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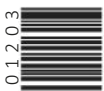
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remember...*

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go!
#203

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"Life revolves around the ocean here; everyone looks to the water. They watch the tides. They know whether the moon is waxing or waning. It sets the rhythm of life."



COVER PICTURE
**WILLEMEN JANSE
VAN RENSBURG**

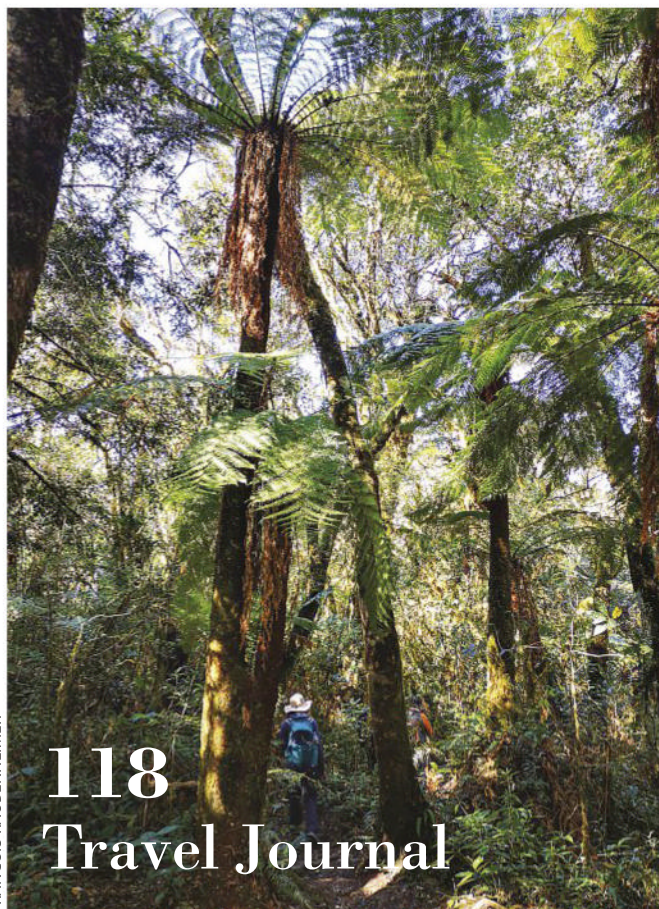
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"In the late afternoon, the swallows flock together and pluck insects from the sky. That's my sign to go for a stroll down to the river. I follow the train track. It feels strange to walk here, because you have the softness of the farmland and nature, but also the harder lines of the cheese factory and the railway line. Something feels out of place. Is it me?"

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A master key to adventure

By the time we reach the last month or two of the year, people are pretty much toast. There are exams to be written, budgets to be finalised and projects to be completed. "It's like trying to drag a team of dead donkeys across the finish line," a friend recently complained about *his* team struggling to meet their deadline.

The only thing getting most of us through this patch is thinking about the week or three of doing nothing during that glorious time between the old and new year. Preferably on a beach somewhere, where the ocean is a deep blue and the sound of the waves lulls us to sleep.

If you're feeling strung out and in need of some holiday motivation, this issue is packed with stories just for you: Esma Marnewick's account of the chilled-out Shipwreck Trail on the Sunshine Coast (p 40), Jac Kritzinger's selection of quiet places to stay in the Southern Cape (p 30) and everything you ever wanted to know about Arniston, Waenhuiskrans and Kassiesbaai (p 92). As Marchelle van Zyl discovered when she visited, the coastal town is so picturesque it deserves three names!

We stand on the threshold, key in hand, ready to unlock the door to 2026. As Alexander Graham Bell – inventor of the telephone – famously stated: "When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us."

Mercifully, that's not my reality. When I look back at the closed doors of my past, it's with gratitude and a touch of wonder: Wow, did we really manage to do all of that?!

I like to think of *go!* – and its people and the stories we tell – as a key. Specifically, a master key that doesn't unlock a single door, but unlocks many doors to new places, people and travels.

May you cross the finish line of 2025 with verve and success; may you relax carefree; and may you unlock plenty new doors in 2026!

Pierre

PIERRE STEYN

PSteyn@media24.com

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE!

The February/March magazine will be on sale at retailers from 23 January 2026.

BEHIND THE SCENES

What sparked your passion for travel?

My eyes were opened in 1996 when my family travelled through Europe in a camper van for a few weeks. We started in Amsterdam and drove deep into France and then took a long detour to the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. I was the navigator, with an enormous map on my lap – the city centre of Paris was a challenge!

My first big solo adventure was to Morocco in 1998, when I was 23 years old. It was a big leap into the unknown; difficult but also fun. I tackled the trip with a tiny budget and a travel guide for support – something like *Rough Guide* if I remember correctly.

What do you always pack?

I've been using the same sarong since 1995; it goes everywhere with me and I use it as clothing, a pillow, shade cloth, a towel, a blanket...

I also pack a first aid kit – at the very least, antiseptic cream and plasters on every trip. And I travel with one of my three camping stoves. I have one that runs on gas, one that runs on petrol or alcohol, and one that uses only alcohol.

My power bank, which I use to recharge devices like my phone and camera, is essential. So are my hiking boots. A roll of cash – US dollars – also comes in handy.

Any advice for people who want to travel on their own?

Stop dreaming about it and do it!

Nothing will happen unless you make the decision to go, then everything will fall into place. But you have to really want it.

Travel outside your comfort zone. Leave the usual tourism routes and go eat where the locals eat – and don't be afraid of talking to people.

I travel to explore culture, art, food and nature. Getting into contact with "different-ness" is valuable for personal growth.

Most countries are safer than South Africa and solo travel is fairly easy, also in Africa. Many countries have better and more affordable mobile Internet than South Africa – get a local SIM card and load data. I use wikivoyage.org everywhere I go, for information about places to visit.



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go!

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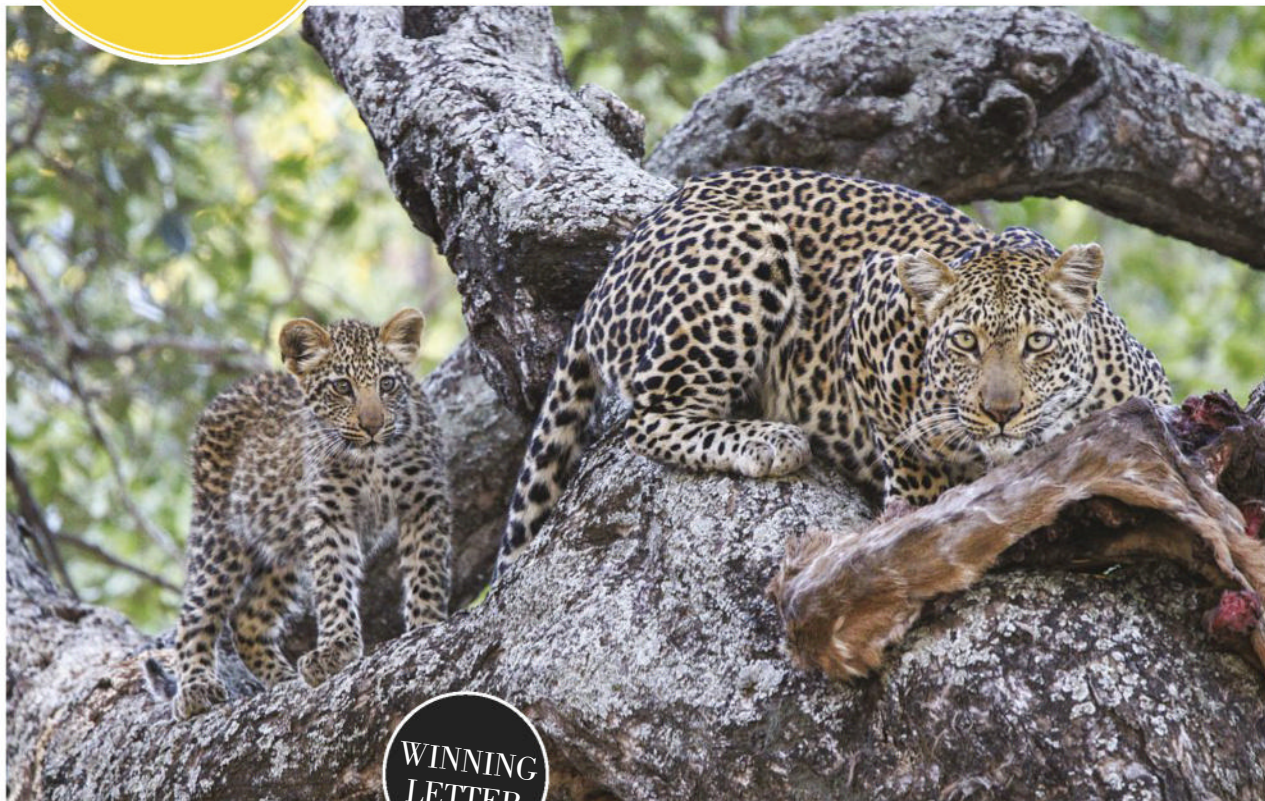
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Where have you been? What have you seen?
Write to editor@gomag.co.za

COMPILED BY **MARTINETTE LOUW**



**WINNING
LETTER**

▲ Meal for two

One chilly winter morning in the Kruger Park, I was on a game drive near Letaba with my wife Simone and daughter Hailey. It was quiet on the roads close to the rest camp, so we decided to try the road beyond the Letaba Bridge.

We were driving on the S62 toward Engelhard Dam when a Natal spurfowl started calling. We looked for the bird to see what it was so alarmed about and then our eyes locked onto the sight of a leopard on a kill in a massive tree on the riverbank. She was feeding on a nyala ewe as her cub looked on. The cub walked along the trunk and started to feed next to her. The adult leopard also ambled down the tree to pick up some scraps that had fallen.

We spent about 45 minutes with the cats, with no other vehicle around, before leaving them to eat their meal in peace.

DARREN JOHNSTON, Centurion

WRITE TO US & WIN!

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▲ Thanks for the views!

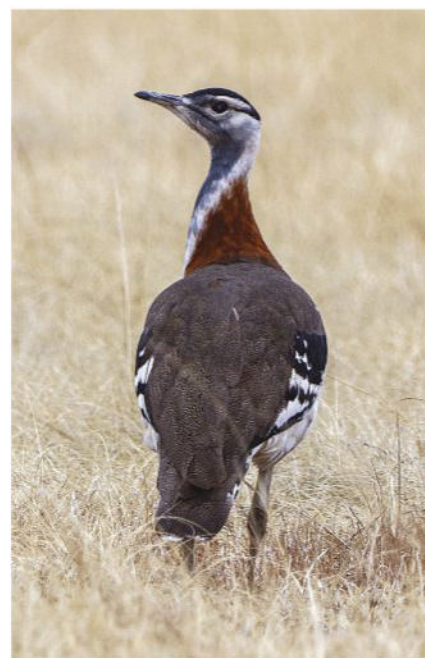
Willem van der Berg's article about the back roads of Namaqualand in *go!* #201 arrived just in time for our first flower tour at the end of August.

As recommended, my wife Miemie and I followed the R355 from Springbok, past Gamoep to Kamassies and Rooifontein. We said hi to Sulene Archer at Perdrooskloof Guest Farm, and then returned to Springbok via Kamieskroon.

The road was freshly graded and a joy to drive. We took a photo of the rock formation south-east of Springbok mentioned in the article (inset), and also spotted the turn-off to the quiver tree forest near Kamassies (pictured), where we stopped to have our padkos. What an exceptional view of the veld and the Kamies Mountains!

Thanks for the tips – they gave us some of the best views of our tour.

GERHARD SNYMAN, Pretoria



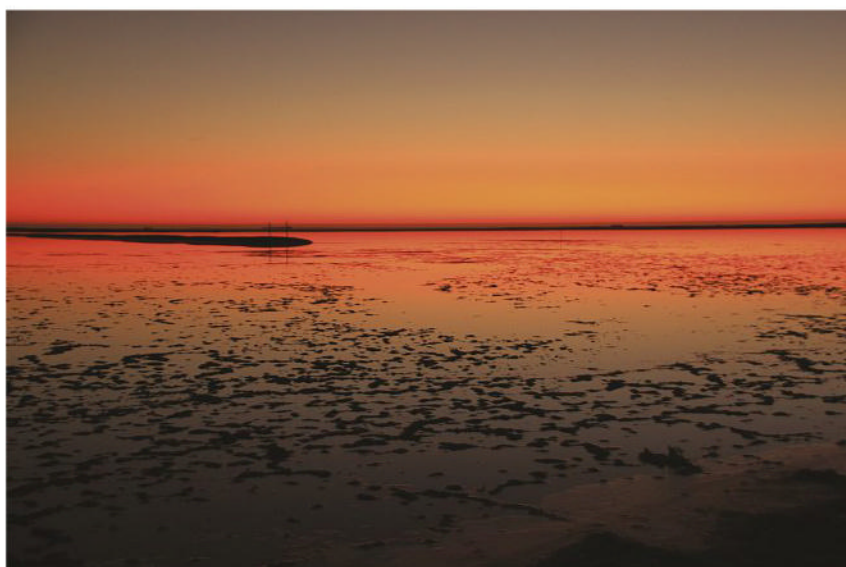
▲ You... bustard!

When I have to travel from Pietermaritzburg to the small Eastern Cape town of Ugie for work, I usually take the dirt road from the village of Swartberg to Matatiele, instead of the tar route via Kokstad (R617/R56).

The dirt road is more direct and it's just so scenic and enjoyable to drive. More often than not, it rewards the adventurous traveller with interesting sightings.

On this particular trip in August 2025, I spotted an elusive Denham's bustard. Having only seen this impressive bird once before (on this very stretch of road) from a fair distance, it was incredible to see it this close.

RYAN NEUMANN, Pietermaritzburg



▲ Last light

When the so-called *oosweer* – the easterly wind – rolls into Swakopmund, it brings the most beautiful sunsets. This hot, dry wind blows in from the desert and usually brings dust storms – then there's sand everywhere! Everyone breathes a sigh of relief when it dies down in the late afternoon – braai fires are lit and cameras come out.

I took this shot in May, at the salt pans just north of town.

HELENA HARMSE, Swakopmund



◀ Come a little closer

Bird Island Nature Reserve, just off Lambert's Bay on the West Coast, is always a fun outing. There are hundreds of Cape gannets to keep you entertained, as well as interesting exhibits with skeletons of whales, seals and dolphins.

I took this photo from the hide in October 2025. It was a sunny day and the birds were very active and aggressive, especially the males. It was wonderful to see how the pairs found each other when they came in to land.

PETER IMMELMAN, Bellville



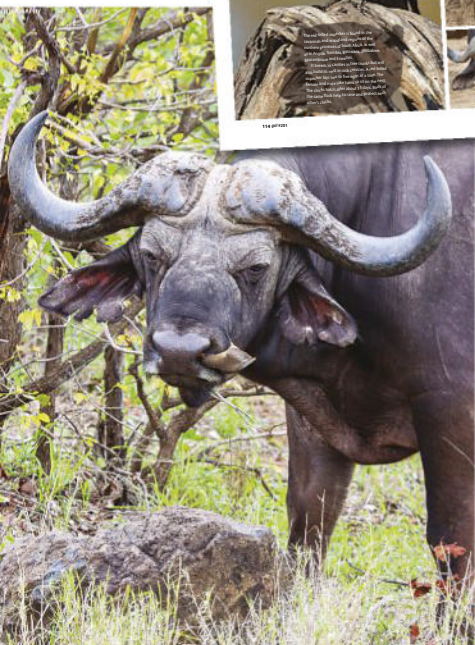
▲ Best for last

It's never fun when you have to pack up and head home after a holiday in the Kruger Park. So it was on our last morning at Malelane, in August 2025. But we decided to squeeze in one final game drive because we'd heard there were lions in the surrounding area.

Not far from the camp, on the S110 tar road, we found these two. We watched them for a while before they disappeared into the bush.

I'm so happy we could end our time in the Kruger on a high note!

KARIN VAN ZYL, Brits



◀ Don't be so nosy!

The Kids' Page article in *go!* #201 about the Bird of the Year – the red-billed oxpecker – made me think of a photo my son Gerhardt took in the Kruger Park a few years ago. The oxpecker was clinging to a buffalo's cheek and it had stuck its entire head into the buffalo's nostril!

ESTÉ KOORTS, Pretoria

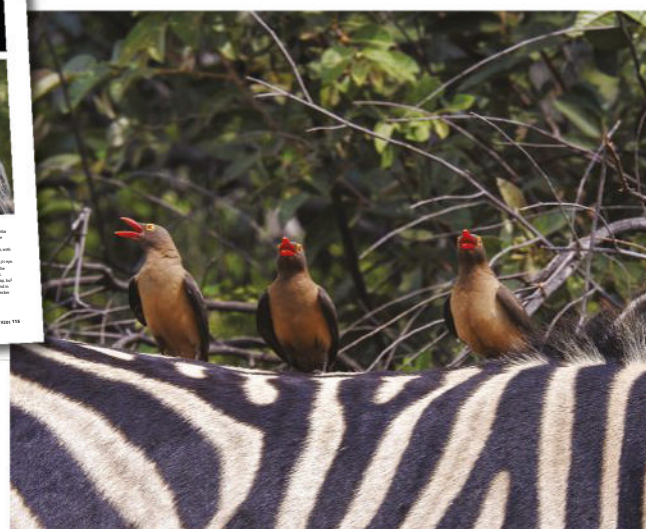
▲ Which one is Pavarotti?

I read in *go!* #201 that the red-billed oxpecker is BirdLife South Africa's Bird of the Year. It reminded me of our recent visit to the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, in March 2025.

During an early-morning outing in the Mankwe Dam area, we came across a herd of zebras next to Tlhwane Drive. Red-billed oxpeckers were giving them a spa treatment.

I took several photos, but like this one the best. The birds look like The Three Tenors!

ANDRÉ OLIVIER, Klerksdorp

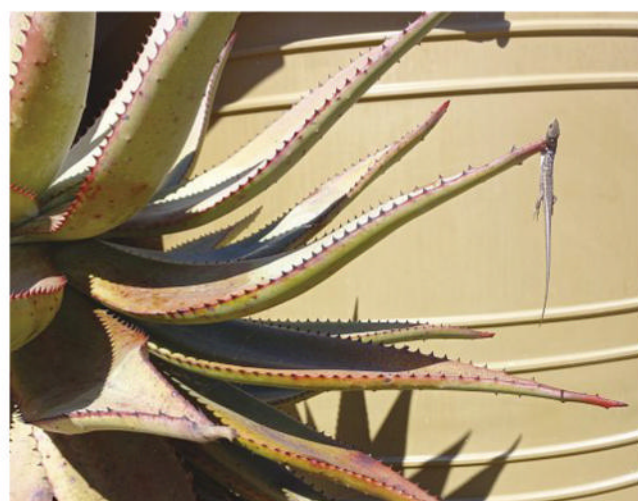


✓ Two for the shot of one

Our recent visit to the Kgalagadi in September 2025 felt like an owl (and owlet) fest – every tree we peered into was filled with them!

One particular moment stood out: On the loop coming out from the Dalkeith waterhole near Mata-Mata, I thought I was photographing a regal spotted eagle-owl, but when I downloaded my photos later, I saw that she was actually perched right on top of her curious little owlet, who was peeking out, too!

TANIA AUBY, Somerset West



▲ Snack for later

Southern fiscals often visit this aloe in our garden in Hartenbos. The sharp tip of the aloe leaf is the perfect place for the fiscal to hang its prey until it's biltong.

MILDE WEISS, Hartenbos



▲ Horsing around

In August 2021, my wife Stijntje and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a 14-day adventure through Namaqualand. We'd heard that the spring flowers would be especially beautiful that year.

On the first day of the trip, we visited Goegap Nature Reserve near Springbok. I took this photo near the entrance gate. Horse rides are offered in the reserve and this group made for a pretty picture. Landscape photos are great, but I prefer to include something living and moving where I can – to bring the scene to life.

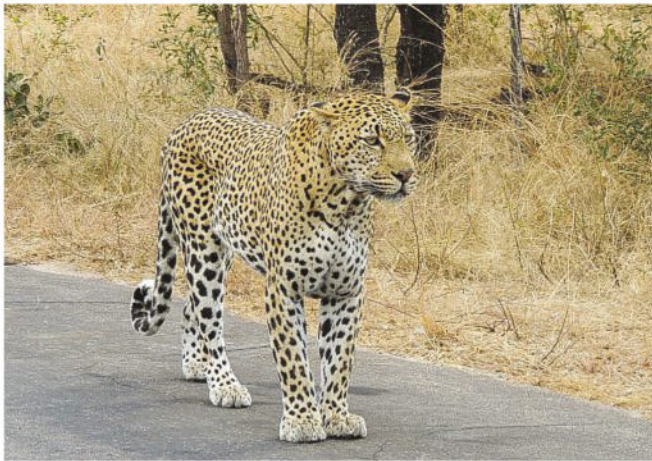
PEET DELPORT, Pretoria

> Terrapins are better than TV

In September 2025, we stayed in one of the Platbos log cabins at Slanghoek Mountain Resort near Rawsonville. Our cabin was next to a dam and we noticed a terrapin in the water. It was very curious and soon some of its buddies showed up. We gave them names and could tell them apart by the marks on their shells. They entertained us the whole weekend!

EVA KRUGER, Milnerton





< Spotted near Skukuza

Many visitors to the Kruger Park dream of seeing a lion or a leopard. We visit the park every year. This year – by the end of our July pilgrimage – we'd only notched up one lion sighting (a sleeping cat on a rock near the Sabie River) and no leopard sightings.

But we were still hopeful on our last drive from Tshokwane to Skukuza – and our optimism was rewarded. In the distance, on the H1-2 tar road, near the turn-off to the Maroela Loop, a leopard approached. It sauntered over and stopped right opposite our vehicle for a moment, so we could get our shots.

There's truth to the saying, "in the right place at the right time", but you have to remember to be patient!

HERMAN LE ROUX, Centurion



Every month our experts answer your questions about birds, bugs and beasts. Send your photos and queries to editor@gomag.co.za



< Twig with feet?

LOUIS DE WET from Great Brak River writes: I noticed this insect on my bedroom window – I stuck a matchstick to the window for scale and took a photo from outside. What is it?

Entomologist DUNCAN MACFADYEN says: This is a Cape stick insect – it is the most common stick insect in South Africa; widespread in the southern and western parts of the country. The females are about 80 mm in length and the males are smaller, at around 50 mm.

As the name suggests, they blend into their surroundings by looking like sticks. They're wingless with short antennae. The male is greenish, with three bluish-green marks and white bands on the pronotum. The female is usually brown or grey, but occasionally also green.

The adults remain concealed and move away from their food plants by day. They live between four and six months. They reproduce by mating, but offspring can also develop from unfertilized eggs. The females drop a few hundred glossy eggs to the ground and the nymphs take about four to six months to reach maturity.



^ Desert survivor

CASSIE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN from Bloemfontein writes:

We saw this insect on the Wildeperdehoek Pass in Namaqualand – is it a type of locust?

Entomologist DUNCAN MACFADYEN says: Yes, this is a saw-backed locust, which belongs to the family *Pamphagidae*.

It's a primitive creature and heavily built. The females are marked in greens and browns and are apterous, meaning they have no wings. The males are winged, but clumsy flyers. They have a rough, tubercled exterior, adorned with ridges on their backs. This rugged outline provides camouflage on the plants where they forage, which gives them some protection against predators. They're often overlooked – Cassie was lucky to observe this individual.

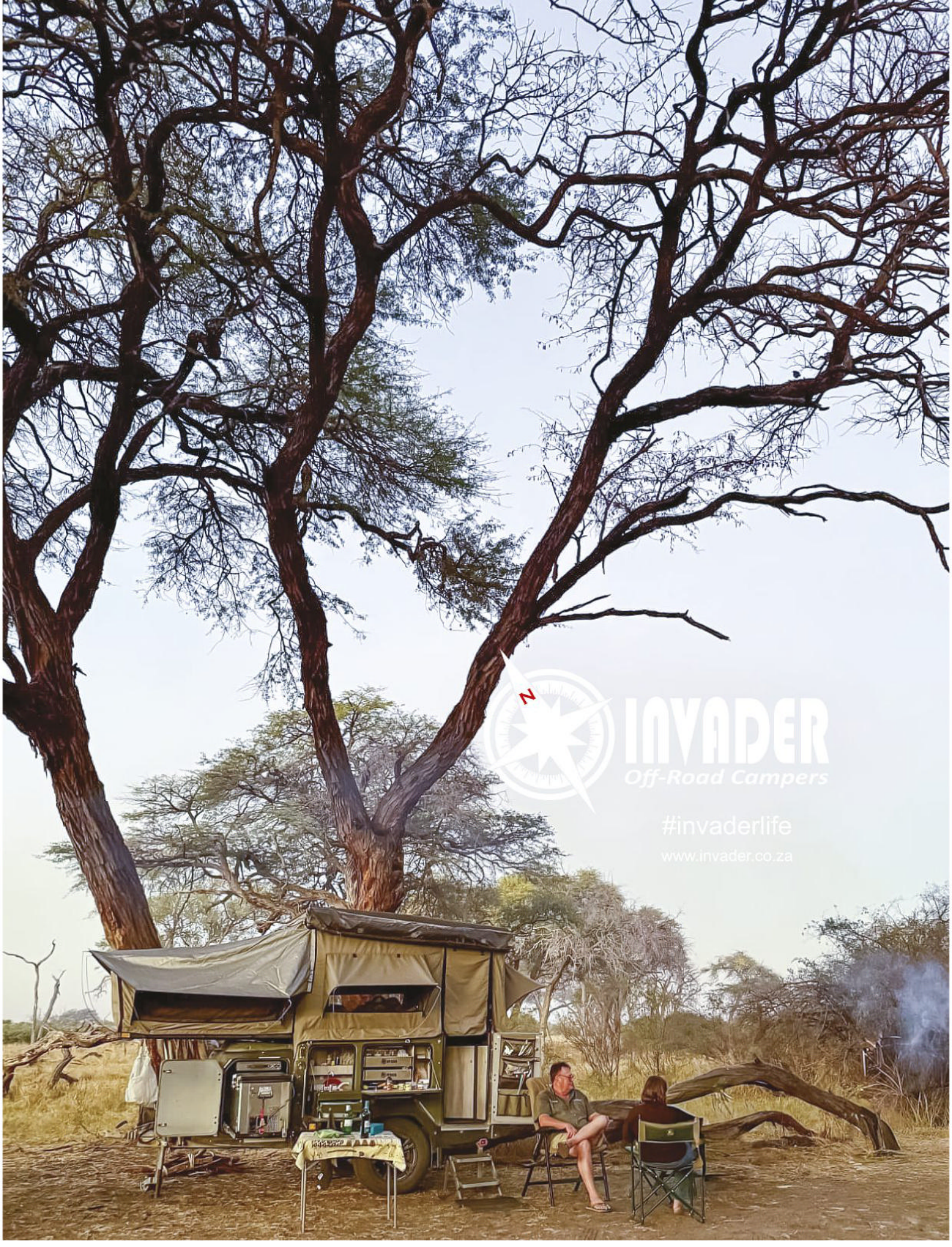
Look for them in the northern and western parts of the country, in arid shrubby areas, with low, sparse vegetation.



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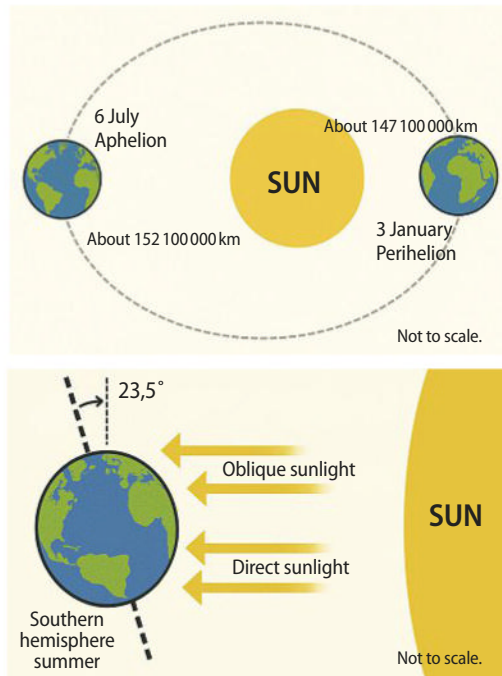
www.invader.co.za



IN BRIEF

COMPILED BY VANIA JOOSTE

NIGHT WATCH



Why is January so hot?

Does the distance of the earth from the sun have anything to do with how hot a summer feels? It does, but only to a limited extent...

First, let's talk about measuring distances in astronomy. Using kilometres is a clumsy way to do it, because the distances in question are so massive. That's why astronomers use something called an astronomical unit (au), which is the average distance between the earth and the sun, rounded off to 150 million kilometres.

Because the earth's orbit around the sun is slightly elliptical, it reaches its closest point to the sun, known as the perihelion, on 3 January, at a distance of 0.98au (about 147 100 000 km). By 6 July 2026, at the aphelion – or furthest point – we'll be 1.02au (about 152 100 000 km) from the sun: a difference of about 5 million kilometres.

The intensity of solar energy decreases by the square of the distance from the source. Or, put more simply: If something moves closer by two times, the solar energy increases four times. Therefore, the earth will receive about 7% more energy at the perihelion than it will at the aphelion.

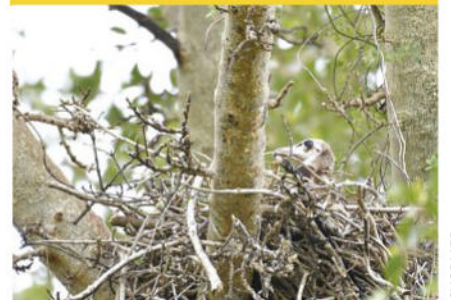
All good, but the main reason for the seasons is because of the 23,5° tilt in the earth's axis. The tilt determines how much direct sunlight a particular region gets. During our summer, when the southern hemisphere is tilted towards the sun, the energy strikes at a more direct angle. In winter, when our half of the earth is tilted away from the sun, the rays strike the planet obliquely and the same amount of energy is spread over a bigger surface, which makes the air and ground cooler.

The fact that the sun is a few million kilometres closer to earth in January only makes a comparatively small difference (that 7%). It's a contributing factor, but it's not the main reason you're sweating a bit while reading this.

In summary, our seasons aren't a matter of distance; it's all about angles and light as the earth dances around the sun.

– Willie Koorts

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS!



SUPPLIED

KZN'S FIRST HOODED VULTURE

Vultures face no shortage of challenges in their fight for survival in the wild, but there is hope... During a 2025 aerial survey by the Zululand Vulture Project, conservationists discovered a hooded vulture nest and a chick in KZN for the first time.

It's estimated that only 50 – 100 breeding pairs of this endangered vulture remain in South Africa. The discovery of the nest has given us new insight into its behaviour and distribution.



SUPPLIED

RARE ERICA BLOOMS AGAIN!

For nearly four decades, botanists accepted that *Erica cunoniensis* had gone extinct, but in September this year, eight plants were discovered in Kogelberg Nature Reserve outside Kleinmond. It's the only region where this erica species has been seen; according to records, only 200 plants have ever been found.

The discovery reminds us again that the Cape Floral Kingdom is one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. More than 13 400 plant species have been documented in the region, of which 6 776 (almost half) are found exclusively in the Western Cape.

(Sorry, but you can't go and see the ericas – they grow on a slope in the reserve that's inaccessible to the public.)



AMPHIBIANS



COURTNEY HUNDERMARK

The Amatola enigma

In October 2025, I joined two of my close friends and fellow frog enthusiasts, Tyrone Ping and Oliver Angus, for a short trip to Hogsback in the Eastern Cape. We were looking for the elusive Amatola toad that was seen here recently after heavy rains in the area. It was once thought that this toad may have become extinct.

Yes, we were driving over 500 km to see this species, which is currently listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List ([iucnredlist.org](https://www.iucnredlist.org)).

The Amatola toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*) is one of six species within the genus *Vandijkophrynus*. It's a small, brown, and plainly marked toad with a maximum body length of 3,7 cm – that's smaller than a matchbox!

In Hogsback, we drove out of the village and just before sunset, we donned our gumboots and followed a contour path along the slopes of the Amathole Mountains. After about 5 km of walking and a 400 m gain in elevation, we reached a spot where streams and wetlands come together: the only known habitat of the Amatola toad. It had rained the previous week. We searched and searched until we found a female toad on a tuft of grass! And then a male at the bottom of a rain puddle. What a find!

The reason why this species is so rare and special is because their distribution is entirely restricted to the moist, high-elevation grasslands of the Amathole region, where it inhabits seepage areas and seasonal wetlands between 1 400 and 1 800 m above sea level. Yes, they have very specific preferences.

Their breeding season occurs in spring and early summer, from October through December, coinciding with the rainy season. Shortly after heavy rainfall, which triggers toad activity, large numbers will congregate in shallow rainwater pools. The males can be heard calling, repeating their characteristic, nasal-sounding squawk from beneath the cover of nearby vegetation. In these shallow pools, males compete with one another for breeding rights. Females lay gelatinous strings of up to 200 eggs. Tadpoles emerge about a week later and take approximately two months to develop into toadlets, which then leave the aquatic environment and disperse into the grassland.

The frog is threatened by the degradation and fragmentation of its grassland habitat as a result of the timber industry, the spread of alien plants, poor rangeland management and unsustainable burning practices.

Significant effort has gone into monitoring the breeding and survival of this special creature, spearheaded by the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Visit [ewt.org](https://www.ewt.org) for more information.

– Courtney Hundermark

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A portion of profits will be donated to GKEPF to help fight rhino poaching



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New reserve in Somerset West

Somerset West offers plenty of viewpoints, most of them from the Helderberg. Now you can get even more views from the newly proclaimed Schapenberg Nature Reserve (only 14 ha) – follow a short footpath to look out over the town, the Helderberg itself and False Bay.

The main aim of the reserve is to protect the rare renosterveld found in the area.

Opening times: Sunrise to sunset – entrance is free.

Where? At the end of Romulus Street, in the suburb of Rome Glen.



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BIRD BRAIN

CHALLENGE #8

Do you know your birds?
Play along to test your knowledge!
Can you identify this species?

Clue: Does the water in the background look fresh or salty? I'm sure I can smell the sea on the breeze...

Use your bird guide or app and see if you can figure it out.
Turn to page 117 for the answer.



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Sandgrouse Curios & Art Gallery, Narok, Kenya

I've only been in Kenya twice; both times as part of a tour group where we're ferried around in sturdy Land Cruisers by expert local drivers. Both tours have followed the same itinerary – on the first day we depart from the capital Nairobi and head to the small Maasai village of Ololaimutiek, on the border of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. This is where we hope to see part of the annual wildebeest migration. The total distance is only 240 km, but it takes almost five hours.

Along the way, we stop two or three times for a comfort break and to look at something cool, like the viewpoint over the African Rift Valley. We drive along the valley for many kilometres.

But my highlight is always when we pull in at Sandgrouse Curios & Art Gallery, where a "quick leg stretch" could become three quarters of an hour of shopping till you drop. It's easily the best of the many curio "superstores" along this tourist route.

The bathroom is your first point of call. To get there, you must walk through the curio hall where shelves of tightly packed carved figurines and other items of interest all eye your wallet. It reminds me of that final trolley aisle in Woolies, where the sweet temptations and biltong snapsticks play with your feelings.

Spending money at Sandgrouse takes no effort. Browse around until you find that perfect gift... The woven grass baskets are works of art and a colourful Maasai blanket is a must, or how about a fridge magnet of an elephant for your friend who collects them? Or, hang on – this wooden zebra, laughing and rolling around on its back.

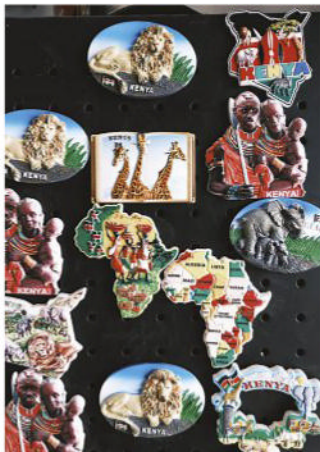
I've never eaten here, but I've seen our drivers pull in for a quick plate of hot stew, pap and a type of *morogo* (wild spinach), wolfed down before our convoy sets forth again. Coffee is what I need, and I get it black and sugarless – a big cup made from Maasai Coffee beans, packets of which are also for sale.

Now I can relax for a few minutes and watch more Land Cruisers pulling in, disgorging stiff-legged tourists who slowly take in the amazingness of Sandgrouse. Indeed, us humans going to see a great migration make for a pretty great migration ourselves!

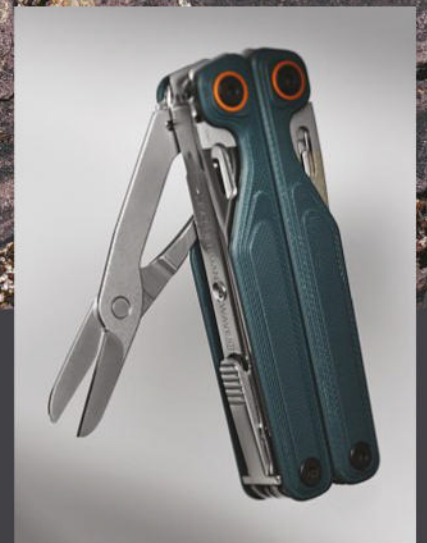
A final note, for birdwatchers: You can easily tick off at least two lifers at Sandgrouse. That fancy-looking orange-and-blue starling is called a superb starling (seriously); and the weavers in the acacia in the parking area are poshly named Baglafaecht weavers. I've never seen a sandgrouse here, mind you, but maybe they drop in for a quick coffee much earlier in the morning

Where? About 17 km south of the regional capital of Narok, next to the C12 tar road.

– Toast Coetzer



DISCOVER THE **ALL-NEW** LEATHERMAN WAVE ALPHA

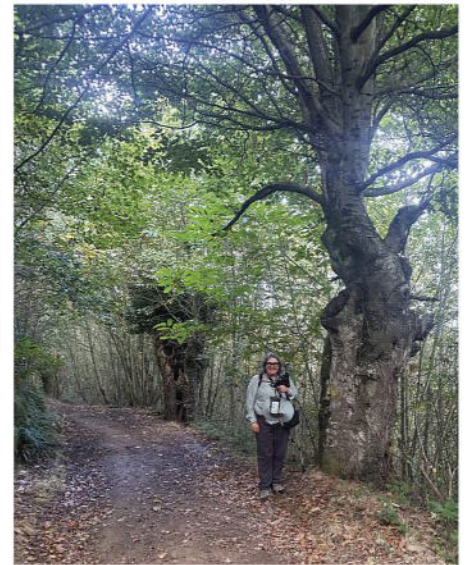
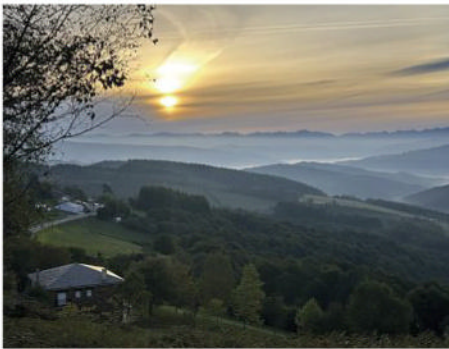


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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF **THE FIRST** CAMINO PILGRIM



With nearly half a million pilgrims walking the famous Camino de Santiago each year, the route from Sarria in particular is now very busy. **Gerda Engelbrecht** recently did the more remote Camino Primitivo for a *Weg* video series sponsored by Outdoor Warehouse. The Primitivo starts in Oviedo, Spain, and traverses a mountainous region.

By the time the sun's fingertips reached the mountain, Colinas de Arribas was already small below me. I was panting. Not even the first hill of the famous Hospitales route showed mercy.

I was grateful that the *auberge* had served breakfast early in the morning, because at 27 km, this was going to be a long day. The first 21 km go over a mountain called Sierra de Fonfaraón, where there is no infrastructure. You need to carry enough water for the whole day.

The Hospitales route passes the ruins of three medieval pilgrim shelters, Paradiella, Fonfaraón and Valparaíso, and is considered by modern pilgrims to be one of the three

most epic stages on any Camino. (The other two being the stage between St-Jean-Pied-de-Port and Roncesvalles on the French Camino, and the stage between Irún and San Sebastian on the Northern Camino). You climb a total of 1 165 metres on this day and the weather can be unpredictable. I was blessed with perfect walking conditions, though.

LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

The Primitivo starts in Oviedo, the capital of Asturias in the north-west of Spain. In 814, King Alfonso II, or "Alfonso the Chaste", was informed of the possible discovery of the remains of the Apostle James in what is now Santiago de Compostela. Alfonso and his

party set off from the San Salvador Cathedral in Oviedo so he could verify the discovery and order a church to be built on the site. Alfonso's route forms the basis of this Camino, which is called "Primitivo" because it was the first Camino. Many of the towns that pilgrims visit already existed at that time.

The first stages to Grado, Salas and Tineo are not too bad, but then follow four difficult days to Berducedo, Grandas de Salime, A Fonsagrada and O Cádavo where you have to climb hills. This is where the Primitivo gets its reputation as the difficult Camino.

The last 100 km start in Lugo, a beautiful city with a well-preserved Roman wall, before the route joins the French Camino in Melide. This final stretch of the Primitivo



is therefore relatively easy.

When you arrive in Santiago and wind through the busy city, a bagpipe player provides a special welcome before you reach the large Praza do Obradoiro. From there, the iconic pilgrimage rituals await: collecting your Compostela (document of completion) at the pilgrim office; hugging the statue of James in the cathedral while whispering in his ear, and attending the pilgrims' mass. If you're lucky, you'll witness the precious botafumeiro ritual after communion: a giant censer is swung from under the dome via a pulley system. It's always a fitting end to a special journey. Until you're greeted with "Buen Camino" ("Have a good walk") again on your next Camino.



This trip was made possible thanks to an advertising campaign by Outdoor Warehouse.



I WANT TO GO! ☀️

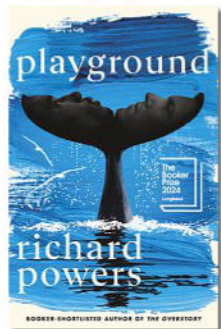
- **The Camino Primitivo stretches for about 323 km** between Oviedo in Asturias and Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. Oviedo is four hours from Madrid by train, and three hours from Bilbao by bus.
- **The guidebooks divide the route into 13 stages**, but you can decide for yourself how many days you want to walk. I walked for 15 days and took two rest days (in Tineo and Lugo).
- **Only about 5% of all pilgrims, less than 12 000 people per year, walk this route.** It is therefore much quieter than some of the other Caminos. However, this also means that there is less accommodation. I advise you to book in advance. Accommodation is especially scarce before and after the Hospitales route.
- **There are fewer towns on the Camino Primitivo than on the Portuguese and French routes.** Use a backpack with a bladder so you can carry enough water with you. Also carry enough food and a first aid kit – sometimes days go by without seeing a pharmacy.
- **On several days you will gain more than 1 000 m in elevation.** You will have to train for this Camino. Hiking poles are your best friends.
- **Thanks to Outdoor Warehouse, there is a complete (Afrikaans) video series of the Camino Primitivo on Netwerk24 that you can watch for free.** Search for Gerda + Camino.

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Our editorial team shares their picks for Christmas gifts this year.

COMPILED BY **MARTINETTE LOUW**



Playground

by **Richard Powers**, Penguin Random House
R400 in bookstores

This cerebral novel weaves together multiple timely themes: the impact of humans on nature, artificial intelligence, marine science, technology, friendship...

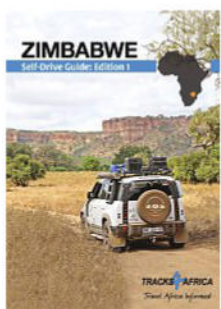
There are three storylines, and while they might confuse you, you won't (can't!) stop reading. In the first storyline, two brilliant boys, Todd and Rafi, become best friends at school. Their friendship continues into university, where Todd – a tech genius – later creates his own virtual environment. Think Facebook crossed with Minecraft. He becomes a billionaire in California. The sensitive Rafi is a poet, who ends up working in the university library. The two students also meet Ina, an artist from Hawaii.

Some of the most lyrical descriptions of the underwater world are found in the second storyline, which follows the life of marine biologist Evelyn (Evie) Beaulieu, the first female deep-sea diver, in the 1960s. Evie tells us about manta rays blowing bubbles and night dives surrounded by bioluminescent plankton.

