



## HARTLEY'S SAFARIS

FINDING YOUR AFRICA



## South Africa

Western Cape  
Mpumalanga and Limpopo  
Eastern Cape  
KwaZulu-Natal  
North West and Limpopo  
Gauteng



# INTRODUCTION

Bordered by two oceans with 2,798 kilometres (1,945 miles) of coastline and sprawled across grasslands, woodland savannah, mountains and some of the best managed game reserves on the continent, South Africa is a vastly diverse country.

In the heart of the country near Johannesburg some of the oldest hominid fossils ever identified have been recovered from the Cradle of Humankind and in the south the Cape Floral Kingdom, concentrated in the area around Cape Town, sustains about 9,000 types of plants which represent 20 percent of all the species on the entire continent.

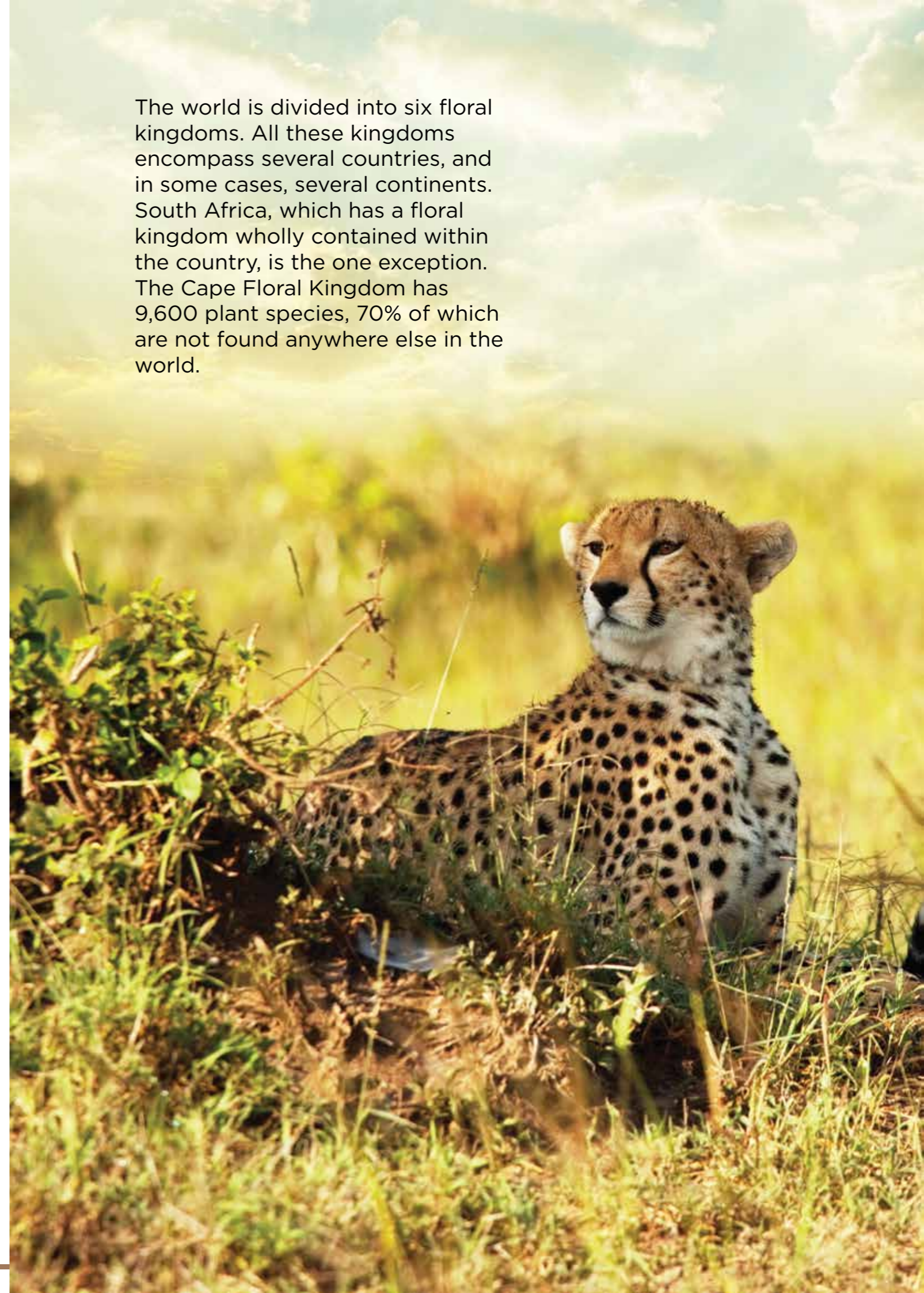
The country has a thriving population of the world's largest mammal, the elephant, but is also home to the world's smallest tortoise, the endemic speckled 'padloper' (road walker) which measures on average

