INSIGHT GUIDES

SOUTH AFRICA

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Inside front cover South Africa
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LEGEND

Insight On
Photo Story

THE BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA: TOP ATTRACTIONS

△ **Cape Town**. The Mother City is simply the most rewarding and enjoyable city in sub-Saharan Africa, with a spectacular setting matched by its lively nightlife, restaurant scene and great shopping. See page 151.

▽ **Cradle of Humankind**. This Unesco World Heritage Site west of Johannesburg hosts the inspiring Maropeng Visitors Centre and Sterkfontein Caves, where a near-complete 3.5 million-year-old skeleton is the oldest hominid fossil in the region. See page 272.



△ **Sun City/Pilanesberg Game Reserve**. The over-the-top Sun City complex borders the altogether more authentic Pilanesberg, home to the Big Five and unusually well-suited to budget DIY visits. See page 274.



△ **uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park**. This composite park protects southern Africa's largest and tallest mountain range. See page 255.



◁ **Mpumalanga's Panorama Route.** The escarpment rising to the west of the Kruger Park is studded with beautiful waterfalls and beauty spots. See page 282.

▽ **Table Mountain National Park**. Highlights of the park include the rotating cableway to the top of Table Mountain, Cape Point Lighthouse, and the penguins of Boulders. See page 161.



▽ **Hermanus**. This characterful small town east of Cape Town offers the world's finest land-based whale watching, particularly over August to October. See page 187.





△ **Cape Winelands**. Explore historic Stellenbosch and wine estates such as Vergelegen or Boschendal to enjoy the intoxicating combination of fine food, first-class wine and superb mountain scenery. See page 181.



△ **Storms River Mouth**. Crossed by suspension bridge, this is the scenic highlight of the lovely Garden Route National Park. See page 204.

▽ **Kruger Park**. Hosts some of the world's highest concentrations of lions, elephants, zebra, giraffe, leopards and rhinos. See page 286.



THE BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA: EDITOR'S CHOICE



Namaqualand.

SAFARIS

Sabi Sand and Mala Mala Game Reserves. Catering to those with deep pockets, these legendary reserves offer the most reliable leopard watching in Africa. See page 293.

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi. The largest of the Zululand reserves, and the best place to spot rhinos. See page 244.

Addo Elephant National Park. Known for its elephants, this park also protects the most varied habitats of any South African reserve. See page 210.

Madikwe Game Reserve. Excellent Big Five viewing is offered in this malaria-free reserve on the Botswana border. See page 276.

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Protecting the red dunes and dry watercourses of the Kalahari, this remote park offers some of the best predator viewing. See page 311.

Madikwe Game Reserve.



HISTORY AND CULTURE

Drakensberg rock art. Arguably the world's best open-air gallery, the caves and shelters contain thousands of ancient rock paintings. See page 256.

Robben Island. Now a Unesco World Heritage Site, this small island is where Nelson Mandela and other ANC members were imprisoned. Tours are conducted by former prisoners. See page 158.

Grahamstown Arts Festival. The university town of Grahamstown comes into its own in June, when it hosts a nine-day arts and fringe festival that attracts hundreds of theatrical, musical and other acts. See page 215.

Lesotho. The remote mountains of the "Kingdom in the Sky", best explored on horseback, offer a great opportunity to experience contemporary rural African culture in the company of the welcoming Basotho people. See page 327.

Mapungubwe National Park. Guided tours to the hilltop royal city that stood at the centre of a vast trade empire in medieval times, with the bonus of plentiful elephants and other wildlife along the Limpopo River. See page 295.

Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg.



TOP FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

Lion Park. Dense with lions and other game, Johannesburg's safari-style drive-through zoo is the ideal alternative to visiting a game reserve (where wildlife must actively be sought) for youngsters with low boredom thresholds. See page 273.

Gold Reef City. Initially a replica of gold rush-era Johannesburg built to celebrate the city's centenary, this is now more popular for its selection of thrilling and, in some cases, heartstopping adventure rides. See page 277.

Two Oceans Aquarium, Cape Town. From seahorses and squids to dolphins and penguins, this excellent aquarium will appeal to children of all ages, as will its equally worthwhile counterparts in Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth. See page 158.

Monkeyland, Plettenberg Bay. Guided walks through the large forested enclosure, which contain monkeys and lemurs from around the world. See page 203.

uShaka Marine World, Durban. Offering exciting splashy water rides, this is the centrepiece of Durban's child-friendly waterfront, which also boasts a snake park and aquarium. See page 228.

Ostrich Farms. Several farms around Oudtshoorn let you ride, eat and buy the hollowed eggs of the world's largest – and most bird-brained – feathered creature. See page 196.

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

iMfolozi Trail. A great overnight hike through the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve. See page 245.