The third storyline takes place in the near future, when the 82 inhabitants of Makatea Island prepare for a referendum on whether an American company should be allowed to build man-made islands along its coast.

It's on this French-Polynesian island where Todd, Rafi, Ina and Evie's paths cross in spectacular fashion, in an ending that will leave you wide-eyed under your beach umbrella.

— Esma Mamewick



Zimbabwe Self-drive Guide: Edition 1

by **Tracks4Africa**
R675 at shop.tracks4africa.co.za

I always feel a little less nervous when I venture into the unknown with a Tracks4Africa product in my vehicle – I know that someone has done their homework, even if it wasn't me!

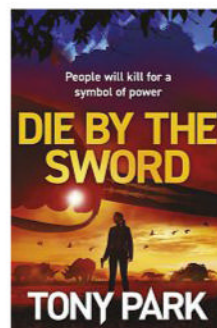
This self-drive guide is the latest addition to the Tracks4Africa book series on our neighbouring countries, which also includes Namibia and Zambia (check out their website for great combo deals).

This Zimbabwe guide is a 400+ page tome packed with facts. It gives you background info about the country, things to do (adventure biking, birdwatching, hiking...) and places to stay. (Houseboat on Lake Kariba, maybe?)

The nitty-gritty is where it shines: There are tips on driving conditions, safety precautions, medical emergencies, navigation and vehicle preparation. It will also get you across the border with all your paperwork (and your wits) intact.

The guidebook is designed to work in tandem with the other Tracks4Africa products – the website, apps and maps (for example, there are no GPS waypoints – you have to use their GPS products for that). There are also 18 pages of 1:1 000 000 scale maps to help you find your way.

With this guide on your dashboard, you can criss-cross Zimbabwe and finally tick places like Vic Falls, Hwange and Mana Pools off your bucket list!



Die by the Sword

by **Tony Park**, Pan Macmillan South Africa
R370 in bookstores

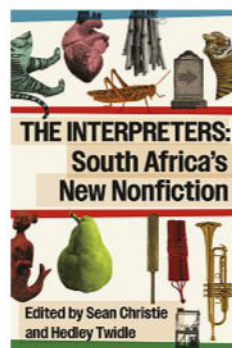
For his latest African-adventure thriller, Tony Park turns his attention to the landscapes of KwaZulu-Natal and battlefields past and present.

He expertly juggles two timelines: In the 1880s, colonial police officer Peter Gregory is trying to track down the sword of Napoleon Bonaparte, which was brought to South Africa by his great-nephew, Louis Napoleon, during the Anglo-Zulu War.

The present-day storyline follows Detective Sannie van Rensburg (who readers will recognise from other Park novels like *Blood Trail* and *Vendetta*) and her boyfriend – marine biologist Adam Kruger – as they investigate murders and dodge bullets across the province.

It's a heady mix of stock theft, poaching and black-market trade. Park sets a fast pace but keeps you locked in with well-rounded characters and plot curveballs.

If you're interested in battles like Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, you'll enjoy the historical aspect of the novel (I went down a Google rabbit hole trying to separate fact from fiction), but you can also just sit back and absorb the drama.



The Interpreters: South Africa's New Nonfiction

Edited by **Sean Christie and Hedley Twidle**, Soutie Press
R370 at soutiepress.com

It's not often you buy a book these days that costs less than R1 a page. At a reassuringly hefty 488 pages, *The Interpreters* already ticks the value-for-money box.

More than 30 authors contributed nonfiction work to the anthology: J.M. Coetzee, Antjie Krog, Lin Sampson, Bongani Madondo, Njabulo S. Ndebele, Rian Malan, Rustum Kozain...

It's a great book to have around the house, because you can dip in at any time. Open it at the start of a fresh story and tumble headlong into the world that author is describing. That world is ours – weird and wonderful South Africa; its people and politics; its misadventures and triumphs.

You might buy this book thinking, "I'll get this for my overseas friend who will learn something about South Africa" – but *you'll* learn something, too. (And you'll learn about our neighbours: I found Bongani Kona's piece especially powerful, about how his family was shaped by Zimbabwe's struggle for independence.)

I love that the editors also included graphic non-fiction work – cartoon style – by the likes of Mogorosi Motshumi, Anton Kannemeyer and Daniël Hugo.

Although the book's selling point might be its who's-who list of contributors, it's really the stories that are the stars. They're what makes *The Interpreters* a standout publication that will be seen as a standard bearer in years to come.

— Toast Coetzer



The Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng 2

by Faansie Peacock, Dylan Vasapolli & Etienne Marais,
Pavo Publishing

R400 at faansiepeacock.com

Owning this book is like walking around with a professional bird guide in your pocket. Turn to the part about the Marievale Bird Sanctuary (p 273), for example: a GPS waypoint indicates the start of the recommended route, along with a

map with all the points of interest. Your "guide" then leads you through the sanctuary and gives you plenty of tips: Sit at the visitors' centre with your scope – you can tick off more than 30 species before your coffee gets cold; Baillon's crane, spotted crane and African crane hang around the Bus Stop all year – early morning in late summer is the best time to see them. The shy and special species found in the reserve are also mentioned.

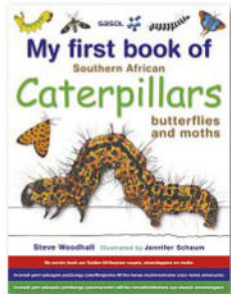
This kind of insider info is provided for 79 birding destinations within 1 – 2 hours of Joburg and Pretoria; 15 places you can visit over weekends; and a few like St Lucia and Skukuza that require a long weekend.

The first edition was published in 2008 and things have changed in the birding world over the last 16 years. Some places have unfortunately gone downhill, but 38 new destinations have also been added.

Have you seen the elusive African finfoot or African grass owl? Find out which reserves will give you the best chance of spotting these special birds. And did I mention you also get a fold-out map of the greater Gauteng region?

This guide – and a good pair of binos – should be in every Gauteng nature lover's daypack.

– Esma Marnewick



My first book of Southern African caterpillars, butterflies and moths

by Steve Woodhall, Struik Nature

R170 in bookstores

If you're interested in butterflies, you might know the name Steve Woodhall – he's written and contributed to many books on the subject. This is his first book for children, and the latest title in the popular Sasol "My first book of" series.

Your little lepidopterist will love this fact-filled guide to caterpillars, and the butterflies and moths they become. The book features 56 different species found in southern Africa; each entry has a big colour illustration of the caterpillar by Jennifer Schaum, plus a smaller one of the adult insect. The text that describes the species is easy to understand – and it's in four languages! The main entry is in English and it's translated into Afrikaans, isiZulu and isiXhosa on the same page.

Last but not least, you can learn about the lifecycle of a caterpillar, what it eats, and how butterflies and moths pollinate flowers. Fun and informative!



BirdLife South Africa children's books

Free to download from
birdlife.org.za/blsa-books

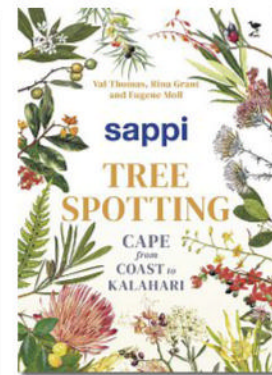
BirdLife South Africa has released two children's e-books with fun storytelling and vibrant illustrations.

Run Until You Can Fly (by Brenda Daniels; illustrated by Amy-Jane Jenkins) follows the journey of a young white-winged flufftail named Saro, who hasn't yet learnt to fly. Encouraged by his mother to "run until you can fly", Saro explores his wetland habitat where he befriends Oryx the African clawless otter and Gus the wattled crane. The trio land in all kinds of predicaments that highlight the importance – and vulnerability – of wetland ecosystems. Aimed at kids aged 5 – 8, Saro's adventures introduce them to the wonders of wetlands and the animals that call them home.

Piffy and Zenzi Go Birding (by Kirsty Kyle; illustrated by Karlien Muller) is a more detailed and educational tale, suited to slightly older children.

Poodles Piffy and Zenzi, along with their owner, go on a birdwatching outing in a wetland, hoping to spot the elusive white-winged flufftail. Along the way, they encounter a variety of birds. Each sighting is accompanied by a page featuring illustrations, a distribution map, and facts about the bird.

– Marijke Dodds



Sappi Tree Spotting: Cape from Coast to Kalahari

by Val Thomas, Rina Grant & Eugene Moll, Jacana Media

R480 in bookstores

This guide is the fifth and final volume of the Sappi Tree Spotting series, which has been updated and rereleased over the last few years. The series covers tree species indigenous to South Africa – the other four volumes are: Lowveld; Highlands; KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape; and Bushveld.

As the name suggests, the authors cast the net wide for this one, covering a huge region in parts of the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. Categories make it easy for you to look up a tree, highlighting distinctive features (like flowers and fruit) and ecozones (Kalahari, Nama Karoo, Cape Mountains...). The tree descriptions are accompanied by photos, illustrations and maps.

This is a great gift for anyone who loves the outdoors, gardening or just sitting in the shade of a big tree.

WIN THE SAPPI SERIES!



One reader can win the complete set of Sappi Tree Spotting books, worth R2 280!

Answer this question to enter: How many books are there in this series?

SMS the key word SAPPI and your answer to 35695, along with your full name, phone number, physical or postal address, and e-mail address. Each SMS costs R1,50. Free SMSes do not apply.

Closing date: 22 January 2026.



Christmas skinny dip

For millions of people around the world, Christmas is a time of family, food and gifts. For **Anelia Heese**, it's also a time to remember the magic of water.

ILLUSTRATIONS **NICOLENE LOUW**

For the past ten years, I've been celebrating Christmas far from where I come from. A lot has changed since I was a donkey in the nativity play of our rural Dutch Reformed church. I live in a city now, in another country, on another continent. December in Germany is dark and impossibly cold.

When I think of the Christmas celebrations of my childhood, on our farm near Augrabies in the Northern Cape, I fondly remember the quirky, unique nature of our gatherings. We did the "good food and togetherness" part of Christmas, but not the gifts. As *plaasjapies*, we regarded malls with suspicion. When we had no choice but to enter one, we

studied the map at the entrance to make sure we had an escape route. Purposeful, in single file, we'd cut through the dawdlers gaping at shiny stuff. My dad wasn't an army man, but in a mall he was as determined as a recce on a seek and recover mission.

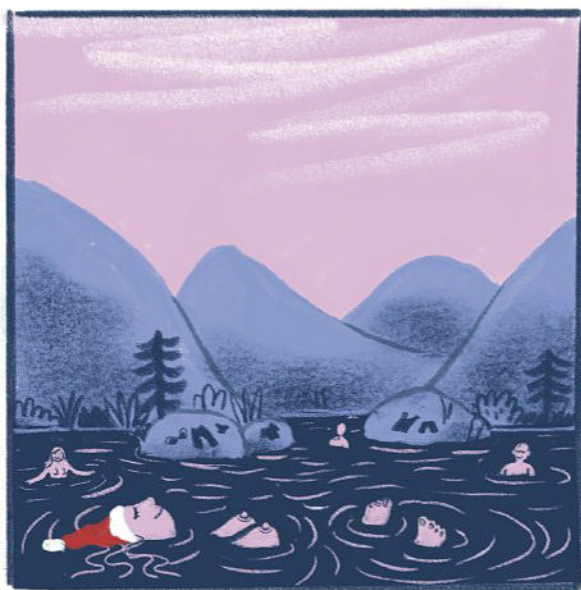
The story of Jesus in the manger was magical, yes, but my dad was just as fond of the tale of Jesus expelling the merchants from the temple. He rejected capitalistic culture, especially around Christmas, with a messianic fervour.

That's not to say we're stingy people, but our gifts were almost always handmade: apricot jam, a timber handrail for a staircase... When we did buy gifts, they served as a kind of familial sponsorship: a wetsuit for a growing brother; a Gert Vlok

Nel CD for Dad that we all wanted to listen to; a washing machine that actually worked...

Most of all, however, I remember water. There was always water. Decembers in Vleesbaai, where we learnt to ride the waves; and later years when we stayed in Augrabies to get the harvest done, swimming in the Orange River whenever we could.

What is your first memory of water? Who taught you to swim? Where do you like to swim now? Every year, when Christmas rolls around, I find myself thinking about my relationship with water. I first put my head underwater in a chlorinated suburban pool somewhere in Vanderbijlpark, but it's the freedom of that first breath after being tumbled



*The cold envelops you, but
you glide forward with long
strokes and you realise
that nothing is holding
you back anymore.*

by a Southern Cape breaker that's probably my earliest water memory.

I still associate true freedom with lazy breaststroke behind the backline, the sea around me like an ironed sheet; turning my head and seeing that endless horizon... It's an invitation to access everything that's possible.

And river swimming... A river will teach you that you first have to become one with the current before it will let you go. Every time I succeed in diving below the whirl of a rapid – far enough from the brutal bubbling, but within reach of its magic – I feel the glory of this earth anew. Popping out on the other side like a cork is the closest you'll get to flying without wings. The feeling of satisfaction when you struggle upstream only to be carried downstream in a gentle embrace.

I love swimming and I thought the beaches and rivers of South Africa had taught me everything there is to know about water. I was wrong.

The concept of Freikörperkultur can be directly translated as “free body culture”. It originated in France and Germany in the early 1900s, founded on the premise of good health. Access to the outdoors was seen as a tonic in a time of coal stoves, crowded living quarters and tuberculosis.

Aside from the physical aspect of “taking in sun”, there was also a spiritual element of “returning to nature”. During the era of the Weimar Republic (1918–1933), it took hold among people who wanted to resist industrialisation and

the “alienation of the modern world”.

After World War II, under the government of East Germany, Freikörperkultur (FKK) became a cultural beacon of communism. Nudity was nationalised: If everyone is naked, no one is naked. To criticise another person's body was unheard of; nudity was as unremarkable as a worn-out Trabant.

FKK was institutionalised to such a degree that thousands of nudists participated in a city parade in East Berlin in 1987. As they waved at spectators from Karl Marx Avenue, international cameras caught Eric Honecker, the leader of the ironically named German Democratic Republic, smiling and waving back at the naturalists.

FKK is still practised in Berlin to this day. And no, not only by old men, but also by young people and children.

The first time you arrive at an FKK or nudist beach, the scene is almost surreal: hundreds of people lying on the beach next to each other without a stitch of clothing. Calm, almost wholesome. It's actually not the nudity that surprises you, but the sacred silence next to the lake. Out of respect, everyone has put their cellphones away. The only form of external entertainment is a book or a newspaper. Those who are talking do so in hushed tones. You don't understand why exactly, but you know this is a holy ritual from a strange religion, and you've been welcomed in to observe it.

You spread your towel on the soft grass. Then the ritual begins: top layer off,

folded up. Underwear off – you let it fall away with your useless puritanical ideals. You let the sun warm your skin, especially the parts that seldom see sunlight.

And then, absolutely vulnerable but also invisible thanks to the safety of a progressive culture, you stand up and walk to the water's edge. No one stares or laughs.

It's the height of summer, but the cold of fresh water cuts deep. Those around you gasp for air, grit their teeth, hug themselves and shiver. Some try to prepare for the cold by rubbing water on their arms and neck. Halfway in, with a cramp in your hip, you realise it's better to just go under.

The cold envelops you, but you glide forward with long strokes and you realise that nothing is holding you back anymore. This is a feeling of absolute renewal, because humans are more water than anything else, and also because we're inextricably part of nature. In a world that is fast becoming a techno-feudalistic moon landscape, being reminded of this fact might be the biggest gift of them all. We're nothing without water, and without it we have nothing of ourselves to give.

Maybe swimming naked is also a call to a radical form of equality, an equality that also offers safety.

My Christmas wish? If you celebrate in summer, go and swim without shame!

Anelia Heese lives in Berlin. She's the author of *Diensplig* – Hoekom stotter ons pa's so? (Tafelberg, 2023)

Hidden havens of the Hessequa

The Hessequa is a region between the Breede and Gourits rivers in the Southern Cape. We've hand-picked eight great places to stay in nature reserves, on rocky coastlines and along the rivers – far from the mad crowds on the main beaches – where you can wash off under an outdoor shower and fall asleep to the sound of the waves.

WORDS & PICTURES **JAC KRITZINGER**



THE ANCHORAGE BEACH RESTAURANT



KOFFIE 'N KLETZ





WITSAND

BY THE SEA

Little Paradise

This laid-back beach house overlooks the Breede River estuary and Cape Infanta in the distance. It's right on the main beach, but the dunes shelter you on both sides and hide you from the neighbouring houses. When you sit in the living area on the top floor, the dunes feel close enough to touch.

Indeed, the sand nearly swallowed the house in 2015 and the roof collapsed under the weight. The house has since been fully restored and there's a dune rehabilitation project in place to prevent it from happening again.

Little Paradise has a long history that goes back further than the advance of sand. The place was first known as Opstalletjie. Built in 1930, it was one of the first residences in the fledgling trading town, serving as a stable and storage space for an ox-wagon.

These days, it's a no-frills double-storey with four double bedrooms downstairs and three bathrooms, one of which is en suite. The top floor – with big windows looking out from a spacious open-plan kitchen, living area and indoor braai – is the place to hang out. Look for whales in the bay if you visit between August and October.

If you want to stretch your legs, walk through the dunes from the back stoep and you're on the beach.

Little Paradise has Wi-Fi, a smart TV and DStv. It's also pet-friendly, but note that the property is not fenced.

Where? 16 Galjoen Street

Rates: Low season R2 000 per night; peak season R4 500 per night.

Contact: ☎ 082 576 1541; 🌐 little-paradise.co.za



HESSEQUA COAST



BACKTRACK



DECK PLEK

VERMAAKLIKHEID

15 KM FROM THE SEA

River Magic Cottages

These four basic cottages next to the Duiwenhoks River near the village of Vermaaklikheid live up to their name – if you love nature and you want to get away from your daily life for a while, this place will work its magic on you. At night you can sit next to the fire and gaze at the stars; in the morning, you can watch mist rising from the water while woodpeckers tap away in the trees behind the cottage.

Puntjie – the little village where the Duiwenhoks flows into the ocean – is the closest beach, but you're not allowed in unless you own one of the houses there. You have the river on your doorstep, however, and a private jetty, so you won't really miss the sea.

Two of the cottages (Back Track and Base Huis) are accessed via a bumpy dirt road. Glory Be and Deck Plek, however, are downstream – you're transported there by boat. All of them are fairly large, sleeping up to 12 people on average.

This patch of wilderness has been in the Andrew family since the 1960s. The cottages used to be rented out on an honour system – guests paddled over on their own and left cash in a box on the stoep. Now you can pay beforehand and Lovemore Gambo (pictured left), experienced skipper and River Magic manager, will pick you up in his boat and take you to your jetty.

Friskie the resident sheepdog (pictured far left) goes along everywhere – even on Lovemore's sunset cruises and fishing outings (included in the rate), where you can catch steenbras and kabeljou.

Luxury is not the selling point here. Although all four cottages are well equipped, with Wi-Fi and canoes for guests to use, many of the bathrooms are in separate buildings outside and the bedrooms are sometimes far apart, often with outdoor entrance only. The eccentric layout does make you feel closer to nature... Remember insect repellent and towels. If you're staying in Glory Be or Deck Plek, Lovemore will only come to fetch you in case of emergency. And remember, the shops are far away...

Where? Base Huis (home base, hence the name) is about 2 km outside Vermaaklikheid. Follow the signs from the village. Vermaaklikheid doesn't have much in the way of supplies. The closest big town is Jongsfontein, 38 km away.

Rates: Low season from R1 710 per night for four people; peak season from R4 150 per night for four people.

Contact: 084 882 8864; vermaaklikheid.co.za



BEACH SHACK

BY THE SEA

Koensrust

The first thing that takes your breath away when you arrive at this secluded guest farm is the view – the ocean looks like a deep blue seam on the horizon, in sharp contrast to the thousand hectares of fynbos around you.

The most popular place to stay is the Beach Shack, a basic house on the beach, under a rugged cliff. Guests have to carry their own luggage up and down the steep cement path from the parking area. (Keep this in mind if you have wonky knees.) But once you're down there, a pristine beach awaits. At low tide, you can walk west to Puntjie or east to Blombos.

The kitchen, dining area, two bathrooms and four bedrooms (for eight people in total) are separate buildings – you have to walk outside to reach the various rooms, but the sea air is good for you. There's no Wi-Fi or cellphone reception.

You can also stay up on top, about 2 km from the coast, in traditional white-washed, thatched cottages called The Kapstyl and The Yard. They're separate from each other and sleep six and eight people respectively. Both are spacious with neat finishes, solar power and Wi-Fi. You can sit on the stoep and gaze at the ocean in the distance, or watch for bontebok, zebra and eland on the neighbouring farm – they graze near the fence, which is a stone's throw from the cottages.

The Tented River Camp is next to the Duiwenhoks River – it's also first class. It has four safari tents on platforms near the water and sleeps 10 in total, with communal ablutions and a communal kitchen and braai.

You need a 4x4 to get down here. If you have a sedan, Koensrust can arrange transport for you and your luggage.

Where? About 4 km outside Vermaaklikheid on the Puntjie Road. The closest town is Jongensfontein, 38 km away.

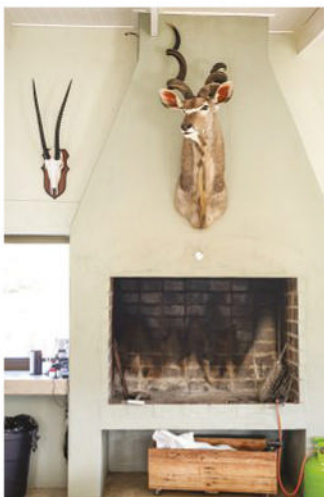
Rates: Cottage from R1 530 per night for up to five people. Tented camp from R2 340 per night for five people. Beach Shack from R4 050 per night for five people. Rates increase in peak season.

Contact: ☎ 061 273 1906; 🌐 koensrust.co.za



THE KAPSTYL





JONGENSFONTEIN

8 KM FROM THE SEA

Baardbos

If you like your silence served with a good dose of wildlife, head to this private, 200-hectare nature reserve owned by Christiaan (pictured left) and Rové Greyling.

Seven cosy shipping-container units have been built along the border of the farm, with views of vegetated dunes. There's no sea view, but you will see lots of wildlife grazing among the units: springbok, zebra, ostrich... Also look out for the resident Ankole cattle with their majestic horns.

If you want to see more animals – like gemsbok, waterbuck and fallow deer – book a game drive with Christiaan. You drive down to the dunes and on a clear day you can see the ocean in the distance. There's also a little game camp at the main house, where you can see the smallest antelope in Africa, the shy blue duiker. Her name is Tequila and she's fairly tame – happy to eat a wedge of apple from your hand. With eland in abundance, Baardbos is one of only a few places in the world where you can see the biggest and smallest antelope species in South Africa!

The self-catering units are stylishly furnished and private. There are drinks in the fridge and a choccie on the double bed, but they're also fairly compact – better suited to couples. (There's a small fold-out mattress for a young child.)

There is no Wi-Fi or cellphone reception, but you can access Wi-Fi at the lapa, which is within walking distance of the units. This communal living area has a swimming pool, jungle gym, bar, TV and pool table – remember to bring some R2 coins.

Where? About 8 km north-west of Jongsfontein on the Blombos Road.

Rates: Low season from R700 per night for two adults and a child; peak season from R1 000 per night.

Contact: 079 039 8580; baardbos.co.za



STILBAAI

15 KM FROM THE SEA

Long Thin Farm

This charming place is on the banks of the Goukou River, only 13 km from Stilbaai. As soon as your tyres hit gravel and the olive groves close in around you, you'll feel the tranquillity seeping in.

Owners Philip and Fiona Couchman, originally from Perth in Australia, bought the land in 2023. They produce olives and boutique red wine. If you're lucky enough to run into the charismatic Phil during your visit, he'd love to show you the vineyards and wine cellar, mate!

Two cottages, Stone and Milkwood, are a few hundred metres from the river on a hill. Settle into an armchair on the stoep and watch the Goukou winding towards Stilbaai. When you've had your fill of doing nothing, wander down to the lawn on the riverbank (picnic blankets are provided in the cottages). There's a jungle gym for the kids and canoes for guests to use. Early morning is the best time for a paddle, when the river is calm and the water like glass.

Stone Cottage (sleeps four), has a reed ceiling and coal stove. It's light and spacious. Milkwood Cottage (sleeps four) is smaller – the loft is better suited to children, with its steep stairs and two single beds under a sloped roof.

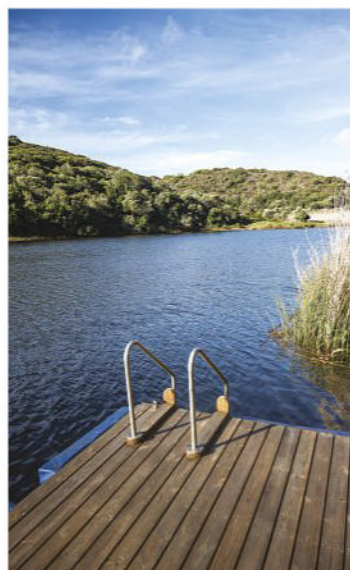
The two cottages are close together and work well for two families or a larger group. Both have braai facilities. Mobile reception is limited, but Wi-Fi is available.

Roxy, the resident sheepdog, prefers people to animals, so pets are not permitted.

Where? About 13 km from Stilbaai, via the dirt road along the Goukou River.

Rates: Low season from R1 500 per night for Milkwood; R1 650 for Stone; peak season from R1 750 per night for Milkwood; R1 950 for Stone.

Contact: 082 405 2015; longthinfarm.co.za



HESSEQUA COAST

20 KM FROM THE SEA

Skilpadbessie Eco Camp

When you walk up the path to the koppie early in the morning, and you sit on the bench to watch the sun rise over the Southern Cape, you'll know all is right with the world.

This campsite is on a farm owned by Werner and Johannie du Toit – they make sure you get everything a good campsite should offer, plus a little more. There are two spacious stands, Kapokbossie and Soutbossie, each with a braai and shade screen. There are no power points (only solar-powered lights); Soutbossie has a wood-fired hot tub.

The ablution setup is excellent. Each of the two stands has a private bathroom with hot water from a communal donkey boiler that doubles as a bread or pizza oven (firewood is provided). There are cement counters on either side of the oven where campers can prepare meals, and there's even a bookshelf where you can find (and leave) something to read – along with sticks to throw for your dog!

The communal boma under the trees is near the ablution block. It has a braai, plenty of seating and two wood-fired hot tubs where you can relax the day away.

Skilpadbessie isn't just eco in name – the screens are made from alien timber; all grey water is reused on site; and the indigenous plants around the camp are marked with signs. There's a bird hide at the nearby dam; grysbok and grey rhebuck graze around camp at night; and there's even a resident otter with a sweet tooth – lock your food away when you go to bed.

Where? On the Hectorskraal Road, between Albertinia and Stilbaai; Stilbaai is about 20 km further.

Rates: Low season R400 per night for four people; peak season R680 per night. The wood-fired hot tub costs R300 extra per day; firewood is R50 per bag.

Contact: 078 000 4749; "Skilpadbessie-Eco-Kamp-Stilbaai" on Facebook





GOURITSMOND

BY THE SEA

Meeuvlug

No one will bother you here, in this old fisherman's cottage from 1933, right on the coast with only one or two other houses visible in the distant fynbos. A lawn below the deck is the only thing between you and the ocean – walk a few metres and you'll wet your toes.

There isn't a wide beach where you can walk, or a good swimming spot nearby, but the remote location and the proximity of the waves make up for it. You can cool down in some of the tidal pools at low tide, or cast off the rocks for kabeljou.

This is a down-to-earth beach house in every respect: The building was built straight onto the rocks with no foundation almost a hundred years ago (the damp stone walls are 60 cm thick) and it has no frills or luxuries. Yet the plainness adds to the character of the place. The house has a lived-in feel, with lots of crockery in the kitchen and board games and eclectic books on the shelves. There's even an old telescope on the enclosed stoep.

This might not be the best place for a Springbok lock – the ceilings and doorframes are low – but eight shorter people (and their pets) can comfortably fit. There are three bedrooms, a kitchen, and an open-plan living area with an outdoor braai. There's only one bathroom, and an outdoor shower to wash off the salt.

The house runs on solar power, so keep your use of the kettle and microwave to a minimum when it's overcast, and especially in winter. The tap water is brackish, so bring your own drinking water. There's no cellphone signal for kilometres in either direction, but there is Wi-Fi available.

Where? 12 km along the dirt road that runs next to the coast from Gouritsmond.

Rate: R2 500 per night for eight people.

Contact: 082 555 6967



HESSEQUA COAST

OUR
PICK!

BY THE SEA

Fisherman's Houses, Gourikwa Nature Reserve

This remote nature reserve, with 2 500 hectares of pristine fynbos and abundant wildlife, is popular with local day visitors and couples who choose to get married in its chapel.

It offers several accommodation options, including village suites and cottages near the reception office, but if you want space and silence, choose the Fisherman's Houses. These eight spacious units are set far apart around the Ystervarkpunt Lighthouse (South Africa's newest lighthouse, built in 2006, pictured right).

There are nine units in total – eight sleep four people and one sleeps six. They're stylishly furnished, with minimalist decor and beautiful sea views. There's no cellphone signal on this side of the reserve, but Wi-Fi is available.

You'll struggle to find another place this comfortable, where you can braai at night with only the sea in your ears and the occasional flash of the lighthouse. There is a communal swimming pool near the chapel. If you want to have a dip in the sea, the nearest swimming beach is in Gourits.

The reserve has a few hiking and mountain-biking trails, but if the sea air has made you lazy, the roads are also suitable to explore in a family sedan. Drive about 5 km along the coast to look at the traditional fish traps at low tide, or drive inland and look for eland, zebra and bushbuck in the fynbos. Honey badgers, porcupines and bushpigs are also reserve locals.

Take a cooler bag up to the viewpoint and say cheers to the sea in all directions.

Where? About 13 km west of Gouritsmond, on the dirt road to Albertinia.

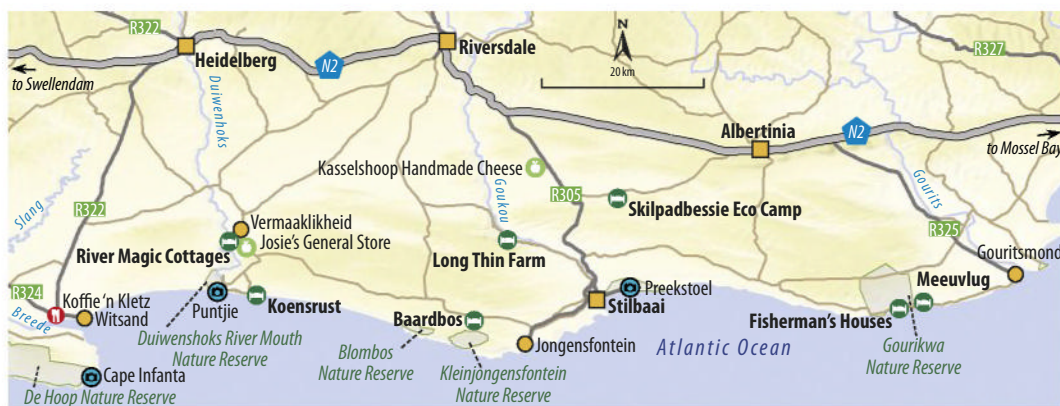
Rates: Fisherman's Houses low season from R1 275 to R2 460 per night; peak season from R1 700 to R2 820 per night. Contact the reception office for more details, also about their village suites and cottages.

Contact: ☎ 087 702 9126; 📧 gourikwa.co.za



FISHERMAN'S HOUSE





WITSAND

Koffie 'n Kletz

This farm stall and craft market sells everything from roosterkoek and fishing tackle to olive oil and pastries. It's like a Christmas market, but open year-round. The coffee is top notch.

Where? On the corner of the R322 and R334 as you enter the town of Witsand.

Opening times: Daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

Contact: 086 245 1069

The Anchorage Beach Restaurant

A good seafood restaurant and bar right on the beach. You can tuck into a mussel pot, calamari, fish and chips, schnitzels and burgers.

Where? Main Road
Opening times: Daily from 9 am to 9 pm.

Contact: 028 537 1330

VERMAAKLIKHEID

Josie's General Store

Former supermodel Josie Borain owns this cute shop where you can buy basic groceries, sweets, bric-a-brac, croissants and gourmet coffee.

Where? Main Road, Vermaaklikheid. Look for the name Blombos Café in blue on the building.

Opening times: Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 2.30 pm; closed on weekdays.

Contact: 083 419 4467

STILBAAI

Kasselshoop Handmade Cheese

A nice restaurant and tasting room where you can try cheese from the farm Klein Soebatsvlakte, like stinging nettle cheddar and biltong cheddar. You can pair the cheese with beer, gin, olives and even chocolate.

Where? The turn-off is about 20 km along the R305 from Stilbaai to Riversdale, on the left.

Opening times: Daily from 9 am to 4.30 pm; closed on Sunday.

Contact: 028 754 2430

kasselshoop.co.za

Seekombuis

This restaurant is almost always packed, for good reason: It has sea views, great service and hearty portions of seafood – everything from smoked snoek spring rolls to tuna steaks. There are also meaty staples like chicken schnitzel and beef burgers on the menu.

Where? Lappiesbaai

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday from 11 am to 9 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10 am; closed on Monday.

Contact: 021 065 1196

Stilbaai Fisheries

Get takeaways here and drive down Main Road to the harbour. Turn left to the viewpoint and find a bench to eat your dinner while you watch the sun set over the river mouth.

Where? 4 Excelsior Street

Opening times: Daily from 9 am

to 7 pm; closed on Sunday.

Contact: 022 634 0032

GEELKRANS NATURE RESERVE

Get a cormorant's-eye view of Stilbaai on the Geelkrans circular trail (about 8 km). You follow a jeep track high above the dunes – there are two decks for coffee and views – and then go down the dunes and along the beach past rock pools. Make sure to hike during low tide.

Where? Drive towards Lappiesbaai and turn left into Preekstoel Road – the reserve is at the end of the street.

Opening times: Daily from 7.30 am to 4 pm.

Cost: Conservation fee R50 per person; free with a Wild card.

Contact: 087 087 4118

capenature.co.za

GOURITSMOND

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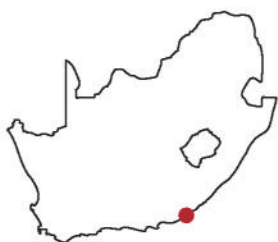
Hike, paddle, chill

Want to introduce your friends or children to the joys (and adventure) of a multi-day hike? On the Shipwreck Trail, from Port Alfred to the Great Fish River in the Eastern Cape, the hiking feels more like a holiday.

WORDS **ESMA MARNEWICK**

PICTURES **ESMA MARNEWICK & WILLEMEN JANSE VAN RENSBURG**





It's cool and shady in the coastal forest. Birds chirp and chatter. Waves boom in the distance. It's overcast, but when you leave the trees behind and climb to the crest of the dune, you still have to blink to get used to the bright sky. At your feet, the dune rolls down to the water's edge. You kick off your flip-flops and run down with the kids.

The sun breaks through the clouds. How is it possible that there's no one else here?

Yup, this is your average morning on the Shipwreck Trail, a laid-back adventure that's only really a "hike" in the most basic sense of the word.

It's Day 2; 9.25 am. A river mouth glints up ahead, and some signs of human habitation. This is the village of Riet River, a small spot with about 30 holiday homes. You turn left, inland, and walk along the course of the river, all the while wondering who is lucky enough to have a house here...

Riet River is a gated community, but you slip through a side gate and cross the R72 tar road. On the other side, a path in the veld leads to the Umtunzi Riet River Hut. It's not your typical hiking hut – you can see it was once a fancy riverside venue.

It's 1 pm now and you're done hiking for the day – you should have spent much more time on the beach... After you've settled in, you climb into a canoe and paddle further upstream on the Riet River to where the water becomes too shallow.

There, you sit quietly and listen to the birds. Maybe you spot a flash of red – a Knysna turaco or, even better, a narina

trogon. You paddle back slowly. The braai fire is lit and fishing lines rest in the water. The kids are playing cards. And no one is complaining about sore muscles or blisters.

An easy intro

Do you want to try a multi-day hiking trail, but you're nervous you might not manage? Maybe your kids are old enough to hike a bit further and you're looking for a "tamer" adventure to do with them? Or you're an experienced hiker with a friend who is new to hiking and wants to tackle a multi-day trail.

The six-day Shipwreck Trail (slackpack option) from Port Alfred to the mouth of the Great Fish River is one of the best entry-level multi-day hikes in the country. It's so chilled hikers would barely need hiking boots!

The route covers 58 km and, barring one or two high dunes, there are no steep climbs. The huts are also not too far apart – all of them, except Lily Pad on Day 4, are on farms along the coast. The route was designed for you to criss-cross these farms, and the beach, over six relaxing days.

Every day you walk through grassland past grazing cattle, and through cool coastal forests and along the beach. There's plenty of time to swim, build sandcastles and fish. There is one surprise, though: On Day 4, you can rest your legs and paddle 8 km up the Kleinemonde West River, to the Lily Pad Hut deep in the forest.

Wide, empty beaches, forests full of birds, time with your people... What more could you want from a hiking holiday?

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Day 3 is a short one – plan your walk so you have time to chill out by the Three Sisters rocks. If you miss some of the trail markers on the first day, you'll need to climb a high dune or two. A paddle to your overnight hut is what sets this hiking trail apart from others. If you do the slackpacking option, you can eat like royalty.



SHIPWRECK TRAIL

What to expect

DAY 1: 8,6 KM The trail starts on East Beach in Port Alfred. You'll get detailed maps and directions from the trail manager Dave Marais, so you'll know where you have to turn off, and hike inland. Keep your eyes open though. We struggled to find some of the markers. Climb the right dune and signs will lead you to the Milkwood Hut. It has an outdoor toilet and shower, a kitchen counter and a braai. It's only about 3 km from the sea – you can return to the beach for a late-afternoon swim or sundowners.

DAY 2: 11 KM The trail follows the same path back to the beach and then along the coast for about 6,5 km to Riet River village, where it turns inland, crosses the R72 and takes you on a path to the Umtunzi Riet River Hut. The open-air bathrooms could do with a sweep – look out for wasp nests and spiders – but the toilets flushed and the shower had hot water.

Go explore the river in the canoes. It's not the Amazon, but if you slowly pull your paddle through the dark water, with riverine forest towering overhead on both sides, you can imagine being in an exotic jungle.

DAY 3: 4 KM The route heads down to the beach again, via the Riet River and then along the sea for about 1,5 km to the Three Sisters rocks. This is a nice place to spread your towel, read a book, look for anemones in the shallows or cast a line. Then go inland and walk through the grassland to the Three Sisters Hut.

The hut has flush toilets and a hot shower – it was once a naval base for radio operators. There's a braai spot in the thicket and another next to the hut. If you want a dose of civilisation, you can walk about 3,5 km to The Lily Rose Coffee Shop and Farm Stall in Kleinemonde. They serve burgers, fish and chips, pizzas and sourdough wraps, and they sell farm stall staples like fudge, jam and biscuits, plus basic groceries. And alcohol, if you've drunk all yours already...

DAY 4: 7 KM HIKE, 8 KM PADDLE By now you know the routine: Head down to the sea and walk along the beach. It's about 3 km on the beach to the mouth of the Kleinemonde West River. Today you don't hike inland; you paddle up the river. Dave will be waiting on the northern bank with the canoes. The paddle is 8 km in distance, upstream into the Nyala Valley Game Reserve. It can get fairly strenuous,

especially if you have to labour into a headwind, but there's no rush. Take your time. You want to go as slowly as possible so you can scan the riverbank for fish-eagles, turacos, kingfishers, otter, buck and vervet monkeys. Look for spoonbills, cormorants and every kind of egret closer to the water.

White wooden signage indicates the distance in kilometres. Before long, you're at the end. After you've moored the canoes, you hike about 4 km through the reserve to the Lily Pad Hut – look out for giraffe, nyala, wildebeest and zebra. Lily Pad is a wooden hut with reed walls; it has two dormitories, a deck and a covered lapa area in-between, with two outdoor showers (donkey boiler for hot water) and two long drops.

DAY 5: 13 KM HIKE, 8 KM PADDLE You start the day paddling back to Kleinemonde. With a hiking distance of 13 km today, it's one of the longest on the trail, but there's still time for lunch at The Lily Rose. After hamburgers and milkshakes, return to the beach. By now you must be wondering where all the shipwrecks are that the trail is named after. Most are between the Riet and Great Fish rivers, but they're all submerged. On Days 5 and 6 you have the best chance of picking up shards of porcelain washed up from these wrecks.

After a landmark called Clayton Rocks, turn inland and walk through grassland to Stone Cottage. After the rustic facilities of the Lily Pad Hut, the tiled bathroom here is pure luxury. The cottage was built in 1848 by two British settlers, William Clayton and Frances Whittall. A fire damaged the inside and it was rebuilt in 2001, but the outside still has stone laid nearly two centuries ago by William and Frances.

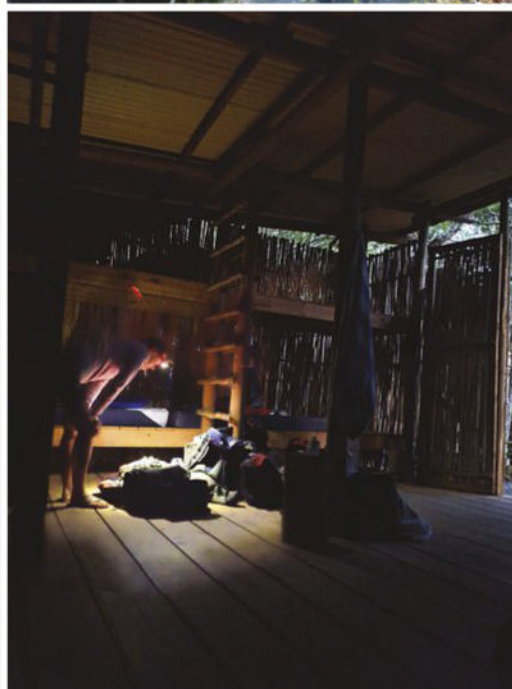
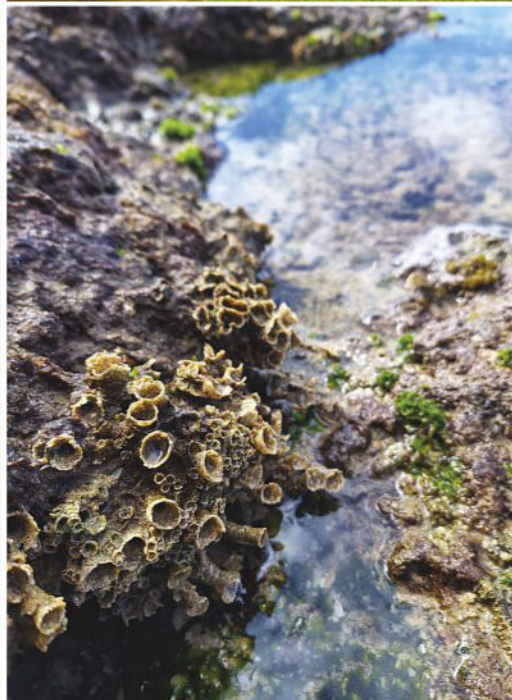
DAY 6: 14 KM It's your last morning! You can either walk back to the sea through the veld or along a dirt road straight to the Great Fish Point Lighthouse. This lighthouse, with its black and white stripes and red "hat", has been a beacon to passing ships since 1898.

There's a picnic site at the lighthouse. Make coffee and take some last photos. From the lighthouse, keep to the beach until you reach the mouth of the Great Fish River. The path will take you to a bridge. On the other side of the bridge is the Fish River Diner and Caravan Park, where your vehicles are parked. The diner is rustic on the outside, but inside it's all holiday vibes.

There you go, you've survived your first multi-day hike!



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Fishing rods are welcome on the Shipwreck Trail. Sections of the route cross farmland. Bank the canoes and jump into the Kleinemonde West River! The Great Fish Point Lighthouse is one of the shortest in the country. One of the dormitories in the Lily Pad Hut. This farm gate is on the way to the lighthouse. You spend the last night on the hike in Stone Cottage, built by British settlers in 1848. An entire world awaits within a rock pool.