about 8cm (3 inches) in diameter. Elsewhere in the country they are known first for their award winning wines and world class cuisine can be enjoyed in a luxury lodge while listening to the sounds of the African bush.

Whatever the contrast, and there are many in South Africa, the country is a mix of modern cities, industry, abundant wildlife, beaches and open spaces. The country has the largest economy in Africa, a well-developed transport system and a sophisticated tourism industry.



The world is divided into six floral kingdoms. All these kingdoms encompass several countries, and in some cases, several continents. South Africa, which has a floral kingdom wholly contained within the country, is the one exception. The Cape Floral Kingdom has 9,600 plant species, 70% of which are not found anywhere else in the world.





# HISTORY

For thousands of years Bushmen hunter gatherers roamed what is now known as South Africa, hunting and moving to wherever food and water were most plentiful. Their rock art, which is still found on the walls of caves and overhangs in many parts of the country, helps describe their lives, beliefs and interactions with wave after wave of new settlers which began 2,000 years ago. Around that time Bantu speaking tribes began arriving from central Africa, bringing with them cattle and farming skills.

Agriculture and cattle farming slowly spread to the parts of South Africa that had a good supply of water squeezing the Bushman into less hospitable areas.

In 1652 the Dutch established the settlement which later became Cape Town and, together with new arrivals from Britain and elsewhere, over the next two hundred years came into increasing contact, and conflict, with people who had already settled further north. Much of the conflict revolved around the occupation of farming land and by the mid-19th century there had been a large number of skirmishes and wars.

The political and economic situation in South Africa changed dramatically with the discovery of immensely rich diamond deposits in 1867 and then similarly rich gold deposits in the mid-1880s. These discoveries led to a huge influx of European settlers and competition over these resources led ultimately to the Anglo Boer War (1899- 1902) between Britain and the Boer Republics. Although Britain defeated the Boers the Union of South Africa, which drew together the former combatants, was formed in 1910.

In 1948 the National Party came to power, only white people could vote, and began formal implementation of apartheid laws although racial discrimination was already deeply entrenched. South Africa became a republic in 1961, withdrawing from the Commonwealth and severing its ties with the British Government.

A long period of political instability and repression followed but Nelson Mandela was freed from prison in 1990 and South Africa held its first democratic election in 1994. Mandela became the country's first democratically elected president but retired after one term. There have been several democratic elections since Mandela stood down.

## PEOPLE, CULTURE AND ECONOMY

South Africa has 11 official languages of which Zulu is the most widely spoken although English is understood in many parts of the country. These languages were chosen to reflect the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the majority of citizens.

Most citizens live and work in urban areas but traditional beliefs and ceremonies are widely

followed. Traditional healers, offering both medicinal and spiritual assistance, play an important role in many people's lives. Cattle and small stock are important to many, including urban people, and are slaughtered as a component of funeral and wedding rites. South Africa has a strong mix of western and traditional African cultures.

South Africa has the largest economy on the continent and attracts work seekers from many parts of sub-Saharan Africa and even Asia.