Caged Shark Dive, Mossel Bay. Just a few steel bars protect view-ers from the rapacious "great white". See page 194.

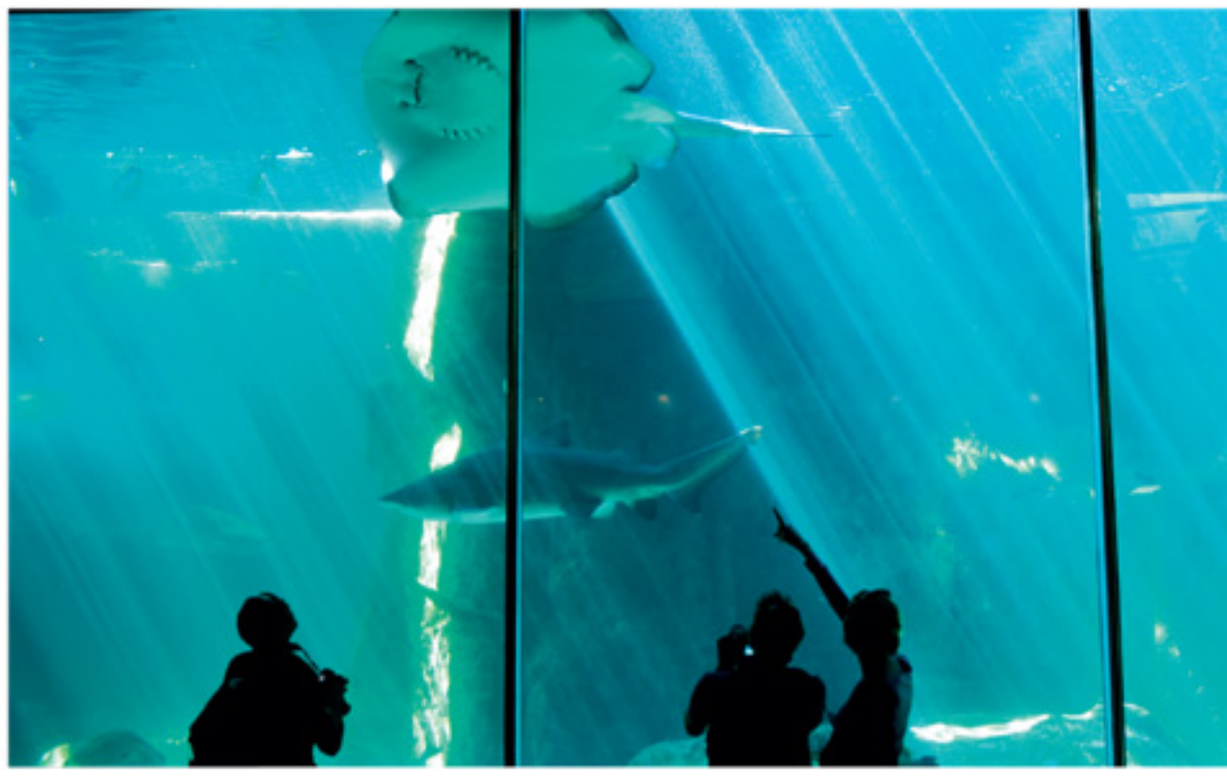


Bungee jumping from Bloukrans Bridge.

White-water rafting. The best white-water rafting south of the Zambezi is on the Great Usutu River, southern Swaziland. See page 325.

Bloukrans Bridge bungee jump. Reputedly the highest bungy jump in the world plummets 215 metres (700ft). See page 204.

Otter Trail. South Africa's most popular hiking trail follows the stunning Tsitsikamma coastline over five days. See page 205.



The captivating Two Oceans Aquarium.

SMALL FAUNA AND FLORA

De Hoop Reserve. De Hoop, the largest protected area of *fynbos* in the Cape, harbours bontebok and Cape mountain zebra, and offers good marine wildlife viewing too. See page 188.

Namaqualand. The arid plains along the West Coast support an extraordinary diversity of succulents that burst into magnificent flower in the spring. See page 315.

Barberspan Bird Sanctuary. Regarded as South Africa's most important avian wetland habitat, it is home to flamingos, ibises and waders. See page 309.

Ndumo Reserve. Any of Zululand's reserves offers good birdwatching, but Ndumo is the pick, both for tropical water birds and for species otherwise restricted to Mozambique. See page 247.

Bird Island Nature Reserve. Over 100,000 Cape gannets breed on this small island in Lambert's Bay, reached on foot via a causeway. See page 178.

iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Snorkel or dive on reefs, watch hippos and crocs lurking in the waters of St Lucia Estuary, climb the world's tallest forested dunes, or just revel in the extraordinarily diverse birdlife found at this Unesco World Heritage Site. See page 243.

Ostrich farm, Oudtshoorn.