SHIPWRECK TRAIL

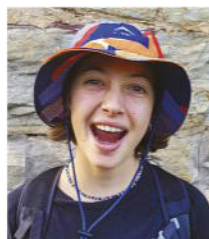


IN OTHER WORDS



Tobie Marnewick

I've never been on a hike that included a paddling outing. It breaks the hiking nicely, and it's fun to see a nature reserve from the water. The landscape around the Lily Pad Hut has a real Tarzan feel to it.



Kayla Jordaen

You get to experience many different landscapes: beaches, grassland, riverine forest – even a river on the paddling day.



Martinus Janse van Rensburg

Next time I'll bring my Crocs as the landscape often changes from dry land to wet sand... It's a fairly easy and unique hike – you mostly traverse flat landscapes and the huts are comfortable. Keep your eyes peeled so you don't miss your turn-off...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

How does it work? Dave Marais offers three options. We recommend Option 2 – the six-day hike-and-paddle slackpacking route described here. (You can also just hike, or just paddle.) For the paddling outing, children need to be older than 10. Kids older than 8 can do the hike. There's space for 12 hikers maximum, minimum four.

Transport? You park your vehicles at the Fish River Diner and Caravan Park at the end of the trail. Dave will collect the drivers and take them back to Port Alfred.

What should I pack? Bring everything you'll need – there's a packing list on the website. Each hiking hut has bunk beds, hot water, firewood and braai facilities. Stone Cottage has a fridge and stove.

Fishing? You can fish anywhere along the trail with the necessary permits. Species targeted include elf, garrrick, blacktail and kabeljou.

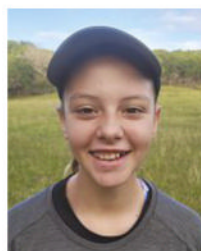
How does the slackpacking work? All your food and luggage can be transported so you only need to hike with a daypack. Each hiker is allowed a tog bag, one bag with frozen food supplies and one bag with dry supplies.

What about the night before the hike? If you're travelling from far away, stay at the Umgwenya farmhouse (sleeps 12) the night before you set off – about 6 km east of Port Alfred. It has a gas stove and a fridge, solar power for lights, and gas for hot water. Rate R280 per person.

How much? Six-day hike-and-paddle option: R1 600 per person. Five-day hiking only: R1 280 per person. Slackpacking rate starts at R3 250 for four to six people. Overnight canoe trip: R400 per person. Parking fee for your vehicle for five nights: R100. Transport to the start of the trail: R50 per person. Ask Dave about birding options. Rates increase on 1 April 2026.

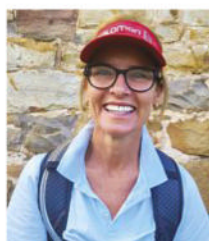
On Day 3, hikers can do an optional horse ride: R500 per person for an hour. Contact Liane on 083 653 7573. Book at least three days before the start of the hike.

Contact: 082 391 0647 (Dave); shipwreckhiking.co.za



Emilie Marnewick

The views of the ocean from the high dunes were amazing. Sleeping in the huts was okay, but the bathrooms at the Umtunzi Riet River Hut had a lot of bugs in them.



Willemien

Janse van Rensburg

This is my second time on the trail. The landscape is beautiful; it's great to switch off and not have to interact too much with outside people. It was fantastic to swim in the river and the ocean. Next time I'll pack my binoculars to identify birds.



Elretha Gersbach

The kilometres of blue; the cool sand underfoot; the paddling and the birdlife – it was all wonderful. Cellphone reception is not great, so you can switch off completely. There's time to cook properly, so don't hold back on the treats. Make the most of it.



Bella Marnewick

This was my first hike where we slept over for more than one night. It was really fun to paddle to the Lily Pad Hut. It felt like we were deep in the wilderness. I'll definitely do it again!



Rudi Janse van Rensburg

The trail isn't especially challenging, but during high tide the soft sand can make your legs burn. The beaches are scenic and the huts are close together, which leaves you with enough time to swim or fish. The slackpacking option is worthwhile – there's nothing as rewarding as a cold drink after a day in nature.

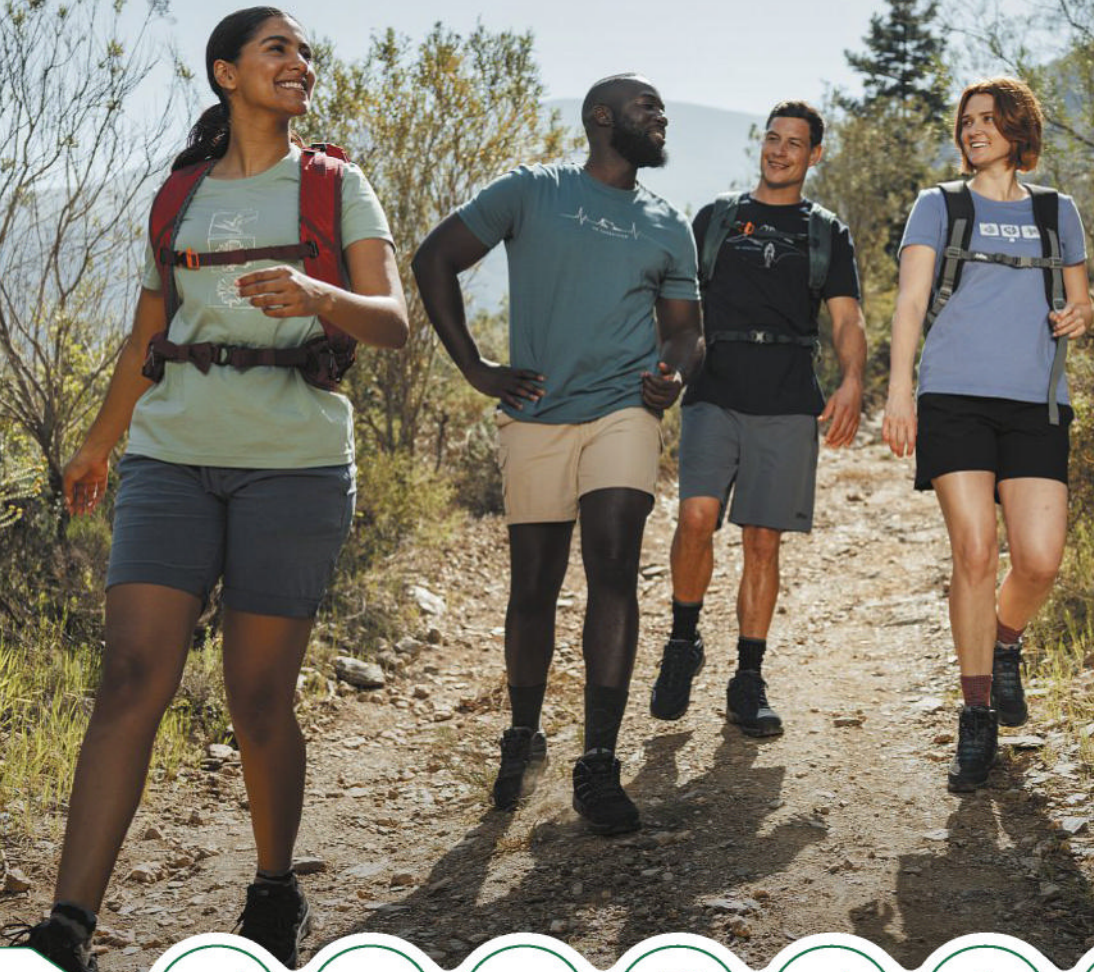


Hendrik Gersbach

Highlights for me: hiking barefoot; paddling on the river; seeing so many turacos... Next time I'll bring more potent insect repellent. I had some spider bites that were still itchy three months later!

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High days and holidays

From raucous parties to quiet evenings under the stars, every family has their own way of celebrating the important days: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

ILLUSTRATIONS **NICOLENE LOUW**



Christmas, Kaapsehoop style

This year I'll be spending Christmas and New Year's Eve in Kaapsehoop, Mpumalanga, for the 21st time.

After two decades, the details of the various years get a bit hazy. (A bit like the view, when the mist rolls in.) Some years we had prim and proper family gatherings; other years bordered on the absurd. One thing is certain: There's a 90% chance that we'll sit around a fireplace in knitted sweaters, drinking glühwein on the eastern escarpment. Hot South African Christmases happen elsewhere, not here.

For our first Christmas in our newly built house all those years ago, we didn't have a blade of grass for a lawn. My daughters and their cousins were covered in mud after jumping on the trampoline.

The Year of the Flopped Pumpkin Tart still pains me to remember. I invited the top restaurant owner in town – and her family – to our feast. She gave my orange dish one look and said, "We're not going to eat *that*, are we?"

Thankfully, my sister's Barberton pavlova swung the scale back in my favour.

For our British neighbours, Christmas was always a big party. One year, as a divorced parent who had sent my daughters off to their father, it was my turn and I allowed myself to be swept along in the festivities. The young British man, surely a reincarnation of Oscar Wilde, had compiled a quiz. For every wrong answer, we had to wrap a strand of tinsel around ourselves. You can imagine what we looked like by the end.

On Christmas Eve, the chapel in town hosts the annual Nativity play. The success of the event depends on how many kids are available to fill the roles. Children aren't a given in tiny towns. To make up for the demographic deficit, we had a geriatric Nativity play one year. Mary had a mop of silver-grey hair and her virginity

was a thing of the past; the angels had day jobs as waiters or cleaners at a local guesthouse; and the Angel Gabriel (usually the lead dancer during town celebrations, despite a gammy knee) was like a cross between Darth Vader and Robin Hood, with angel wings.

Boxing Day is braai day: maybe on the slopes of the Makhonjwa Mountains near Barberton, or on the riverbank on a farm belonging to friends, or in the Pear Orchard picnic site outside Kaapsehoop.

New Year's Eve is on much the same wavelength. My most treasured memory is when our friend group rented a remote hiking hut with a view for the occasion. My one neighbour is a great DJ and we danced so much we only noticed that the teenagers had pilfered our alcohol the next morning.

The very best part of the festive season here is that no one sets off fireworks. Never. Because the people of Kaapsehoop love their animals, and who needs fireworks when good company provides enough of a spark?

– Annemarie van der Walt



When Christmas locked down

We usually spend Christmas with my mom's family, on a farm near Citrusdal owned by

two of her brothers. She's one of six children and almost all of them have their own families... You can imagine how many people flock to the farm by the time Christmas Day rolls around. (Now that I'm at the point of planning my wedding, we've realised that my side of the family alone will make up half of our entire guest list!)

A successful Christmas Day requires serious pre-planning – everyone plays their part to provide the food, drink and entertainment. The day itself is always full of happy chaos: shrieking children showing off new water guns; pandemonium in the kitchen, where a bewildering array of dishes are underway – everything from spanakopita to chicken pie and gammon; and my dad playing guitar on

the stoep, his eclectic music choice veering seamlessly from “Jingle Bells” to “Hotel California”.

While the day is almost always a happy one, Christmases from specific years tend to blur into one memory, except for one year: 2020. The Year of Covid. Thankfully, by December that year, the most unusual time was already behind us: Level 5 lockdown, when you didn't dare put your foot outside the door for non-essential reasons. When Christmas arrived that year, we were on a relaxed Level 1, which swung back to Level 3 by New Year's – probably the result of a cooped-up nation driven to fervent merrymaking.

Regardless of government policy, our family had decided against a mass gathering. Rather be safe than sorry. So, in the end, there were just seven of us instead of the usual hordes. We didn't go to the farm but gathered in a quiet suburb of Stellenbosch. It was me, my boyfriend, my parents and a few friends who couldn't risk the trip back to their own families in far-flung provinces.

That year's feast fit onto one table instead of three. Quiet(er...) conversation replaced the usual hullabaloo; there was no hunting down relatives to exchange a hasty “Merry Christmas”; no shouting to make yourself heard over the table. The addition of guests who normally wouldn't feature at our family Christmas also brought some surprises, like one friend who also loved playing guitar and joined in with my dad.

By the following year, Christmas was back to normal: the chaos, the noise and the abundance of food.

Chaos and abundance will always be the themes of Christmas for me, but as an introvert, I'll take this opportunity to slip in a confession: I actually enjoy a quiet Christmas. Quality time, all the food within reach, less overstimulation... Sign me up. As long as the beach isn't off limits and we can take a long walk afterwards.

– Marcelle van Niekerk





Just in time for church

My family seldom went to the sea at Christmas time. My dad worked in the fruit industry – December was a time to harvest, not holiday.

Because of his commitments, Christmas was always just a relaxed meal with close family.

Not so my husband's family... Every December, they all gather in L'Agulhas on the Southern Cape coast, in a house that has been in the family since the 1920s. It opens straight onto the beach and the famous lighthouse winks at you from the right. How lucky can you be? Almost all the houses in the street are occupied by family members on his side. As an "in-law", I've tried to keep track of who's who and how everyone is related over the years.

The plan was usually this: We celebrated Christmas Eve with my parents in Somerset West, then dashed to L'Agulhas on Christmas morning. To this day, we go directly to the tiny church there. Three identical Christmas services are held – at 7 am, 8 am and 9 am. We are late for the last service almost every

year. One year we were *really* late and we had to watch through the windows as the congregation sang "Silent Night" while our toddlers played on the lawn.

The people who go to the 7 am service are well drilled. They have their lives in order. The 9 am service is packed with *tannies* fanning themselves with pamphlets, little kids with their new Christmas gifts they couldn't bear to leave at home, tired teenagers wrenched from sleep, and sunburnt *ooms* wearing the one and only smart shirt they brought on holiday.

When I attended this service for the first time in the 2000s, the words to the hymns were screened using an overhead projector. PowerPoint has since taken over. The dominee's sermon is much the same though – he does it on autopilot, three times in a row. A Christmas service shouldn't be sombre – there are enough Sundays at other times of the year to deal with the heavy stuff. For now, the focus is on love, family, rest, peace and joy.

The service ends, the doors open and the *ooms* give a sigh of relief. Everyone can escape into the cool breeze. We finally get the chance to greet our family, wish them a "Merry Christmas", and then head to the house for the feast to begin.

– Maryke Visagie

From Helsinki with love

Any reason to celebrate is reason enough: birthdays, religious holidays, future chapters, milestones from the past...

One surreal festive season happened in 2013. It was 6 December, a Friday, at 3.37 am. Restless branches were playing percussion on the tin roof of my bedroom. In my hand, my phone was lit like a Christmas tree, teeming with news of Madiba's death, which had been announced by Jacob Zuma on national television a few moments before midnight.

For some time, I lost myself in the void of the Internet, suspended in the outpouring of mourning, well wishes and shared grief, feeling things oddly vicariously, too numb to summon my own thoughts.

When the sun came up, there were exhibitions, speeches, lampposts with photographs, flowers and cards, clutched notebooks and phones, press conferences at Parliament, at hotels, at inner city chambers with dusty drapes and milky tea. I drove from place to place in a sleep-deprived fugue, past flashing blue lights, stopping to file stories and soundbites; information and context for people to inhale as we collectively held our breath.

Then my car stuttered and stalled. Panicked, I called Winston, my mechanic. And so, on that historic day, Winston despatched a tow truck to save me. The thing is, I had to get to the airport. That night I was flying to Helsinki in Finland for a press junket. Helsinki had been World Design Capital in 2012, and the junket was to announce new projects that would continue the legacy of that initiative.

Finland's capital is on the Baltic Sea, only 180 km from Russia, and for years during the Cold War it had been more of a spy capital. (Think James Bond-style trysts...) The Soviet connection lingers in its neoclassical buildings with chiselled cornices, twirling steeples and domes, grand avenues and ceremonial spaces.

You may know that Finland is home to Santa Claus. It's also continuously named the world's happiest country. Wandering the streets of Helsinki – with dusk settling at 3 pm – I was curious to learn why. Crunching over icy pavements, a man under a red Santa cape – and his terrier draped in blazing fairy lights – did not meet my gaze. At Tuomaan Markkinat – a Christmas market near the floodlit cathedral – people thronged, dressed entirely in black. Snowflakes glistened in their hair, and mulled wine or *glögi* glistened in their eyes. I continued my investigation at a restaurant, over a plate of reindeer fillet with cranberry sauce.

Later, at a public sauna among a bevy of naked women on towels, inhaling birch oil, I finally mustered the courage to ask: "Why are you Fins so happy?"

Beside me, a woman pondered this, then replied cheerfully: "Finland has great welfare for the elderly. It really is the best place to die!"

Indeed, rattling back to my hotel on the city tram, I saw an old lady rise to offer her seat to a slightly older lady...

In the hotel foyer, TV screens played footage from South Africa, updating everyone about Madiba's passing. Helsinki is the world's second northernmost capital, after Reykjavik in Iceland, but watching those images from home, my heart knew its true north.

– Biënne Huisman



Happy New Year... and then?



I don't have childhood memories of counting down to midnight on New Year's Eve. That only really became a thing when I was a teenager.

I do clearly remember one New Year's Day on Bikini Beach in Gordon's Bay. People thronged like sardines, everyone excited about the year ahead. All except one guy – a young policeman. I felt so sorry for him. What did he do to get the job of reprimanding people drinking in public? It was a perfect summer's day on the busiest holiday of the year. A baptism of fire if I ever saw one...

In movies, the New Year countdown always looks so romantic: a stirring soundtrack, sparklers, people with perfect white teeth, glasses full of sparkling wine, everything happening in slow motion... So lovely and happy. This scene usually ends with a shout of "Happy New Year!"

Back to real life now... The countdown is exciting, but afterwards, when you take a step back, the scene is less attractive. Half of the people – me included – plop down into the nearest chair and try to suppress their yawns. Others start to pack up to head home. Somewhere, an overtired child cries and a dog whimpers under a table. That one guy is still drinking sparkling wine from the bottle.

The older you get, the more you realise that these kinds of parties aren't so great. That's why our family has started to seek

out New Year's-less places instead.

We visited the Kruger Park over New Year's a few times. By 9 pm, the campsite – like every other night – is dead quiet. Another time, we camped next to the Orange River. We could hear a party in Noordoewer in the distance, but by midnight only a Cape eagle-owl *hoo-hoo'd* in the New Year.

In 2021, we had an unexpectedly extravagant New Year's Eve. We were with friends in Struisbaai. We heard that one of the restaurants in town had spent R30 000 (or R300 000 – the number was hard to verify) on fireworks. We had no idea what a firework display like this would look like, but we decided to stay up to find out. We had a braai, hung out and played board games to stay awake. At 11.30 pm, we walked down to the harbour. The harbour – and the surrounding beach – was packed, but we managed to find a good spot. After everyone had shouted "Happy New Year!" a firework extravaganza erupted over the ocean.

Look, I'm not a big fan of fireworks, but that night, the colourful flares seemed to go on without end, lighting up the enraptured faces of my kids who were 8 and 11 years old at the time. Those poor girls – the chance of them ever seeing a better fireworks display is little to none!

This year we'll be heading to a faraway place on the West Coast on 31 December. I hear the roads are pretty quiet on New Year's Eve...

– Esma Marnewick

Keeping it simple

Of all the festive days in December, I like New Year's Eve the best – probably because I can get away with celebrating this “big” day in a small way. For the last two decades, every time the holiday season has rolled around, I've made the long, lorry-filled drive from Cape Town to Upington, where I grew up. My parents, brother and many of the extended Louw family still live there.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are made up of a series of meals (my mom always makes sure there's gammon) with my aunts and uncles, cousins – and everyone's children in the swimming pool. We even gather on Boxing Day if there are still leftovers. Those days are heavy with family, food and laughter.

So, as a self-diagnosed introvert, I'm usually all peopled out by the end of the year. After all the excess and boisterousness, I want something simple – no rowdy parties and dancing crowds for me please!

For many years, I accompanied my parents to my grandmother Anna's house for New Year's Eve, for a subdued braai with her and her sisters. We'd sit in the front garden, barefoot on the grass, listening to the siblings' stories of growing up on a farm near Karasburg in Namibia, while meat sizzled on the braai and sweet watermelon juice dripped down our arms.

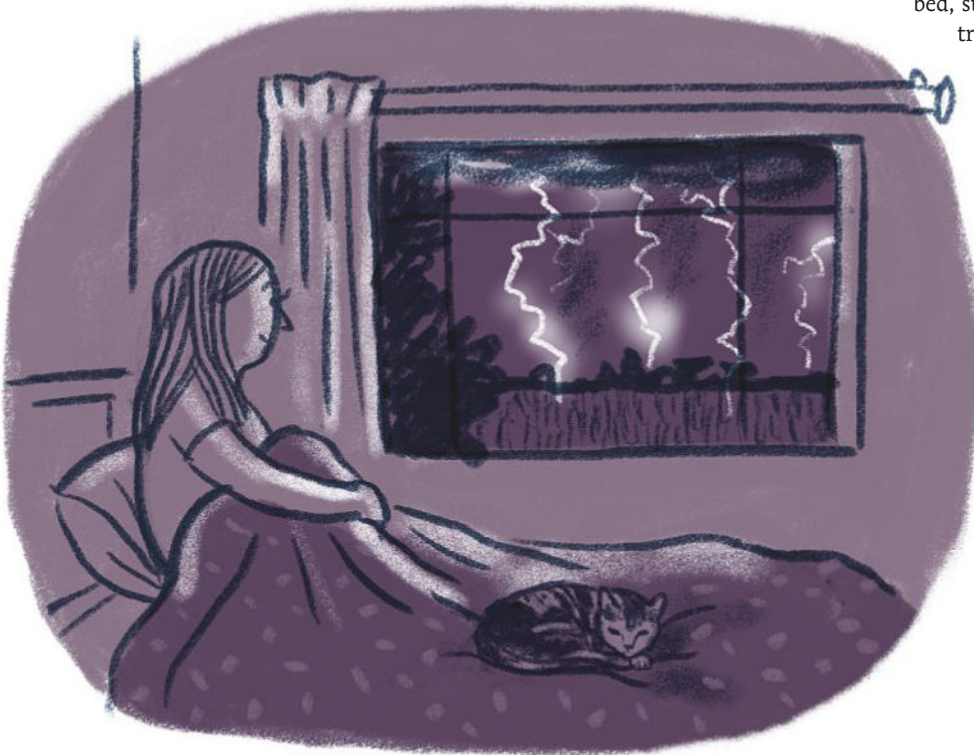
I didn't mind swapping loud music for the song of crickets and frogs in the dark. And I didn't count down the minutes to midnight either – instead, I kept an eye on the clock to make sure the food was ready before it was bedtime for the seniors...

My grandmother and her sisters have since passed away, but we continue the tradition at my parents' house. We think it's good to end the year on a quiet note; to take a beat before the New Year takes off; thinking about the past year and the new possibilities tomorrow might hold.

Our low-key New Year's Eve is big on starry skies, not firework displays. (My parents' house is on the outskirts of Upington and if I really feel like seeing fireworks, I can sneak to the kitchen after everyone has gone to bed, stand on my tippy toes and peer over the trees on the banks of the Orange River to watch the midnight display in the CBD.) If I'm really lucky, a Kalahari thunderstorm will roll in, turning the sky into a much better spectacle of light and sound.

To me, a thunderstorm is always a reminder that the simple pleasures are often the best. And what's better than waking up on 1 January to a world washed clean for a new start?

– Martinette Louw



No hour is better than this hour

As a child, New Year's Eve was the pinnacle of excitement. My mom, the optimist, would suggest an afternoon nap so my siblings and I could stay up late. A nap? I'd lie there vibrating with anticipation, dreaming of the snacks: devilled eggs; cheeses with exotic names like Roquefort and Boursin; pigs in blankets... all the delicacies usually reserved for adults only.

The thrill of being allowed to party with the grown-ups was almost too much. People seemed happy purely because of the occasion. Us kids would get caught up in the spirit and we'd dance to 80s' pop, but also to Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. I couldn't wait for the clock to strike 12, when fireworks would explode across the sky in a psychedelic display.

When I reached my teens, I began to realise New Year's was also a time for reflection. After an extended study break, my dominee father was back in a congregation. This meant at 11pm, he'd be standing on the pulpit ringing in the year with a message of hope and gratitude.

Fast forward to my student years, when I briefly flirted with the idea of "real" parties. The build-up was always more fun than the actual event. There's something about being crammed into a room with sweaty strangers, slurring their way through the countdown while bass-heavy music thumps through your bones, that makes you long for your mom's cheese-blocks-and-cocktail-onions on toothpicks.

Craig (my husband) and I made a pact years ago: If we're not with family or close friends, we celebrate at home. No overpriced set menus or Uber treks, no forced dancing. Just good food, music, and domestic contentment.

Our New Year's Eve routine is now a well-oiled machine. Drinks and snacks kick off the evening – everyone contributes. Our



eldest, Ella, scours Pinterest for inspiration and whips up chilli poppers or potato samosas. Her younger sister, Mira, takes charge of music and games, ensuring we don't slip into a food coma before midnight.

A few minutes before the big moment, Craig cues up ABBA's "Happy New Year" (a tradition that started ironically and now feels sentimental). Glasses are raised, and we toast to the year ahead.

In Spain, they apparently eat 12 grapes at midnight – one for each chime of the clock, each grape a promise of good fortune. In Brazil, people head to the beach to jump over seven waves at midnight, each leap symbolising luck and resilience. Our local beach has banned fireworks (thankfully), but still draws thousands on New Year's Day. Which is why we don't go.

On 1 January, the roads in our neighbourhood are gridlocked in every direction, and the beach is swarming with sunburnt optimism. So we burrow down, sleep late, and emerge slowly, like hungover meerkats, in search of breakfast.

Breakfast is a choose-your-own-adventure affair. Craig and I opt for muesli and yoghurt. The eldest offspring makes French toast; the youngest raids the fridge for leftovers.

We spend the day lounging, watching the sun inch across the garden. The lawn fights valiantly against the southeaster and the salty sea air. Aloes and wild dagga stand proud, geraniums wave in the breeze, and butterflies, lizards and birds flit about.

It's not glamorous. It's not loud. But it's ours – and it's the perfect way to start a new year.

– Marijcke Dodds

Howzat! from the couch

It's always summer *somewhere* in the world – especially in places where cricket is played.

My high school years coincided with South Africa's reintroduction to international cricket. Our first tour since readmission was in 1991, under the captaincy of Clive Rice. The TV images in our living rooms were hazy – in part because spectators set off fireworks in the stands, and also because the air in Calcutta, Gwalior or New Delhi was smoggy with tuk-tuk exhaust fumes.

Later, during my university years, satellite TV – and SuperSport – ensured better quality broadcasts. During the December holidays on our farm near Cradock in the Eastern Cape, I revelled in this new luxury.

Traditionally, there's a test match between Christmas and New Year, starting on Boxing Day. I'd take up my position on the couch in the living room early in the morning, with a cup of coffee and some of my mother's delicious rusks.

Maybe South Africa was playing England

that year, and the Proteas' Paul "Gogga" Adams would mesmerize their captain Mike Atherton shortly before lunch, deceiving him with a ball that went the other way.

When the players took lunch, I'd also eat. The only problem was that my mom's cooking schedule didn't always align with the day's play. If I had to eat in the dining room and the players came back out, I'd turn up the volume on the TV in case a wicket fell or something important happened. Gerald de Kock's voice would rise an octave, which would be my cue to quickly excuse myself and run back to the living room to watch the replay.

Even better: When two Boxing Day test matches took place on different continents – in different time zones.

With luck, India would be on tour in Australia and their match in Sydney would start at 1 am local time. In that case, I'd be on the couch by midnight, stretched out and ready for Richie Benaud's pitch report and that first ball bowled by someone with a lekker moustache, like Merv Hughes.

I would turn the sound down so no one would be kept awake. And I'd keep my ears pricked – even when half asleep myself – for that rise in the voice of the commentator, watching with one eye open as someone hit a four or was caught out at second slip.

I did get some sleep, but not much. By breakfast it was close of play in Australia. After a bowl of *krummelpap* with biltong slices, I'd report back to the living room for the start of the test match in South Africa.

In an exceptional year, there would be yet another test in the Caribbean – again in a different time zone. Come early evening, I'd be following *that* match, where Brian Lara would be slapping Pakistan to all corners of Sabina Park.

That was the dream for those lazy days between Christmas and New Year: To watch every test cricket ball bowled in the world.

When I emerged from the cricket haze, it was a new year with new things to look forward to... like the New Year's Test at Newlands, which started on 2 January!

– Toast Coetzer



A family of four is camping on a rocky shore. A man in a tan jacket and grey beanie is pouring from a silver thermos. A woman in a brown jacket holds a silver cup. Two children in green jackets and beanie hats are standing nearby. A small table holds food like bread and fruit. A green tent is in the foreground. The background shows a rocky coastline with waves.

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WINNING PHOTO

> WERNER STRAUSS

Canon EOS R5
Canon RF 200–800 mm lens

WERNER WRITES: I was delighted to join a group on a photo safari in Mashatu Game Reserve, Botswana, in September 2025.

Early one morning we approached a riverbed and spotted a leopard in a tree. The sun had just peeked out. We asked the guide to position the game vehicle so that the rising sun would be in the background. And then we waited...

My camera was ready, with the leopard in focus. I was shooting in manual mode and I changed my settings as I thought best for that moment.

I couldn't believe my luck when the leopard decided to jump to another branch. I managed to capture its silhouette in motion!

My shutter speed was 1/1 250 second, aperture f6.3, at ISO 800. I cropped the shot using Lightroom.



TOAST SAYS: Werner, pour yourself a glass of Amarula! This is a classic African moment, captured expertly.

All the groundwork was in place: The early start and the local knowledge of a guide, which always helps when you're looking for a leopard. Then there's the vision of a photographer who

realised that – with a bit of luck – a silhouette shot might be in the offing. You have to visualise a photo before it has happened.

Werner's fast shutter speed was key here to freeze the action. I like the composition, with the leopard top right, between the two main boughs. The area immediately behind the leopard

is cluttered with branches, which makes for an interesting optical illusion – the one branch looks like it's the leopard's tail, albeit a fat fox tail rather than a slender leopard one. (The real tail is in there somewhere, but hard to discern!)

Well done, Werner, the camera bag is yours!



^ RUTH SMIT

Canon EOS R7

Canon RF 100–500 mm lens

RUTH WRITES: I took this photo at my house in Marloth Park, just outside the Kruger Park. The warthog decided to have a lie-down near my porch! He seemed to enjoy the clean-up crew – the red-billed oxpeckers – and had a nice “spa day”.

My shutter speed was 1/80 second, aperture f7.1, at ISO 200.

TOAST SAYS: This is exactly the kind of treatment I’m looking forward to, come year-end, after having spent thousands of kilometres on the road

and nearly 60 days of camping “in the line of duty”... What would be better than a spa day?

Ruth is lucky to live in Marloth Park; there’s wildlife all around. The more time you spend with wild animals, the better your photography becomes. You start getting the hang of their habits; you recognise their favourite haunts, and you notice when their behaviour is slightly out of the ordinary.

This scene is very well composed: Your attention moves between the head of the warthog

(the eyes might be closed, but the tusks are a good focal point) and the three oxpeckers at different points in the frame.

I also like the “beauty and the beast” vibe – the contrast between the rough-looking warthog (he looks like he spent most of the year at Springbok scrum practice) and the impeccably styled oxpeckers with their red “lips” and yellow “eyeliner”.

Maybe I’ll come lie around in Marloth Park for a few hours and wait for the oxpeckers to give *me* a pedicure?



▲ WILLEM KRUGER

Nikon D3S
Nikkor 600mm f4 lens with
a Nikon 1.4x converter

WILLEM WRITES: I took this photo from a specially designed photography boat on the Chobe River in Botswana. We were watching a pod of hippos sleeping near the riverbank.

We were a comfortable distance away, but another boat decided to move into the gap between the hippos and us. One hippo was not impressed and showed its aggression towards the passing boat. This “yawn” was definitely not a sign of boredom...

It was enough to make us move on and leave the agitated hippos alone.

My shutter speed was fast – 1/2 500 second – at an aperture of f8 and ISO 500.

TOAST SAYS: Yup, messing with a hippo is a bad idea – and getting into the path of one that’s busy throwing its toys out of the cot is a no-no. Reverse right out of there!

This photo perfectly illustrates the power of eye contact in a wildlife photo. The eye grabs your attention and the rest of the composition is built around it. Typically – and I’m sure this is what Willem did – you’d use burst mode when taking an action shot

like this. In other words, you hold down the shutter button and the camera fires off as many shots as it can in sequence. This excess is essential because you can’t predict – in this example – how the hippo will move, and especially not how the water will splash.

Willem probably chose this image from a handful of others where the droplets weren’t as neatly positioned to “frame” the eye of the hippo. There are no distracting droplets in front of the eye in this shot.

A simple photo, done well – and that makes it a cracker!



✓ **JEAN GOLDSTONE**

Canon EOS 1D Mk II
Canon 100 mm macro lens

JEAN WRITES: This ladybird was on the leaf of a pumpkin plant in my garden in Jeffreys Bay. I found it fascinating that this little guy's spots were gold – I've never seen one like it! I spent ages taking pics of it.

My settings: shutter speed 1/400 second, aperture f5.6 at ISO 800. I did some edits in Lightroom – I adjusted the exposure, toned down the highlights and boosted the vibrance.

TOAST SAYS: Ah, the small delights of this world! These pages are usually dominated by big, bold animals like hippos and leopards, which makes it all the more pleasurable to pause for a moment and admire this dainty ladybird. (According to entomologist Jo Balmer, this species is the *Chnootriba natalensis*.)

Getting the focus right is devilishly hard with a macro lens, because it's so sensitive. If the wrong part of the insect is sharp, it can easily spoil the shot.

Jean nailed it here. The sharp focus (in the right area) ensures that the bright gold and bronze of the beetle's shell gets all the shine it deserves. At the same time, the head is sharp, too, because that's usually the default focal point for any creature, big or small.

Jean used a mid-range aperture of f5.6. Typically, you'd want to bracket here – shooting a few different options at wider and narrower apertures. You can then compare whether, for example, an aperture of f8, f5.6 or f4 ends up giving you the result you were after.

I also like the sea of green that the ladybird is floating in; and the detail of the fine hair on the leaf that's repeated (if you look closely) on the shell of the beetle itself.

Picture perfect!



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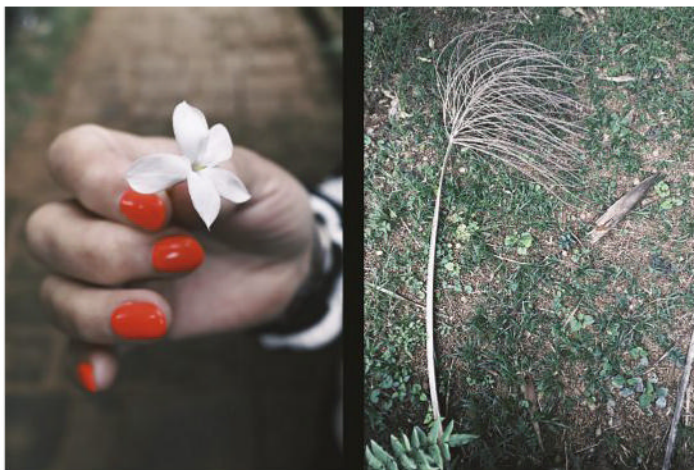
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FUJIFILM X HALF

What have we got here? Among camera manufacturers, Fujifilm seems to be the most fearless when it comes to putting out unusual, even idiosyncratic models. This nifty camera is a case in point – it's much more about the *idea* of a camera, the pleasure of using one, than about being technically advanced (which it also is).

It's meant to be a pocket camera (it weighs 240 g and fits easily into a shirt pocket), which you can whip out for quick point-and-shoot snaps. It only takes vertical images, which is a nod to how we take and display photos on our phones via apps like Instagram and TikTok. (Because we tend to hold our phones in an upright position, the images that best display on them are vertical.) When you flick the lever on the back of the camera, it combines the next photo you take with the previous one, setting them side by side in the same frame.

The X Half is also a throwback to the film era. Like all other Fujifilm cameras, it comes with a set of film simulations (13 in this case), which mimic actual Fujifilm stock.

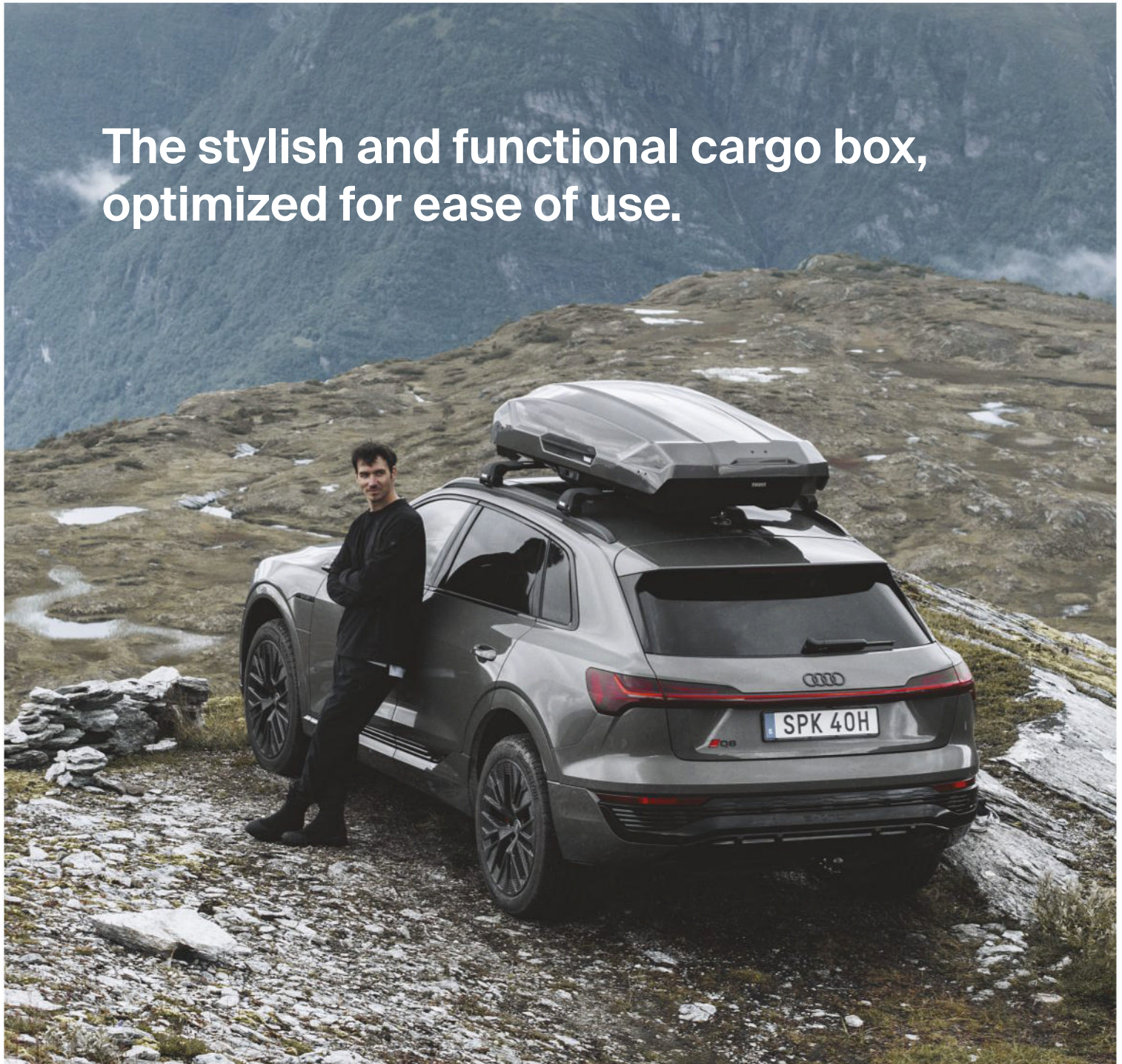
But you can go even further, and set the X Half to shoot either a 24- or 36-exposure series. While shooting this "roll", you're committed to finishing it before doing anything else with the camera. It really makes you concentrate on shot selection again, like you had to do in the old days of film photography, where every frame counted before you dropped your roll at CNA to be developed...

Who is it for? This is a great third or fourth camera to own – it will never replace your "work" camera, but it's perfect for social pictures of your friends, or for "street style" travel photography. You might say that your smartphone covers these bases, but the X Half is much more fun to use. It feels like you're engaging in thoughtful photography, not just an endless snap-athon.

What are the specs? Small, but powerful, the X Half has an 18 MP CMOS sensor and records video at 1 080 x 1 440 pixels (vertically oriented). The fixed 10.8 mm lens is the equivalent of 32 mm.

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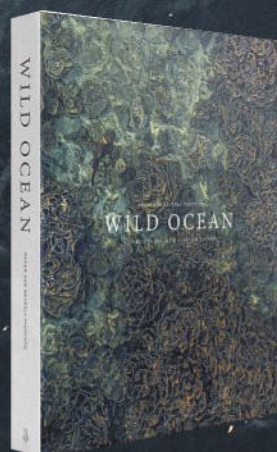
COMPILED BY LYNNE FRASER

Aclaimed wildlife photographers Peter and Beverly Pickford spent four years working on their latest book project, *Wild Ocean* – a portrait of some of the earth's last remaining wild marine environments and shorelines.

The 400 pages take us on a journey from Alaska to Australia, while issuing a call to action: We must all play a part in protecting our oceans for the sake of their future – and ours.

Peter shares his inspiration for the project: "About 70% of the earth's surface is water, and almost all of that water is ocean. We come to its edge and let the emotions in: serenity, if the ocean is calm; excitement, if it's rushing and wild; awe and fear if it's angry.

"But standing on the threshold is only comprehending the ocean in terms of its relationship to land. You have to enter the water and open your eyes in the depths if you want to glimpse the largest habitat that exists on our planet – an entire world of its own, only hinted at by what we see breaching the surface."



Wild Ocean is available at Wordsworth Books, Exclusive Books and independent bookshops, or online at flyleaf.co.za (R1 100).



⬆ Mother and child

A humpback whale calf cavorts next to its mother in the protective shallows of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, Western Australia. The Ningaloo Coast offers a crucial nursery and recovery zone for the whales and hosts one of the world's largest annual humpback migrations, with around 40 000 whales passing through each year.

HOW? DJI Mavic Pro 3, Hasselblad 24 mm lens, shutter speed 1/400 second, aperture f4.4, ISO 200





▲ Eating on the move

A manta ray feeds on plankton around the St François Atoll, part of the Seychelles archipelago. Tidal currents around the islands flush nutrient-rich water from the atoll's vast lagoon out to sea, drawing in a procession of these magnificent ocean giants.

HOW? Nikon D850, Nikon 24–70 mm lens, shutter speed 1/1 000 second, aperture f8, ISO 250, in a Nauticam housing

A group of sea otters are floating in a calm fjord. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples. In the background, there are steep, forested mountains under a clear sky. The otters are scattered across the middle ground, some with their heads above water.

✔ Team meeting

A raft of sea otters gather in a sheltered fjord of the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia, Canada – a jigsaw puzzle of islands, mountains, inlets and waterways. Hunted for decades for their valuable pelts, the otter population is now slowly on the rebound.

HOW? Nikon D850, 70–200 mm lens, shutter speed 1/100 second, aperture f8, ISO 100



A high-angle, close-up photograph of a massive school of sockeye salmon swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish are densely packed, their silvery scales catching the light, and their reddish-pink sides are visible. The water is a vibrant greenish-yellow, and the overall scene conveys a sense of intense natural activity.

➤ Sushi hunt

A grizzly bear hunts sockeye salmon in a pool below a set of rapids in Katmai National Park, Alaska. During peak season, some Katmai grizzlies eat up to 45 kg of salmon per day, allowing them to pack on body fat before the winter hibernation.

HOW? Nikon D850, 24–70 mm lens, shutter speed 1/400 second, aperture f5.6, ISO 400, with a polarising filter





Golden goodness

Celebrate the sweet things in life with these festive honey recipes.

RECIPES & STYLING **JOHANÉ NEILSON**
PICTURES **SHELLEY CHRISTIANS**

Corn waffles with chicken and hot honey



Feta phyllo pie



Honey glaze with mustard and whisky

Corn waffles with chicken and hot honey

Makes 6, depending on the size of your waffle maker

Preparation time 45 minutes

Cooking time a few minutes per portion

You need

- 1 cup milk or buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1½ cups self-raising flour, sieved
- ½ cup whole-kernel corn
- pinch of salt and ground pepper

For the chicken

- 3 chicken breast fillets (about 400 g in total), in bite-size strips

- 1 cup buttermilk, plus 2 tablespoons extra
- ½ teaspoon each salt and ground black pepper
- big pinch each of coriander and cumin
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- oil, for deep frying

For that something extra

- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- 1 ripe avocado, in slices (optional)

Here's how

1 Beat the milk, olive oil, eggs and honey together. Add the self-raising flour, corn, salt and pepper. Beat until smooth. Scoop a big spoonful of the batter into a

preheated electric waffle maker and bake for a few minutes until the waffle is cooked through. Repeat with the rest of the batter.