The country has a powerful mining industry and possesses the world's largest deposits of platinum, chrome, manganese and vanadium and the second largest deposits of gold and titanium. It also possesses significant deposits of many other minerals. South Africa has a sophisticated financial and banking sector and also exports large quantities of fruit and other agricultural products.

## SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF

- Capital City: Pretoria
- Area: 1,219,912 km<sup>2</sup> / 471,011 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 53 million
- Time zone: GMT +2
- Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)
- Electricity: 230-240V
- Geography: South Africa is flanked on the west by the Atlantic Ocean and on the east by the Indian Ocean, and boasts more than 2,500 km (1,500 miles) of coastline. The two oceans meet at Cape Agulhas, the southernmost tip of Africa. The terrain ranges from desert to green hills, mountain ranges, subtropical areas and sunny beaches.
- Language: South Africa has eleven official languages: Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. Except for rural areas, most South Africans speak English.



## WHEN TO GO

South Africa's seasons are the reverse to Europe's, with midwinter in June/July and midsummer in December/January. The Highveld and interior has a temperate climate with sunshine all year - summers are hot and thundery, winters are dry, bright and cold. The Cape has a Mediterranean climate - summers are dry and warm to hot, while winters are wet, mild and changeable. KwaZulu Natal has a sub-tropical climate with sunshine all year - summers are hot, thundery and humid while winters are mild.

December to March: summer, great time for the beach, the grape harvest in the Winelands, game viewing good but bush is lush and green with long grass, electric thunderstorms on the Highveld, humid at sea level on the KwaZulu-Natal coast, migratory birds, peak season, essential to book early for flights and accommodation.

April to August: autumn to winter, warm to cool days and cold nights, rain in the Cape, some very good low season rates from May, fewer tourists, best game viewing, whale season from June.

September to November: the Namaqualand flower season ends in October, tourist season starts picking up, and rains break at the end of October, whale season.

## CLIMATE

Johannesburg	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	15	25	120
Feb	15	23	90
Mar	14	23	80
Apr	11	20	50
May	8	18	10
Jun	5	15	0
Jul	5	16	0
Aug	7	18	0
Sep	10	21	20
Oct	12	22	70
Nov	13	23	110
Dec	15	24	10

Cape Town	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	17	25	14
Feb	17	25	16
Mar	15	24	21
Apr	13	22	41
May	11	19	68
Jun	8	17	93
Jul	8	16	93
Aug	8	17	77
Sep	10	18	41
Oct	12	20	3
Nov	14	22	1
Dec	16	23	17



# HIGHLIGHTS

## WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### Cape Town

The city's iconic Table Mountain soars some 1,085 meters (3,563 feet) above the city which started life in 1652 as a replenishment base for Dutch ships on their way to India. Nowadays the city is far more than a stop-off point and large numbers of visitors come here every year to enjoy fabulous food and wine, excellent beaches and spectacular scenery.

Table Mountain is only one of a chain of mountains that run the length of the Cape Peninsular, with others heading into the nearby Winelands region and still more following the coast eastwards past Hermanus and beyond. Excellent beaches shelter at the foot of the mountains all along the Peninsula. The Cape Point Nature Reserve offers spectacular mountain and ocean views as well as small wildlife.

The internationally acclaimed Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden nestles at the foot of Table Mountain and contains thousands of plants, representative

of the rich Cape Floral Kingdom as well as others from further afield. The Cape Floral Kingdom, which is a term denoting an area of plants with specific botanical similarities, has been declared a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization) World Heritage Site in recognition of its diversity.

Trips to Robben Island, the site of the prison where Nelson Mandela was once incarcerated, depart from the harbour and African penguins are sometimes seen from the ferry. The prison is now a museum and also a UNESCO World Heritage Site marking its deep historical significance to South Africa.

One of the city's most famous wildlife attractions is the African penguin colony at Boulders Beach. The African penguin is the only representative of this family of marine birds found on the continent.



