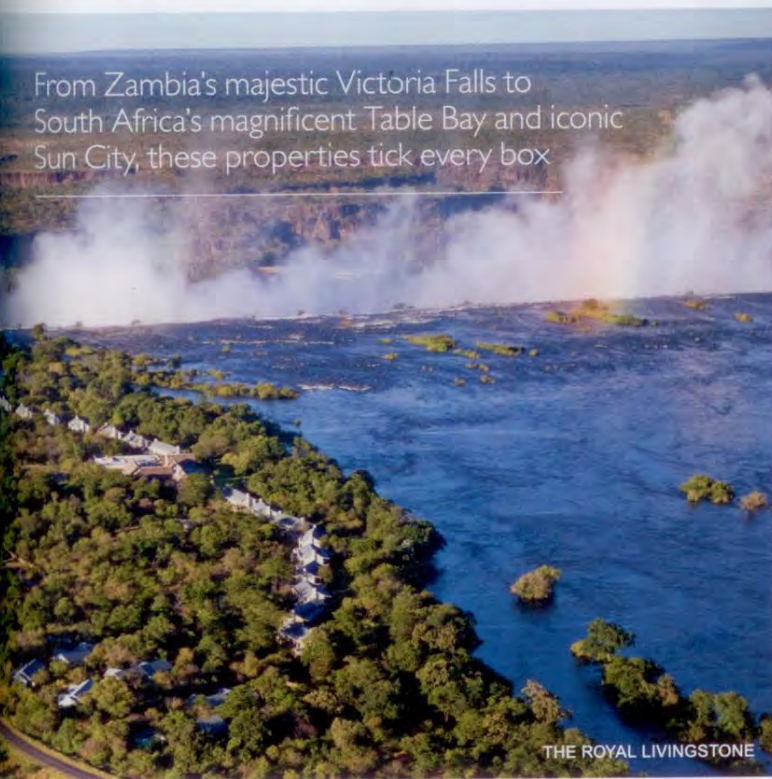


THE WINE GALLERY

TATLER OFFER

Wish you were relaxing here? Africa Travel offers five nights at Ellerman House from £1,825 per person sharing, including accommodation, breakfast, drinks, airport transfers and flights from London Heathrow with South African Airways.

From Zambia's majestic Victoria Falls to South Africa's magnificent Table Bay and iconic Sun City, these properties tick every box



THE ROYAL LIVINGSTONE

THE ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL, VICTORIA FALLS

Livingstone you presume? Well, you presume correctly. The Royal Livingstone Hotel, to be precise. Situated within the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park on the banks of the Zambezi River, just upstream of the mighty Victoria Falls, this establishment is every bit as spectacular as its location. Bedrooms exude an old colonial charm, with wooden fans, muslin billowing over beds and zebra-print rugs. Why not step aboard the Royal Livingstone Express, the train-themed restaurant? Rustling up exquisite fare, this locomotive will transport you to an era of romance and adventure. Or enjoy a cocktail at the Sundek bar while taking in those jaw-dropping falls. Here, almost everywhere has a view. The pool...the spa...the lounge. Feel every bit the intrepid explorer as you walk along Knife-edge Bridge to view the falls up close. Or, even better, helicopter over them for an experience you'll never forget. With giraffe, zebra and elephant roaming freely, you'll have the chance to view animals up close – such as on a sunset river safari, perhaps. What bucket lists are made of.

INDULGE IN A ROYAL RETREAT

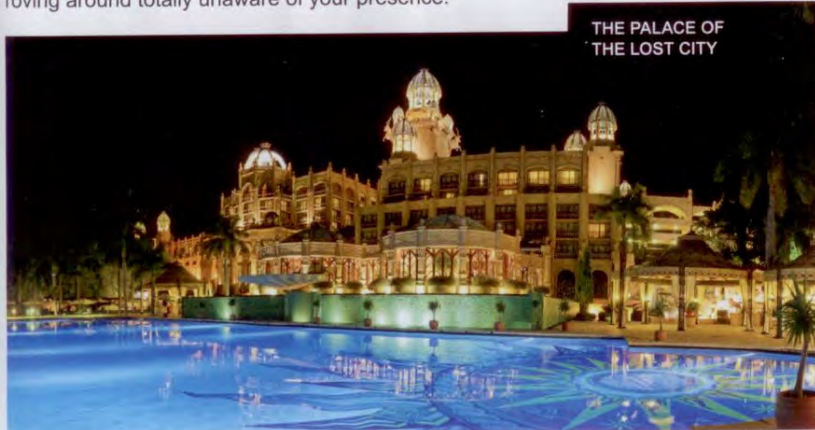
The outdoor Royal Water Retreat spa experience will lull you into pure serenity in a tent by the Zambezi River. It includes full body exfoliation, a botanical wrap and massage. Heavenly.

THE PALACE OF THE LOST CITY, SUN CITY

The Palace is as opulent as its name suggests. All swirling turrets and sculptural springbok prancing out from crevices. Chock-full of carvings and mosaics, the hotel's design is inspired by the legend of a lost African tribe. You'll want to get lost here too. Surrounded by lush botanical gardens and boasting a state-of-the-art spa and snazzy restaurants, this is a true haven. Best of all, The Palace's locale is malaria-free and has plenty to keep children entertained, including a large maze and waterpark. Just minutes from the gates lies Pilanesberg National Park. Here, you can see the Big Five in their natural habitat.

GO ON A HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI

Imagine drifting high above the Pilanesberg National Park – expansive ochre and yellow bushland spreading out like patchwork. You'll have a unique bird's-eye view of animals roving around totally unaware of your presence.



THE PALACE OF THE LOST CITY

TATLER OFFER

Want a holiday with a difference? Africa Travel offers a seven-night holiday from £2,395 per person sharing, including three nights at the Table Bay Hotel, two nights at the Royal Livingstone Hotel and two nights at the Palace of the Lost City, plus breakfasts, airport transfers and flights from London Heathrow with South African Airways.

TABLE BAY HOTEL



TABLE BAY HOTEL, CAPE TOWN

As city destinations go, Cape Town is pretty hard to beat – Table Mountain rearing up on one side, the dramatic Atlantic coastline on the other. It is a vibrant city steeped in history and famed for its local artisan markets and wine tasting. The Table Bay Hotel is inextricably linked with Cape Town's story – it was officially opened by Nelson Mandela in 1997. Perched on the historic Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, it is perfectly positioned to enjoy all the highlights of this bustling city. Each room boasts sweeping views of either the mountains or the ocean. Bliss. If you can pull yourself away from the incredible pool, you'll find plenty of wow-inducing activities, from whale-watching and shark-cage diving to mountain hiking.

FORAGE IN THE CITY

Explore Cape Town's 'natural outdoor markets' with Table Bay Hotel's executive chef Jocelyn Myers-Adams and recognised urban hunter-gatherer Charles Standing. Find dune spinach, wild garlic chives and sour fig all along Sea Point. Look out for mussels, porcini mushrooms and hibiscus petals. A unique way to learn about the eco-system and fill your stomach.

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