2 In a glass bowl, mix the chicken strips with a cup of buttermilk and the spices. Combine the self-raising flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Add the extra buttermilk and rub it into the flour to form some crumbs. Roll the chicken strips in the flour and crumbs mixture until completely covered and set aside.

3 Heat 2 cm of oil in a pot and fry a few strips of chicken at a time until golden brown, crisp and cooked. Scoop the strips onto kitchen paper to drain. Repeat the process with the rest.

4 Mix the honey and hot sauce together until smooth. Arrange slices of avocado and chicken on top of the waffles and drizzle over the sauce.

TIP Pan-fried halloumi strips make a delicious meat-free alternative.

Feta phyllo pie

Serves 8 as an appetiser

Preparation time 20 minutes

Baking time 25 minutes

You need

- 4 sheets of phyllo pastry
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoons runny honey

For the filling

- 400 g feta, crumbled
- 1 tub (230 g) cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- grated zest of 1 lemon
- ½ cup soft herbs (parsley, fennel and basil)

Here's how

1 Preheat the oven to 180 °C and combine all the ingredients for the filling.

2 Put the four sheets of pastry side by side lengthwise on a clean work surface – they should

overlap slightly. Spoon the filling onto the sheets, about 2 cm from the bottom edge, in a long, straight line across all four. Brush the rest of the pastry with butter.

3 Roll the pastry up over the filling from the bottom – not too tightly – to form a long sausage. Then roll the sausage into a spiral. Carefully move the spiral onto a greased baking sheet. (Baking paper is optional.) Brush with more of the melted butter and scatter over the sesame seeds. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through.

4 Drizzle the pie with honey before you serve it either hot or at room temperature.

TIP We folded an extra sheet of phyllo pastry into a bow and baked it with the pie. Keep an eye on it – it will brown quicker than the pie.

Honey glaze with mustard and whisky

Makes 300 ml

Preparation time 10 minutes

Cooking time 5 minutes

You need

- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
- 1 tablespoon tomato sauce
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 shot of whisky
- 3 sprigs of thyme, leaves stripped

Here's how

1 Combine all the ingredients in a pot and stir over a medium heat until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to a boil, lower the heat and simmer for 2 minutes.

2 Pour the glaze into a sterilised glass jar and let it cool down. It can be kept in the fridge for up to a week.

TIP I fried thick bacon rashers until crispy and glazed them with 3 tablespoons of this sauce. Serve with roasted Brussel sprouts, steamed green beans and pomegranate arils on mashed potato for a quick festive meal.

The glaze can also be used on a cooked pork leg roast or to make cooked chicken wings sticky before you remove them from the grid. The sauce has a high sugar content and can burn easily so keep an eye on it!

Honey-roasted pumpkin flatbread

Serves 10 as an appetiser

Preparation time 1 hour, plus time for the dough to rise

Baking time 1 hour 20 minutes

You need

- 3½ cups bread flour
- 1 packet (10 g) instant yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon runny honey
- 1½ cups lukewarm water
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, plus 3 tablespoons extra

For the top layer

- 1 medium-sized butternut, peeled and seeds removed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons runny honey
- ½ teaspoon each cumin seeds and thyme leaves
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 8 cherry tomatoes
- 1 wheel of camembert, cut in wedges
- 100 g smoked Black Forest ham slices
- ⅓ cup pumpkin seeds, roasted

Here's how

1 Mix the bread flour, yeast and salt in a bowl. Dissolve the honey in water and add to the dry ingredients with the oil. Mix the dough by hand until it comes together. Put the dough on a clean

work surface and knead for about 10 minutes until smooth, soft and elastic. Try not to add extra flour. Rub the dough with oil and put it in a clean mixing bowl. Cover with a moist kitchen cloth and place in a warm place to double in volume. **2** Grease a baking sheet with olive oil and add the dough. Use your fingers to flatten the dough into an even layer of about 1,5 cm thick. (It will rise some more

while you roast the butternut.) **3** Preheat the oven to 200 °C. Cut the butternut into 1 cm slices. Mix the slices with the olive oil, honey, cumin and thyme. Spread them out in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with baking paper. Roast for about 40 minutes or until cooked, with charred edges. Season with salt and pepper and let it cool down slightly.

4 Arrange half of the butternut

slices, the cherry tomatoes and the Camembert on top of the dough. You can either add the ham now (it becomes quite crispy) or after the bread has been baked. Drizzle over a tablespoon of olive oil and bake until cooked through – depending on the thickness it will take about 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and add the rest of the butternut slices, ham and pumpkin seeds and serve lukewarm.



Honey-roasted pumpkin flatbread



Panforte

Panforte

Makes 1 x 22 cm cake

Preparation time 20 minutes

Baking time 50 – 60 minutes

You need

- 1 cup mixed raisins
- 1 cup chopped dried fruit (I used peach, apple and pear)
- 75 g candied citrus peel
- 100 g almond flakes, roasted
- 100 g blanched hazelnuts, roasted
- ½ cup cake flour
- 3 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon each ground cinnamon and nutmeg
- ½ cup honey
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup boiling water
- 75 g glacé cherries
- icing sugar, to serve

Here's how

1 Preheat the oven to 160 °C. Line a 22 cm cake tin with baking paper. Mix the raisins, dried fruit, citrus peel, nuts, cake flour, cocoa, cinnamon and nutmeg together in a big bowl.

2 Add the honey, sugar and water to a pot over a low heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Bring the syrup to a boil and cook without stirring until it reaches the soft-ball stage. It takes about 3 to 5 minutes. Test if the syrup is ready by spooning a little bit of the boiling mixture into a glass of cold water. If it forms a soft ball, it's ready. Return the ball to the pot and add the syrup to the dry ingredients.

3 Stir quickly with a sturdy spoon until well combined. Flatten the mixture in the prepared cake tin. Decorate with the cherries and bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Let the cake cool down and remove it from the tin. Sieve a layer of icing sugar over it. It's very sweet – serve in thin slices.

Coconut-and-honey biscuits

Makes 40 biscuits

Preparation time 25 minutes, plus time to refrigerate

Baking time 10 – 15 minutes per batch

You need

- 1 cup soft butter
- 1 cup castor sugar
- ½ cup runny honey
- grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon rose water
- 2 extra-large eggs
- 3 cups cake flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- pinch of salt
- about ¾ cup desiccated coconut

Here's how

1 Beat the butter, castor sugar and honey together until light in colour and well combined. Add the lemon zest and rose water, followed by the eggs, one by one. Beat well after each egg. Don't worry if the mixture separates – it will come together in the end.

2 Sieve the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into the bowl and mix by hand to get a soft dough. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to firm up.

3 Preheat the oven to 180 °C. Shape the dough into walnut-sized balls. Roll each ball in the coconut and flatten it slightly on a baking sheet lined with baking paper. Leave enough space between the biscuits – they'll expand as they bake. Repeat the process with all the balls. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Place the biscuits on a wire rack to cool down; they'll firm up but won't harden. Store in an airtight container.

Source: Recipe adapted from

preppykitchen.com



Coconut-and-honey biscuits

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Gifts galore!

Wondering what to get the family (or yourself) for Christmas?
Our team came up with these great stocking stuffers.



SOPHIA VAN TAAK

◀ Washaway travel set

You'll find everything you need to feel fresh and clean inside this zippered bag made from hemp material. The genius part is that there are no liquids that can leak. Instead, you get 10 toothpaste capsules in an aluminium tin, a balm made from beeswax, galam butter, coconut oil and aloe vera to treat dry lips or insect bites, and a bar of soap (also made from natural ingredients) with five grooves on the bottom so you can cut the bar smaller should you require. The bamboo toothbrush is short but well designed for a good grip. Lightweight (137 g) and environmentally friendly, this set should always be in your luggage.

R400 📞 washaway.co.za

◀ Mac In A Sac Origin jacket

If there's one nation that knows about rain and wind, it's the Irish. That's why I trust this jacket – Mac In A Sac has been a household name in Ireland for 35 years. The jacket is wind- and waterproof (the seams and zips, too); it has elasticated cuffs; two pockets; a ventilation flap on the back; a high collar and a rain hoodie that unfolds from the collar. When rolled up in its sac, it weighs 250 – 300 g (depending on the size) and it's available in sizes XS to XXXL. There are seven colours to choose from.

R1 300 📞 trappers.co.za

◀ Woofa pet products

Give your pooch some culture and class with a beautiful adjustable collar and lead. The designs celebrate South Africa's indigenous cultures: The Abela range has traditional Ndebele patterns and the Ndaa range has colourful Venda stripes. If you want to match your best friend, get a keyring with a similar pattern.

R165 (collar), R200 (lead) and R85 (keyring)

📞 woofa.org





ESMA MARNEWICK

▲ **Coghlan's bungee clothesline**

You're never guaranteed a clothesline at a hiking hut or in a campsite. And who wants to hang up their bikini in the ablution block? When packed away, this stretchable, woven clothesline is about the size of a small Ceres juice box. It's 1,8m in length and you don't need any pegs – you just insert the tip of your towel or hiking shirt into one of the openings in the clothesline to keep it in place.

R135 📞 campandclimb.co.za

◀ **Stainless steel straws**

Most restaurants have caught on – by now you should really be getting a paper straw with your iced coffee or John Lee special. But even though those paper straws are more eco-friendly, they tend to get soggy after a while, especially when dunked in a double-thick milkshake! Earth Warrior sells stainless steel straws in a range of colours, along with pouches and straw cleaners. The straws are sold individually, so you can make up a bundle of two for your newly married cousin, or six for your brother and all his kids.

R10 per straw 📞 earthwarrior.co.za

◀ **Reusable cutlery roll**

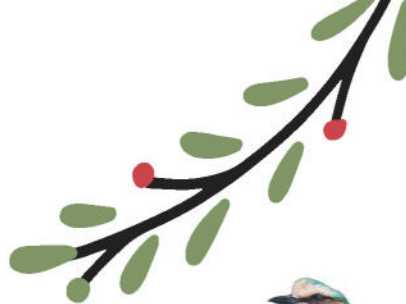
Carry your own cutlery in your handbag in this beautiful fabric bag and you'll never have to eat fish and chips with those awful white plastic knives and forks again. You can also pop it in the cubbyhole for your next road trip.

R168 📞 spazastore.com

◀ **Scrubba Wash Bag Mini**

When folded up, this multipurpose wash bag is the size of an envelope. Pack it for an overnight trail and you can get away with carrying fewer clothes. They say it's big enough to wash underwear and a pair of socks, but I managed to fit socks, underwear and a hiking shirt. You fill the bag with water and rub the clothes on a built-in washboard for three minutes. Rinse with clean water and hang up to dry. Easy! The bag will be handy on long holidays when you start to run out of clean underwear. You can also use it to carry a wet swimming costume, or as a dry bag for your cellphone.

R800 📞 bravehardy.com



MARTINETTE LOUW

➤ **Birds of South Africa bookmark**

Wildlife artist Matthew Bell is known for his pencil art – he's created these beautiful wooden bookmarks of South African bird species. There are currently 13 in the range; each 2 mm-thick, laser-cut bookmark features a detailed artwork and interesting facts about the bird in question. The bookmark has a smooth, matte finish. When in use, it looks like a bird is perching on your summer read. Never lose your place again!

R130 📞 matthewbellart.co.za

➤ **Vuurtjie rolling braai basket**

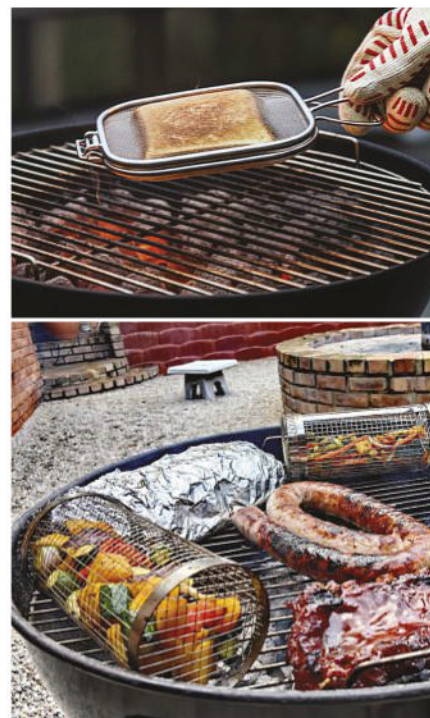
If there's someone in your family who prefers chips to chops, and you don't want them to miss out on the braai, you can cook delicious veggies, potato wedges and other sides over the fire in this nifty basket. Just fill it up, put it on the grid and turn it every now and then to distribute the heat evenly. It's made from steel mesh; 9 cm in diameter and 20 cm in length. Vuurtjie also sells a nice *braaibroodjie* basket (R169) to keep your toastie together if you like to pile on the fillings.

R99 📞 vuurtjie.co.za

▼ **Funky Ouma travelling tiny taster 5-pack**

Who says camping food has to be bland? Funky Ouma is a Wellington-based company that makes interesting salts and spices. This pack is designed to give you a taste of five of their products – African BBQ spice, chilli salt, braai salt, black garlic salt and cinnamon sugar. The 15 g – 25 g tins are small enough to pop into the food crate for a weekend away.

R179 📞 funky-ouma.co.za





VANIA JOOSTE

< **Charm Infinite passport holder**

Are you like me? Always worried about keeping essential travel documents safe when crossing a border? This chic passport holder keeps all your important things together. It has slots for three cards (bank cards and driving licence) as well as two slots for SIM cards. There are also two bigger slots for a passport and flight tickets, and a till slip or two. The best feature is that it offers protection against radio waves, which will keep your cards safe from thieves who hang out in busy places and try to steal your electronic information.

R128 📞 takealot.com (available in a range of colours)

< **Alanes backrest**

Did you know you're not allowed to use a camping chair in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden? Here's the solution for picnics, outdoor concerts and movie nights! You can also use it on the beach or at a cricket game. The backrest is padded with pearl cotton and offers support while you sit. It can fold up (42 cm x 40 cm x 3 cm) and fits into a bag. The material will stay dry even on wet grass.

R399 📞 takealot.com

✓ **Human Gear CupCup**

Do you like to carry a flask of coffee when you go hiking? Get this set of nested cups for your next outing. You can use them as one, double-wall insulated mug, or as two separate cups. When converted into a mug, it also has a sipping lid with a silicone gasket to prevent leaks. All parts are microwave and dishwasher safe. It has a lifetime guarantee and is BPA and phthalate free.

R289 📞 takealot.com



TOAST COETZER

> **RADBAG Snug down sleeping bag**

Since I bought this sleeping bag, I haven't had a cold night while camping. It's made in Cape Town by RADBAG (makers of equally nifty bivvy bags) and stuffed with goose feathers from another local business, Hex Valley Down. Aimed at the hiking market, the Snug weighs just 450 g and is about the size of a chihuahua once you've stuffed it into its bag. It's two metres long and 76 cm wide at the top, tapering around your feet.

R4 600 📞 radbag.co.za

> **Sawyer Mini water filtration system**

Clean drinking water is essential when you're doing a multi-day hike in an area where the quality of the water along the way can be unpredictable. I used this Sawyer Mini system during the Kruger Trail, when we had to rely on pools of near-stagnant water where elephants, hippo and other game had left their droppings behind. The Sawyer Mini is easy to operate and your water is immediately drinkable and 100% safe. It packs small (I carry mine in a canvas toilet roll holder) and basically doesn't weigh a thing – 56 g.

R750 📞 filtershop.co.za

> **TacPro ripstop hunting pants**

FFS Outdoor is an up-and-coming Cape Town-based company that makes hard-wearing gear. It's mostly aimed at hunters, but these pants are perfect for any rugged outdoor adventure. The pants are made of light but tough ripstop material (65% polyester, 35% cotton), with a good fit and feel. You sense they can take a thorough beating. I sometimes wear them for five days straight when I'm out in the veld. The pockets are so deep, you don't even feel their bottoms when you casually put your hands in – lots of space to stuff a phone.

R1 099 📞 ffsoutdoor.com



JON MINSTER

➤ **CIOVITA Springbok cycling jersey**

You've got the official players' jersey and the away kit, now you can show your support for Siya and the boys on your bike rides, too. This stylish, officially licensed green-and-gold jersey is available in two cuts – race fit and sports fit – in men's, women's and kids' versions. You can also go full *bokkie* with a range of other accessories including tube scarfs, ear warmers, arm warmers and a Springbok cycling cap. Lekker.

Jerseys from R599 📞 ciovita.co.za

➤ **CSixx magnetic quick link top cap**

This clever upgrade for your mountain bike allows you to store a quick link – two crucial little parts to fix a broken chain – under a magnetic top cap on your stem. Available in various designs, and even custom colours, it mounts flush and snaps closed thanks to powerful magnets.

R425 📞 za.csixx.com

➤ **Restrap coffee dripper**

Are you a hiker? Are you a coffee snob? Are you a weight weenie? If you ticked "yes" to all three, check out this inspired piece of kit, which is made of three snapping-together pieces that form a tidy stand for a widely available V60 coffee filter. Position it over your favourite mug, add coffee and hot water and you're done. The dripper weighs less than 50 g and collapses flat into a nylon pouch that you can slip into just about any pocket.

R300 📞 everydaycyclesupplyco.com





MARIJCKE DODDS

▲ **NoSo Patches**

Don't let a leaky tent or a torn rain jacket on a multi-day hike spoil your adventure. NoSo patches are polyester, waterproof repair "stickers" (no sew, get it?) that can fix your favourite outdoor gear in just three easy steps. Simply clean the damaged area, crack the patch and stick it on. Once you're back home, you can apply heat with a hair dryer to make the repair last longer. The patches come in a variety of fun designs – from a smiley face to nature themes. If you'd rather keep it old school, they're also available in plain green or camo.

From R150 📞 sapmok.com

◀ **Envirokid African animals advent calendar**

Envirokid is a Cape Town-based company that makes beautiful, durable toys. This advent calendar is available in three designs, but the African animals one brings some local flair to the festive season. Fill the pockets with choccies, funny or inspirational cards, or small gifts. You can also turn it into a treasure hunt by leaving notes with clues to the loot. The illustrations are hand-painted and printed on thick canvas, so the calendar can be used year after year. You can even have it personalised and gift-wrapped at no extra cost.

R750 📞 envirokid.co.za

◀ **Asobu Barky Buddy 3-in-1 bottle**

Here's something you can share with your furry bestie when you tackle the trails. This one-litre, vacuum-insulated, stainless steel bottle has two detachable bowls for Max that connect to the base. Simply unscrew the bowls and fill them with snacks and water while you sip from the main nozzle. The 3-in-1 design means everything is kept separately. "Asobu" apparently means "to have fun" in Japanese, so go and do that!

R999 📞 yuppiechef.com



JOHANÉ NELSON

> **Ridge Forester Utility Vaai Braai**

Modular and compact, the fabulous adjustable Vaai Braai has a fold-up cassette design that makes for compact packing and proverbial "good vaais". You can adjust the heat and height at the same time, allowing you to cook on two levels simultaneously. I like the fold-up sides that act as windbreaks and radiate heat for added efficiency. A handy travel bag is included.

R4 400 📞 ridgeforresterutility.com

> **Woolworths pet hiking kit**

With two new Yorkshire terrier pups in my extended family, I now have reason to shop the festive pet collection from Woolies. The pet hiking kit comprises a stylish denim bag full of essentials: a collapsible water bowl to keep them hydrated, poop bags for responsible fun, and delicious treats to reward good behaviour; a gift that will be equally handy for trail adventures and home visits.

R250 📞 woolworths.co.za

> **Gentlemen's Hardware campfire chess**

My infinitely patient husband is teaching my eldest to play chess and this portable set is perfect for playing on the go. The magnetic pieces stay put and the sleek portable tin is compact and lightweight – great for car trips, camping or picnics.

R399 📞 yuppiechef.com

> **Thandana side mouth vanity bag**

This clever vanity bag design has a chunky outer zip with a non-corrosive pulley, allowing you to easily get to all your toiletries inside. I want one in every fabulous customisable design please! It's made from a water-resistant laminated fabric outer, with genuine leather sides, base and handle, and three separate inner compartments with zips and water-resistant lining for protection from spillage. Perfect for travel.

R749 📞 thandana.co.za



PIERRE STEYN

➤ **North Ridge Nomad 65 backpack**

This is another local-is-lekker success story – an outdoor gear company from Retreat, Cape Town, that produces a wide variety of bags but specialises in backpacks that are made to last a lifetime, but don't cost a fortune. The Nomad 65 is perfect for a weekend hike, with a metal frame; easily adjustable and padded shoulder and hip straps; and enough storage for your sleeping bag, clothes and other essentials. It's made from a tough, water-repellent material, with a lifetime guarantee on the stitching and workmanship. R2 900 north-ridge.co.za

➤ **Bruce Jack Braai Box**

Appreciating wine can sometimes be pretentious and expensive. Which is why Bruce Jack Wines is such a breath of fresh air. Bruce and his team don't take themselves too seriously, even though their wine is world class. (Based in the Overberg, the brand has made it onto the world's 100 most-admired wine brands for five of the last six years.) The Braai Box contains two litres of classy merlot – the perfect companion to braaied meat. Flip the box and you'll find a recipe for ribcanha (a Brazilian cut) included.

R159 checkers.co.za; brucejack.com

➤ **Sox Flags of the World collection**

Do you love being reminded of your travels, but there's no space left on the fridge for magnets? No worries, Sox – the local sock-manufacturing powerhouse based in Pretoria – has you covered. Their Flags of the World collection now comprises 144 different designs, with Africa especially well represented. You can work your way from Angola to Zimbabwe, or you can ask them to design custom socks to commemorate your last overlanding trip with friends and family.

R179 thesoxfactory.com



MS Dhoni on wheels

It's not just the slew of new Chinese SUVs that are giving the established old guard headaches, but also impact players from India like the new **Mahindra XUV700**.

BY PIERRE STEYN



JAC KRITZINGER

Any cricket team would give their non-bowling arms to have a versatile superstar like Mahendra Singh Dhoni – ruthless wicketkeeper, devastating batsman and still India's most successful captain ever – in its ranks.

Aside from the fact that Dhoni and the Mahindra XUV700 have similar first names, and that they share a subcontinental heritage, the Mahindra also plays much the same role that MS played in a cricket context.

The seven-seater XUV700 – equipped with a punchy 2.0-litre turbo engine and a luxurious interior with all the modern conveniences and safety features that buyers expect these days – is leading an assault on the local car market.

As a brand, Mahindra is firmly on the front foot. Looking at South African car sales over the past few months, Mahindra regularly ranks among the top 10 best-selling manufacturers, even higher than Chinese heavyweights GWM and Chery.

The reason for this is actually quite simple. It's something you realise after a long drive in the XUV700. (If you're like Jac Kritzinger, for example, and you road-trip in the XUV700 to all the beaches of the Hessequa – p 30.) It's an attractive, solidly built car with lots of space inside, especially if you fold down both back rows of seats. There's very little road noise, an excellent Sony sound system, comfortable seats and plenty of *woema* thanks to 149kW of power and 380Nm of torque.

The Volkswagen Tiguan Allspace is an equally impressive car with seven seats, but the 2.0-litre Tiguan costs a full R300 000 more than the Mahindra, which starts at R551 399.

Indeed, the XUV700's only real competitors are Chinese seven-seater newbies like the Haval H7 (more expensive) and the Chery Tiggo 8 Pro (less powerful).

Our money is on Mahendra – sorry, Mahindra – to win this match and take the trophy home.

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TOOLS

To the future!

With new infrastructure and a bigger focus on organic farming, **Meerendal Wine Estate**, outside Durbanville is future-proofing its legacy.



Meerendal has seen a fair number of upgrades in recent years, with several exciting additions introduced over the past year.

One of the most significant developments is the expansion of the farm's boutique hotel, which now includes 14 new units. Six of these are already welcoming guests, while the remaining eight will be ready in February.

Another major advancement is Meerendal's move toward sustainability: The farm is going 75% off the electricity grid. This innovation will especially benefit the many guests who come to enjoy the scenic cycling and trail-running routes or do the Saturday Parkrun. A roofed parking lot was created at the entrance, providing a shaded spot for your vehicle.

PICTURES: SUPPLIED



A TASTE OF EXCELLENCE

One of the estate's many prestigious wines is the Heritage Block Pinotage 2023. The grapes of this Pinotage come from a vineyard that was planted in 1955. The grapes are harvested by hand in the early morning to retain their freshness.

Fermentation takes place in open-top fermenters with gentle punch-downs, after which it's aged for 16 months in 45% new French oak barrels and bottled unfiltered for maximum expression. The result is a deep ruby red with a purple rim and aromas of dark berries, black cherries, and plum, with hints of mocha, spice, and vanilla. A sip of heaven.



GOING GREEN

With all the fabulous holiday accommodation, top restaurants and vibrant entertainment spaces, it's easy to forget that Meerendal is also a prestigious wine farm. But behind the scenes, this farm, under the leadership of Herman and Aletta Coertze, is transforming the way wine is made.

Meerendal has embarked on a long-term sustainability project: Three years ago the decision was made to stop the use of pesticides and synthetic chemicals. Since December 2024, the estate has been in official organic conversion, with full certification expected by December 2027.

Pesticides in the vineyards have been replaced by natural predators like ladybugs and lace-winged wasps. "You see a lot more favourable spiders and insects in the vineyard," says Wade Roger-Lund, Meerendal's winemaker. "If you look at the grass between the vineyards, you can see the soil is a lot healthier."

The farm also uses more cover crops and manual labour in the vineyards. "You see an improvement in the quality of the wine as the natural chemistry is more balanced," says Wade.

The future at Meerendal is as rich and promising as its heritage.





TAKE A HIKE

FISH EAGLE TRAIL, PORT EDWARD

WORDS **ZAAHIRAH SHAIK MOIDEEN**
PICTURES **ZAAHIRAH SHAIK MOIDEEN & ATIYYAH MOOLA**

Drive south from Durban on the N2 and you'll soon be rewarded with views of the Indian Ocean, and green hills blanketed in sugar cane, banana plantations and macadamia trees. After about two hours, you'll arrive at Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, next to the river that marks the border between KZN and the Eastern Cape.

This is where I plan to take on the Fish Eagle Trail, with my bug-averse bestie, Atiyyah Moola.

You start by walking along the fence of a neighbouring property. A trekking pole comes in handy here, mainly to clear all the spiderwebs from the trail (much to Atiyyah's dismay). After about 10 minutes, we pass what must once have been a gate and officially enter the reserve. Samango monkeys swing through the canopy. We press on until we reach a fork in the path. You can go either way to complete the Fish Eagle Trail – it's a loop – but we decide to keep left. It looks like the climb going this way will be steep, with an easier descent. (If you choose the right path, you'll climb more easily but descend steeply.)

We walk through the forest into the river gorge, with huge trees all around us: white stinkwood, red beech, forest mangosteen,

Natal milk plum, Natal forest cabbage and many cycads, most of them labelled.

A few kilometres later, we reach another fork and follow the blue Fish Eagle Trail tile. It leads to what was once a bridge, now just a few planks of wood wrapped in red caution tape. We climb onto nearby boulders to cross what must be a stream after heavy rain.

We're about 3 km into the hike and it's been relatively easy so far. We listen to birdsong and watch tree frogs and millipedes going about their daily business. Some forested sections are quite dark – pack a headlamp or torch if you're hiking on a cloudy day.

Half a kilometre later, we begin our trek up the cliffs via a series of stone steps. The sound of the river grows louder and we soon see it has turned into rapids. We stop for a water break and a duiker darts past. We carry on until we reach a waterfall. Even though it had been raining for a few days before our hike, the stream is gentle, cascading softly down to the river below.

The gradient eases for a bit, but not for long. Soon we're going up a steep hill again. To distract ourselves from the boulders we have to scramble over, Atiyyah and I joke about being

adventurers from our favourite books and movies. It's only after the hike that I find out parts of *Blood Diamond* were filmed here.

When we finally emerge from the forest, we get our first clear view of the Eastern Cape side of the valley. We climb until we reach the top of the gorge, then stop for lunch before continuing our trek – through grassland now.

About 5 km in and we're enjoying walking along the edge of the river gorge, with grasshoppers and everlasting flowers peeking out between rocks and patches of grass. We stop at a deck known as the Clearwater Viewpoint, shoot some videos and scope out the descent that awaits.

It's gradual but rocky, weaving through stands of creeping aloes. (A soothing leaf or two can come in handy if you're breaking in new boots, as I was.)

Eventually we enter the grassland once more and keep walking until we begin the final descent back into the forest, dodging fallen trees until we somehow circle back to the start of the trail just over four hours and 8 km later. We say goodbye to the friendly spiders on our way to the car park, feeling a deep sense of appreciation for the secret corners of this country.



Clockwise from left: The trail follows the Umtamvuna River through a shady forest. After a steep climb out of the gorge, you're able to see the Eastern Cape. While there are a few streams and waterfalls on the route, there are no swim spots. Blue tiles with the silhouette of a fish-eagle mark the way. A view of the gorge as you approach the top of the valley. If you take the left route at the fork, you'll have to climb up some arduous stone steps.

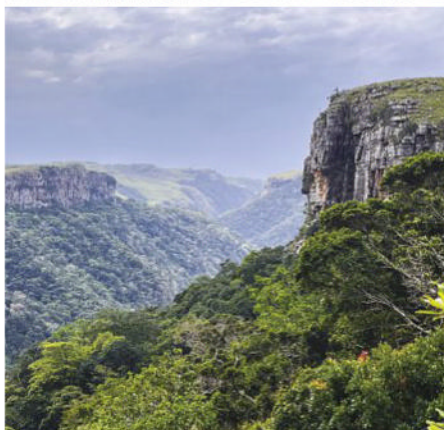
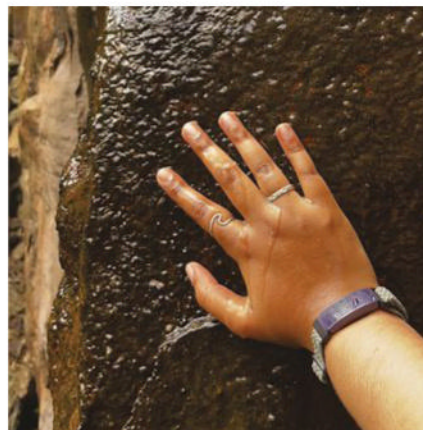
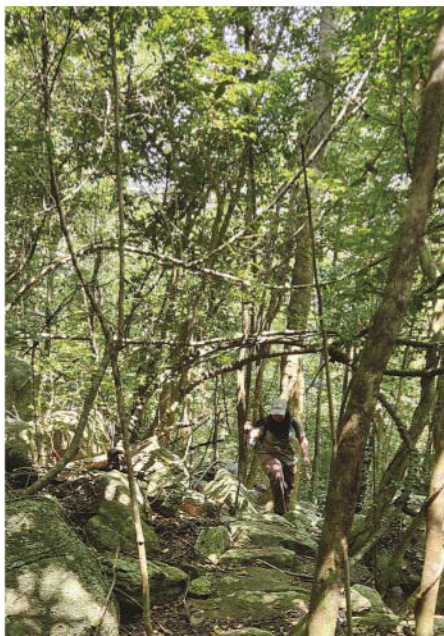


How does it work? The Fish Eagle Trail is a fairly strenuous 8 km loop. It typically takes around four hours to complete. The trail goes through dense forest, climbs onto a grassland plateau along the cliff edge at about 240 m above sea level, then descends back through the forest and along the Umtamvuna River.

Suitable footwear, water (don't drink from the streams) and a sense of adventure are essential. The trailhead is inside Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

How to get there: There are two entrance gates to Umtamvuna. The start of the Fish Eagle Trail is at South Gate, accessed via Old Pont Road, just off the R61 about 7 km from Port Edward.

Permits and fees: South Africans pay R50 per adult, R25 per child and R35 per pensioner. Permit payments are cash only. The gate might occasionally be locked, even when the reserve is listed as open, but the security guard at Eden Wilds Resort next door keeps a key. For more information, contact Enock Mahlangu of Umtamvuna: ☎ 082 559 2864 or ☎ 073 780 3746.





Register now for the 2026 go! Festival of Hiking

In 2026, we will host our annual Festival of Hiking in two provinces: the Western Cape and Gauteng. From 20 to 22 February, the Cape event will once again be held at Meerendal Estate, outside Durbanville. Gauteng hikers should diarize 29 to 31 May, when the festival will take place at De Wildt, 30 minutes outside Pretoria. Start priming your feet because registrations will open soon.

FRIDAY

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family. Stay for
the braai!

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12 km
or a solid
21 km**

SUNDAY

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10 km
before the closing
and prizegiving.

WHAT IS IT?

It's a weekend packed with adventure, where hikers can challenge their fitness in the veld – perfect prep for iconic trails like the Fish River, the Otter, or the Amatola. Whether you're training for your next big hike or just keen to connect with fellow nature lovers, it's a lekker opportunity to share stories, swap tips, and soak up the hiking vibe.

The first hiking festivals took place in 2024 and 2025. Both events were attended by thousands of hiking enthusiasts. You can already sign up for the Cape Festival of Hiking, but registration for the Gauteng event will only open in 2026.

DISTANCES AT THE CAPE FESTIVAL OF HIKING

Friday 20 February: A 6km walk suitable for the whole family, at 6pm.

Saturday 21 February: Choose between the 5 km, 12 km or 21 km distances. The walks start at different times in the morning.

Sunday 16 February: A 10 km walk, starting at 7 am.

Register for one, two, or all three days!

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

We're back on the lawn next to the tasting room for this year's go! Festival of Hiking. Expect a vibrant atmosphere with coffee and food stalls – ice-cold beer will be available too! At our expo space, sponsors will showcase their latest gear and gadgets.

Route changes for 2026: The short distances and the Sunday route remain unchanged. On Saturday, the 12 km walkers will enjoy a completely



Weg! Stapfees go! FESTIVAL OF Hiking

**20–22
February
2026**

Meerendal Wine Estate,
Durbanville

new route. The 25km route will be shortened to 21km. Only the longest distance (21km) will include the Dorstberg section in 2026.

WHERE CAN I STAY?

If you're visiting from out of town, there are great accommodation options nearby. You can book a room at the boutique hotel on Meerendal – follow the same link you'll use to register for the festival. But don't wait too long; rooms are limited and fill up fast!

WHAT ABOUT THE TERRAIN?

- The walks are all on gravel and dirt roads – no tar. The 21km route goes over Dorstberg (a steep hill on loose stones) so regular takkies are not going to do the trick.
- The 21km route is a proper hike. We recommend that participants prepare thoroughly to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.



WITH



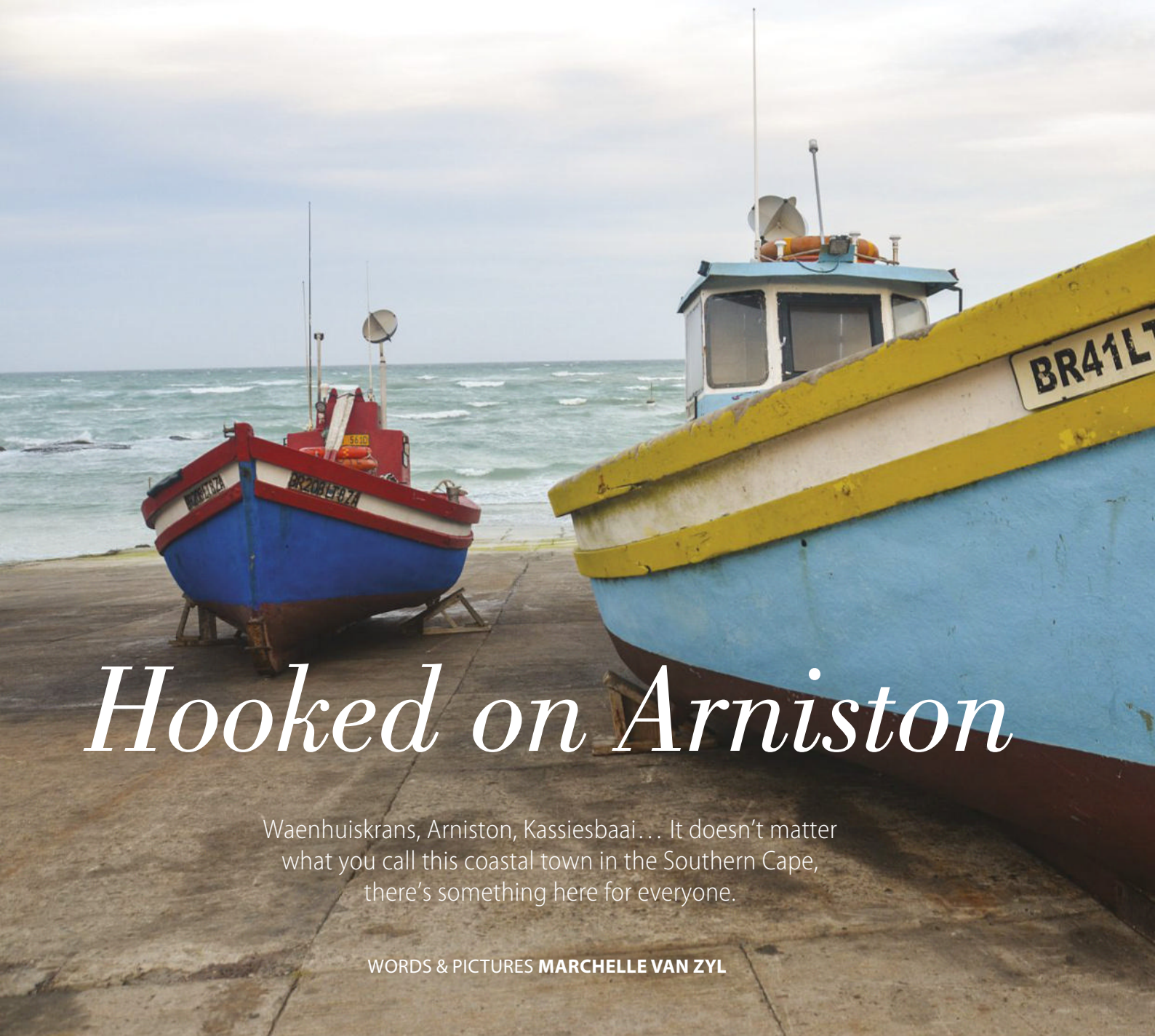
TOP EVENTS

www.topevents.co.za



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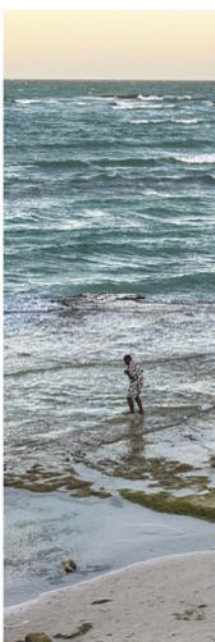
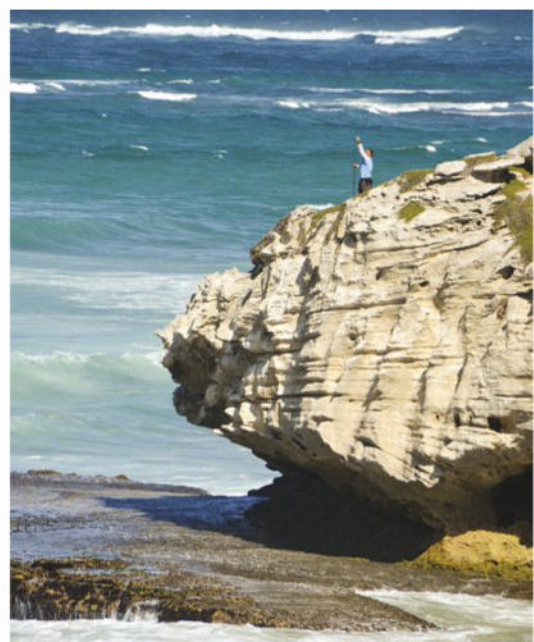
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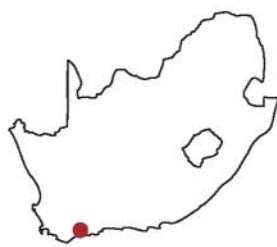


Hooked on Arniston

Waenhuiskrans, Arniston, Kassiesbaai... It doesn't matter what you call this coastal town in the Southern Cape, there's something here for everyone.

WORDS & PICTURES **MARCHELLE VAN ZYL**





Clockwise from top left: Colourful fishing boats brighten up the harbour at Waenhuiskrans. Many fishermen still make a living from the sea here. Roman Beach is popular for swimming and surfing, while anglers cast a line to catch galjoen, kabeljou, mullet or steenbras. Kassiesbaai's iconic white-washed cottages are right on the seafront.

Talk to different people and you'll find that they use different names, but Waenhuiskrans, Arniston and Kassiesbaai all refer to the same place. Kassiesbaai is the original fishing village, with its white-washed houses on the beach; Arniston and Waenhuiskrans refer to the holiday-town part.

So, why does this place have so many names?

"In the 1970s, residents voted to decide on the name of the town," says Hannes van Zyl, who has been spending his holidays here for nearly 25 years. We're chatting in their house in Uys Street, which was once the first hotel in the village. "Waenhuiskrans won. But, in the spirit of community, they registered the runner-up as well. It's the only town in the country with two official names, both still in use." Indeed, you'll see both names on the sign as you drive in: Waenhuiskrans/Arniston.

"It doesn't really matter which one you use," says Tracey Bastiaan, when I later talk to her and Eveline Johannes, vice chairperson of the Fishermen's Union in Kassiesbaai, at the union's hall opposite the harbour. Tracey was born here and is currently visiting family. "Whatever rolls off the tongue first is fine."

Eveline agrees, and quotes a well-known song: "*All we know is: Kassiesbaai is 'n lekker baai!*"

The origin of the names? The Arniston one goes back to the treacherous maritime history of this section of coastline, where as many as 40 ships met their demise between 1673 and 1902. (If the wind is howling and you need an indoor activity, visit the Shipwreck Museum in nearby Bredasdorp.) Most of the ships that rounded the tip of Africa in those years used basic navigation tools. When they encountered storms or dense fog, it was

easy to miscalculate and they often came to grief on the sharp limestone rock shelves that jut into the sea like fingers.

The most famous tragedy involved the *HMS Arniston*, a British troop carrier that sank off the coast on 30 May 1815. More than 350 people drowned; there were only six survivors.

This brings us to the other name: Waenhuiskrans, which is also the name of a famous sea cave, only accessible at low tide. It's said that the cave is so big you can turn an ox-wagon (a *waen*) around inside.

"You won't be able to go into the cave now. You'll get stuck," says Myburgh Briers. He and his wife Ena drove through from Bredasdorp to have Sunday lunch at Willeen's Restaurant. "The moon is wrong and it's not low tide yet. You need a very low tide to get inside."

Life revolves around the ocean here; everyone looks to the water. They watch the tides. They know whether the moon is waxing or waning. It sets the rhythm of life.

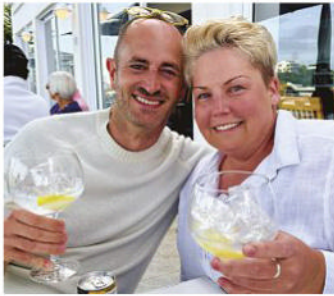
The fishermen also know this. Kassiesbaai is a World Heritage Site – it's one of only a few preserved fishing villages in the country. It's said that the first houses were built using crates (*kassies*) and parts of ships that washed up on the beach.

The community of Kassiesbaai has survived many trials and tribulations. In 1905, surrounding landowners wanted to move the village. Fortunately there was an intervention and the 10 morgen on which Kassiesbaai still stands were sold to the Fishermen's Union for 1 shilling. (The original Kassiesbaai is just one big plot of land.) In the 1970s, during apartheid, there was another attempt to forcibly remove the fishermen, but this was also thwarted.

Colourful fishing boats decorate the



NEL DU PREEZ



IN OTHER WORDS

Ansia Kohrs, visitor

Arniston is special because it's so small. It has a hotel, a few restaurants where you can get the best seafood (Wanda's!), and a tiny café that sells milk and bread. I love the turquoise water, the limestone rock formations and the long white beach.