## WHALE WATCHING

The coastline from Cape Town to Hermanus and Walker Bay offers some of the best whale watching opportunities in the world. Every year, usually between June and October, hundreds of southern right whales arrive along the coast to mate and calve, often sheltering within 100 meters of the roads and paths that thread their way along the steep rocky shoreline.

Although the whales are easily and often spotted from the shore boat trips are also available. Southern right whale numbers have increased in recent years and new born whales are often seen close to the shore. There is ample and varied accommodation available along the coast.



## THE CAPE WINELANDS

The Winelands are a series of fertile wine producing valleys a short drive north of Cape Town. In addition to sampling good wines and food the Winelands also have an abundance of fine architecture and stunning mountain scenery.

The towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek are among the oldest in the country and their streets are lined with beautiful Cape Dutch houses and other buildings. Stellenbosch was the second town in South Africa to be established by the Dutch settlers and has many old thatched and whitewashed Cape Dutch buildings and historic national monuments.

Franschhoek and other towns in the region have similar architecture and there are a variety of museums. Some people take day tours to the Winelands from Cape Town while others stay at one of the many wine farms. Cycle tours and horseback rides can be taken through the vineyards. The Winelands are close to Cape Town and can easily be incorporated into holidays in Cape Town or along the Garden Route.

## THE GARDEN ROUTE

The Garden Route is a spectacularly scenic trip that follows the rugged coast from Mossel Bay in the west to the Storms River Mouth in the east. It comprises a mosaic of sweeping lakes and wetlands, good beaches, steep mountain passes and nature reserves. The narrow coastal plain is well forested and is mostly bordered by extensive lagoons that run behind a barrier of sand dunes and superb beaches. The region has some of the largest patches of indigenous forest in the country including some very large yellowwood trees. There are many activities for visitors including scenic walks, deep-sea fishing, water skiing, hobie-cat sailing, sunset cruises, bird watching and in addition to whale and dolphin spotting.

At the centre of the route is the huge and scenic Knysna lagoon, an important fish breeding area, which is surrounded by forests, golf courses and restaurants. The Knysna Heads, two large bluffs, guard the lagoon's narrow entrance to the sea.

There are a number of world class golf courses along the Garden Route, particularly near the town of George. The Tsitsikamma National Park, with steep forest slopes, waterfalls and a turbulent coastline, lies towards the eastern edge of the Garden Route. The famous, and strenuous, Otter Trail hike runs through this Park which also protects the adjacent ocean area. The Garden Route is a favourite choice for those who choose to hire a car and drive themselves.





NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

MOZAMBIQUE

KGALAGADI  
TRANSFRONTIER  
PARK

GREATER  
MAPUNGBWE  
TRANSFRONTIER  
PARK

GREAT  
LIMPOPO  
TRANSFRONTIER  
PARK

GREATER  
KRUGER  
NATIONAL  
PARK

WELGEVONDEN  
GAME  
RESERVE

MARAKELE  
NATIONAL  
PARK

MADIKWE  
GAME  
RESERVE

BLYDE CANYON  
NATURE RESERVE

PILANESBERG  
GAME  
RESERVE

CRADLE OF  
HUMANKIND

PRETORIA

MBOMBELA  
(NELSPRUIT)