Niel du Preez, visitor

I enjoy early walks on the beach – it's good for the soul. Arniston is in a protected area and there are a limited number of plots, so the town is not bursting at the seams.

The Kassiesbaai song – sing it around the braai!

*Kassiesbaai is 'n lekker baai
Daar waar die suidoos so lekker waai
Hy waai my hier
En hy waai my daar
Hy waai my hare somer
deurmekaar
Die vis is volop
En die vleis is skaars
Daarom is die manne
almal hengelaars*

The annual Sea Sunday church service is held in September. Contact the Anglican Church in Bredasdorp for the date and place (☎ 028 424 1668).

entrance to Kassiesbaai. Generations have lived here – according to Eveline Johannes from the Fisherman's Union, the first five families were Murtz, Marthinus, Dyers, Hopie and Newman.

In the Kassiesbaai library, I chat to the senior library assistant, Beatie Swart. "You can't gossip here," she says. "You don't know who is related! And... there's an echo. Everything is limestone. If you whisper, people will hear it..."

As mentioned, Arniston is a town where the ocean is central to everyone's existence. Whether you're a fisherman or a camper, you're here for the sea.

Once a year, in spring, a special church service is held for the fishermen of the region. They call it Sea Sunday. This year, Rev. Francois Lewis from the Anglican Church in Bredasdorp prayed for safe passage; for the sea to bless the community.

The service was held in the harbour and chairs were set out. A band played music. Communion was served. People came from all over – Bredasdorp, Struisbaai and L'Agulhas. It was a stormy afternoon and the wind was spiteful. Dark clouds gathered over the sea. But the weather held, and the congregation sang:

*"Geanker in Jesus,
Ek kan die storms staan...
As die golwe oor my slaan,
Jesus neem my laste en
Hy rol dit in die see..."*

Everyone I talk to mentions the silence, the sacred experience you get on the beach, on the water, in the cave or among the dunes.

Resident Jacoba Human WhatsApps me a list of reasons why people should visit Arniston: "Pikkies en Plooië," she writes. That's the name of the main beach in front of the hotel. "Limestone formations; interesting bays; the beacon at Struispunt (it has a copper ball to reflect the light from the Struisbaai Lighthouse); the fishing spots: Aasbank,

Galjoengat, Solder, Oesterbank; the shallow, turquoise water..." The list goes on.

"I got to know all these places as a child, when we came here to camp," she says. "I always dreamt of owning a bit of Arniston one day, and God surprised me with a house right on the beach."

Beatie Swart concurs. "You can find inner peace here," she says. "If you go through an emotional dip, if your soul has a hole in it... You just need to drive over the hill from Bredasdorp and you'll rediscover yourself."

Arniston is a small town – tourism is the main income generator, alongside fishing – and there are limited opportunities for young townspeople.

I meet Eben Newman in Kassiesbaai. His father was a fisherman and Eben's family live in one of the white-washed cottages on the seafront. "I come from a fishing household," he says. "On Monday nights we have fish for dinner: galjoen in the oven. But my father told me not to go work at sea. I didn't listen. The sea was my playground. That's where I started to explore. I didn't want to sit still. My father always said you should keep moving; even if you have to crawl, just move forward."

Eben now works for Abalobi, an award-winning non-profit organisation that supports small-scale fishermen through digital tools and fair-trade market access. It helps fishermen earn more from their catch, while promoting ocean sustainability and transparent seafood supply chains.

"The people make this place special," Eben continues. "Everyone is weaved into each other's lives. And the sea – it's different here. The fishermen's houses are on the water's edge... It's not like other coastal towns where fishermen have to live kilometres away. The sea is not only a source of food, it's something spiritual. Living here feels like being part of something bigger."

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Tracey Bastiaan might have moved away from the area, but she's a regular visitor. Eben Newman comes from a family of fishermen. Locals Carlos Murtz, Rhuaan Baatjes and Ettiene Murtz. Reverent Francois Lewis conducted the annual Sea Sunday church service. Kassiesbaai library assistant Beatie Swart. Eveline Johannes of the Fishermen's Union in Kassiesbaai.



3 Things to do

Take a dip

The two most popular swimming beaches, with lifeguards on duty during the holidays, are Pikkies en Plooie, and Roman Beach. Pikkies is in front of the hotel and Roman is south of town, towards the cave. Roman is also a good surf spot.

Otter Beach is on the other side of the cave, in the Waenhuiskrans Nature Reserve, before the beacon. It's quieter because it's further away (about 1,5 km) and it takes more effort to get there – it's popular among fishermen.

Langlip Beach is just north of town. It's long and great for a stroll – it goes all the way up to "Die Draad" – the fence along private land that belongs to Denel. It's about 8 km there and back.

PIKKIES EN PLOOIE

See the cave

It's an adventure to visit the Waenhuiskrans Cave. Before you do anything, check the tides – you can only get in at low tide.

A big white cairn indicates the footpath down the cliffs: 61 steps down to the small bay. In season, there will be a queue of people here waiting their turn.

To reach the cave, walk along the rock wall on the right. Depending on the water level, you might get wet if a wave comes in, but it's only a few metres to safety. Continue past the first mouth to the cave and climb through the second, which leads to the back of the cave. The opening onto the sea is spectacular.

Where? The cave is south of Roman Beach, in the Waenhuiskrans Nature Reserve. If you have a 4x4, you can park right above the cave. Otherwise park at Roman Beach and walk to the cairn. Follow the signs; it's about a 15-minute walk.

WAENHUISKRANS CAVE

GALLO/GETTYIMAGES.COM



DE MOND NATURE RESERVE

Explore De Mond Nature Reserve

Pack a picnic basket and relax under the milkwood trees next to the Heuningnes River. The suspension bridge over the river was damaged in a flood, so visitors can currently not complete the Sterna Hiking Trail, but you can walk on the beach as far as your feet will take you – the beach curves all the way between Arniston and Struisbaai. In spring, whales frolic off the coast. There are no lifeguards on duty, so be careful if you swim. Anglers can catch galjoen, kabeljou, steenbras and mullet (with a permit).

Where? 23 km south from Arniston via the R316.

Opening times: Daily from 7.30 am to 4 pm.

Entrance fee: R55 per person; free with a Wild card. (Bring cash – the signal isn't always strong enough for the card machine.)

Contact: ☎ 087 087 3931 (De Mond); ☎ 087 087 8250 (bookings); 📧 capenature.co.za

What else? The two-day Damara overnight trail (16 km) is fully booked at least a year in advance. On this mini Whale Trail, you hike from De Mond to Arniston, past historical fish traps and shell middens left by the Khoi and San, past the Struispunt Beacon and Waenhuiskrans Cave. You sleep in tents on a deck, with a wind shelter and a compost toilet. You carry your bedding, clothes and food. It costs R580 per person and the price includes tents, water, cutlery, eco logs for braaiing, and transport back to your vehicle.

PINK SATYRE (*SATYRIUM CARNEUM*)



TOWN



ARNISTON SPA HOTEL

STAY HERE

Etna's

This family business manages several beach houses in town. Visit their website for options for your family or friend group.

Rate: From R1 125 per night for two people.

☎028 445 9657

🌐arniston-etnas.co.za

Arniston Spa Hotel

The hotel is a landmark in the area and attracts many foreign visitors and tour groups visiting the southernmost tip of Africa at nearby L'Agulhas. It's family friendly and many rooms have sea views. There's everything you'd expect from a hotel of this size: a spa, swimming pool, bikes for hire, tour guides and a charging station for electric vehicles.

Rate: Double room from R1 800 per night.

☎028 445 9000

🌐arnistonhotel.com

Seaside Cottages

These basic self-catering cottages are managed by the hotel and spread around town. Each has a fireplace and braai, but not all of them have a sea view. The units sleep two to eight people.

Rate: From R1 140 per night for two people.

☎082 426 9910

🌐arnistonseasidecottages.co.za

Arniston Resort

This typical *oord*, about 200 m from the sea, is managed by the Cape Agulhas municipality. There are caravan stands, self-catering units and rooms. It's not luxurious, but the communal facilities are neat and families have been coming here for decades. Campers should bring their own braai grid and braai drum.

Rates: From R255 per stand (max six people). Chalet from R710 per night for four people (bring your own bedding). Chalet with bedding and more facilities from R1 025 per night for four people.

☎028 445 9620

🌐arnistonresort@capeagulhas.gov.za

Kassiesbaai Cottage

This little self-catering cottage at the entrance to Kassiesbaai sleeps two – it's nothing fancy, but it's right on the beach. You won't find a better location!

Rate: From R1 000 per night.

🌐lekkeslaap.co.za



MIEN MARTINUS



DIANA MURTZ OCTOBER



EAT HERE

Arniston is seafood central, with a unique restaurant culture. Most are in residential homes and you can bring your own drinks – only the hotel has a liquor licence. The popular options get very busy in peak season, so book beforehand.

Willeen's Restaurant

Right on the beach in Kassiesbaai. You can sit inside or outside. It's a typical fisherman's house; cosy, with a great atmosphere. Willeen de Villiers also sells gifts and soft-serve ice cream. Popular dishes include fish cakes, pickled fish, bobotie, freshly baked bread and jam.

Opening times: Daily from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm.

📞 083 729 0651

Wanda's Waenhuis Restaurant

An institution in town and most regulars' first choice for seafood.

Where? 543 Steenbras Avenue

Opening times: Daily, from noon to 2 pm and again from 5 pm until late.

📞 078 367 6672

Mynie's Fast Foods

Mynie's serves takeaways like hake and chips, and calamari and chips. The shop in the front of the house also sells anything from Jimmy's braai sauces to condensed milk.

Where? Kassiesbaai

Opening times: Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 7 pm (takeaways only).

📞 072 316 3078

Mien's Tea Garden

Mien Marthinus worked for the Arniston Spa Hotel for many years – she knows the town and its history. Be warned: You'll spend much more time here than planned, especially if you sit on the sheltered stoep! Menu highlights include calamari and fish cakes, and treats like malva pudding and scones.

Where? Dorp Street, Kassiesbaai

Opening times: Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm; Sunday until 3 pm (until 6 pm in season).

📞 063 328 4740

Arniston Spa Hotel

There are two restaurants and the menu options are vast (everything from sushi to pizza). Sit on the stoep for a sea view if the weather allows. You can't miss the hotel – it's in the middle of town. It also has the only bar if you want to meet the locals.

Where? 1 Main Road

Opening times: Daily from 7 am until late; breakfast served until 10 am.

📞 028 445 9000

📧 arnistonhotel.com

Kassiesbaai Koffie

This new coffee shop is at the entrance to Kassiesbaai – it's due to open in December 2025. The Fishermen's Union often hosts bazaars and other events here, so keep your eyes and ears open when you visit.

Where? Fishermen's Union Hall

Opening times: Most days from 6.30 am to 3 pm (times might change).

📞 084 948 3202

Kassiesbaai Craft Centre

Near the harbour and the Fishermen's Union Hall – they sell all kinds of handmade products and also serve meals. It's in one of the fishermen's houses and a great way to experience Kassiesbaai.

"We serve meals on request," says manager Lilian Newman. "But you have to book in advance because we need to buy fresh fish and vegetables in Bredasdorp.

You can expect homemade bread, vegetable soup, fish, bobotie and *slaphakskeentjies* – a traditional cooked sweet-and-sour onion salad. Dessert is normally malva pudding and custard."

If you ask nicely, they'll even sing you the Kassiesbaai song.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday from 10 am, by appointment.

📞 073 814 5782 (Lilian) to book meals – minimum eight people.



WHAT ELSE?

Shipwreck Museum

It feels like you're on a ship when you walk into this great museum. It's educational and not boring – a great outing.

Where? 6 Independent Street, Bredasdorp

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm; Saturday and public holidays from 9 am to 2 pm.

Entrance fee: R50 per person.

Contact: 📞 028 424 1240; 📧 swm@jebomail.co.za

Bread and milk?

You can buy the basics at Mynie's in Kassiesbaai (📞 072 316 3078) and the Beach Shop at the Arniston Spa Hotel. The hotel also has a liquor store. For anything else, you need to drive to Bredasdorp (23 km).

Cast a line

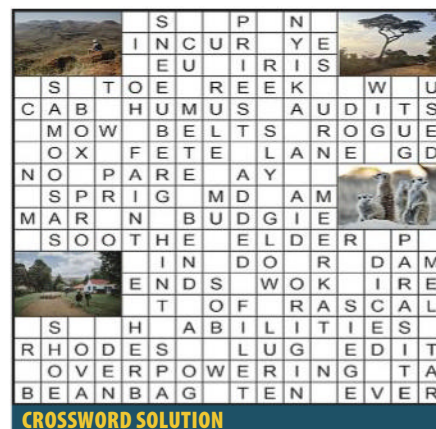
There are lots of good fishing spots in and around town. Chat to Dylan Smith, owner of Arniston Tackle: Sport & Leisure. "From Die Draad to De Mond – I can help," he says. He can also help you get an online fishing permit, and he's a tour guide! The shop is at 9 Harder Avenue.

📞 073 112 4262; 📧 arnistontackle@gmail.com

Rock a formation

There are several interesting rock formations between Arniston and the Waenhuiskrans Cave, with names like Die Spuitgate, Kookpot and the Arch (pictured). Die Spuitgate is north of Roman Beach; the Kookpot and Arch are to the south. If you walk to the cave from Roman Beach, you'll pass the Kookpot and Arch – the latter is also visible from the bay before you descend to the cave.

go! & BUY GUIDE



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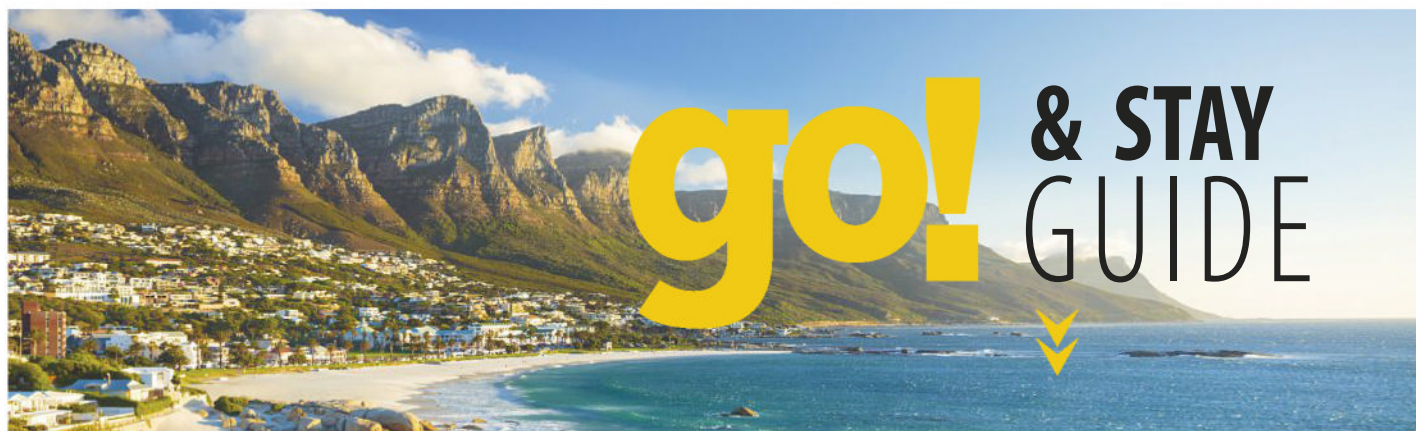
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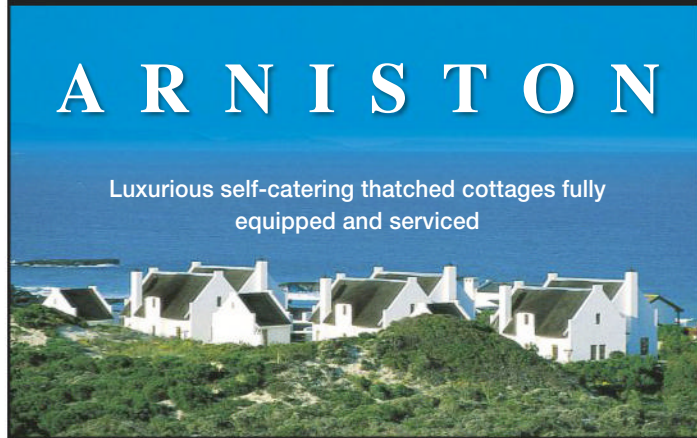
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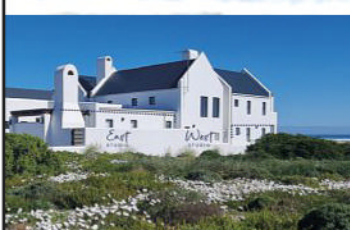

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WESTERN CAPE ARNISTON



Casa del Mar

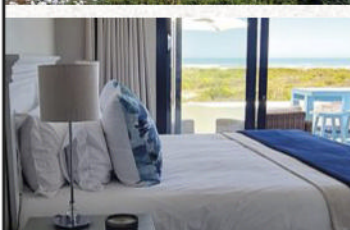
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WESTERN CAPE

SALDANHA

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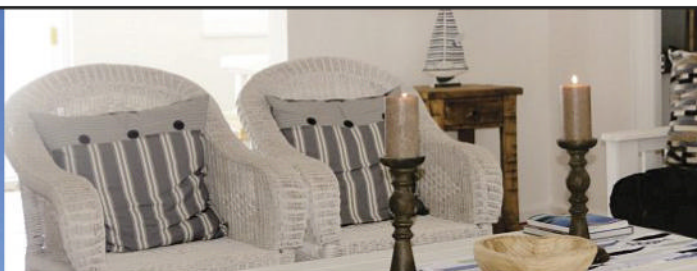


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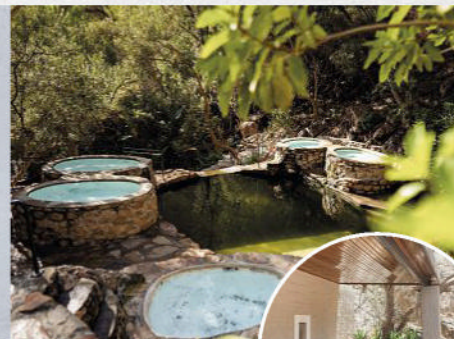


THE BATHS
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CITRUSDAL

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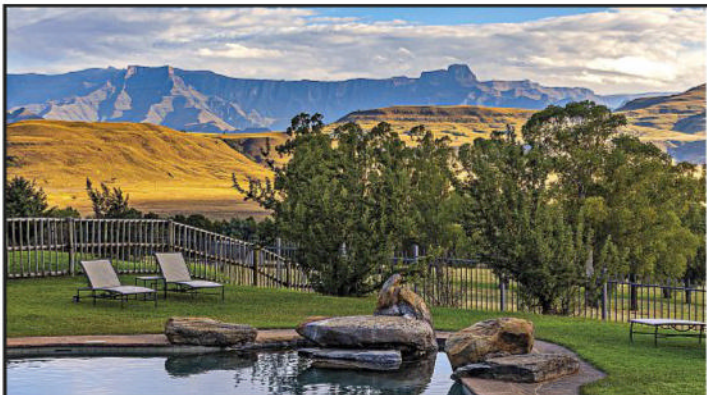
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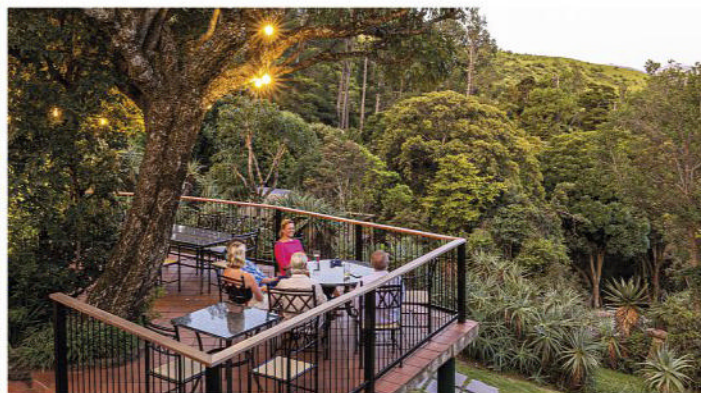
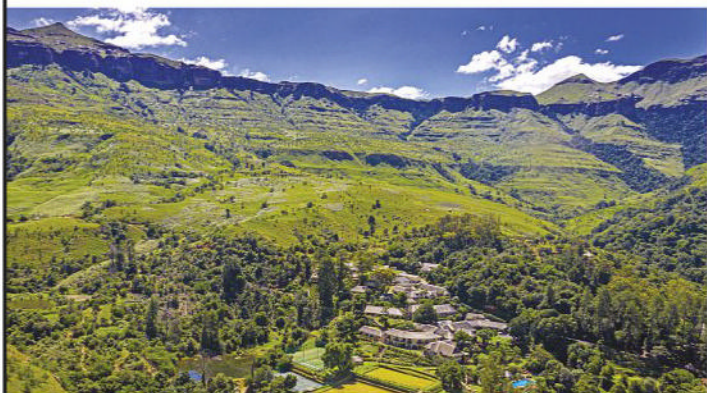
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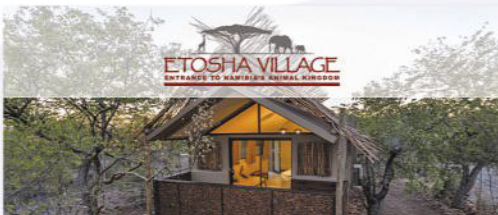
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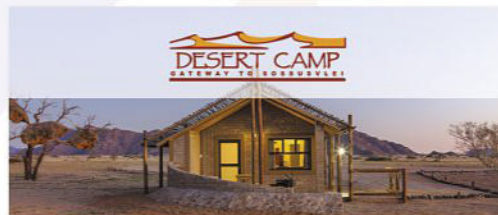
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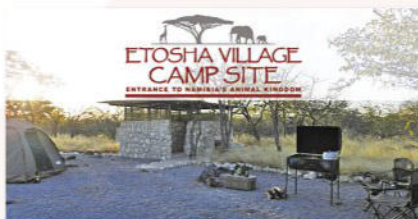
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The Kruger Park always offers great game viewing, but this sighting had **Renier van Zijl** from Centurion going back for more, day after day.

This past winter, as has become my habit, I booked myself a few nights at Lower Sabie rest camp. A visit to the Kruger is all about trying to max out my photo-taking opportunities. To my mind, the Lower Sabie area delivers the best results.

One of my favourite locations is the waterhole on the S130 (Gomondwane Loop) and I usually spend a lot of time there. But sadly it was dry as a bone in the winter of 2025 and I had to find other photographic hotspots.

The N'watimhiri Dam still had a little bit of water left. Arriving there, I noticed a pair of saddle-billed storks, which seemed to be resident, feeding their now almost grown-up chick. I watched as the adults spent the whole day pottering around in the mud to catch slippery barbel, which they'd bring to shore and feed to their young one. An opportunistic fish-eagle would sometimes try and steal their catch.

These interactions made for some great photo opportunities, and I returned to N'watimhiri every morning as soon as the camp gate opened at Lower Sabie. I found a good spot and enjoyed some coffee with a rusk or two.

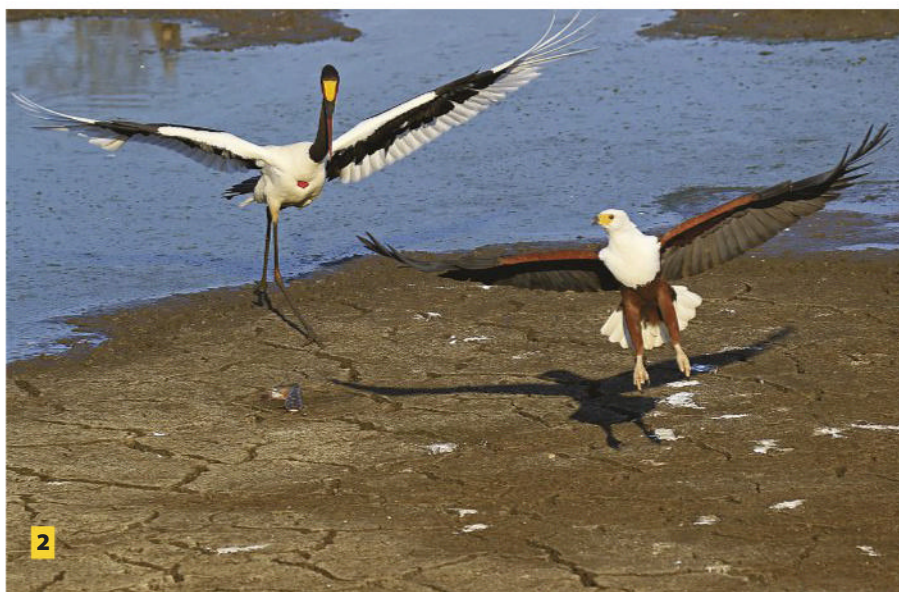
Once the sun came up, the three storks dropped in – with the fish-eagle close on their heels. The fish-eagle usually waited two to three hours before springing into action. The storks then had to drop their catch to protect themselves and try keep the fish-eagle from stealing their fish. **1–3**

On most days, the fish-eagle's first attempt at grabbing the fish failed, but a second or third grab usually proved successful. The eagle was just faster and more agile than the storks. He would return to his perch and munch his breakfast – one barbel seemed to be enough for the day.

Even though the whole incident was over within seconds, I had to make sure I was always ready with my Canon EOS 70D Mk II camera and 100–400 mm lens. The waiting part took hours; I could never predict exactly when the action would come.

One time, the fish-eagle flew directly towards my car. **4** The photo from that moment really conveys the intimidating power of the bird.

It was a privilege to see these two beautiful species interact in such an interesting way.



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Stripe hype!

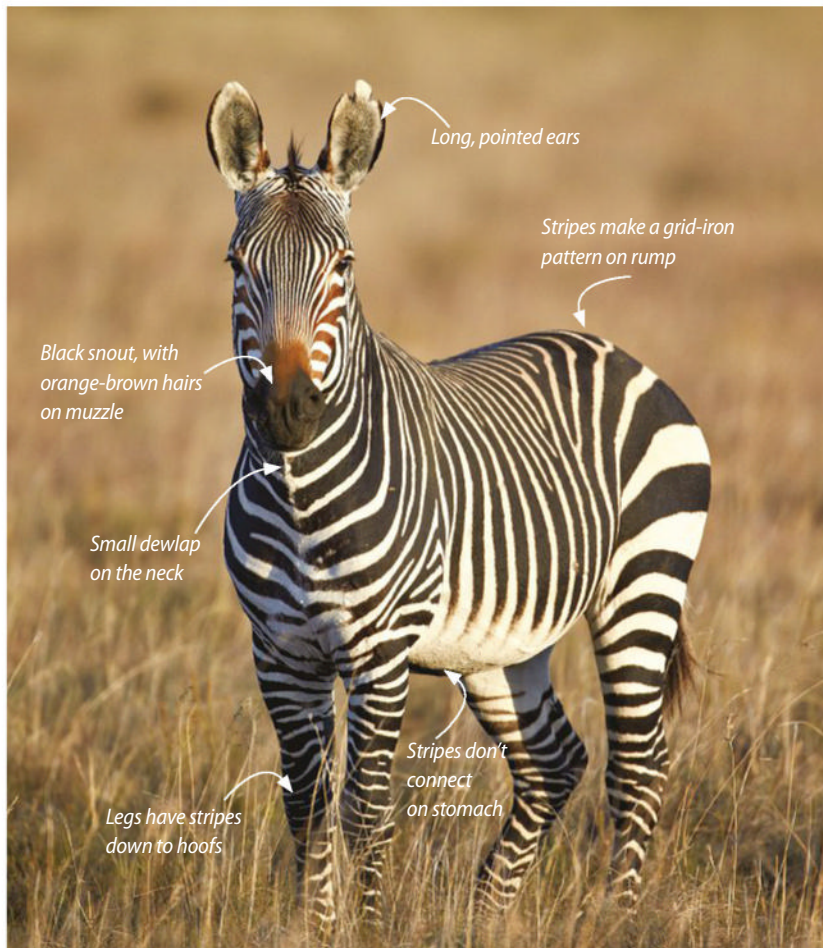
Zebras are only found in Africa. Although there are lots of them, there are only three different kinds. In South Africa, we have two of the three: mountain zebra and plains zebra. Let's have a closer look.

COMPILED BY SOPHIA VAN TAAK



The lawnmowers of the wild

Zebras eat all kinds of tall grasses and graze for most of the day. In this way, they keep grassland under control and make it easier for other animals that only eat shorter grass to reach their food.



◀ Mountain zebra

There are two subspecies that look very similar, but are found in different regions: The Cape mountain zebra used to roam many of the mountain ranges south of the Orange River, but they're now restricted to nature reserves in the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Southern Cape.

The Hartmann's mountain zebra has a heavier build and occurs in the desert landscapes of Augrabies Falls National Park, |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, and some places in Namibia.

Why do zebras have stripes?

Scientists haven't figured out why these animals have such a distinctive pattern. It's not like zebras live in a black-and-white world where their stripes help them with camouflage!

Many studies have been done on the subject, but only one answer is generally accepted. (Well, sort of!) Zebras, horses and donkeys are vulnerable to many of the diseases carried by horse flies. While horses and donkeys are often plagued by these flies, they usually leave zebras alone. It seems like the stripe pattern confuses the flies so they don't know where to land, which makes them avoid zebras altogether.

➤ Plains zebra

The plains zebra is almost as tall as the mountain zebra – about 1,3 m to the shoulder – but has a heavier build. They used to occur in the Northern Cape, Free State and the old Transvaal, but now you only see them in the Lowveld and KZN. They're also found in eSwatini, Botswana and northern Namibia, and they're abundant in East Africa.

Did you know?

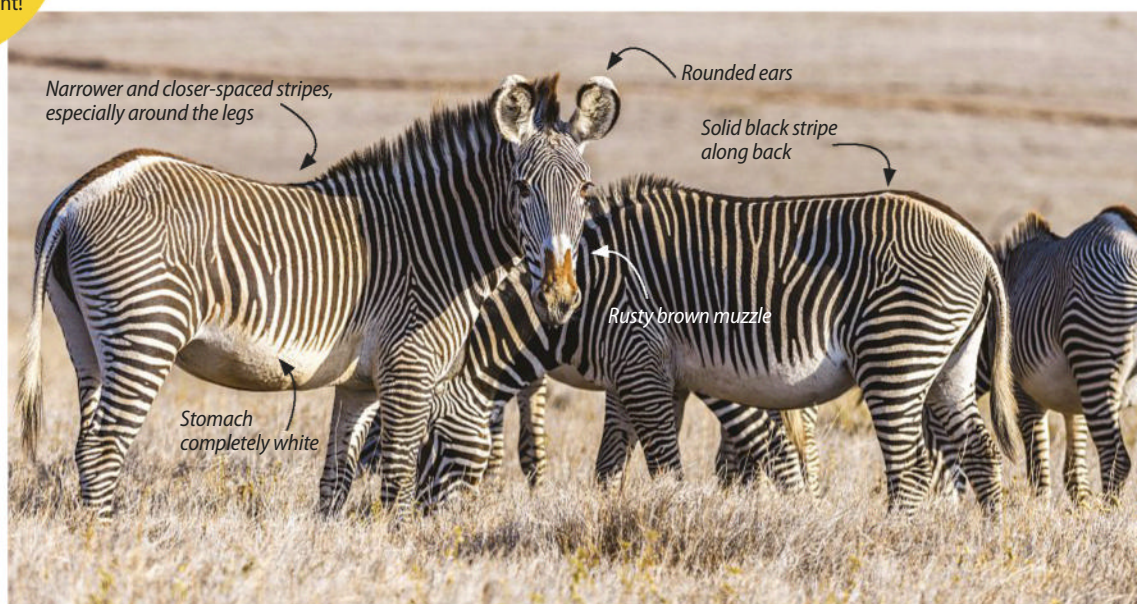
Each zebra has a unique stripe pattern – just like a human's fingerprint!



➤ And the third kind of zebra?

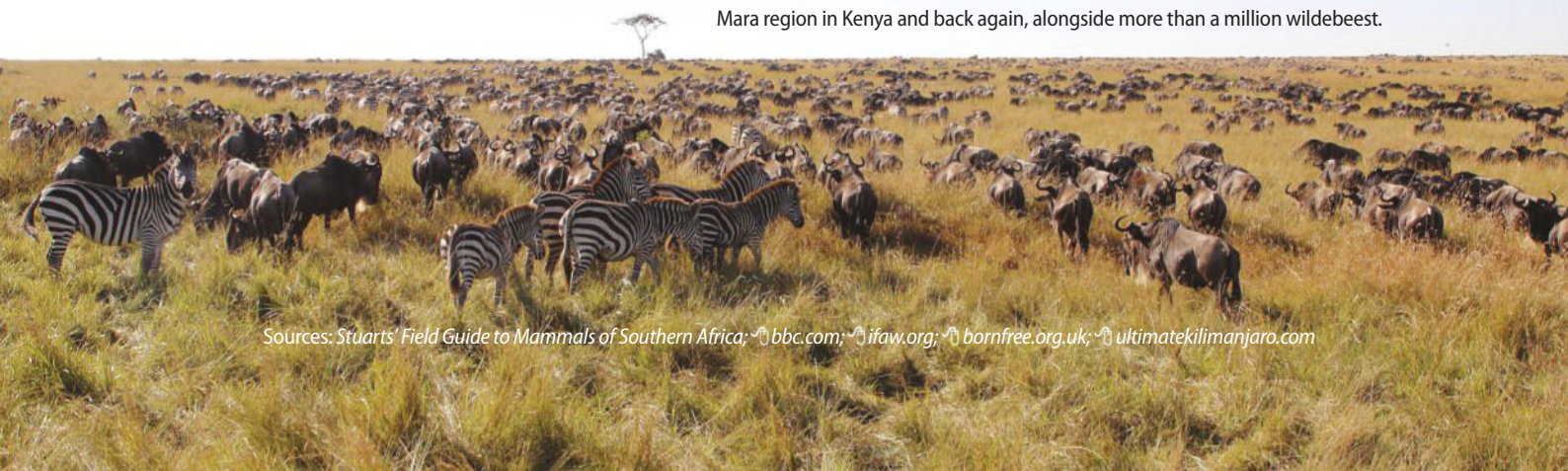
Grévy's zebra is the biggest of the three. It occurs in Kenya and southern Ethiopia. It has adapted to survive in more arid regions and can go without water for five days.

The name comes from Jules Grevy, president of France from 1879 to 1887. The king of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) sent Grevy a zebra as a gift in 1882. When biologists studied the animal, they realised it looked different to the zebras they knew, and gave it a new name.



So many stripes!

The zebra is one of the key animals involved in the big annual migration in East Africa. About 300 000 plains zebras migrate from the Serengeti region in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara region in Kenya and back again, alongside more than a million wildebeest.



Sources: Stuarts' Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa; [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com); [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org); [bornfree.org.uk](https://www.bornfree.org.uk); [ultimatekilimanjaro.com](https://www.ultimatekilimanjaro.com)



BIRDS

BY FAANSIE PEACOCK

IN NO WAY A LARK



Meet *Spizocorys fringillaris* – Botha's lark – named after the former prime minister of South Africa, Louis Botha. This particular LBJ has the birding world in a tizz. Why? Because there's a chance this Highveld resident might be the first bird species to go extinct on the African continent.

It has to be said this lark has never been common. In the early 1980s, it was estimated that there were about 20 000 left. By 1992, the total was between 1 500 and 5 000. In 2015, the best estimation was 2 500 at absolute maximum. But these were all just guesses. It's not easy to make accurate assessments for such a small, inconspicuous, quiet bird.

To tick this lark off their life list, birders once streamed to Wakkerstroom – a special farming town at the point where Mpumalanga, the Free State and KZN intersect. Spend a morning here and you could see Botha's lark, Rudd's lark,

ground woodpecker, southern bald ibis, bush blackcap, African rock pipit, yellow-breasted pipit and many other rare Highveld birds. Local guides made a good living by showing Botha's lark to tourists; and guesthouses and restaurants in town flourished.

But it became harder and harder to find Botha's lark in Wakkerstroom. And then, one year, there were no recorded sightings. The net was cast wider, to surrounding districts from Memel to Harrismith, without success. Worried birders started to throw around the word "extinct". In truth, the situation is not yet as dire, but it's on the horizon.

BirdLife South Africa appointed researchers to do a proper census – monitoring 250 routes, each a kilometre in length. The lark was still around, but barely. Your chance of crossing paths with one, even in the right habitat, was about 8%. Using a bit of maths, they worked out that the population sits at around 340 birds. (Well, somewhere between 200 and 650.)

Almost overnight, Botha's lark went from an LBJ that no one had heard of, to the most threatened bird in South Africa.

What's causing the decline? There are many challenges facing Botha's lark, but loss of habitat is probably the main one. They like high-altitude grassland, where the grass is 4–6 cm in height, at an altitude of 1 500–1 900 m above sea level, on dark clay soil. Very specific! They also choose areas that are heavily grazed and are often seen around kraals and troughs. In fact, if sheep were taken off the land, it would probably be the final nail in the coffin for Botha's lark.

What did they do before sheep were introduced? Good question. In the past, grass was kept short by a combination of veld fires and big herds of nomadic animals that moved through the area. Springbok, wildebeest, eland, blesbok and even quaggas, in their thousands.



FRANÇOIS DU PLESSIS

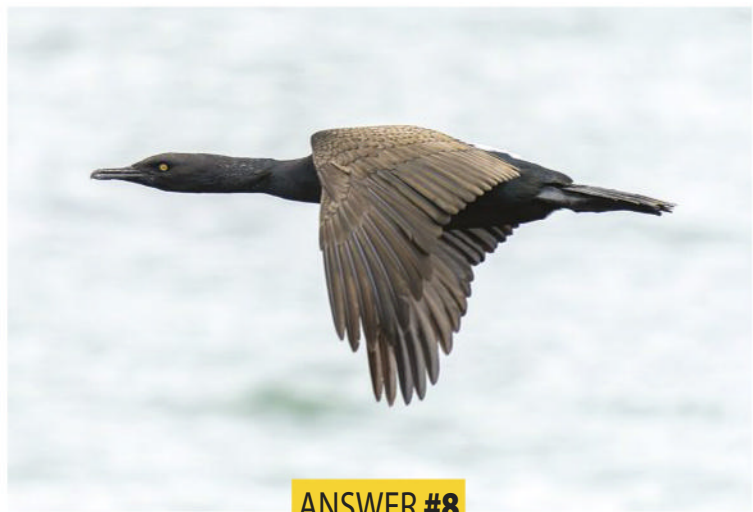
It seems like the lark population has dropped by 86% over the last decade. People speculate that stock theft is one of the reasons for this scary statistic. Because of the high possibility of your sheep disappearing every full moon, many livestock farmers switched from sheep to cattle, or even to crops. Of course, there are other factors to consider, but what's clear is that the future of this bird is in the hands of private landowners.

And the road ahead? An action plan was recently drawn up to save the remaining larks. Everyone can help. Farmers can correctly manage their grazing and do their annual burning at the right time. Birders can search and report. Communities can educate. Scientists can monitor. And lawyers can litigate. How will you help?

Visit birdlife.org.za/bothas-lark to see how you can make a difference.



BIRD BRAIN



HAMMAN PRINSLOO

ANSWER #8

Whatever this bird is, it was born to swim! Just look at those bulky feet and how far back on the body they are, like a boat propeller. That long, floppy neck calls to mind an African darter or a cormorant of some kind. African darters have straight, sharp bills that they use to pierce fish. Cormorants have a small hook on the tip of their bill to ensure a good grip on slippery prey. The diamond-shaped tail and dark plumage also fit. So, one of our five cormorants, then. But which one?

It's not a white-breasted cormorant... The reed cormorant and crowned cormorant are both small, slight birds, hence the name of their scientific genus: *Microcarbo*. We can also eliminate them because they have much shorter and partially yellow bills and red eyes.

That leaves us with two options: Cape cormorant or bank cormorant. And with a clear photo like this one, it's easy!

The Cape cormorant has yellow skin at the base of its bill, while bank cormorants have pitch-black bills. Another interesting fact: Juvenile bank cormorants have green eyes and the adults have orange eyes, but sometimes their eyes can be two colours – a green bottom half and an orange top half!

If you're still unsure, look at the bird's back: There's a bit of white visible. Bank cormorants develop these white feathers during the breeding season. This species is as synonymous with the Cape coast as bikkems, snoek braai and wind. Bank cormorants swim among the kelp to look for klipfish, crayfish and the occasional octopus. They glue their seaweed nests to the rocks with guano. Recent counts have shown that only a worryingly small population survives – about 560 breeding pairs in South Africa, and 1 200 in Namibia.

I don't know about you, but these statistics worry me much more than Trump's latest scandal or the ever-increasing petrol price...



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SOUTH
AMERICA

Part 1

TRAVEL JOURNAL

Andean soul quest

In 2024, **Francois Raubenheimer** went on an open-ended mission to South America, in search of something more than the clichéd postcard scenes. In the first instalment of his series, he writes about his travels along the mighty Andes mountain range.

On day 3 of the Santa Cruz Trek in Peru, François pitched his tent here, at Llamacoral camp (3 760 m), surrounded by 5 500 m-high peaks.



Opposite page, clockwise from the top: These giant tree ferns grow in Amboró National Park, north of Samaipata.

The Uyuni salt flat resembles a bright, white desert. Water on the edge of the pan turns it into the world's largest mirror. Samaipata's traditional architecture and air plants strung along the power lines.

When I travel, I try to keep it as authentic as possible. I try to stay in social places instead of private hotel rooms, and I take taxis, buses, trains and boats. I want to hear people's languages, smell their food and listen to their music. It's a slower way of travelling, for sure, but if you have the time, it can be very satisfying.

Travelling like this allows you to roam, with no set plans and only a rough idea of a route. You have to be prepared to go where the journey takes you. As a solo traveller, I'm always ready for it...

The ancient tree ferns of Samaipata

I flew from Cape Town to São Paulo in Brazil, and then took a series of long-distance buses to the Corumbá border post, about 1 400 km away. Here, I entered Bolivia and after yet another long bus ride from Puerto Quijarro, I reached the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. From there, the charming mountain town of Samaipata (1 800 m above sea level) was a relatively short 100 km taxi ride away.

Samaipata is full of character and has many great places to stay and eat within walking distance of each

other. Strolling through town, I saw lots of monkey's tail cacti, planted in pots on first-floor balconies, some hanging down to street level.

Amboró National Park is north of Samaipata, home to giant tree ferns. There are two species (*Alsophila incana* and *Dicksonia sellowiana*), with leaves up to 3 m long. They only grow 5–10 mm per year. Many are 10–15 metres tall, which means they're more than a thousand years old!

To see the tree ferns, you need to hire a guide in town. (There are no direction markers in the forest...) There are many travel agencies near the town square; packages include transport and most also include a challenging few hours of hiking (10 km) through a dense cloud forest. It's very damp in the forest, with moss and ferns growing everywhere. Luckily it didn't rain when I visited, otherwise it would have been a rather muddy affair.

In the forest, I also saw *Podocarpus* trees that resemble South African yellowwoods (our local genus is *Afrocarpus*). After hours among the tree ferns, we had lunch on an open hilltop above the forest and watched as the clouds rolled in. One moment there were vast views, the next we were shrouded in mist.

On another day, I visited the rock engravings and ruins of El Fuerte de Samaipata. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was a ceremonial place for many pre-Inca and Inca societies.

Cacti on Isla Incahuasi, an island in the middle of the massive Salar de Uyuni.



Reflections on the Uyuni salt flat

From Samaipata, I took a bus south-west to Sucre, one of the biggest cities in Bolivia at 2 800 m above sea level. My next destinations were even higher: Potosí (4 000 m) and Uyuni (3 700 m). Suddenly, I had to contend with the realities of the Altiplano (high plain) in winter: It was freezing cold and dry, and the sun was incredibly harsh. The thin air had me battling to breathe on the first two nights, as my body acclimatised.

After the green mountains of Samaipata (720 km from Uyuni), this landscape was hard and inhospitable. In Uyuni, everything revolves around two industries: mining (salt, lithium) and tourism. Nearby Salar de Uyuni is the biggest salt flat on earth. The town is ugly – everything is colourless and worn down and it seems like nobody cares – but the Salar is exquisitely beautiful.

The pan is up to 100 km across and almost perfectly flat – there's only a one-metre difference in altitude from one side to the other. Apparently it's so flat that satellites use the pan to calibrate their distance sensors. The salt crust is metres deep. When it rains, the water forms an enormous mirror and makes for special photos.