KALAHARI

SWAZILAND

NDUMO  
GAME  
RESERVE

TEMBE  
GAME RESERVE

SOWETO

JOHANNESBURG

MKUZE  
GAME  
RESERVE

PHINDA  
GAME  
RESERVE

ISIMANGALISO  
WETLAND PARK

AIS AIS RICHTERSVELD  
TRANSFRONTIER PARK

AUGRABIES  
NATIONAL  
PARK

GARIEP

SOUTH AFRICA

BATTLEFIELDS

HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI  
GAME RESERVE

BLOEMFONTEIN

LESOTHO

UKHAHLAMBA  
DRAKENSBERG  
PARK

DURBAN

NAMAQUALAND

NAMAQUA  
NATIONAL  
PARK

GREAT KAROO

ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

TANKWA  
KAROO  
NATIONAL  
PARK

KAROO  
NATIONAL  
PARK

CAMDEBOO  
NATIONAL  
PARK

KWANDWE  
GAME RESERVE

EAST LONDON

WEST COAST  
NATIONAL  
PARK

SMALL KAROO

ADDO  
ELEPHANT  
NATIONAL  
PARK

SHAMWARI  
GAME  
RESERVE

CAPE TOWN

WINELANDS

GARDEN ROUTE

PORT ELIZABETH

TSITSIKAMMA  
NATIONAL  
PARK

TABLE  
MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL  
PARK

DE HOOP  
NATURE  
RESERVE

## MPUMALANGA AND LIMPOPO PRIVATE RESERVES

### KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (KNP)

The KNP is one of the largest game reserves in the world and offers excellent viewing of all of the "Big 5" (elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard) as well as more than 140 other species of mammal and more than 500 species of birds.

The 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> (7,720 mi<sup>2</sup>) park is cut by four major rivers and bordered by another two, the Limpopo in the north and the Crocodile in the south. The park's vast size incorporates a wide range of habitats which ensures rich biodiversity. In addition to the birds and mammals that occur in the park, 114 species of reptiles (about 150 species occur in the whole of Europe) and more than 1,400 plants and trees have been recorded. The Kruger National Park is one of the oldest conservation areas in Africa, a segment of it having been declared in 1898, and was formally declared a National Park in 1926.

The Park is hot in summer (November–March) but winters are more mild and with less rain. The Kruger National Park has a wide variety of accommodation and there are a number of luxurious and exclusive private concessions within the park.



### MPUMALANGA PANORAMIC ROUTE

The highlands of Mpumalanga offer a variety of scenic drives that provide any number of spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. At God's Window and at the Blyde River Canyon visitors are treated to a wide view of the Lowveld and far below there are waterfalls, deep canyons and high mountains.

Further to the west there are cool trout streams and rolling countryside which is excellent for fishing, hiking and cycling. The old mining town of Pilgrim's Rest acts as a museum that explains the story of the 19th century gold rush. Nearby, the town of Sabi lies at the foot of a steep pass and is surrounded by large plantations of pine trees interspersed with waterfalls and streams. The area has interesting hiking and cycling trails. There is a wide variety of accommodation available in the area.



### PRIVATE RESERVES

Mpumalanga and Limpopo have a number of exclusive private reserves which share unfenced boundaries with the Kruger National Park. These reserves have upscale lodges that offer world class accommodation and cuisine. Guests are taken on guided game-drives and are likely to see an excellent selection of large game.

The private reserves, which are all located on the western boundary of the KNP, offer some of the best game viewing in South Africa. Most visitors to these reserves fly to nearby airports and are collected by lodge staff. There are many lodges in the area but some of the best known are found in the Sabi Sabi and Timbavati private game reserves.



### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For a unique holiday experience, there are few better ways to discover the real heart and soul of a country than to travel away from the traditional tourist destinations and go 'off the beaten track'. With the wealth of experience we have gained through our many years creating luxury safari holidays to Africa, Hartley's Safaris offer an extensive portfolio of experiences that allow you to embrace the true spirit and adventure of this magnificent country in a safe and secure manner.





## EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

### ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

This is a relatively small National Park but it has a high density of elephant, buffalo and rhino. Lions and leopards also occur as well as many antelope species. Elephant sightings are guaranteed. This is an easy park for self-drive visitors to visit as it is small and close to Port Elizabeth. There are a number of good lodges in the region. There are also several private game ranches nearby.



### WILD COAST

This rugged coastline has excellent beaches and spectacular scenery and is one of the few places in South Africa where waterfalls plunge straight into the sea. It has a relatively low population and beaches are usually very quiet.

A number of hiking trails have been laid out along the coast, including one where porters carry visitors' backpacks from one beach hotel to the next, leaving the walker free to take photographs or use binoculars. Horse riding is also popular along this coast and fishing, both with fly and lure, is excellent.



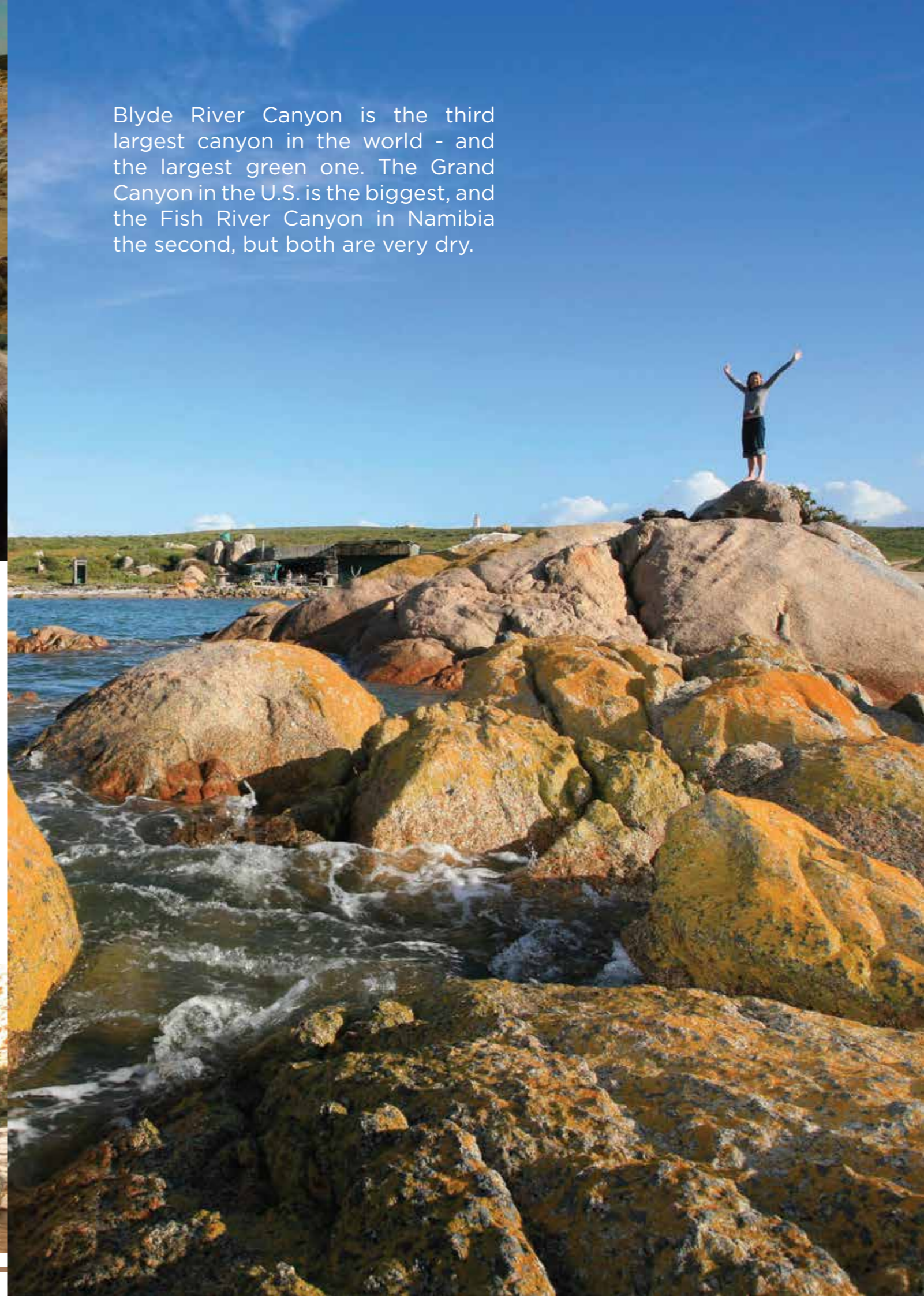
### THE KAROO

The arid Karoo region of South Africa lies within the interior of the Eastern and Western Cape Provinces. It is a place of wide open spaces, ideal for hiking, horse-riding and at night the clear air and limited artificial light makes the region ideal for stargazing. It also has very rich fossil beds and a number of specialist guides run "fossil" safaris.