Many travel agencies sell the same packages: You can do either a one-day or a three-day tour. The shorter tour is only to the Salar; the longer tour includes the surrounding mountains.

I did the shorter tour twice. Although the routes were similar, each time was a unique experience because you have different guides and different tourists. Your thoughts differ, too! (It helps if you can get an English-speaking guide.) You can also overnight on the salt flat, in so-called salt hotels, built from big blocks of salt.

About 50 fully loaded 4x4 vehicles (mostly Land Cruisers) take tourists to the Salar every day. Everyone stops in the same places, like Isla Incahuasi, an "island" in the middle of the pan. We spent about an hour there – enough time to either walk around it or scramble to the top for a 360-degree view. The island is just a big rock, home to thousands of cacti, some taller than 5 m. You can also see fossilised coral – it's crazy to think this island was once underwater! (But that's where the salt comes from...)

I visited in mid-winter and it was sunny, with midday temperatures around 15 °C. You need sunscreen otherwise you'll burn. At sunset the temperature plummeted to zero almost immediately. Sundowners were served near the edge of the Salar, where there's usually a thin layer of water. We wore gumboots (supplied by the travel agency) to stay dry and salt-free. The vehicles were parked far apart so we could all enjoy the liquid mirror on our own – it made everything look like a Rorschach test! We enjoyed a "double" full moon rising over its own reflection.



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: A steep descent leads to the Apurimac River, about halfway on the trail to Choquequirao. The ancient ruins are still being restored. Along the way, you can overnight in the village of Marampata, which also has basic restaurants. One wonders how many of Choquequirao's structures are still hiding in the vegetation. Some of the terraces feature unique llama figures, built using white stones. It's a tough hike to reach the site – you need determination and grit to get there.

The footpath was steep, dusty and covered in loose rock; worn out by pack animals like horses, mules and donkeys...

Choquequirao, the unknown Machu Picchu

Over the next five weeks, I travelled north by bus to the Bolivian capital La Paz (1 260 km north of Uyuni), and on to Copacabana next to Lake Titicaca (173 km further). From there, I entered Peru and headed north-west – still along the Andes – to the city of Cusco (530 km from Copacabana).

I was still on the Altiplano, but I'd grown used to the altitude and I was hiking fit.

Cusco used to be the centre of Tawantinsuyu – the indigenous name for the Inca Empire – and the Quechua language is still used widely. The ancient, ruined city of Machu Picchu is the main attraction here, but I wanted to see something a bit different, so I went to an equally historic place where far fewer people ever set foot: Choquequirao.

Choquequirao is the ruin of an old Inca settlement, dating from the 15th century. Like Machu Picchu, it was possibly built for the ninth Inca emperor, Pachacuti. The forest swallowed the structures, which are slowly being reclaimed – archaeologists reckon only about half of them have been unearthed.

Choquequirao was quiet – I barely saw 20 people. Machu Picchu gets 2 500 visitors every day! The reason is simple: You can only reach Choquequirao on foot, and it's a strenuous hike. (Word is a cableway will be built soon...)

Some travel agencies in Cusco offer tours to Choquequirao, but I went alone. I packed my bag, caught a bus to the Cachora turn-off (165 km), halfway to Abancay, and then took a taxi north to the trailhead at Capuliyoc (20 km further). I had lunch in the village, bought my entry ticket and started the hike.

It was tough. You start at 3 000 m and descend 1 400 m to the Apurimac River. Then you climb those 1 400 m again! It's almost 25 km to Choquequirao, and you come back the same way.

Most people do the hike over five days – two days there, one day exploring the ruins, and two days back.

The footpath was steep, dusty and covered in loose rock; worn out by pack animals like horses, mules and donkeys – the only modes of transport in the valley. It got hotter and drier as I approached the river, where I was plagued by biting sand flies.

My first day on the trail was short because I got a late start. I camped on a farm called Chiquisca. The next day, I left most of my gear there and pushed through to Marampata, 3 km from Choquequirao. I took a chance and hoped I'd find accommodation in the tiny mountain town without a booking – I got lucky.

There were no shops but the places to stay had basic restaurants. By this point I was knackered – it was no joke navigating those extreme gradients with a heavy backpack.

I spent the entire third day among the ruins, which

are more spread out than the ones at Machu Picchu. (Choquequirao is a tongue twister – it means Cradle of Gold.)

The 3 km hike from Marampata gives you the opportunity to take in the dramatic location of the place. It's one-and-a-half Table Mountains higher than the Apurimac River in the valley below, surrounded by monstrous 5 000 m peaks!

As you approach, terraces reveal themselves on the slopes. It's amazing to think that people built them on such a large scale 500 years ago, and that they could support the entire settlement with crops like potatoes, corn and quinoa.

The main living quarters were higher up, past the terraces. Even steeper terraces followed. Llama figures were built into the walls using white stone.

Fulfilled, I walked back to Marampata in the late afternoon. I had gained new respect for the ingenuity of the Inca people. They were master builders. It's a shame that so much of their expertise has been lost.

That night, I decided to hike back in one go the next day. I was down in the valley at the Apurimac River by sunrise. It was an overcast day, which made the uphill easier. I stopped at Chiquisca again, for breakfast, and to grab my gear.

Halfway back up the mountain, a condor slowly glided closer, turned above my head and flew off. I saw more of these graceful giants – with wingspans of up to 3 m – on my travels, but this was my first encounter. The Incas lived close to nature and the condor was special to them. They believed it was a messenger between heaven and earth, representing freedom, power and wisdom.

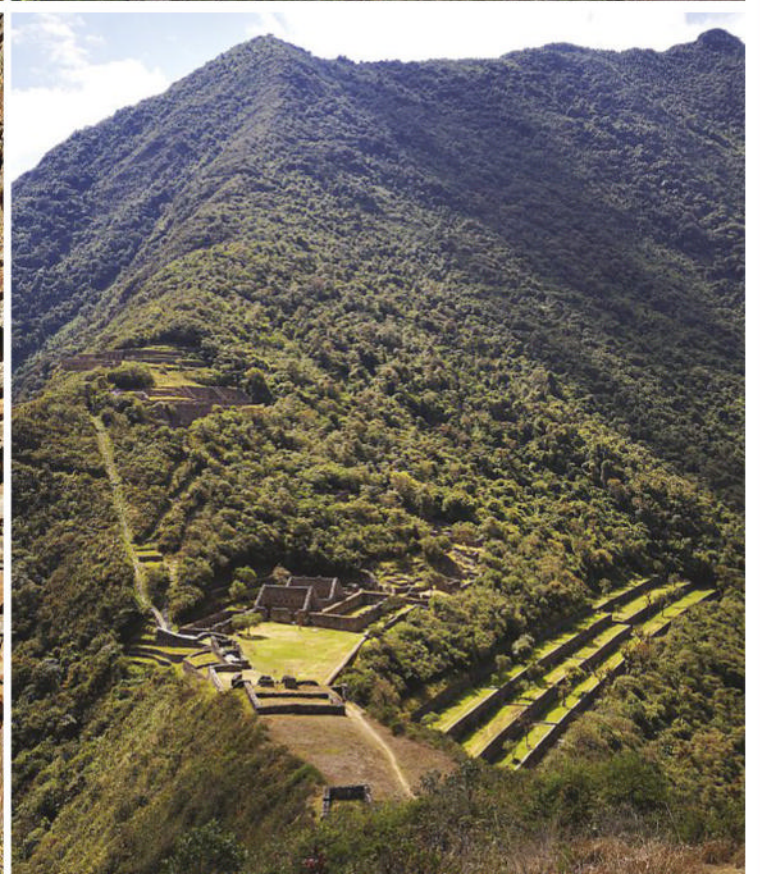
By late afternoon, I was back at Capuliyoc, my tent pitched in the shadow of glacier-clad peaks.

The next morning, I managed to get a taxi ride with a few other campers back to Cusco, where we found crowds and modern amenities again. My tough expedition had filled me with inner peace. Some trials and tribulations can do you good!

Huaraz, the mountain paradise

During my travels in the Andes, it soon became clear that I was on an inner journey that was keeping pace with my outward journey. I didn't set out with this kind of ambition in mind, but that's how it played out. I think it's because I was doing difficult things – things that made me experience emotions that I seldom experience in day-to-day life.

For all these reasons, I was excited to finally reach Huaraz, north of Lima. A friend had recommended the place to me, describing it as a "mountain paradise". He was right! I took the bus again: From Cusco I travelled to Lima (the capital of Peru), about 1 100 km away, and





Above: The final 200 m climb before Francois reached the icy summit of Vallunaraju (5 686 m).

Opposite page, from top left: After reaching Punta Union, the highest point on the Santa Cruz Trek, the path mercifully went downhill. Francois made it to the peak of Vallunaraju in time for sunrise. Artesonraju, the so-called “Paramount Pictures mountain”, is next to Laguna Parón.

then went north to Huaraz (400 km). This town is in the Cordillera Blanca, a mountain range in the Andes, home to about 500 glaciers and nearly a hundred peaks higher than 5 000 m.

Tourists come here to see the mountains, and also to immerse themselves in the Quechua culture. There are traditional mountain farms where a multitude of diverse cultivars of potatoes and maize are grown. Centuries-old red paperbark *Polylepis* trees flourish at altitudes of up to 5 000 m, which sets them apart from other tree species.

The town of Huaraz is not particularly pretty (an earthquake in 1970 flattened most of it), but the landscape makes up for it. I spent nearly three weeks here. Only the arrival of the rainy season at the end of August 2024 drove me away.

One of the highlights was visiting several of the glacial lakes in the area. The colour of the water was surreal: Laguna Parón was turquoise, surrounded by white glaciers and deep blue sky (this blue really *is* different above 4 000 m...). Laguna 69 is accessible on a challenging day hike – the crystal-clear water gave me the coldest swim of my life!

The famous eight- to ten-day trail in the nearby Huayhuash mountain range was a bit out of my budget, so I opted for the four-day Santa Cruz Trek instead. This route, which can be done from either side, follows two valleys, with the highest point – Punta Union at 4 800 m – roughly in the middle.

Although there are slackpacking options available, with tents and food included, I chose to go on my own. Setting up camp after an exhausting day on the trail in these dizzying mountains gives you a great sense of peace.

I can recommend the detour to Lake Arhuaycocha

so you can stand at the foot of the perfectly Toblerone-shaped Alpamayo (5 947 m), the so-called “Most Beautiful Mountain in the World”.

Regularly climbing mountains made me properly fit and ready for a real challenge: climbing a prominent peak. The one that fit my schedule and budget best was Vallunaraju (5 686 m), outside Huaraz.

It was a two-day expedition and this time I went with a professional guide. We started at 1 am with headlamps on. An hour later we put on our crampons and stepped onto the glacier, which we climbed for the next 10 hours. I could feel that I was well acclimatised, especially compared to the two other hikers in our group who struggled a bit.

At sunrise, I stood on the summit of Vallunaraju, just reeling from the beauty of it all. Everything was below me, except for a few nearby peaks of a similar height. It was -15 °C so we couldn't linger. I snapped a few photos and we started the return journey.

Hours ago, we'd trudged through here in the dark; now we could see the icy fairyland in daylight, with dramatic crevasses in the glacier and frozen waterfalls all around.

Going down was still hard work, but I couldn't stop smiling, even when it started to snow lightly around lunchtime in the camp. It felt unreal to be back in Huaraz by late afternoon.

Since the start of my Andean exploration in Samaipata two months previously, I had experienced so much more than I could have hoped for. I was ready to close the Andes chapter and I had the next destination in my sights: the Amazon...

Francois dedicates this article to his friend, Yolandi Nel.



VISAS

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

This list gives a general idea of what accommodation cost during Francois's visit. He mostly used booking.com and some travel agencies, which we've listed.

SAMAIPATA

- **Accommodation:** Posada Guasu: US\$18 per person (with an excellent breakfast)
- **Travel agencies:** Chane Tours
 00 591 609 402 64, WhatsApp – they speak English;
 Fenix Travel 00 591 634 752 59

UYUNI

- **Accommodation:** Piedra Blanca Backpackers Hostel: US\$12 per person
- **Travel agencies:** Kantuta Tours
 kantutatours.com; Hodaka Mountain Expedition
 uyunihodakabolivia.com

CHOQUEQUIRAO

- **Accommodation:** Chiquisca: about US\$5 per person to camp or for a room; Inti Condor Marampata: about US\$15 per person; Capuliyoc: about US\$10 per person to camp or for a room.

HUARAZ

- **Accommodation:** Artesonraju Hostel: US\$6 per person; Qumir Packers: US\$9 per person
- **Travel agency:** Andes Trekk Peru
 00 519 626 035 81, WhatsApp



MEET THE AUTHOR

Francois Raubenheimer is a software developer. When he's not travelling and working remotely, he lives in Observatory, Cape Town. He has a passion for art and nature – and an endless curiosity about everything that's unfamiliar and different.

Since 2019, he's been on the road extensively in Africa, Europe and South America, following his life motto: "Home is where I am."





Buffeljagsrivier is next to the N2, 10 km east of Swellendam. Artist and filmmaker **Chris Wait** watches small-town life unfold through the window of his studio.

Buffeljagsrivier is surrounded by farms. The river that gives the village its name flows past. There are two bridges – one for cars, one for trains – and, in the part where I stay, a few houses, a bottle store, a café and a cheese factory. Not much happens here, but also a little bit more than you might expect. Things hum on the last weekend of the month, with special focus around the bottle store and the café. The latter is owned by Maryna, at her post seven days a week.

I rent a couple of rooms where I also have my studio and a small gallery – it's in the big building in front of the café. The open yard right outside my window is where trucks come to make U-turns. I can observe all the comings and goings. This yard is my TV screen, my theatre stage. The actors are mostly farm workers.

A throw of the dice brought me here. The building where I rented storage space in Cape Town was sold without warning – I simply got an e-mail to tell me to move out. My scant possessions (half-finished paintings, bags of forgotten junk) were hastily boxed up.

But where to next? I looked on Google Maps for new storage possibilities. I wanted to stay close to a main road so that it would be easy to get back to Cape Town if work opportunities came up. Swellendam caught my eye, and soon I zoomed in on Buffeljags.

The rent was fair and – importantly – the rooms were spacious enough for me to set up my studio and live there. After a slow winter of dragging my feet, I arrived here at the same time as the swallows. There are a lot of swallows nesting in the building. Birds of a feather, right?

Dust from the fields blows in on the afternoon breeze. It finds a home at the bottom of my coffee mugs. I feel the thin film of dust under my bare feet, nice and cool on the cement floor.

The Buffeljags River comes into being where the Grootvadersbosch and Tradou rivers join near Suurbraak.

It eventually flows into the Breede, and from there to the sea. There's a lot of water, and the soil is fertile. A diverse range of crops are grown, from canola to citrus, even lavender and green peppers. There are grapes, too – and a wine cellar: Olivedale Vineyard. There are dairy farms and thus a cheese factory.

According to a census from 2011, just over 1 400 people called Buffeljagsrivier their hometown. The people here work hard from Monday to Friday and party even harder over weekends. There's no official place to jol, just the train tracks, where people sit and chat and laugh, or sometimes cry and fight.

Some days, Boeta hangs around the workshop next door, looking for odd jobs. Occasionally, when he's had one too many drinks, he ends up shouting and cursing at everyone until the police van comes. But I like Boeta – he always has a friendly word for me, and a sly smile that curls around the corners of his lips.

Then there's Oom Koos and Kandas – the unofficial “fashionistas” of the community. On Sunday mornings they stroll to church, dressed like colourful turacos. On occasion they invite me along, but somehow I'm always busy. Good people.

In the late afternoon, the swallows flock together and pluck insects from the sky. That's my sign to go for a stroll down to the river. I follow the train track. It feels strange to walk here, because you have the softness of the farmland and nature, but also the harder lines of the cheese factory and the railway line. Something feels out of place. Is it me?

Back at the building – where the swallows have come to roost for the night – I spend the evening writing, painting, making music or editing my travel doccies.

My travels have taken me all over Africa. What I have learnt is that people are the same everywhere. We all dream – sometimes we even dream the same dreams.

And that's what I plan to do this summer, my second in Buffeljags – dream. Dream of riding on the back of a swallow, swooping through the blue, blue sky.

Chris is currently crowdfunding to buy a second-hand Hiace minibus to drive through Africa. Support him at [freewildworld.com/nuwewiele](https://www.freewildworld.com/nuwewiele)

*In the late afternoon, the swallows
flock together and pluck insects
from the sky. That's my sign to go
for a stroll down to the river.*

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY GERDA ENGELBRECHT

SOLUTION ON PAGE 100

			Region in the Karoo	Copper (symbol)	Ordained minister	16th letter	National park in Malawi			
						You (archaic)				
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			Europium (symbol)		Reign					
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			Soil component			Examines				
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Comfy chair										
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							At all times			

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AFRICA AT ITS BEST

Everything keeps going right! These Toyota Probox cars (not a model we have in South Africa) are ubiquitous on Kenyan roads. I snapped this one while driving past on the B3 highway somewhere east of the town Narok. I was en route back to Nairobi after a visit to the Maasai Mara.

This car was part of a convoy of four others, all loaded high with bundles and bags strapped to the roof. I asked our local driver about it, and he explained that they were most likely on their way to an outlying village to set up a temporary clothes market for the day.

Later, he pointed out just such a market – informally erected for the convenience of people living in the countryside far from the big shops.

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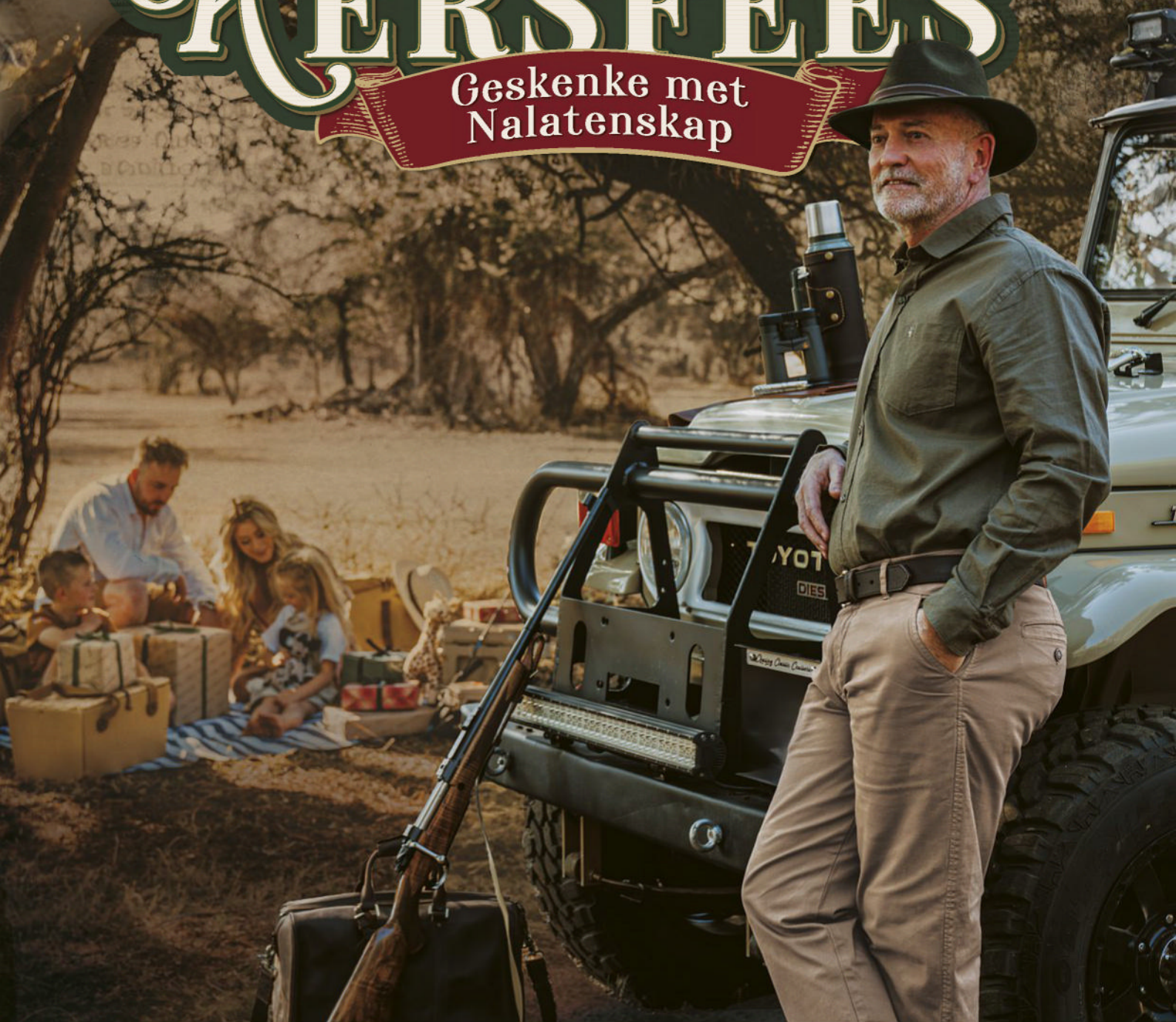


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Spaar
R670



Leupold® Packout Sonbril
Tortoise & Blou

R3 829 WAS R4 499

Spaar
15%



Rooibaard Sous 250ml,
Oorspronklik
of Groentruie

R59
WAS R69

Spaar
15%



Funky Ouma Braai Boksie Geskenk 5-Stuk

R419 WAS R499

Spaar
15%



Die Braai Butler Speserye
Bosveld, Hoender-Suurlemoen-
Peper, Soet-Suur, Soetrissie,
Woestersous of Mielie Braai

R99 WAS R119



Skullies Kersfees Klappers

6-stuk, Ingesluit:

- Resin Skullies sleutelhouer
- Skullies Yskas Magneet
- Skullies-hoed
- Skullies plakkers
- Skullies Dieregrappe
- Verrassing Skullie

R549

Spaar
R260



Sniper Explorer Mans Puffer Baadjie Coyote of
Olyfgroen, Groottes: S - 4XL

R1 439 WAS R1 699

COLLECTABLE
SKULLIES
BONE SKULLS



Geskenk Idee!

10% AFSLAG

**OP VERSKEIE
RESIN SKULLIES**

**Puik
geskenk!**

**Ruark®
Lekkerruik
Kers 220ml**

R459



**Ruark®
Lekkerruik
Kers 500ml**

R649

**Ruark®
Reed
Diffuser
100ml**

R499



"Safari Outdoor is soos die perfekte jag-kameraad: ruimhartig, vol spesialis-kennis en altyd daar wanneer jy hom nodig het."

— DEON MEYER (Kliënt van Safari™, Stellenbosch)

Go wild with **Discovery Miles** online and in-store

Simply generate a voucher in the Discovery Bank app and present your QR code to the cashier. To earn Discovery Miles, pay with your Discovery Bank virtual card.

Step by step

- Log in to your Discovery Bank app.
- Scroll down and select your Discovery Miles balance
- Select the Spend tab
- Tap on Pay in-store.
- Enter the amount you want to spend.
- Tap on Generate voucher.
- Present the QR code to the cashier.

Our friendly staff are happy to assist.

Go wild with Discovery Miles online and in-store every day, and get up to **30% off** on Miles **Đ-Day** on the **15th** of every month.

**Discovery
MILES**

Discovery Miles are available on the Discovery Bank app, in-store and online with Discovery Vitality partners. Rewards based on your engagement in Vitality programmes, Discovery products, and monthly qualifying card spend. Discovery Bank, Auth FSP48657. Limits, (incl. fair usage), Ts&Cs apply.

DONKEY LONG TONG

Available at SAFARI  OUTDOOR

Fire Tong 80cm | Grill Tong 69cm | Donkey Blower 79cm | Jack Sack Full Kit with Paddle

Save
12%



Safari
Outdoor®
Braai Tong
80cm

R439 WAS R499



Ruark®
Braai Gloves
Brown, Size: Large
R599

FSSMFBS/FSSMFTBS/FSSMFCS/FSSMTCB

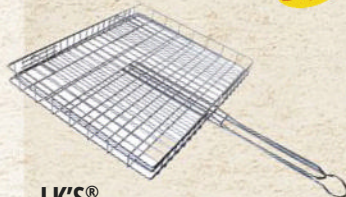
Save
R3 000



Firesmiths Low Smoke 304 Stainless Steel
Fire Pit Black, Bronze, Stylish Cream or Graphite

R11 999
WAS R14 999

Save
R150



LK'S®
Stainless Steel
Braai Grid Big Box
Adjustable, 505×420 mm

R1 149 WAS R1 299



Ruark® Wood
Stand & Holder
Waxed Cotton
R1 499

Save
R3 000



Firesmiths Hero Smoker & Grill
Ruby Red, Bronze Baby, Black, Burnt
Orange, Coals & Crème or Green

R9 999
WAS R12 999

Save
R400



LK'S® Biltong Maker
430 Stainless Steel

R2 999 WAS R3 399

Save
R200



MAFECs Cooking Stove
R1 499 WAS R1 699

Did you know?

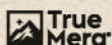
Safari Outdoor® staff go through meticulous training in order to have the best advice to offer customers.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® CHRISTMAS 2025. VALID 21 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2025. WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.



Camping & Outdoor

Save
12%



True Mera Peak® Explorer Stacking Cup 0.47L
Green, Orange, White or Black
R349 WAS R399

Save
11%



True Mera Peak® Basecamp Breeze Tumbler
0.28L, Green or Black
R399 WAS R449

Save
10%



True Mera Peak® Summit Tumbler
0.6L, Black, Green or Midnight Blue
R449
WAS R499

Save
10%



True Mera Peak® Glacier Flow Mug
0.5L, Black or Green
R749
WAS R829

Save
7%



Stanley® Classic Pocket Flask 235ml, Black or Green
R649 WAS R699

Save
11%



Stanley® The IceFlow™ Bottle with Twist Flip Lid
0.47L, Black 2.0, Dried Pine, Hydrangea or Twilight
R749 WAS R849

Save
11%



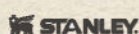
Stanley® AeroLight™ Transit Mug 0.35L, Black, Electric Yellow, Fog or Rose Quartz
R749 WAS R849

Save
10%



Stanley® IceFlow™ Bottle Flip Straw 2.0
0.7L, Dried Pine or Hydrangea
R849
WAS R949

Save
10%



Stanley® The IceFlow™ Bottle with Twist Flip Lid
0.7L, Dried Pine or Twilight
R899
WAS R999

Save
10%



Stanley® AeroLight™ Transit Mug 0.47L
Black 2.0, Cream Gloss, Hot Coral, Hydrangea or Twilight
R899 WAS R999

Save
R100



Stanley® IceFlow™ Flip Straw Tumbler 2.0
0.89L, Ash or Black 2.0
R1 049
WAS R1 149

Save
R150



Stanley® The IceFlow™ Bottle Flip Straw 2.0
1.06L, Twilight
R1 049
WAS R1 199

Save
R150



Stanley® Adventure Shot Glass & Flask Gift Set Green
R1 199 WAS R1 349

Save
R700



Stanley® Adventure Cooler 28.8L, Green
R5 399 WAS R6 099

Save
R200



Stanley® The Quencher H2.0 Flowstate™ Tumbler 1.18L,
Cream Tonal, Shale, Ash, Azure, Black Tonal, Blue Spruce, Dried Pine, Hot Coral, Plum, Pomelo, Rose Quartz or Twilight
R1 099 WAS R1 299



SAFARI CHRISTMAS

21 NOV TO 31 DEC

WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.

Camping & Outdoor

Ruark®
Shot Cups
with
Leather
Casing
6 x 30ml
R259



GR0000906

Ruark®
Hip Flask
180ml
R279



GR0000903

Ruark®
Hip Flask
240ml
R339



GR0000904

**Gift
Idea**



**Ruark® Hunter
Flask with 2 Shot Cups**
Flask: 240ml, Cups: 30ml each
R499

GR0000907

Ruark®
Giant
Hip Flask
1.8L
R699



GR0000905

Ruark®
Hammered
Pewter Hip
Flask with
Leather
Pouch 177ml
R1 999



ROAPLF03

Ruark®
Tall
Pewter
Hip Flask
257ml
R1 999



RUAFL257

Ruark®
Outpost
Field Bar
Khaki Canvas
R19 999



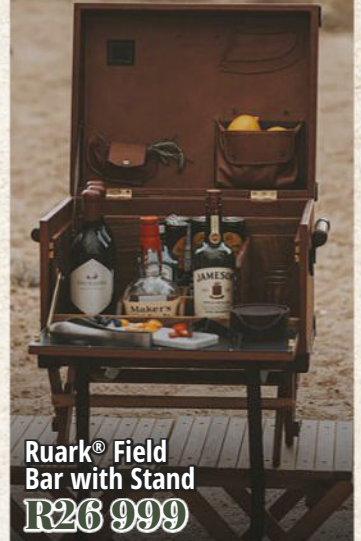
RK001BAR

Ruark®
Outpost Glass
Carrier Khaki Canvas
R21 999



RK002BAR

**Ruark® Field
Bar with Stand**
R26 999



**Save
R400**



True Mera Peak®
Polar Pro Cooler
20L, Stone

R3 299 WAS R3 699

TMPR2001STONE

**Save
R600**



True Mera Peak®
Polar Pro Cooler 45L
Stone with 2 Cup Holders

R4 699 WAS R5 299

TMPR4501STONE

**Save
R700**



True Mera Peak®
Polar Pro Cooler
75L, Stone

R5 499 WAS R6 199

TMPR7501STONE

**Save
R900**



True Mera Peak®
Polar Pro Cooler
110L, Stone

R6 799 WAS R7 699

TMPR1101STONE

**ENGRAVE A SPECIAL
MESSAGE** *at Safari Outdoor®*

Ensure that your gift is unique & special,
by having it engraved at Safari Outdoor®.



Engrave on steel or polymer



FXairguns MADE IN SWEDEN

POWER IN PRECISION

Own the Impact.

Take the shot.



THE MOST CELEBRATED PROFESSIONAL
RIFLE INTERNATIONALLY



FX0020
DRS SYNTHETIC 600mm
22 (5.5mm)



FX0023
DRS WALNUT 600mm
22 (5.5mm)



101667
IMPACT M4 SNIPER 700mm
Copper Edition 22 (5.5mm)



FX0029
DRS PRO 700mm
MDT 22 (5.5mm)

BUY ANY FX PCP AIR RIFLE AND GET 10% OFF

T'S & C'S APPLY. PROMOTION ONLY VALID DURING CHRISTMAS PROMOTION

Camping & Outdoor

Save
R150



Fenix® E18 V2.0
Flashlight 1 200 Lumens
R1 099 WAS R1 249

Save
R100



Fenix® E28R
Flashlight 1 500 Lumens
R1 199 WAS R1 299

Save
R200



Fenix® C7
Flashlight 3 000 Lumens
R1 599 WAS R1 799

Save
R200



Fenix® PD35
Flashlight 1 700 Lumens
R1 599 WAS R1 799

Save
R200



Fenix® TK16 V2.0
Flashlight 3 100 Lumens
R1 999 WAS R2 199

Save
R300



Fenix® PD36R Pro
Flashlight 2 800 Lumens
R2 299 WAS R2 599

Save
R400



Fenix® TK35UE V2.0
Flashlight 5 000 Lumens
R2 499 WAS R2 899

Save
R300



Fenix® WF25RM
Flashlight 3 000 Lumens
R2 699 WAS R2 999

Save
R500



Fenix® LR35R Flashlight
10 000 Lumens
R3 799 WAS R4 299

Save
8%



Fenix® HL16 Headlamp
Black 450 Lumens
R599 WAS R649

Save
R250



Fenix® HL45R
Headlamp 1 000 Lumens
R1 449 WAS R1 699

Save
R200



Fenix® HM65R
Headlamp 1 400 Lumens
R1 799 WAS R1 999

Save
R500



Fenix® HT18R Hunting
Flashlight 2 800 Lumens
R3 399 WAS R3 899

Save
9%



Fenix® CL26R
Camping Lantern Black,
Green or Red, 400 Lumens
R999 WAS R1 099

Save
R200



Fenix® CL26R Pro Camping
Lantern Olive, 650 Lumens
R1 499 WAS R1 699

Save
R200



Fenix® CL27R Camping
Lantern 1 600 Lumens
R1 599 WAS R1 799

SAFARI FISHING

Visit us in Safari Outdoor® Pretoria
for all your fishing needs and accessories.



Messe

Spaar
R400



Paul Roodt
Hunter 1
Custom Jagmes

R2 899 WAS R3 299

Spaar
R700



Arno Bernard
Koedoe met
Mammoth Jagmes

R7 399 WAS R8 099

Spaar
20%



Meula
PIK-AS Jagmes

R379 WAS R479

Spaar
R200



Honey Badger
Outfitter Mes
Oranje met Kydex-houer

R999 WAS R1 199

Spaar
R200



Muela
Bison 9 OL
Jagmes

R1 099 WAS R1 299

Spaar
R200



Muela
SW-8R Jagmes

R1 199 WAS R1 399

Spaar
R200



Geskenk
Idee

Muela Rhino
10 OL Jagmes

R1 599 WAS R1 799

Spaar
R300



Muela Bisonte
11 R Jagmes

R1 499 WAS R1 799



VICTORINOX

V6711323

SWISS CLASSIC

SAVE 20%

2 PIECE SET PARING
KNIFE & PEELER

Optimal combination of paring knife and a universal peeler with an ultrasharp micro serrated edge, ideal for fruits and vegetables with soft or hard peels. The serrated edge is ideal for cutting through firm peel and slicing.

NOW R229 WAS R289

V6711621L12

SWISS CLASSIC

SAVE 20%

2 PIECE SET PARING KNIFE
& UNIVERSAL PEELER

Add a pop of colour to your kitchen accessories, the iconic tomato knife and a universal peeler with a ultra-sharp micro serrated edge, both ideal for a myriad of fruits and vegetables with soft or hard peels.

NOW R239 WAS R299

V6711623L82

SWISS CLASSIC

SAVE 20%

2 PIECE SET PARING
KNIFE & PEELER

A new kitchen duo, multi-tasking accessories in pastel hues, the iconic tomato knife and tomato and kiwi peeler for effortless peeling, featuring the pivoting, stainless, double edge blade, with ultra-sharp micro serrations.

NOW R239 WAS R299

V6711621L42 / V6711621L22

SWISS CLASSIC

SAVE 16%

2 PIECE SET PARING KNIFE
& UNIVERSAL PEELER

Add a pop of colour to your multi-tasking kitchen accessories, the iconic tomato knife and a universal peeler with a ultra-sharp micro serrated edge, both ideal for a myriad of fruits and vegetables with soft or hard peels.

NOW R249 WAS R299

V6711631L82 / V6711631L92

SWISS CLASSIC

SAVE 21%

3 PIECE SET PARING
KNIFES PEELER

Made from polypropylene and stainless steel, these Victorinox Swiss Classic Light Yellow Paring 3 Piece Set brings class and style to your cutlery. Slice and dice with ease while enjoying the quality in your hand.

NOW R299 WAS R379

V0820120AFR / V0820122AFR

RECRUIT

SAVE 15%

MULTITOOL POCKET KNIFE

Inspired by the classic Soldier's knife, a sleek medium sized multi-tool, packing all its useful eight functions between two compact Alox scales, small enough to reside every day in your pocket.

NOW R849 WAS R999

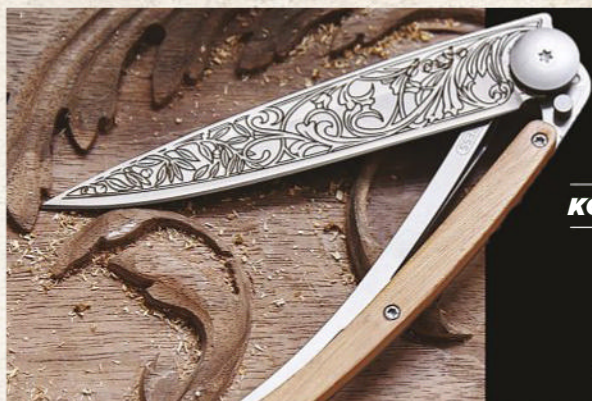
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE ORIGINAL SWISS ARMY KNIFE™

ESTABLISHED 1884

Spaar
14%



Honey Badger
Small Flipper Mes Groen
R649 WAS R749



deejo®

KOOP 2 MESSE EN KRY 10% AFSLAG

KOOP 3 OF MEER EN KRY
15% AFSLAG

NET OP GESELEKTEERDE DEEJO® MESSE

Spaar
12%



Honey Badger
Large Ultratec
Hook Knipmes Taankleur
R749 WAS R849

Spaar
R250



Puma® IP
Cárabo Birch Mes
R2 049 WAS R2 299

Spaar
R460



Benchmade®
Bugout Ranger
Knipmes Groen Grivory®
R4 139 WAS R4 599

Spaar
R550



Puma®
SGB Mach Mes
R4 949 WAS R5 499

Spaar
R100



Puma®
IP Companion Mes
Pistachio Wood
R2 499
WAS R2 699

Spaar
R800



Benchmade®
Taggedout®
Knipmes OD Groen
R6 599 WAS R7 399



NORDISKE
PRECISION

**KOOP ENIGE
NORDISKE MES**

EN KRY **10% AFSLAG**
+ GRATIS GRAVERING!



Spaar
R200



Cold Steel Safe
Maker Dagger
R1 199 WAS R1 399

Spaar
R200

CRKT.



CRKT®
M21-04G
Knipmes
R1 499 WAS R1 699

Spaar
R700



Benchmade®
Claymore™ Mes
Black Grivory®
R5 599 WAS R6 299

Spaar
R700



Benchmade®
Claymore™ Mes
Follage Groen
R5 699 WAS R6 399

"Wil net dankie sê vir die span by Safari wat die talle beman vir vriendelike en vinnige diens. Hulle hou verseker Safari sê naam hoog."

— ATTIE VAN NIEKERK (Kliënt van Safari™, Pretoria)



Mesmoertange

Spaar
10%



Gerber® Dime
Swart, Groen of Rooi
R669 WAS R749

Spaar
R200



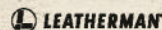
Geskenk
Idee
Gerber®
Suspension-NXT
R999 WAS R1 199

Spaar
R240



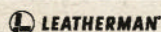
Gerber® Truss
R1 359 WAS R1 599

Spaar
R700



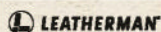
Leatherman®
Wave®+ Alpha
Cascadia of Obsidian
R5 499 WAS R6 199

Spaar
R400



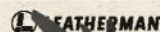
Leatherman®
Signal® Tundrascape
of Mesa Verde
R3 599 WAS R3 999

Spaar
R300



Leatherman®
Skeletool® CX
Onyx of OD Groen
R2 499 WAS R2 799

Spaar
R300



Leatherman®
Rebar® Burnt Sienna,
Heathered Cranberry, Mossy
Slate, Swart of Coyote Tan
R2 499 WAS R2 799

Spaar
R800



Leatherman®
Arc® Talos
R6 999 WAS R7 799

WORK SHARP® SHARPENERS

KITCHEN KNIFE SHARPENER

WSKPE21

From chip repair to a touch up, just push the button to select Shape, Sharpen, or Refine and the sharpener automatically adjusts speeds and run time to match the task at hand. The 17Å° sharpening guides eliminate guesswork and create the perfect balance of the precise cutting ability of Eastern knives and the strength and durability of Western knives.

FEATURES:

- Maintain a consistent 20° angle when sharpening and honing.
- Long-lasting ceramic abrasives quickly sharpen knives and scissors.
- Refines the edge and re-sharpen knives quickly. Hones serrations.

NOW R1 699

WAS R1 899
SAVE R200



ELECTRIC KNIFE AND TOOL SHARPENER

WSKTS21

The Work Sharp Knife and Tool Sharpener Mk.2 sharpens every knife and tool you own. The flexible belts, sharpening guides, and a two-speed motor makes sharpening faster, easier, and more versatile than before. Used by the pros, millions sold, never be dull again.

FEATURES:

- Cool cutting, long lasting engineered abrasive belts sharpen any blade shape.
- Maintain a consistent 20° or 25° angle when sharpening and honing without blade scratching.
- Low speed control for knives, High speed power for tools.

NOW R2 899

WAS R3 199
SAVE R300



KEN ONION EDITION KNIFE & TOOL MK.2 SHARPENER

WSKTSK021

Bring professional powered sharpening to your workbench or job site with the versatile Work Sharp® Ken Onion Edition Mk. 2™, offering adjustable guided sharpening for precise results.

FEATURES:

- Conforms to any edge to easily create an ideal edge profile.
- Maintain a consistent 15° to 30° angle when sharpening and honing without blade scratching.
- Low-speed control for knives, High-speed power for tools. 7 setting with LED display.

NOW R4 999

WAS R5 399 SAVE R500



PROFESSIONAL PRECISION ADJUST™ KNIFE SHARPENER

WSWSCHPAJ001

Dial in exact, repeatable edges without guesswork using the Work Sharp® Professional Precision Adjust™ Knife Sharpener, the precise manual benchtop system for consistently sharp results.

FEATURES:

- Consistently set your edge angles to within 0.25° every time you sharpen.
- Sharpening Chassis and V-Block Clamp are rigid and built to last.
- Repair, sharpen, and strop any knife back to a blistering sharp edge.

NOW R6 199

WAS R6 599
SAVE R400



GET THE SHARPENER THAT SUITS YOUR WORLD

Spaar
R1 140



Gränsfors Bruk
Forest Byl Klein

R3 359 WAS R4 799

Spaar
R1 160



Gränsfors
Bruk Klein Houtbyl

R3 839 WAS R4 999

Spaar
R110



Biltong Cutter
De Lux Klein

R989 WAS R1 099

Spaar
R150



Geskenk
Idee

Biltong Cutter De Lux
met vlekvrystaal bakkie

R1 299 WAS R1 449

ONS MAAK JOU MES ELKE MAANDAG GRATIS SKERP*

VIR DIE RES VAN DIE WEEK **R30 PER MES**

BY SAFARI OUTDOOR®

*SLEGS EEN MES PER PERSOON OP MAANDAE SAL GRATIS
WEES. 'N FOOI VAN R30 PER MES SAL DAARNA GEHEF WORD.



Spaar
18%



Warthog Gut
Hook-skerpmaker

R179 WAS R219

Spaar
20%



Warthog V-Sharp® XE
Messkerpmaker

R399 WAS R499

Spaar
14%



Warthog V-Sharp® A4
Messkerpmaker

R599 WAS R699

Spaar
R250

ChefsChoice



ChefsChoice®
Two-Stage Elektroniese
Messkerpmaker
Rechargeable, 20° Double-Bevel

R2 249 WAS R2 499

Deel jou

Jagfotos & Avonture

met jou vriende op die Safari Outdoor® App

LAAI DIE APP
GRATIS AF

Beskikbaar op
App Store

Beskikbaar op
Google Play

Beskikbaar op
AppGallery

SEUTELWOORD (SOEK VIR)
SAFARI OUTDOOR



Fishing

Save
30%



Pelagic Gear Open Seas Visor Army Green
R699 WAS R999

Save
18%



Pelagic Gear Performance Visor Camo Slate
R449 WAS R549

Save
13%



Pelagic Gear Tumbler
20oz Americano Grey or Camo Light Grey
R649 WAS R749

Save up to
R400



Savage Gear Specialist Lure Bag L(31L), M(18L) or Slingbag
From R1 349

Save
R250



Pelagic Gear Vaportek Performance Hoody
Fish Camo Black, Sizes: S-3XL
R1 049 WAS R1 299

Save
36%



Pelagic Gear Aquatek Shirt
Smokey Blue, Sizes: S-2XL
R699 WAS R1 099

Save
R200



Sensation Spin Edge Tackle Backpack
R1 599 WAS R1 799

Save
R300



Fishpond Canyon Creek Chest Pack
R1 699 WAS R1 999

Save
R300



Sensation Pro Series Tackle Bag
R2 199 WAS R2 499

Save
R200



Umpqua ZS2 Overlook 500 Chest Kit Camo or Olive
R3 999 WAS R4 199

Safari Fishing

Experience South Africa's Premier Fishing Shop

Save
35%



Pelagic Gear Deep Sea Boardshort
Fish Camo Grey, Sizes: 32-40
R899 WAS R1 399

Save
33%



Pelagic Gear Mako Hybrid Boardshort
Solid Grey, Sizes: 32-40
R949 WAS R1 419

Save
R500

Fishpond Dakota Rod & Reel Case
R4 499
WAS R4 999



Gift
Idea



SAFARI CHRISTMAS

21 NOV TO 31 DEC

WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.