The Cambedoo National Park, near the town of Graaff Reinet, protects a large area of Karoo habitat and springbok, South Africa's national animal, are common. These gazelles once roamed the Karoo in their hundreds of thousands but were almost shot to extinction in the 19th century. Gemsbok, blesbuck and other antelope also occur in the park. Graaff Reinet has many buildings dating from the 19th century which have been declared National Monuments.



Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world - and the largest green one. The Grand Canyon in the U.S. is the biggest, and the Fish River Canyon in Namibia the second, but both are very dry.





## KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE

### THE ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK

This area of northern Zululand lies south of the Mozambican border and protects a wide array of wetlands, savannah and the shallow waters and coral reefs along the 280 km coastline which forms its eastern border. The park is home to the famous "Big 5", a wide range of antelope and hundreds of crocodiles and hippos as well as supporting prolific birdlife - more than 520 species of birds have been recorded in the region. Coral reefs, hundreds of species of fish, whales, dolphins and marine turtles all occur in the waters protected by the park. Leatherback and loggerhead turtles nest on the beaches in the north of the park from December - February.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is the only place in the world where visitors can see the "Big 5" and watch dolphins and whales all within the same Park and on the same day. The Park, which is a World Heritage Site, protects three freshwater lake systems as well as eight ecosystems. The park covers some 3,320 km<sup>2</sup> (1,281 mi<sup>2</sup>) and also protects a range of high, vegetation covered sand dunes which run along the coast. The dunes are estimated to be about 25,000 years old and are amongst the highest in the world. The coral reefs along the shoreline of the Park are very popular amongst divers. Whale sharks are also often seen in these waters.



### UKHAHLAMBA - DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS

The 3,352 metre high (11,000 feet) Ukhahlamba Mountains form the western border of KwaZulu-Natal and have been declared a World Heritage Site. There are several game reserves in the mountains with a variety of mammal and birdlife that has adapted to life at high altitude. There are numerous hiking and horse riding trails in these mountains. Numerous cold, crystal clear streams and rivers flow from the high slopes and trout were introduced into the area in the late 19th century.

The uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park is an important fly fishing destination and a rich assortment of Bushmen rock art is found in many caves and rock overhangs. The Battle Cave in the Giants Castle Game Reserve contains particularly important examples of rock art. The paint used in rock art comprises of a mix of carbon from fires, vegetable dyes and animal blood. There are thousands of these paintings in the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park. There are a wide range of lodges in the area and some have golf courses and other sports facilities.



## ZULULAND BATTLE FIELDS

KwaZulu-Natal Province is densely packed with well-known battlefields that commemorate the extensively documented Anglo-Boer War (Britain-Boer Republics 1898-1902) and Anglo-Zulu War (Britain-Zulu Kingdom 1879). The Battle of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift (Anglo Zulu War) and the battle of Spionkop and the Siege of Ladysmith (Anglo Boer War) are some of the best known in British and South African history.

There are dozens of other sites from these wars, and other conflicts in the province. Many of the battlefields are relatively close together and easy to visit. Expert guides are available and many of the battlefields also have small museums.



### HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK AND MKUZE GAME RESERVE

In the early 20th century conservationists in this area helped save the white rhino from extinction after hunters had reduced the population to fewer than 100. Today the park is one of the best places in the world to see white rhino. Elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard and many species of antelope also occur in the park. The nearby Mkuze also has a good rhino population and exceptionally varied bird-life.