Fishing

Save
R100

SHIMANO

Shimano®
SLX Baitcasting
Reel 150HG

R1 799 WAS R1 899



Save
R300

SHIMANO

Shimano®
Curado M
Baitcasting
Reel 200 HG RH,
200 RH or 200 XG RH

R3 899 WAS R4 199



Save
R1 800

**Penn® Slammer®
IV Spinning Reel**

3500DX, 4500DX,
5500DX, 6500DX
or 7500DX

**From
R5 199**



Save
R400

**Favorite
White Bird
Casting Rod**

7' (1pc) MH, 7'3"
(2pc) ML, 7'4" (1pc)
MH or 7'6" (1pc) H

R1 599 WAS R1 999



Save
R200

**Xplorer®
Classic 3.0
Fly Rod**

9' 5WT-8WT 4 Piece

From R2 199



Save
R700

**Assassin
Evo Zero Rod**

15' H or 15' MH

R6 699

WAS R7 399



Save
R600

**Favorite
PBF Defender
Casting or
Spinning Rod**

Sizes: 7'2" (2pc) MH
Fast/Cork or 7' (2pc)
MH Fast/Cork

R1 799



Save
R1 500

**Hardy® Zane
Fly Rod**

9' 6WT-7WT

R9 999 WAS R11 499



Save up to
R2 000

**G.Loomis
NRX+ Fly Rod**

590-4, S 990-4 or S 1290-4

From R13 999



Save
R200

SHIMANO

Shimano®
Curado Casting
Rod 6'10" M, 7'2" M,
7'2" MH, 7'5" MH, 7'5"
H or 7'5" EH

R2 799

WAS R2 999



Save
R3 000

**St Croix
Evos Fly Rod**

6100-4, 890-4,
990-4 or 1290-4

R20 999 WAS R23 999



Save
R200

Assassin Afinity

11' XH, 11' XXH,
12' XH (2pc),
12' XH (4pc) or 12' XXH

R3 599 WAS R3 799



Save
R200

Lew's

**Lew's® LFS Casting
or Spinning Rod**

6'10" MH/M, 6'8" M/F,
7'3" H/F, 7'3" MH/F,
7'4" M/XF or 7'6" XH/XF

R2 799 WAS R2 999



Save
R400

**Airflo Ridge 2.0
Sniper 4 Season
fly line**

WF7/WF8, Float
WF8 or Intermediate
6ft WF8/WF9,
Various Colours

R1 799

WAS R2 199



Save
R200

**Xplorer®
Flow Fly
Reel**

5/7WT

R799

WAS R999



Get your reels serviced at SAFARI FISHING

Make sure your fishing gear is always in good working order so that you are ever ready for the catch of a lifetime.





- [1] Jonsson® Legendary Kortmouhemp R 599
Kakie, Groottes: S - 3XL (JONSSON1548-29)
- [2] Jonsson® Saddle Stitch Belt R 399
Bruin, Groottes: S - 2XL (JONSSON1549-29)
- [3] Jonsson® Ripstop Kortbroek R799
Fatigue, Groottes: 32 - 42 (JONSSON1550-29)
- [4] Falke Weekender Sokkies R119
Mink (FALKE1551-29)
- [5] Courteney® Safari Ripple Stewels R4 999
Donker Bruin, Groottes: 8 - 13 (COURTNEY1552-29)



- [1] Crockett® FlexFit Trucker Pet R699
Bruin (CROCKETT1553-29)
- [2] Crockett® Alamo Langmouhemp R1 189
Groottes: S - 5XL (CROCKETT1554-29)
- [3] Crockett® Bison T-Hemp R589
Grey Melange, Groottes: S - 3XL (CROCKETT1555-29)
- [4] Crockett® Legend Denim Broek R1 269
Blou, Groottes: 32 - 42 (CROCKETT1556-29)
- [5] Blundstone® #062 Stewels R5 799
Stout Bruin, Groottes: 4 - 12 (BLUNDSTONE1557-29)



- [1] Under Armour® Blitzing Pet R359
Kakie en Wit (UNDERARMOUR1558-29)
- [2] Ruark® Linen V2 Langmouhemp R1 779
Olyfgroen, Groottes: S - 2XL (RUARK1559-29)
- [3] Craghoppers Kiwi Classic Rolltop Rugsak R1 449
Blue Stone, 20L (CRAGHOPPERS1560-29)
- [4] Craghoppers NosiLife Santos II Langbroek R1 649
Pebble, Groottes: 32 - 40 (CRAGHOPPERS1561-29)
- [5] Hoka® Transport Skoene R2 499
Duck Egg, Groottes: 8 - 12 (HOKA1562-29)

Maklike
BEVOEGDHEIDSOPLEIDING
OM JOU VUURWAPENLIENSIE TE KRY

Besprek jou bevoegdheidsopleiding by SOTC. Besoek enige Safari Outdoor-tak om vir ons opleidingskursusse te registreer.

Vir meer inligting, besoek www.so.co.za of skakel 0861 222 269.



T-Hemde

Spaar
25%



Safari Outdoor® Trading Post Beetle, Groottes: S - 5XL
R299 WAS R399

Spaar
25%



Safari Outdoor® Springbok Camel, Groottes: S - 3XL
R299 WAS R399

Spaar
25%



Safari Outdoor® Hunt & Fish Navy, Groottes: S - 5XL
R299 WAS R399

Spaar
15%



Kryptek®
1. **Battle Hard** Ash
2. **Lined Out** Bruin
3. **Origin** Granite
Groottes: S - 3XL
R589 WAS R699

Spaar
15%



Republk Jag Loop Deur My Are Kakkie, Groottes: S - 3XL
R319 WAS R379

Spaar
15%



Republk Horn & Hide Steengrys, Groottes: S - 3XL
R319 WAS R379

Spaar
15%



Republk Ossewa Lager Vlootblou, Groottes: S - 3XL
R319 WAS R379

Spaar
20%



Leupold® Eagle Steenkool Grys of Wit, Groottes: M - 2XL
R559 WAS R699

Spaar
20%



Leupold® Bull Elk Sandkleur, Groottes: M - 2XL
R559 WAS R699

Spaar
15%



Winchester® Rockdale Grey Melange of Olyfgroen, Groottes: S - 3XL
R639 WAS R749

Spaar
15%



Under Armour® GL Foundation Update Kona Bruin of Oranje, Groottes: S - 3XL
R509 WAS R599



Safari Times

ONTVANG NUWE INLIGTING OOR ALLES BUTELEWE EN JAG

NUUTSTE NUUS!

Lees gerus die kwartaallikse nuusblad binne ons winkels.

Dames

Skandeer die QR codes



- [1] Ruark® Safari Hoed R1 249
Groottes: 55 - 61
- [2] Ruark Polo Club® Gholfhemp R899
Vlootblou, Groottes: XS - 2XL
- [3] Jonsson® Statement Loop Belt R349
Taankleur, Groottes: S - 2XL
- [4] Ruark Polo Club® Kortbroek R999
Vlootblou, Groottes: 32 - 42
- [5] Hoka® Transport Skoen R2 499
Eggnog, Groottes: 5 - 8



- [1] Emthunzini Bella Hoed R649
Ivoorkleur
- [2] Antelo Ruby Classic Leer Moonbag R799
Vintage Kakie
- [3] Craghoppers Nosilife Carina Adventure Rok R2 459
Kleur: Vert, Groottes: 8 - 16
- [4] Craghoppers Mesa Stewels R1 479
Kleur: Rubble, Groottes: 4 - 8



- [1] Emthunzini Bella Hoed R889
Mixed Black
- [2] Serengeti® Leonora Sonbril R3 499
Shiny Havana
- [3] Freedom of Movement® Block Betty Handsak R1 749
Pekanneut-kleur
- [4] African Nature Matriarch Hemp R339
Opal, Groottes: S - 2XL
- [5] Ruggedwear Kestrel Kortbroek R449
Steengrys, Groottes: 28 - 40
- [6] Birkenstock® Mayari Sandale R2 099
Regular Fit Tabakbruin, Groottes: 4.5 - 7



RUARK

The Spirit of Exploration

Beskikbaar by SAFARI OUTDOOR



Spaar
R600



**Under Armour®
Bandit TR3 Skoene**
Swart en Oranje of
Castlerock Anthracite,
Groottes: 9 - 13

R1 699
WAS R2 299

Spaar
R800



Courteney® Vellies
Bruin, Donkerbruin of
Taankleur, Groottes: 8 - 13

R3 199
WAS R3 999

Spaar
R350



**Jim Green African Ranger
Stewels** Fudge Castrol, Full
Grain Bruin of Houston
Groen, Groottes: 8 - 12

R1 949
WAS R2 299

Spaar
R650



**Lowa Zephyr GTX
Mid Stewels** Coyote,
Groottes: 7.5 - 13

R3 649
WAS R4 299

Spaar
R870



**Lowa Renegade Evo
GTX Mid Stewels**
Donkerbruin of Swart,
Groottes: 8.5 - 13

R4 929
WAS R5 799

Spaar
R1 000



**Courteney®
Safari Stewels**
Bruin, Donkerbruin of
Taankleur, Sole: Ripple of
4X4, Groottes: 8 - 12

R4 999
WAS R5 999

KNOW YOUR BOOTS



— versus —



Blundstone 500

- Stout brown water-resistant leather
- SPS Max comfort system
- Steel shank for added stability
- Removable footbed
- Durable TPU outsole
- Cushioned midsole for comfort
- Brown elastic side

Blundstone 585

- Rustic brown water-resistant leather
- SPS Max comfort system
- Leather lined
- Removable footbed with XRD® Technology
- Durable TPU outsole
- Cushioned midsole for comfort
- Brown elastic side

EVERYWHERE LIFE TAKES YOU

Blundstone®

Barbour®



Launching soon at
SAFARI  **OUTDOOR**

Spaar
17%



**Sniper
Cruiser Pet**
Olyfgroen

R249
WAS R299

Spaar
20%



**Safari Outdoor®
Oilskin Pet Bruin**

R279
WAS R349

Spaar
20%



**Safari
Outdoor® Jag
Embleem Pet**
Vlootblou en Bruin

R279
WAS R349

Spaar
15%



**Wildebees® 3D
Label Max Wash
Pet Olyfgroen**

R299
WAS R349

Spaar
10%



Hornady® Pet
Blou en Kakie

R359
WAS R399

Spaar
15%



**Under Armour®
Blitzing Pet**
Kakie en Wit of
Groen en Swart

R359
WAS R429

Spaar
20%



**Leupold® Vlag
Trucker Pet**
Vlootblou en Grys

R599
WAS R749

Spaar
20%



CZ Hunting Pet
Bruin en Groen

R559
WAS R699

Spaar
15%



**Safari Outdoor®
FlexFit Trucker
Pet Bruin**

R589
WAS R699

Spaar
15%



**Leupold® Duck
Camo Trucker
Pet Groen**

R639
WAS R749

Spaar
15%



**5.11® Legacy
Scout Pet Coyote**

R719
WAS R849

Spaar
17%



**Republk 'Afrika
is nie vir sissies
nie' Pet Bruin**

R249
WAS R299

Spaar
17%



**Republk
Lekker Pet**

R249
WAS R299

Spaar
15%



**Browning®
Bush Wax Pet**

R639
WAS R749

Spaar
25%



**Urban Supply
Stella Hoed Stone,**
Groottes: 57 of 61

R349
WAS R469

Spaar
15%



**Rogue
Unisex Rancher
Suede Hoed Fawn,**
Groottes: M - XL

R419
WAS R499

Spaar
15%



**Rogue
Explorer Leer
Hoed Osbleed,**
Groottes: M - 2XL

R509
WAS R599

Spaar
15%



**Emthunzini
Unisex Fedora-
styl Hoed Natural,**
Groottes: 58 of 61

R589
WAS R699

Spaar
R300

**Geskenk
Idee**



**Browning®
Classic
Wolhoed**
Groottes: 57 - 61

R1 699
WAS R1 999

Spaar
R390



**Stetson
Traveller
Woolfelt Hoed
Feather Bruin,**
Groottes: M - 2XL

R2 209
WAS R2 599

HET JY GEWEET?

Safari Outdoor® het meer as 900 handelsmerke in voorraad waarvan baie wêreldklas ingevoerde handelsmerke is.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® KERSFEES 2025. GELDIG 21 NOV - 31 DES 2025. TERWYL VOORRAAD HOU. BEPALINGS & VOORWAARDES GELD. BF&W.



Bagasie

Spaar
15%

ANTELO

Antelo
Sofia
Sakkie

Almond Tan,
Merlot, Kakie
Groen of Sunset Pienk

R229 WAS R269



X0003447-50/X0003912

Spaar
R120



MELVILL & MOON

Geskenk
Idee

Melvill &
Moon® Tsavo
Sponge Bag Kakie

R1 079 WAS R1 199



G800000821

Spaar
R300



MELVILL & MOON

Melvill &
Moon® Tsavo
Sponge Bag Leer

R1 699 WAS R1 999



G800000822

Spaar
15%

Der Lederhändler

Der
Lederhändler
Rob Utility
Bag Tobacco

R969

WAS R1 149



HP7405ST18

Spaar
10%

Der Lederhändler

Der
Lederhändler
Spirit
Handsak

Stiff Tobacco

R539

WAS R599



HP604001ST18

Spaar
15%

ANTELO

Antelo
Ruby
Classic Leer

Moonbag Tan, Swart,
Cider Tan of Vintage Kakie

R799 WAS R949



X0003446/X0002662/
X0003530/X0003912

Spaar
R220

ANTELO

Antelo
Emmy
Handsak

Swart of Cider

R1 209

WAS R1 429



X0000074/EVJ000254

Spaar
R230

ANTELO

Antelo Noa
East-West
Kruislyfsak

Medium,
Almond Tan,
Swart of Kakie
Groen

R1 269

WAS R1 499



X0003890-393

Spaar
R250

Der Lederhändler

Der
Lederhändler
Ester
Handsak

Stiff Tobacco

R1 529

WAS R1 449



HP7422ST18

Spaar
R300

Der Lederhändler

Der
Lederhändler
Riana
Handsak

Stiff Tobacco

R1 699

WAS R1 999



HP7424STDBN

Spaar
R200

NORDISKE
PRECISION

Nordiske
Precision®
Assault
V2 Rugsak

Coyote, Klein

R1 799

WAS R1 999



G800000821

Spaar
R400

NORDISKE
PRECISION

Nordiske
Precision®
Taktiese
V2 Rugsak

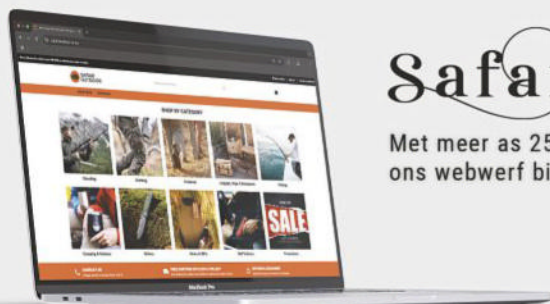
Coyote, Groot

R2 899

WAS R3 299



G800000822



Safari Outdoor® in jou huis

Met meer as 25 000 produkte het ons alles wat jy nodig het vir jou volgende avontuur, ons webwerf bied hoë kwaliteit produkte van die top handelsmerke in die bedryf.

f i y t WWW.SO.CO.ZA





RUARK®

RUABG02KH

**Ruark®
Safari Roll
Up Rugsak**
Kakie

R3 399



RUATR1442CA

**Ruark®
Samburu
Rugsak**
Canvas met leer

R3 599



8016

**Ruark®
Ngozi
Voyager
Duffelsak**
Bruin

R4 999



RUABG01KH

**Ruark®
Outlander
Duffelsak**
Canvas Kakie

R4 699



RUATR1445CA

**Ruark®
Savanna
Oornagsak**
Canvas Kakie
met leer

R5 449



9052

**Ruark®
Nairobi
Leersak**

R3 999



**Spaar
R570**

**Nordiske
Precision®
Taktiese
Rugsak-en-
toksak 2-in-1**
Olyfgroen
R3 229
WAS R3 799



**Spaar
R800**

**Melvill & Moon® Bulawayo
Kakie Sak** Grootte: 630 x 240 x 330 mm
R5 799 WAS R6 599



**Spaar
R800**

**Melvill & Moon® Bulawayo Waxed
Cotton-Sak** Grootte: 630 x 240 x 330 mm
R6 199 WAS R6 999



**Spaar
R1 500**

**Melvill & Moon® Bulawayo
Leersak** Grootte: 630 x 240 x 330 mm
R9 499 WAS R10 999



**Spaar
15%**



**Fjällräven®
Splitpack
Rugsak**
Donker
Olyfgroen
R4 929
WAS R5 799



**Spaar
R630**

**Melvill & Moon® Bulawayo
Medium Safari Duffelsak** Kakie
R3 569 WAS R4 199



**Spaar
R470**

**Melvill & Moon® Medium
Safari Duffelsak** Waxed Cotton
R4 229 WAS R4 699



**Spaar
R1 100**

**Melvill & Moon® Medium
Safari Duffelsak** Leer
R6 699 WAS R7 799



"Dankie, Safari Outdoor – julle is altyd daar om te help en seker te maak jagdrome waar word."
— LEN ENSLIN (Kliënt van Safari™, Pretoria)





TIMELESS PIECES FOR LIFE'S UNFOLDING JOURNEYS.

New range



Ruark Maasi
Waxed Canvas Wash Bag

RUAGF02072



Ruark Nomad
Waxed Canvas Satchel

RUAGH00372



Ruark Highland
Waxed Canvas Duffel Bag

RUAGH01852

Robert Ruark, renowned for his legendary safari tales about his expeditions in Africa, inspired our collection of high-end leisure and expedition wear, luggage and accessories. Experience untamed wilderness in style.



VIEW THE FULL RANGE:
RUARKCOLLECTION.COM

Save 9%

Loer Binne! Die Plaas

Fiona Powers



This board book with ten flaps provides children with a fun opportunity to find out more about the farm. Visit the farm to see what animals live there, the different plants and the vehicles used on the farm.

R199 WAS R219

9788164082

Save 8%

Jan Braai Junior In die kombuis

Jan Braai



This book covers fundamental cooking knowledge every person should have, using basic equipment and budget-conscious ingredients. With Jan Braai's tips and advice, Jan Braai Junior In The Kitchen will set the next generation on their way to cooking like a champion!

R229 WAS R249

78143242107

Save 9%

JAN Voyage

Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen



The book is a compass, pointing towards the richness of encounters, both great and small, that define what it means to voyage. Each recipe unlocks the essence of a place that has captured Jan Hendrik's heart and the people met on the journey.

R589 WAS R649

9781432311902

Save 9%

The Last Lions

Don Pinnock & Colin Bell



This book, with its searing, inspiring images and vivid accounts from the experts and foot-soldiers of conservation, brings the plight of lions to the attention of the world and is an urgent plea for the actions that need to be taken before it's too late.

R699 WAS R749

781775848097



AFRICAN RANGER



African Ranger | Fudge Castrol
Sole: Oringo



African Ranger | Houston Green
Sole: Oringo



Barefoot African Ranger | Fudge Castrol
Sole: Anvil



Barefoot African Ranger | Houston Brown

FEATURES OF BOTH RANGERS

- Toe, heel & eyelet areas - 2.2mm Nubuck leather adds durability.
- Soft leather collar and tongue make the boot lightweight and comfortable.
- Heavy duty hooks & eyelets to secure your feet.
- Can be resoled - Stitch down construction.

AFRICAN RANGER FEATURES

- Wedge sole grips while soft rubber keeps Rangers quiet in the bush.
- Built in heel & toe stiffeners add durability, support and protection.
- Insole board - secured to upper with double stitched 2.2mm braided nylon cord.
- Steel shank between insole board and sole provides extra support and stability.

BAREFOOT AFRICAN RANGER FEATURES

- Anvil Sole mimics the barefoot feel on any terrain with extra grip and protection.
- Built in heel stiffeners protect and support ankles.
- Leather midsole for comfort, flexibility and feel underfoot, secured to the upper with double stitched 2.2mm braided nylon cord.
- NO STEEL SHANK.



Kinders

15%
Afslag!



Safari Outdoor® Kids Sagte Speelgoed Verskeidenheid beskikbaar

Spaar
10%

Geskenk
Idee



Africar Land
Cruiser met Canopy

R899
WAS R999

Spaar
10%



Africar
Land Cruiser

R989
WAS R1 099

Spaar
15%



Gonher® Haelgeweer
Speelding 1 + 1 Skote

R679
WAS R799

Spaar
13%



Gonher®
Wild West
Speelding Stel 8 Skote

R829
WAS R949

Spaar
15%

Safari
Outdoor®
3-stuk
Kampstel
Kamo, met tent,
slaapsak en
kampstoel

R889
WAS R1 049



Spaar
10%



Lego®
Raptor
Off-Road Escape 285-stuk
R629 WAS R699

Spaar
R120



Lego®
Ford Bronco® SUV 943-stuk
R1 079 WAS R1 199

Spaar
15%

Mini haelgeweer
wat soutkorrels skiet!



Bug-A-Salt® 3.0
Soutgeweer Advanced Combat
R929 WAS R1 099

**VERKEN DIE SAFARI OUTDOOR®
TOEP**

Die Safari Outdoor®-toep gee jou die vryheid om jou jag- en buitlugavonture te deel. Tradisionele sosiale media-platforms beperk gebruikers wanneer hulle jagfoto's plaas.

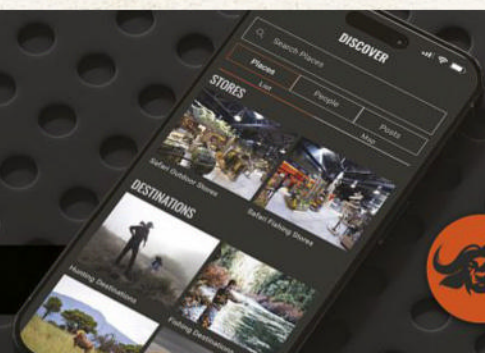
LAAI DIE TOEP
GRATIS AF

Beskikbaar op
App Store

Beskikbaar op
Google Play

Beskikbaar op
AppGallery

SLEUTELWOORD (SOEK VIR)
SAFARI OUTDOOR



Spaar
20%



Safari Outdoor®
Kids Breërandhoed
Kamo, Grootte: 54
R199 WAS R249

Spaar
17%



Republk
Katte
Kwaad
T-Hemp
Stone, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R249 WAS R299

Spaar
15%



Safari Outdoor®
'Adventure has no Limit'
T-Hemp
Vlootblou, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R209 WAS R249

Spaar
17%



Kahkees Romper Pien en Steengrys, Airforce of Steengrys, Groottes: 0 - 12 Maande
R249 WAS R299

Spaar
15%



Outdoor Explorer
Insekvanger
Speelgoed Stel 15-stuk
R589 WAS R699

Spaar
17%



Republk
King of Beasts
T-Hemp
Groen, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R249 WAS R299

Spaar
15%



Safari Outdoor®
Kremetart-boom
T-Hemp
Camel, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R209 WAS R249

Spaar
10%



Kahkees
Two Tone
Stel Airforce of Pink en Stone, Groottes: 1 - 10 Jaar
R399 WAS R449

Spaar
R280



Der Lederhändler
Leeu of Olifant Rugsak
Two Tone Stiff Tobacco
R1 619 WAS R1 899

Spaar
17%



Republk
Hop Hop
Spinnepop
T-Hemp
Groen, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R249 WAS R299

Spaar
15%



Safari Outdoor®
Fishing
T-Hemp
Groen, Groottes: 3 - 14 Jaar
R209 WAS R249

Spaar
12%



Kahkees
Rok Airforce of Stone, Groottes: 1 - 10 Jaar
R229 WAS R259

Spaar
10%



Sapmok Kindervellies
Donkerbruin of Dusty Pink, Groottes: 2 - 13
R719 WAS R799

Spaar
17%



Sniper
3D Hunting
Kinderstewels
Kamo, Groottes: 1 - 13
R999

Koop die Stewels en kry Sniper Kinderkouse GRATIS!

Spaar
17%



Kahkees
Kortbroek 2-pak, Kakie en Stone, Groottes: 1 - 10 Jaar
R299 WAS R349

Spaar
15%



Kahkees
Kort
Dungaree
Vlootblou of Olyfgroen, Groottes: 1 - 10
R299 WAS R359

HET JY GEWEET?

Safari™ verkoop wêreldklas handelsmerke soos Ruark®, Fjällräven & Kryptek.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® KERSFEES 2025. GELDIG 21 NOV - 31 DES 2025. TERWYL VOORRAAD HOU. BEPALINGS & VOORWAARDES GELD. BF&W.



Rangefinders & Rangefinder Binoculars

Save R2 000



Bushnell®
Fusion X
10x42 **R16 499**
WAS R18 499

Save R2 500



Leica
Geovid R
SE 10x42 **R29 999**
WAS R32 499

Save R5 000



Leica
Geovid Pro
SE 10x42 **R49 999**
WAS R54 999

Save R7 000



Leica
Geovid
Pro 10x32
Olive Green **R55 999**
WAS R62 999

LIMITED
EDITION!

Save R6 000



Swarovski
EL Range 2
10x32 **R59 999**
WAS R65 999

Save R8 000



Leica
Geovid
Pro 10x42 **R63 999**
WAS R71 999

Save R7 000



Leica
Geovid Pro
10x42 FDE **R72 999**
WAS R79 999

Spaar
R4000



Swarovski
EL Range 2
10x42 **R73 999**
WAS R77 999

Save R400



Vortex®
Crossfire®
HD 1400
Rangefinder **R3 899**
WAS R4 299

Save R400



Bushnell® R3
1200 6x25
Rangefinder **R4 799**
WAS R5 199

Save R300



Leupold® RX-
1400i GEN 2
Rangefinder **R4 699**
WAS R4 999

Save R400



Burris®
Signature LRF
2000 HD 7x
Rangefinder **R5 799**
WAS R6 199

Save R800



Bushnell® R5
2000 6x25
Rangefinder **R5 899**
WAS R6 699

Save R700



Leica Range-
master CRFR
Rangefinder **R10 899**
WAS R11 499

Save R1 500



Leupold® RX-
5000 TBR/W
Rangefinder **R16 999**
WAS R18 499

Save R2 000



Leica Range-
master CRF
Pro Rangefinder **R17 999**
WAS R19 999



SAFARI CHRISTMAS

21 NOV TO 31 DEC

WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.

Spotting Scopes & Accessories



Save
R500

Bushnell® Trophy™ Xtreme
20-60x65 Spotting Scope

R4 999
WAS R5 499



Save
R700

Bushnell® Prime 20-60x65
Spotting Scope with Tripod

R7 499
WAS R8 499



Save
R1 000

Leupold® SX-2 Alpine
HD GEN 2 20-60x80
Angled Spotting Scope

R12 799
WAS R13 799



Save
R3 500

Bushnell® Forge
20-60x80 ED Spotting Scope

R17 999
WAS R21 499



Save
R2 000

Vortex® Viper®
20-60x85 HD Spotting Scope

R22 999
WAS R24 999



Save
R2 000

ZEISS Conquest Gavia
30-60x85 Spotting Scope

R32 999
WAS R34 999



Save
R5 000

Swarovski
ATC 17-40x56
Angled Spotting Scope,
Green or Burnt Orange

R51 999
WAS R56 999



Save
R6 000

Leica Televid HD 65
Kit 20-60x65 Spotting Scope
with zoom eyepiece 20x-60x

R49 999
WAS R55 999



Ruark® Bwindi
Binocular Bag
Khaki
R999



Save
R4 000

Leica Televid HD 82
Kit 20-60x82 Spotting Scope
with zoom eyepiece 20x-60x

R55 999
WAS R59 999

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ZEISS Pro-Series Tripods



Seeing beyond

For reliable stability & precise adjustments.



ZEISS Pro Series Tripods

The **ZEISS Pro-Series Tripods** are engineered for hunters and precision shooters who demand absolute stability in any terrain.

Crafted from lightweight yet rugged carbon fiber, they deliver rock-solid support without slowing you down. Smooth, silent adjustments keep you undetected. Precision locking mechanisms hold your aim true — shot after shot, season after season.

Binoculars



Save R400



**Nordiske Precision®
Inaturen 10×42 ED**
R1 999 WAS R2 399



Save R200



**Bushnell® R3
10×42 Green**
R2 299 WAS R2 499



Save R300



**Vortex® Copperhead™
HD 10×42**
R2 699 WAS R2 999



Save R300



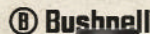
**Bushnell®
Engage X 10×42**
R3 399 WAS R3 699



Save R300



**Burris® Droptine
HD 10×42**
R3 699 WAS R3 999



Save R300



**Bushnell® R5
10×42 Ranger Green**
R4 799 WAS R5 099



Save 5%



**Leupold® McKenzie™
BX®-1 HD 10×42**
R4 999 WAS R5 299



Save R400



**Bushnell®
Nitro 10×42**
R5 999 WAS R6 399



Save R500



**ZEISS Terra® ED Pocket
10×25 Grey and Black**
R5 999 WAS R6 499



Save R500



**Vortex® Diamondback®
10×42 HD**
R5 999 WAS R6 499



Save R600



**Leupold® BX®-2
Alpine® HD 10×42**
R6 399 WAS R6 999



Save R500



**Vortex® Diamondback®
HD 12×50**
R6 499 WAS R6 999



Save R600



**Steiner
Observer 10×42**
R6 899 WAS R7 499



Save R900



**ZEISS Terra® ED
10×42 Green**
R8 999 WAS R9 899



Save R900



**ZEISS Terra®
ED 10×42**
R8 999 WAS R9 899



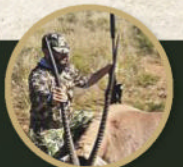
Save R1 000



**Steiner SkyHawk
4.0 10×42**
R9 999 WAS R10 999

“Safari Outdoor” – every hunter's dream, every woman's nightmare. Excellent service and hospitality from Bruce and team. Keep it up!”

— IBRAHIM CHOCHAN (Client of Safari™, Rivonia)



THE *PERFECT* *GIFT*



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK



CL COMPANION

SEE THE UNSEEN

Binoculars



Save R1 000

Leica Trinovid 10x25
R10 499 WAS R11 499



Save R1 500

Vortex® Viper® HD 10x42
R10 999 WAS R12 499



Save R1 000

Steiner Wildlife 10x42
R12 699 WAS R13 699



Save R1 000

Leupold® BX®-4 Pro
Guide® HD GEN 2 10x42
R15 499 WAS R16 499



Save R1 000

Leica Trinovid HD 10x32
R18 999 WAS R19 999



Save R2 000

ZEISS Conquest®
HDX 10x42
R19 999 WAS R21 999



Save R1 500

Leica Trinovid HD 10x42
R22 999 WAS R24 499



Save R2 000

Swarovski CL
Companion 8x30 Green
R24 499 WAS R26 499



Save R2 000

Swarovski CL
Companion 10x30 Green
R25 499 WAS R27 499



Save R4 000

ZEISS Victory SFL 10x40
R27 999 WAS R31 999



Save R5 500

Swarovski EL HD 10x42
R39 999 WAS R45 499



Save R3 000

Swarovski NL Pure
10x32 Burnt Orange
R51 999 WAS R54 999



Save R5 000

Swarovski NL Pure 10x42
R61 999 WAS R66 999



Save R4 000

Swarovski NL Pure 12x42
R62 999 WAS R66 999



Save R7 000

Swarovski NL Pure 10x52
R65 999 WAS R72 999



Save R7 000

Swarovski AX Visio 10x32
R92 999 WAS R99 999

Did you know?

Safari Outdoor® has 28 Optics Brands with over 350 product lines.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® CHRISTMAS 2025. VALID 21 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2025. WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.





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Channel



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Emitter



Comfortable
observation experience



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recording



5.5-22x60 optical
channel



Laser Range
Finder

Red Dot Sights



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R250

Vortex® Crossfire® II
Red Dot Sight

R3 799 WAS R4 049



Save
R200

Sig Sauer® ROMEO-MSR
GEN 2 Black, Red Dot Sight

R3 899 WAS R 4 099



Save
R500

Burris® FastFire™ C
6 MOA Red Dot Sight

R4 599 WAS R5 099



Save
R400

Burris® RT-3
Prism Sight

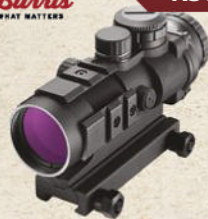
R5 299 WAS R5 699



Save
R375

Vortex® SPARC® AR
2 MOA Red Dot Sight

R5 299 WAS R5 674



Save
R500

Burris® AR-332™
Prism Sight

R6 599 WAS R7 099



Save
R875

Vortex® Defender-CCW™
3 MOA Micro Red Dot Sight

R6 799 WAS R7 674



Save
R600

Vortex® SPARC® Solar
2 MOA Red Dot Sight

R6 899 WAS R7 499



Save
R600

Eotech® EFLX™
6 MOA Red Dot Sight

R8 399 WAS R8 999



Save
R500

Sig Sauer® ROMEO8H
Black, Red Dot Sight

R15 499 WAS R15 999



Save
1 000

Trijicon RMR® RM06
3.25 MOA Red Dot Sight

R16 499 WAS R17 499



Save
R1 500

Eotech® HWS EXP3™
Holographic Weapon Sight

R18 499 WAS R19 999



Save
R1 300

Burris® RT-6™ 1-6x24
with FastFire™ 3 and P.E.P.R.™ Mount

R14 699
WAS R15 999



Save
R1 400

Element Immersive
Series 5x30
LPR-1D BDC MOA

R11 399
WAS R12 799



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Scopes

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R3 000



Burris® Eliminator 6
4-20×52 Rangefinding Scope

R48 999
WAS R51 999

Save
R200



Bushnell® R3 3-9×40
with DOA Quick Ballistic

R2 799
WAS R2 999

Save
R300



Bushnell® R3 4-12×40
with DOA Quick Ballistic

R2 999
WAS R3 299

Save
R500



Element Iris 4-12×44
SFP MOA RAPTR-1S

R2 999
WAS R3 499

Save
R400



Burris® Fullfield 2-8×35
PLEX with Burris Knob Synergy®

R4 599
WAS R4 999

Save
R300



Burris® Fullfield 4.5-14×42
Ballistic Plex E1™

R4 999
WAS R5 299

Save
R500



Burris® Fullfield 2.5-10×42
PLEX with Burris Knob Synergy®

R4 999
WAS R5 499

Save
R500



Burris® Fullfield 3-12×42
PLEX with Burris Knob Synergy®

R6 999
WAS R7 499

Save
R1 000



Element HELIX GEN II 6-24×50
SFP APR-1C MOA, MRAD or FFP APR-2D MRAD

R7 999
WAS R8 999

Save
R700



Leupold® VX®-3HD 2.5-8×36
CDS-ZL Duplex

R9 299
WAS R9 999

Save
R1 000



Element HELIX HDLR 2-16×50
SFP APR-1C MOA

R9 999
WAS R10 999

Save
R1 000



Burris® Fullfield 4-16×50
Ballistic E3™ Illuminated

R10 299
WAS R11 299

Save
R1 000



Element HELIX HD 2-16×50
SFP RAPTR-1 MRAD

R10 999
WAS R11 999

Save
R1 000



Leupold® VX®-3HD 3.5-10×40
CDS-ZL Duplex

R12 499
WAS R13 499



SAFARI CHRISTMAS 21 NOV TO 31 DEC
WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.

Save
R2 000



ZEISS

5239619920

ZEISS Conquest® V4
3-12x44 Z-Plex

R11 999
WAS R13 999

Save
R1 500



Burris
FIND WHAT MATTERS

201560

Burris® Fullfield 6-24x50
Ballistic E3™ BKS

R13 499
WAS R14 999

Save
R1 500



ZEISS

GP0004198

ZEISS Conquest® V4 3-12x56
PLEX

R13 999
WAS R15 499

Save
R1 500



STEINER
Nothing Escapes You

8775900404

Steiner Ranger 4 4-16x56
4A-I Including Ballistic Turret

R15 499
WAS R16 999

Save
R2 000



STEINER
Nothing Escapes You

8771906204

Steiner Ranger 4 3-12x56
4A-I Including Ballistic Turret

R16 999
WAS R18 999

Save
R1 500



LEUPOLD

180628

Leupold® VX®-3HD 3.5-10x50
CDS-ZL Illuminated FireDot®

R17 999
WAS R19 499

Save
R2 000



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

1480306

Swarovski Z3 4-12x50
BT-Plex

R20 999
WAS R22 999

Save
R1 500



VORTEX
OPTICS

VEN2501/
VEN2502

Vortex® Venom® 5-25x56
FFP EBR-7C MOA or FFP EBR-7C MRAD

R12 499
WAS R13 999

Save
R1 500



LEUPOLD

180619

Leupold® VX®-3HD 4.5-1x40
CDS-ZL Duplex

R13 499
WAS R14 999

Save
R1 200



ELEMENT
OPTICS

FLSC0018/
0007/FLSC0020

Element TITAN 5-25x56 FFP APR-2D
MRAD, FFP APR-1C MRAD or FFP APR-2D MOA

R14 799
WAS R15 999

Save
R1 000



ZEISS

0304067/022392

ZEISS Conquest® V4 6-24x50
ZBI-1 BT or ZMOA BT

R16 999
WAS R17 999

Save
R2 000



STEINER
Nothing Escapes You

8774900404

Steiner Ranger 4 6-24x56
4A-I Including Ballistic Turret

R17 999
WAS R19 999

Save
R3 000



VORTEX
OPTICS

PC000021/
PC000022

Vortex® Strike Eagle® 5-25x56
FFP EBR-7C MOA or FFP EBR-7C MRAD

R19 999
WAS R22 999

Save
R2 000



ZEISS

9559965046/
9559968020

ZEISS Conquest® V4
6-24x50 ZMOAi-T20 BT or ZBI BT Illuminated

R20 999
WAS R22 999

"Exiting the 'Concrete Jungle'... entering Safari Outdoor Rivonia – my second home indoors. Fulfilling my hunting and reloading needs. Trusted friends, expert advice, and client service."

— **BARRIES BADENHORST** (Client of Safari™, Rivonia)





LEUPOLD

ABSOLUTE PRECISION

VX-5HD GEN 2



**INTEGRATED
THROW LEVER**

**SPEEDSET™
ELEVATION DIAL**

**COMPETITION-GRADE
ADJUSTMENTS**

**5:1 ZOOM
RATIO**



The new VX-5HD Gen 2 features our Professional Grade Optical System and new competition-grade adjustments that deliver absolute precision that serious hunters demand. It only takes one—one that does it all.

Lightweight and compact, the VX-5HD Gen 2 3-15x44mm strikes the perfect balance between agility and capability. Crank it down to 3x for hunting in thick cover or dial it up to 15x for longer shots and target identification. Built for those who live for the hunt and demand precision at every range.

Available at

SAFARI  OUTDOOR

Save
R2 000



Leupold® VX®-3HD 4.5-14x50
CDS-ZL Illuminated FireDot®

LEUPOLD

R21 999
WAS R23 999

Save
R2 000



Vortex® Viper® HD 5-25x50
FFP VMR-4 MOA or FFP VMR-4 MRAD

VORTEX
OPTICS

R22 999
WAS R24 999

Save
R2 000



Leica Amplus 6 1-6x24
Illuminated 4A

leica

R24 999
WAS R26 999

Save
R2 000



Burris® Veracity™ PH 4-20x50
FFP RC-MOA Illuminated

Burris
FIND WHAT MATTERS

R26 999
WAS R28 999

Save
R3 000



Leica Amplus 6 3-18x44
L-4w BDC Illuminated

leica

R29 999
WAS R32 999

Save
R3 000



ZEISS Conquest® V6 5-30x50
ZBR-1

ZEISS

R31 999
WAS R34 999

Save
R4 000



Steiner Ranger 8 1-8x24
Illuminated 4A-i

STEINER
Nothing Escapes You

R32 999
WAS R36 999

Save
R2 000



Leupold® Mark 4HD 6-24x52
SF PR2-MIL or PR2-MOA FFP or PR3-MIL FFP

LEUPOLD

R36 999
WAS R38 999

Save
R4 000



ZEISS LRP S3 4-25x50
ZF MOA-1 or ZF MRI

ZEISS

R37 999
WAS R41 999

Save
R3 000



Leupold® Mark 4HD 8-32x56
SF FFP PR2-MOA or FFP PR2-MIL

LEUPOLD

R38 999
WAS R41 999

Save
R4 000



Swarovski Z5+ 3.5-18x50 BT-Plex

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

R39 999
WAS R43 999

Save
R4 000



Element NEXUS GEN II 4-25x50
FFP APR-1C MOA/MRAD or FFP APR-2D MRAD

ELEMENT
OPTICS

R40 999
WAS R44 999

Save
R3 000



Leupold® VX®-6HD 1-6x24
CDS-ZL2 Illuminated FireDot®

LEUPOLD

R42 999
WAS R45 999

Save
R4 000



ZEISS LRP S3 6-36x56
ZF MOA-1 or ZF MRI

ZEISS

R42 999
WAS R46 999

Did you know?

You can shoot with demo firearms at any of our shooting ranges. You can make a booking through our app.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® CHRISTMAS 2025. VALID 21 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2025. WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.





NEVER LOSE
SIGHT



STRIKE EAGLE®

1-8x24 FFP RIFLESCOPE

Save
R3 000



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Z552556BT

Swarovski Z5+
5-25x56 BT-Plex

R42 999
WAS R45 999

Save
R2 500



STEINER
Nothing Escapes You

3010900204

Steiner Ranger 10 1-10x24
Illuminated 4A-I

R44 999
WAS R47 499

Save
R3 000



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Z5I52556BT

Swarovski Z5i+
5-25x56 BT-Plex-I

R45 999
WAS R48 999

Save
R3 000



LEUPOLD

LPVX6028

Leupold® VX®-6HD 2-12x42
CDS-ZL2 Illuminated FireDot®

R48 999
WAS R51 999

Save
R5 000



NIGHTFORCE

C641

Nightforce® NX8 4-32x50
MOAR-CF2D™

R49 999
WAS R54 999

Save
R3 000



LEUPOLD

LPVX6027

Leupold® VX®-6HD GEN 2 3-18x44
SF CDS-ZL2 Illuminated FireDot®

R53 999
WAS R56 999

Save
R3 000



LEUPOLD

180292/
180223

Leupold® Mark 5HD™ 7-35x56
FFP PR2-MOA or FFP PR2-MIL

R56 999
WAS R59 999

Save
R3 000



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

Z5I351850BT

Swarovski Z5i+
3.5-18x50 BT-Plex-I

R44 999
WAS R47 999

Save
R3 000



LEUPOLD

SAV0037

Leupold® Mark 5HD™ 5-25x56
FFP PR1-MOA

R45 999
WAS R48 999

Save
R3 000



Burris
FIND WHAT MATTERS

201330

Burris® XTR PS 5.5-30x56
SCR 2™ Illuminated

R46 999
WAS R49 999

Save
R4 000



LEUPOLD

180231

Leupold® Mark 5HD™ 5-25x56
FFP PR2-MOA

R49 999
WAS R53 999

Save
R4 000



ELEMENT
OPTICS

EC0029/EL SC0039

Element THEOS 6-36x56
FFP APR-2D MRAD or FFP APR-2D MRAD Black

R51 999
WAS R55 999

Save
R4 000



LEUPOLD

180223

Leupold® Mark 5HD™ 5-25x56
FFP PR2-MIL

R55 999
WAS R59 999

Save
R3 000



LEUPOLD

LPVX6026

Leupold® VX®-6HD GEN 2 4-24x52
SF CDS-ZL2 Illuminated

R59 999
WAS R62 999

"I had an outstanding experience at Safari Outdoor in Rivonia. The range of products is impressive – whether you're after outdoor gear, hunting supplies, or accessories, they've got it covered."

– DEE DERVISH (Client of Safari™, Rivonia)



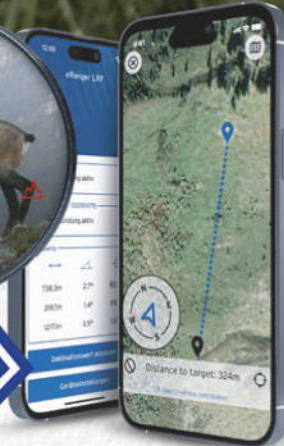
STEINER 
Nothing Escapes You



eRANGER LRF
10x42



**NOW WITH
IMPACT
LOCATOR**



eRANGER 8
3-24x56



[eRANGER]
RANGE. ADJUST. SUCCEED.

BUY BOTH FOR R85 999



Thermal

HIKMICRO

Save R600



HikMicro
LYNX S LC06
Thermal Monocular

R7 499 WAS R8 099

HIKMICRO

Save R2 000



HikMicro
LYNX Pro LE15S
Thermal Monocular

R14 499 WAS R16 499

Burris
FIND WHAT MATTERS

Save R4 500



Burris® H19 GEN 3
Thermal Handheld

R19 999 WAS R24 499

HIKMICRO

Save R3 000



HikMicro
Thunder Pro TE19C
Thermal Clip-on

R22 999 WAS R25 999

HIKMICRO

Save R3 000



HikMicro
LYNX Pro LH19 V2
Thermal Handheld Monocular

R22 999 WAS R25 999

HIKMICRO

Save R3 000



HikMicro
LYNX Pro LH25 V2
Thermal Handheld

R29 499 WAS R32 499

ATN
THE FUTURE
OF OPTICS

Save R3 500



ATN
BlazeHunter 335
Thermal Monocular

R36 999 WAS R40 499

ATN
THE FUTURE
OF OPTICS

Save R10 000



ATN
BlazeHunter 650 LRF
Thermal Monocular

R56 999 WAS R66 999

HIKMICRO

Save R3 000



Hikmicro HABROK
4K HE25L 5.5-22x60
Thermal Binocular

R30 999
WAS R33 999

HIKMICRO

Save R7 000



Hikmicro
HABROK HQ35L V2
Thermal Binocular

R59 999
WAS R66 999

HIKMICRO

Save R15 000



Hikmicro HABROK
Pro HX60L 5.5-22x60
Thermal Binocular

R114 999
WAS R129 999

Save R2 000



ATN X-Celsior 5-15x
Night/Day Scope

R15 999 WAS R17 999

Save R8 000



ATN MARS LTV+
Thermal Scope

R57 999 WAS R65 999

Save R4 000



HikMicro Stellar
3.0 SH35 LRF V3
4.2-24.2 Thermal Scope

R53 999 WAS R57 999

Save R3 000



HikMicro
ALPES A50EL LRF
4K Night/Day Scope

R21 999 WAS R24 999

Save R15 000



HikMicro Stellar
3.0 SX60 LRF V3
2.5-28 Thermal Scope

R114 999 WAS R129 999

Save R15 000



ATN MARS 5 XD LRF
Thermal Scope

R114 999 WAS R129 999

Did you know?

Our first store opened in Stellenbosch in 2008 as "Safari and Outdoor" by a group of friends.

SAFARI OUTDOOR® CHRISTMAS 2025. VALID 21 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 2025. WHILE STOCKS LAST. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. E&OE.



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Save
15%

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Safety Horn
R339
WAS R399

Save
9%

BM6845D

byrna

Byrna®
Banshee
Safety
Alarm
R549
WAS R599



Save
15%

S1013PK

Sabre®
3-in-1
Stun Gun
Safety Tool
Stun Gun,
Flashlight
and Alarm
R679
WAS R799



Save
10%

GL000745/GL000743

Sabre®
Stun Gun
Dual
Capacitor
with LED
Flashlight,
Black or Pink
R629
WAS R699



Save
R460

5.11

5.11®
RUSH®
MOAB™ 10
Sling Pack
18L, Kangaroo
R2 999
WAS R3 459



Save
R400

5.11

5.11®
RUSH®
MOAB™ 6
Sling Pack
11L,
Double Tap
R2 599
WAS R2 999



Save
R300

5.11

5.11®
RUSH®
MOAB™ 6
Sling Pack
11L, Kangaroo
R2 699
WAS R2 999



Save
R700

5.11

5.11®
TacTec® Plate
Carrier Black
R5 199
WAS R5 899



Save
6%

Honey
Badger
Serrated
Claw Knife
Medium, Black
R699
WAS R745



Save
R800

5.11

5.11®
TacTec® Plate
Carrier
Kangaroo
R5 299
WAS R6 099



Save
5%

SHARP001

Covert
Sharpie
Knife
R759
WAS R799



Byrna® CL
Launcher
• Byrna CL Launcher
• 1 x 5-round magazines
• Available in Black

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No license
required

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PROTECTION AT SAFARI OUTDOOR®**

the best defense products available



Air Rifles

Save
R300



Gift Idea

Daisy® 105 Buck Lever
R1 499 WAS R1 799

Save
R150



Daisy® 1938
Red Ryder Repeater
R1 949 WAS R2 099

Save
R450



Gamo® Delta
177 (4.5mm)
R2 549 WAS R2 999

Save
R400



Daisy® Powerline Model 901
177 (4.5mm) multi-pump pneumatic
R3 399 WAS R3 799



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THE NEW GHOST

Range of PCP Air Rifles



Founded in Birmingham's historic gun quarter in the UK, Brocock has stood at the forefront of the global air rifle market.

Now, more than 30 years later, the company produces some of the finest pre-charged pneumatic (PCP) rifles in the world from a purpose-built facility in Staffordshire, UK which we share with sister company Daystate.

Available at
SAFARI OUTDOOR

Air Rifles

Save
R800



GM176

Gamo® Swarm
Maxxim 22 (5.5mm) with Scope
R4 999 WAS R5 799

Save
R600



GM021

Gamo® CFX Synthetic
22 (5.5mm) with Fixed Barrel
R5 999 WAS R6 599



Save
R897

Weihrauch Sport® Combo
Includes: Raza Mesh Glove
+ HW30S Air Rifle 177 (4.5mm)
+ JSB Match S100 Pellets 177
(4.5mm) 8.26gr (500)
R9 499 WAS R10 397



Daystate



HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW BLACK WOLF

Precision-engineered PCP Air Rifles — Made in UK



BLACK WOLF 5.5mm



DELTA WOLF
PERFORMANCE 5.5mm 28 Inch



RED WOLF
5.5mm

Available at **SAFARI**  **OUTDOOR**

Air Rifles

Save R600



Gamo® Swarm Fox
177 (4.5mm) with 4x32 Scope
R5 999 WAS R6 599

Save R700



Snowpeak
PR900W GEN II PCP
R4 899 WAS R5 599

Save R900



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Magnum PCP 22 (5.5mm)
R7 099 WAS R7 999

Save R1 500



Snowpeak
M60B PCP 22 (5.5mm)
R15 999 WAS R17 499

Save R2 000



Hatsan Blitz Full Auto
22 (5.5mm) Tactical Synthetic Stock
R20 999 WAS R22 999

Save R2 500



Hatsan Tac
Boss 22 (5.5mm)
R23 999 WAS R26 499

Save R3 000



Air Arms MPR
Sporter Ambi 5 177 (4.5mm)
R28 499 WAS R31 499

Save R200



Gamo® PT-85
Blowback
CO₂ Air
Pistol Combo
R2 499 WAS R2 699

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Air Arms
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177 (4.53mm) 8.02gr (500)
R249 WAS R299

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177 (4.5mm) 5.4gr (2 500)
R359 WAS R399

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Precision Airguns

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AND GET**

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MADE IN CZECH REPUBLIC

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AND GET**

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Bisley
300B 5L Air
Filling station
R7 399
WAS R8 199



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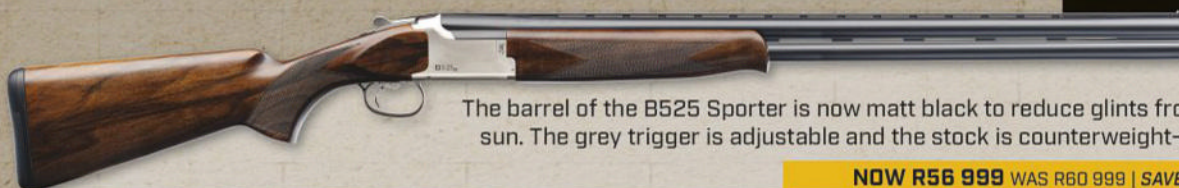
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BROWNING
The Best There Is

B525 Sporter



The barrel of the B525 Sporter is now matt black to reduce glints from the sun. The grey trigger is adjustable and the stock is counterweight-ready.

NOW R56 999 WAS R60 999 | SAVE R4 000

B725 Adjustable Sporter



Browning's innovative mechanical firing system provides great ease of use for shooters.

NOW R82 999 WAS R89 999 | SAVE R7 000

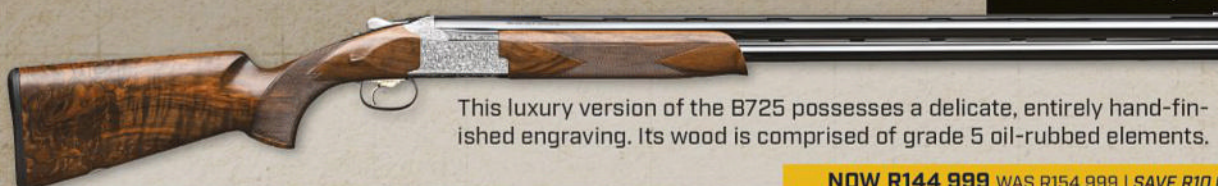
B725 Adjustable Pro Sporter



The B725 Pro range has been designed to provide a perfect gun fit whether you're shooting sporting or compak.

NOW R97 999 WAS R104 999 | SAVE R7 000

B725 Pro Sport G5



This luxury version of the B725 possesses a delicate, entirely hand-finished engraving. Its wood is comprised of grade 5 oil-rubbed elements.

NOW R144 999 WAS R154 999 | SAVE R10 000

Shotguns

Save
R1 500



ATA Arms SP™ Sporter
12GA 30" Adjustable Stock
R24 999 WAS R26 499

Save
R2 500



Franchi® Feeling Sporting
12GA 30" Adjustable Stock
R33 499 WAS R35 999

Save
R4 500



ATA Arms SP Pro13
12GA 30" Adjustable Stock
R34 999 WAS R38 499

Save
R4 000



Beretta 686 Silver Pigeon
Sporting B-Fast 12GA 30"
R56 999 WAS R60 999

Save
R7 000

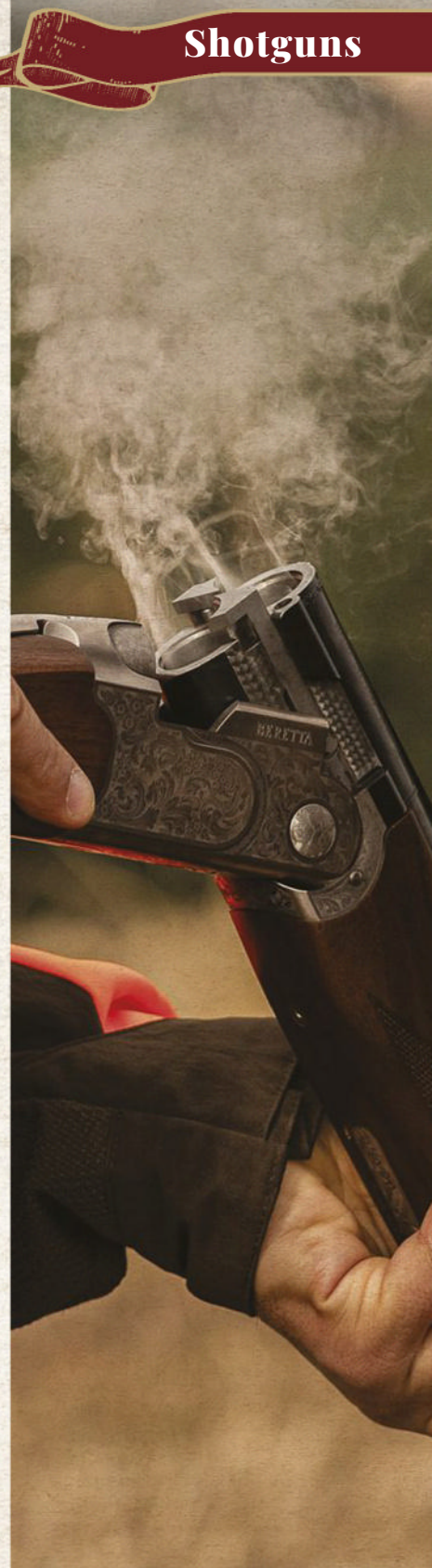


Beretta 688 Performance Sporting
B-Fast 12GA 32" Adjustable Stock
R77 999 WAS R84 999

Save
R7 000



Benelli® 828 U Sport 12GA 30"
R84 999 WAS R91 999



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5.11 

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FEATURED GEAR: 5.11 TACTICAL PANTS & FOOTWEAR AVAILABLE AT SAFARI OUTDOOR®

Shotguns

Save
R1 100



Hunt Group VM12
Semi-automatic 12GA FDE
R12 399 WAS R13 449

Save
R1 000



Winchester® SXP Extreme Defender
Pump-Action 12GA High Capacity
R16 499 WAS R17 499

Save
R2 000



Mossberg 940® JM Pro
Semi-automatic 12GA 24" Gold/Black
R30 999 WAS R32 999

Save
R1 500



Smith & Wesson® M&P® 12
Pump Action 12GA
R31 499 WAS R32 999

Save
R3 000

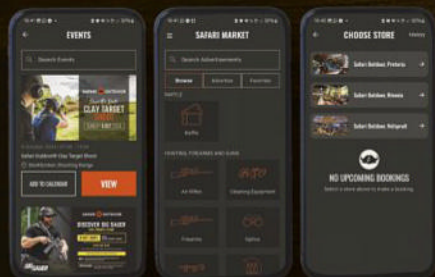


Beretta 1301 Tactical
Semi-automatic 12GA 18.5", FDE
R32 999 WAS R35 999

Save
R3 000



Beretta 1301 Comp Pro
Semi-automatic Tony System, 12GA 24"
R43 499 WAS R46 499



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KEYWORD (SEARCH FOR)
SAFARI OUTDOOR



Pistole

BERETTA

**Spaar
R500**



**Beretta APX
Centurion 9mm
Para, 15 Rondtes**
R8 499
WAS R8 999

APW6211112311

LOCK

**Spaar
R600**



**Glock® G19
GEN3 Compact
9mm Para**
R8 599
WAS R9 199

950072

LOCK

**Spaar
R200**



**Glock® G17
GEN3 Full Size
9mm Para**
R8 899
WAS R9 099

950065

LOCK

**Spaar
R1 100**



**Glock® G43X Rail
9mm Para Swart**
R12 599
WAS R13 699

SJV00260

LOCK

**Spaar
R3 500**



**Glock® G19X
9mm Para**
R12 999
WAS R16 499

921988

LOCK

**Spaar
R1 200**



**Glock® G43X MOS
9mm Para**
R13 299
WAS R14 499

50366

LOCK

**Spaar
R1 275**



**Glock® G48 Rail
9mm Para Swart**
R13 499
WAS R14 774

SJV00269

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

**Spaar
R800**



**Springfield
Armory® Hellcat®
9mm Para Swart**
R17 999
WAS R18 799

HC93190

SIGSAUER

**Spaar
R1 000**



**Sig Sauer®
P365 Nitron
Micro-compact
9mm Para,
XRAY3, 10 Rondtes**
R17 999
WAS R18 999

M11551301021910

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

**Spaar
R1 500**



**Springfield
Armory® Hellcat®
Pro OSP™ 9mm Para**
R20 499
WAS R21 999

HCP9379809F

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

**Spaar
R1 000**



**Springfield
Armory® Hellcat®
9mm Para FDE**
R20 999
WAS R21 999

HC9319F

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

**Spaar
R1 500**



**Springfield
Armory® Echelon™
9mm Para met
U-Dot™ Sight**
R22 999
WAS R24 499

EC94598U



SAFARI KERSFEES

**21 NOV
TOT 31 DES**

TERWYL VOORRAAD HOU. BEPALINGS & VOORWAARDES GELD. BF&W.

Pistole

SIGSAUER

Spaar
R2 000



Sig Sauer® P365X
Nitron 9mm Para,
XRAY3, Manual Safety
R22 999
WAS R24 999

MT1551311012

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R1 500



Springfield
Armory® 1911
Mil-Spec 45 ACP
R23 499
WAS R24 999

PB991081

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R2 000



Springfield
Armory® Echelon™
9mm Para met U-Dot™
Sight, Threaded Barrel
R24 499
WAS R26 499

ECT949953D

SIGSAUER

Spaar
R2 000



Sig Sauer®
P365-FUSE
9mm Para,
17 Rondtes
& 21 Rondtes
R24 499
WAS R26 499

MT177000100510

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R2 000



Springfield
Armory® Hellcat®
9mm Para Swart
met Shield SMSc Sight
R27 499
WAS R29 499

HC9319BSHIELD

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R1 951



Springfield
Armory® 1911
Ronin® 45 ACP
Blued/ Stainless
R30 499
WAS R32 450

PX9120L

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R2 000



Springfield
Armory® Hellcat®
RDP 9mm Para
met Shield SMSc Sight
R30 999
WAS R32 999

PC9389BJ

SIGSAUER

Spaar
R3 000



Sig Sauer®
P365-XMACRO
Compact 9mm Para,
XRAY3, 17 Rondtes
R30 999
WAS R33 999

MT165147000STG

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R3 000



Springfield
Armory®
1911 Operator®
45 ACP Swart en Tan
R36 999
WAS R39 999

P09230

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R3 500



Springfield
Armory®
1911 Operator®
9mm Para Swart en Tan
R39 999
WAS R43 499

P09229

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R3 000



Springfield
Armory® 1911
DS Prodigy™
9mm Para, 4.25"
R47 999
WAS R50 999

PH9117A05

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**

Spaar
R4 000



Springfield
Armory® 1911
DS Prodigy™
9mm Para, 5"
R49 999
WAS R53 999

PH9119A05

"Wanneer mens by Safari in stap voel jy sommer dadelik jy's reeds op 'n besondere avontuur! Lekker mense, warm atmosfeer en die opsies is eindloos en van die hoogste gehalte. Altyd my eerste stop voor ek spore maak bos of berge in."

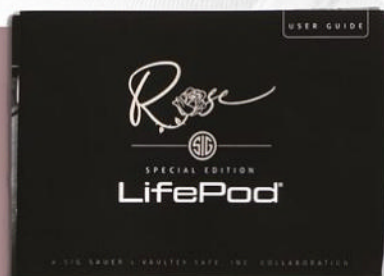
— NICO PANAGIO (Kliënt van Safari™, Stellenbosch)



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P365XL ROSE COMP



ROSE by SIG SAUER. Developed in collaboration with World Champion Lena Miculek, ROSE was created to help encourage and inspire women take on the responsibility of their own personal safety through education, training and community. The ROSE P365XL Comp kit includes a special edition P365 pistol in 9mm, a custom ROSE Vaultek lockable storage case, internally compensated optic ready slide, laser engraved grip module, matte ROSE gold colored controls, XRAY3 day/night sights, (2) 12rd steel magazines, and more. Includes instant access to a complete step-by-step ROSE video training series that allows you to learn at your own pace, along with a ROSE online community to help encourage and inspire you with help and support as you continue to grow as a more confident and comfortable shooter. **ROSE by SIG SAUER, your journey begins here.**



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

SIG SAUER®

Tactical Rifles



Save
R2 500



Smith & Wesson®
M&P® FPC® Semi-auto
9mm Para 16.25"

R19 999 WAS R22 499



Save
R2 000



Radical Firearms
SOCOM Semi-auto
223 Rem 16"

R23 999 WAS R25 999



Save
R2 000



Radical Firearms
HBR Semi-auto
300 BLK 16"

R23 999 WAS R25 999



Save
R3 000



Springfield Armory®
Saint® PIC-GB
Semi-auto 223 Rem 16"

R34 999 WAS R37 999



Save
R3 000



Sig Sauer® M400
Tread V2 Semi-auto
223 Rem 11"

R35 499 WAS R38 499



Save
R2 900



Radical Firearms
TMS Semi-auto
308 Win 18"

R36 499 WAS R39 999



Save
R4 000



Springfield Armory®
Saint® Victor Semi-auto
9mm Para, 16" 32 Rounds

R44 499 WAS R48 499



Save
R3 500



Springfield Armory®
Saint® Victor Semi-auto
308 Win, 16" 20 Rounds

R49 499 WAS R52 999



Save
R5 000



Springfield Armory®
Hellion™ Bullpup
Semi-auto 223 Rem 16"

R55 999 WAS R60 999



Save
R10 000



Sig Sauer®
MCX-Rattler LT
Semi-auto
223 Rem 7.75" Black

R99 999
WAS R109 999



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Occasional
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CZ P-10 C

IMPROVING ON PERFECTION

The CZ P-10 C features downsized dimensions, an innovative design and large firing capacity. It's the perfect choice for missions that require high accuracy, superior ergonomics & reliability.

Spaar
R1 500



CZ 457 American
22 LR 24"

R18 499 WAS R19 999

Spaar
R1 000



CZ 457 Varminter 22 LR 20"
R18 999 WAS R19 999

Spaar
R2 000



Savage® B22 Precision
22 LR 18" met MDT Chassis
R21 499 WAS R23 499

Spaar
R1 000



Winchester®
XPR® Sporter

243 Win R18 499 WAS R19 499	270 Win 308 Win R18 499 WAS R19 999	30-06 Spring R18 499 WAS R19 999	300 Win Mag 18 499 WAS R19 499
--	--	---	---

Spaar tot
R2 500



Mauser M18
met Sintetiese Kolf

223 Rem 6.5 Creedmoor R21 499 WAS R23 999	6.5x55 30-06 Spring 300 Win Mag R20 999 WAS R23 499
---	---

Spaar
R1 500



ATA Arms Turqua™ Walnut Verstelbare
Kolf met Skroefdraad

243 Win 308 Win R21 499 WAS R22 999	270 Win 6.5 Creed R20 499 WAS R21 999	30-06 Spring R19 999 WAS R21 499
--	--	---

Spaar tot
R3 000



CZ 600 American

270 Win R26 999 WAS R29 499	6.5 Creedmoor R29 999 WAS R31 999	308 Win R28 499 WAS R30 499	243 Win 30-06 Spring R26 999 WAS R29 999
--	--	--	--

Spaar tot
R5 000



Winchester® M70
Super Grade

270 Win R37 999 WAS R41 499	300 WSM R31 999 WAS R34 499	30-06 Spring R44 499 WAS R49 499	338 Win Mag R34 499 WAS R36 999
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MTR GOLD AWARD



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ECHELON™ HANDGUN

9mm Para with U-Dot™ Sight
& Threaded Barrel



R24 499

ECHELON™ HANDGUN

9mm Para with U-Dot™ Sight
& Threaded Barrel

Spaar tot
R2 500



Tikka T3x Hunter

270 Win R29 999 WAS R32 499	308 Win R29 499 WAS R31 999	30-06 Spring R30 499 WAS R32 499	7x64 Bren R28 999 WAS R31 499
--	--	---	--

Spaar
R3 500



Mauser M25
met Sintetiese Kolf

308 Win
R33 999
WAS R37 499

Spaar
R3 000



Benelli Lupo Wood

308 Win R40 499 WAS R43 499	30-06 Spring R40 499 WAS R43 499	300 Win Mag R40 499 WAS R43 499
--	---	--

Spaar tot
R7 000



Sako S20
Precision Fluted

243 Win R43 499 WAS R47 499	308 Win R42 999 WAS R46 499	270 Win R38 499 WAS R45 499	30-06 Spring R41 999 WAS R46 499
--	--	--	---

Spaar tot
R5 000



Sako 90 Hunter

243 Win R47 499 WAS R51 999	30-06 Spring R48 499 WAS R52 999	308 Win, 300 Win Mag R50 999 WAS R54 999	Stainless, 300 Win Mag R52 999 WAS R57 999
--	---	--	--

Spaar tot
R6 000



Steyr Classic II

30-06 Spring R64 999 WAS R70 999	300 Win Mag R71 999 WAS R77 999	9.3x62 R74 999 WAS R79 999	375 H&H R98 999 WAS R99 999
---	--	---	--

Spaar tot
R7 000



Springfield Armory® Waypoint Carbon
Verstelbare kolf, Evergreen

6.5 Creedmoor R88 999 WAS R94 999	6.5 PRC R88 999 WAS R94 999	7MM PRC 300 PRC R88 999 WAS R95 999
--	--	--

Spaar tot
R15 000



Steyr Monobloc
Select Wood

308 Win R149 999 WAS R159 999	300 Win Mag R154 999 WAS R164 999	375 H&H R159 999 WAS R174 999
--	--	--



"Ek is al jare lank 'n vriend van Safari Outdoor – dankie vir alles wat julle bied vir my en elke buitelewe-entoesias."

— WILLEM ALBERTS (Kliënt van Safari™, Pretoria)





RIGBY

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Exclusive to Safari Outdoor®.



Rigby Highland Stalker Grade 8

275 Rigby
R359 999



Rigby Big Game Double Square Bridge PH

375 H&H	416 Rigby	450 Rigby
R329 999	R329 999	R334 999



Rigby Big Game Double Square Bridge Grade 5

375 H&H	416 Rigby	450 Rigby
R384 999	R414 999	R404 999



Rigby Big Game Double Square Bridge Grade 8

375 H&H	404 Jeffery	416 Rigby	450 Rigby
R434 999	R434 999	R434 999	R439 999

Double Rifles

3PZJ6D1S06



Chapuis Africa AAA Walnut
450-400 NE 24"

R334 999

3P6J5D1S06



Chapuis Africa AAA Walnut
470 NE 24"

R334 999

89B073



Heym Model 89B
450-400

R486 990

SJ4606915



Heym Model 89B
470 NE

R486 990

SJ4606921



Heym Model 89B
500 NE

R489 990

89B075G7W



Heym Model 89B
450-400 Upgraded Wood

R539 990

89B075U7W



Heym Model 89B
500 NE Upgraded Wood

R539 990



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Geweersakke & -tasse

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Pelican™ Vault 100 Pistooltas
Klein, Swart of Olyfgroen
R1 799 WAS R2 099

Spaar
R500



Pelican™ Vault 200 Pistooltas
Medium, Swart of Olyfgroen
R2 699 WAS R3 199

Spaar
R200



Leupold® Rendezvous Pistooolsak
R1 249 WAS R1 449



Kryptek® Aeron
Scoped Geweersak Highlander 48"
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Spaar
R150

Spaar
R800



Pelican™ Vault
770 Enkel Geweertas Swart
R6 199 WAS R6 999

Ruark®
Legacy Geweersak
Kakie of Olyfgroen
R3 499



Ruark®
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R3 499



Leupold®
Rendezvous
Carbine
Geweertas 36"
R3 699
WAS R4 199



Spaar
R500

Spaar
R600



Leupold®
Rendezvous
Geweertas
50"
R4 599
WAS R5 199

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BY SAFARI OUTDOOR®

PRETORIA | KRUGERSDORP | RIVONIA | BOKSBURG





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WMA2670B



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WLA134C

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Bore Tech Carbon Remover 4oz	R699	R649	8%
Bore Tech Carbon Remover 16oz	R1 149	R1 049	R100
Bore Tech Copper Remover 16oz	R1 199	R1 099	R100
Bore Tech Eliminator 16oz	R1 199	R1 099	R100

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Shotgun 20GA,
Precision Rifle
25Cal/6.5mm, Shotgun
12GA or Precision
270/284Cal/7mm

R1 299
WAS R1 499



BTCC0243R/BTCC0243R15/BTCC0206/
BTCC025H/BTCC0126/BTCC0270R

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R200

Springfield
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Save
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Bore Tech Stix Cleaning Rod

22 Cal 40"-44"
/ 6mm-270 Cal
44" or 7mm-30
Cal 44"-48"

R2 199
WAS R2 399



Save
R500

Streamlight® Protac® Rail
Mount 2 Long Gun Light
625 Lumens, Black

R4 399 WAS R4 899



Save
R500

Streamlight® Protac®
Rail Mount HL-X Long
Gun Light Black

R4 599 WAS R5 099



Save
R700

TruGlo® Tritium TFX®
Pro CZ P-10
R3 999 WAS R4 699



Save
R600

Streamlight® TLR-7® X
Sub Gun Light Black,
Hellcat, P365 or G43X/48

R4 999 WAS R5 599



Save
R500

Streamlight®
TLR-8® X Sub Gun Light
with Red Laser, Available for
Hellcat, P365 or G43/43X

R6 499 WAS R6 999



Save
R500

Streamlight® TLR-8® A
Gun Light with Red Laser

R6 799 WAS R7 299



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R100

TruGlo® Tritium Pro
Sight Orange, For Glock
17/19/19X/26/34/45

R2 199 WAS R2 299



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R2000

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C1 Pro Chronograph
R10 999 WAS R12 999

Save
R1 500



Tipton®
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Save
R200

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Save
R600

MAGPUL



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Save
R900



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R5 999 WAS R6 899

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Save
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WAS R3 099

Save
R1 000

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Save
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Carbon Fibre,
Including Hog
Saddle
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WAS R12 399

Save
R1 000

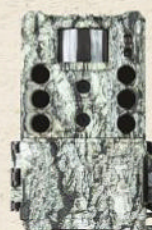
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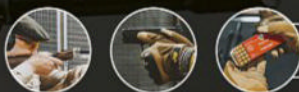
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Nosler® Accubond® 308 165gr (50)	R1 599	R1 499	R100
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Hornady® CX® Punte 308 165gr (50)	R1 599	R1 389	R210
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Lapua OTM-L Scenar Punte 6mm 90gr (100)	R1 199	R1 099	R100
Lapua OTM Scenar Punte 6.5mm 108gr (100)	R1 199	R1 049	R150
Lapua OTM Scenar Punte 6.5mm 123gr (100)	R1 199	R1 099	R100
Lapua OTM-L Scenar Punte 6.5mm 136gr (100)	R1 249	R1 149	R100
Lapua OTM Scenar Punte 6.5mm 139gr (100)	R1 149	R949	R200
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Norma® Oryx 270 150gr (100)	R1 449	R1 249	R200
Norma® Oryx 308 165gr (100)	R1 599	R1 299	R300
Norma® Bondstrike Punte 308 180gr (100)	R2 099	R1 799	R300
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Barnes® Tripple-Shock™ BT 6mm 85gr (50)	R1 449	R1 249	R200
Barnes® Tipped Tripple-Shock™ 257 100gr (50)	R1 599	R1 349	R250
Barnes® Tripple-Shock™ FB 257 115gr (50)	R1 599	R1 359	R240
Barnes® Tipped Tripple-Shock™ BT 6.5mm 120gr (50)	R1 399	R1 259	R140
Barnes® Tipped TSX™ BT 308 150gr (50)	R1 799	R1 599	R200
Barnes® Tipped TSX™ PER 308 165gr (50)	R1 499	R1 199	R300
Barnes® Tripple-Shock™ BT 308 165gr (50)	R1 399	R1 199	R200
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Barnes® Tipped TSX™ BT 9.3mm 250gr (50)	R2 299	R1 999	R300
Barnes® Tripple-Shock™ FB 375 235gr (50)	R1 699	R1 449	R250
Barnes® Tipped Tripple-Shock™ BT 375 250gr (50)	R2 199	R1 899	R360
Barnes® Tripple-Shock™ 375 270gr (50)	R2 199	R1 899	R360
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Hornady® Doppe 6.5x55 Swedish (50)	R1 049	R899	R150
Hornady® Unprimed Doppe 300 PRC (50)	R2 099	R1 799	R300
Hornady® Doppe 300 Win Mag (50)	R2 099	R1 849	R250
Hornady® Doppe 30-06 Spring (50)	R1 599	R1 449	R150
Hornady® Doppe 308 Win (50)	R1 399	R1 249	R150
Hornady® Doppe 338 Lapua (20)	R3 199	R2 849	R350
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	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
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Norma® Doppe 6.5 Creed (100)	R2 999	R2 599	R400
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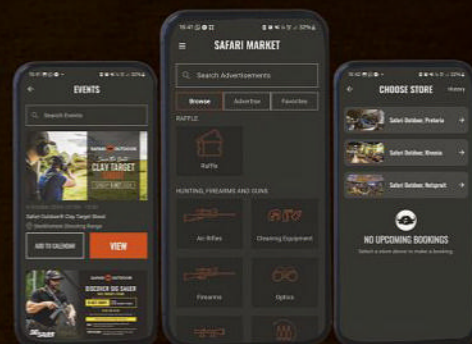
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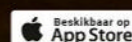
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Hornady® CX® Outfitter® 6.5 PRC 130gr (20)	R1 699	R1 499	R200
Hornady® CX® Outfitter® 308 Win 165gr (20)	R1 299	R1 199	R100
Hornady® CX® Outfitter® 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R1 699	R1 549	R150
Hornady® CX® Outfitter® 300 PRC 190gr (20)	R1 799	R1 699	R100
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 375 H&H 300gr (20)	R2 799	R2 499	R300
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 375 Ruger 300gr (20)	R2 999	R2 749	R250
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 404 Jeff 400gr (20)	R4 899	R4 599	R300
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 416 Rem 400gr (20)	R3 399	R2 999	R400
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 416 Rigby 400gr (20)	R4 799	R4 499	R300
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 450-400 NE 400gr (20)	R4 999	R4 599	R400
Hornady® DGX® Bonded 458 Win 500gr (20)	R4 599	R4 199	R400
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Hornady® DGX® Bonded 470 NE 500gr (20)	R6 699	R6 199	R500
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Hornady® ECX™ 9.3x62 Mauser 250gr (20)	R2 599	R2 349	R250
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 243 Win 90gr (20)	R1 449	R1 299	R150
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 6.5 Creed 143gr (20)	R1 399	R1 249	R150
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 6.5 PRC 143gr (20)	R1 599	R1 449	R150
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 270 Win 145gr (20)	R1 449	R1 349	R100
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 7mm PRC 175gr (20)	R1 699	R1 549	R150
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 308 Win 178gr (20)	R1 349	R1 279	R70
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 30-06 Spring 178gr (20)	R1 449	R1 299	R150
Hornady® ELD-X® Precision Hunter® 300 Win Mag 200gr (20)	R1 799	R1 699	R100
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Hornady® V-Max® 243 Win 87gr (20)	R1 149	R999	R150

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Norma® Bondstrike™ 308 Win 180gr (20)	R1 599	R1 439	R160
Norma® Bondstrike™ 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R1 999	R1 699	R300
Norma® Oryx™ 243 Win 100gr (20)	R1 399	R1 099	R300
Norma® Oryx™ 6.5x55 SWED 156gr (20)	R1 349	R1 249	R100
Norma® Oryx™ 30-06 Spring 165gr (20)	R1 499	R1 239	R260
Norma® Oryx™ 30-06 Spring 180gr (20)	R1 499	R1 149	R350
Norma® Oryx™ 308 Win 165gr (20)	R1 449	R1 199	R250

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Norma® Oryx™ 308 Win 180gr (20)	R1 499	R1 199	R300
Norma® Oryx™ 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R1 799	R1 499	R300
Norma® Whitetail™ 6.5 Creed 140gr (20)	R649	R549	15%
Norma® Whitetail™ 6.5 PRC 140gr (20)	R1 149	R969	R180
Norma® Whitetail™ 270 Win 150gr (20)	R899	R699	22%
Norma® Whitetail™ 7mm Rem Mag 150gr (20)	R899	R799	11%
Norma® Whitetail™ 30-06 Spring 150gr (20)	R749	R649	13%
Norma® Whitetail™ 308 Win 180gr (20)	R849	R749	12%
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	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 243 Win 90gr (20)	R1 599	R1 399	R200
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 6.5 Creed 140gr (20)	R1 799	R1 599	R200
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 270 Win 130gr (20)	R1 699	R1599	R100
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 308 Win 150gr (20)	R1 699	R1 599	R100
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 308 Win 165gr (20)	R1 699	R1 549	R150

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 30-06 Spring 165gr (20)	R1 799	R1 549	R250
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 30-06 Spring 180gr (20)	R1 699	R1 599	R100
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R2 599	R2 299	R300
Nosler® Trophy Grade® Accubond 375 H&H 300gr (20)	R3 499	R3 149	R350



SAFARI KERSFEES

21 NOV
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CENTREFIRE-AMMUNISIE

FEDERAL® POWER-SHOCK® AMMUNISIE



	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Federal® Power-Shok® 222 Rem 50gr (20)	R849	R769	10%
Federal® Power-Shok® 223 Rem 55gr (20)	R699	R549	21%
Federal® Power-Shok® 22-250 Rem 55gr (20)	R1 049	R999	5%
Federal® Power-Shok® 243 Win 80gr (20)	R849	R719	15%

FEDERAL® POWER-SHOK®	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Federal® Power-Shok® 7x57 Mauser 140gr (20)	R1 599	R1 439	R160
Federal® Power-Shok® 270 Win 130gr (20)	R849	R749	12%
Federal® Power-Shok® 303 BRIT 150gr (20)	R1 349	R1 249	R100
Federal® Power-Shok® 308 Win 150gr (20)	R849	R719	15%
Federal® Power-Shok® 375 H&H 270gr (20)	R2 299	R2 099	R200

FEDERAL® FUSION® AMMUNISIE



	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Federal® Fusion® 223 Rem 62gr (20)	R949	R849	10%
Federal® Fusion® 243 Win 95gr (20)	R949	R849	10%
Federal® Fusion® 25-06 Rem 120gr (20)	R1 349	R1 279	5%
Federal® Fusion® 270 Win 150gr (20)	R1 049	R939	R110
Federal® Fusion® 308 Win 165gr (20)	R1 049	R949	R100
Federal® Fusion® 308 Win 180gr (20)	R1 049	R949	R100
Federal® Fusion® 30-06 Spring 165gr (20)	R1 049	R939	R110
Federal® Fusion® 30-06 Spring 180gr (20)	R1 099	R989	R110

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Federal® Fusion® 300 WSM 180gr (20)	R1 699	R1 599	R100
Federal® Fusion® 375 H&H 300gr (20)	R1 549	R1 449	R100
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 6.5 Creed 140gr (20)	R1 449	R1 369	R90
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 6.5 PRC 140gr (20)	R1 449	R1 299	R150
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 270 Win 150gr (20)	R1 399	R1 299	R100
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 308 Win 180gr (20)	R1 299	R1 169	R130
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 30-06 Spring 180gr (20)	R1 399	R1 299	R100
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R1 899	R1 799	R100
Federal® Fusion® Tipped 7mm Rem Mag 175gr (20)	R1 699	R1 549	R150

REMINGTON® AMMUNISIE



	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Remington® Core-Lokt® 243 Win 100gr (20)	R849	R749	11%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 25-06 Rem 100gr (20)	R1 049	R949	R100
Remington® Core-Lokt® 6.5 Creed 140gr (20)	R769	R669	13%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 7x57 Mauser 140gr (20)	R1 599	R1 419	R180
Remington® Core-Lokt® 270 Win 130gr (20)	R799	R699	R100

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Remington® Core-Lokt® 308 Win 150gr (20)	R949	R849	11%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 308 Win 180gr (20)	R849	R729	14%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 30-06 Spring 165gr (20)	R949	R849	11%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 30-06 Spring 180gr (20)	R849	R699	18%
Remington® Core-Lokt® 300 Win Mag 180gr (20)	R1 149	R999	R150

HANDWAPEN-AMMUNISIE

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Fiocchi FMJ 9mm Luger 115gr (50)	R439	R419	5%
Kinetic7 FMJ 9mm Luger 124gr	R349	R329	5%
Hornady® FTX® Critical Defense® 9mm Luger 115gr (25)	R849	R799	5%
Hornady® FlexLock® Critical Duty® 9mm Luger 135gr (25)	R999	R949	5%
Hornady® FTX® Critical Defense® 45 ACP 185gr (20)	R949	R899	5%

HAELGEWEER-AMMUNISIE

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Fiocchi TT One Haelgeweer Ammunisie 12BR 7.5 28gr (250)	R2 299	R2 099	R200
Rio™ Haelgeweer Ammunisie 12BR 7.5 28gr (250)	R2 499	R2 279	R220
Rio™ AAA Haelgeweer Ammunisie 12BR 32gr (250)	R3 099	R2 899	R200
Rio™ Haelgeweer Ammunisie 12BR 4 32gr (250)	R3 099	R2 799	R300

RIMFIRE-AMMUNISIE

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
CCi® Quiet-22™ 22LR 40gr (50)	R139	R129	7%
CCi® Standard Velocity 22LR 40gr (100)	R279	R259	7%
CCi® Sub-Sonic HP 22LR (100)	R339	R319	6%
Elley® Match 22LR 40gr FN (50)	R359	R339	5%
Federal® American Eagle® 22LR 38gr (40)	R129	R119	7%
Hornady® Varmint Express® 22LR 40gr (50)	R179	R169	5%

TAKTIESE-AMMUNISIE

	WAS	NOU	SPAAR
Hornady® Frontier® FMJ 223 Rem 55gr (20)	R339	R299	11%
Hornady® Frontier® HP 223 Rem 55gr (20)	R339	R319	6%

"Safari Outdoor Lynnwood is elke keer soos 'n familiebyeenkoms... almal ongelooflik hulpvaardig en vriendelik. En as jy iets kort, kry hulle dit vir jou – mens voel altyd welkom!"

— HENRY KELBRICK (Kliënt van Safari™, Pretoria)



SAFARI OUTDOOR

21 NOV - 31 DES

SAFARI KERSFEES

Geskenke met Nalatenskap

RIVONIA, Johannesburg

Tel: 086 114 3545

Rivonia Crossing II, 3 Achterweg,
Sunninghill, Johannesburg

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 14:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

LYNNWOOD, Pretoria

Tel: 086 122 2269

Lynnwood Bridge, h.v. Daventry- &
Lynnwoodweg, Lynnwood

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 13:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

CRADLESTONE, Wes-Rand

Tel: 086 111 4324

Cradlestone Mall, h.v. N14 en
Hendrik Potgieterweg, Krugersdorp

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 14:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

STELLENBOSCH, Wes-Kaap

Tel: 086 111 4330

Devon Place-sentrum, h.v. R304 &
Bottelaryweg, Koelenhof

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 14:00
Sondag	10:00 - 13:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

BOKSBURG, Oos-Rand

Tel: 086 100 0071

East Rand Retail Park, 7 Jeremy
Kark's Rd, Eveleigh, Boksburg

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 13:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

SAFARI COUNTRY, Nelspruit

Tel: 013 813 5500

Valley Hyper Sentrum, h/v Samora
Machel Dr & Du Preez Str, Nelspruit

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 13:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

SAFARI COUNTRY, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 444 3590

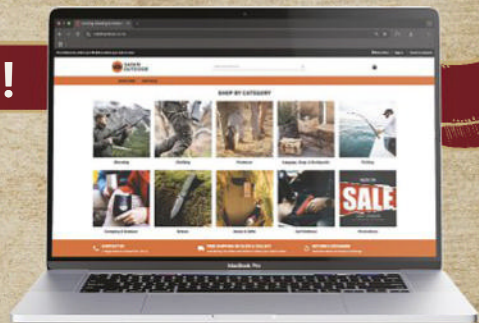
h.v. Dealesville & Abrahamskraal,
R64, Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein

Maandae - Vrydae	09:00 - 18:00
Saterdag	09:00 - 15:00
Sondag	10:00 - 13:00
Vakansiedae	09:00 - 15:00

KOOP AANLYN!

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Safari Outdoor®
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VIR MEER INLIGTING OOR SAFARI OUTDOOR® PROMOSIES EN UITVERKOPINGS



SKANDEER DIE QR KODE
OM AAN TE SLUIT

Volg ons op sosiale media

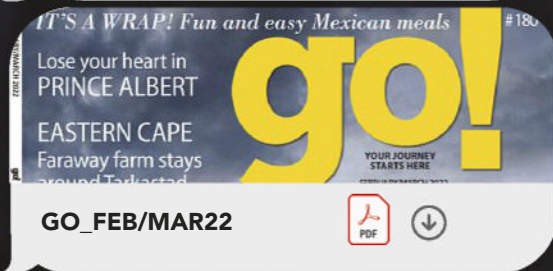


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SAFARI OUTDOOR® KERSFEES 2025. GELDIG 21 DESEMBER - 31 DESEMBER 2025. BEPERKTE HOEVEELHEID BESKIKBAAR BY AL ONS WINKELS. TERWYL VOORRAAD HOU.
BEPALINGS EN VOORWAARDES GELD. BF&W. PRODUK FOTOS KAN VERSKIL VAN DIE WERKLIKE PRODUK. KONTAK WINKELS VIR BESKIKBAARHEID VAN VOORRAAD.
ALLE SAPD-GEREGLIGTE GOEDERE WORD OOREENKOMSTIG VOLGENS SAPD-REGULASIES VERKOOP. 6-PAY NIE BESKIKBAAR VIR ITEMS OP PROMOSIE NIE.

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