The only street in the world to house two Nobel Peace prizewinners is in Soweto. Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu both have houses on Vilakazi Street in Soweto.



## NORTH WEST PROVINCE

### MADIKWE GAME RESERVE AND PILANESBURG NATIONAL PARK

These are both "Big 5" game reserves which are situated in the malaria-free north western part of South Africa. The crater of an ancient volcano forms the focal point of the hilly 55,000 hectare (135,907 acres) Pilanesberg National Park. The Park is only two hours' drive from Johannesburg and has a high density of elephant, rhino and lions. A wide variety of antelope species and giraffe are also common.

Many visitors opt to self-drive but there are a number of lodges and hotels that offer guided game drives. Night drives are also available. The Pilanesberg is located right next to the Sun City resort which offers top class golf courses, restaurants, live shows and other entertainment. About two hours' drive away from the Pilanesberg the 75,000 hectare (189,325 acres) Madikwe Game Reserve also has a very high elephant and lion population as well as several packs of endangered African wild dogs. A number of luxury lodges are located in Madikwe and guests are taken on guided game viewing drives in open 4x4 vehicles. Night drives are also offered. Day visitors are not permitted in the park.



### THE WATERBERG

The Waterberg Mountains lie in a malaria-free area of Limpopo Province and there are several large game reserves, and numerous smaller private game ranches, in the region. The mountainous Welgevonden Game Reserve, a privately owned reserve, is located here and is home to the "Big 5." It borders on the Marakele National Park.

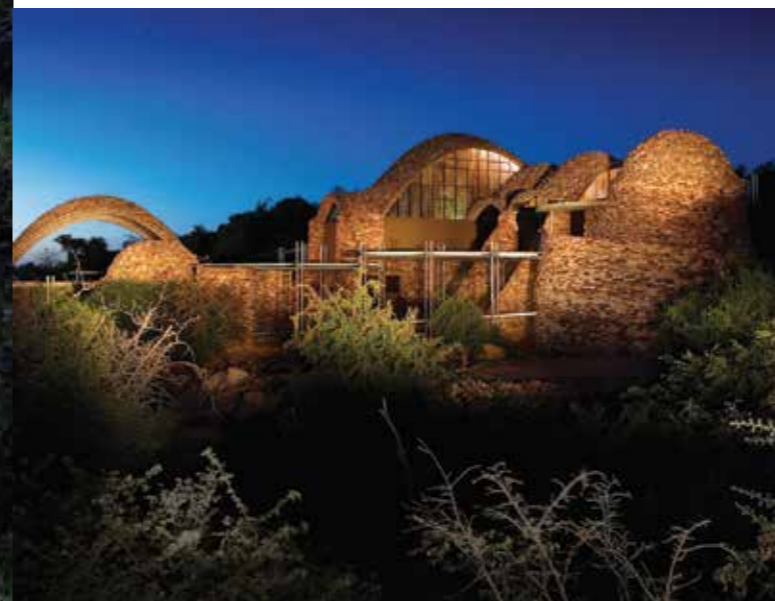
More than 350 species of birds have been recorded in Welgevonden and at least 66 species of mammal. A number of exclusive lodges are located in Welgevonden which is about three hours' drive from Johannesburg. The park is close to Pilanesberg National Park and Sun City.



### MAPUNGUBWE NATIONAL PARK

One of South Africa's most important stone-age sites is located in this Park on the border of Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Mapungubwe site contains evidence of an advanced society that thrived in the period 900-1200 AD, working gold and trading with merchants from the Indian Ocean Basin. Glass beads and other items from as far afield as India and Egypt have been found at Mapungubwe which is the name of a large hill near the Limpopo River.

Many gold and copper artefacts have been found there, including the priceless "golden rhino" - small carved wooden rhino encased in gold. Mapungubwe is a UNESCO World Heritage Site declared because of the regions outstanding cultural importance. The reserve is home to various species of large game including elephant and rhino and a large number of bird species has been recorded.





## GAUTENG PROVINCE

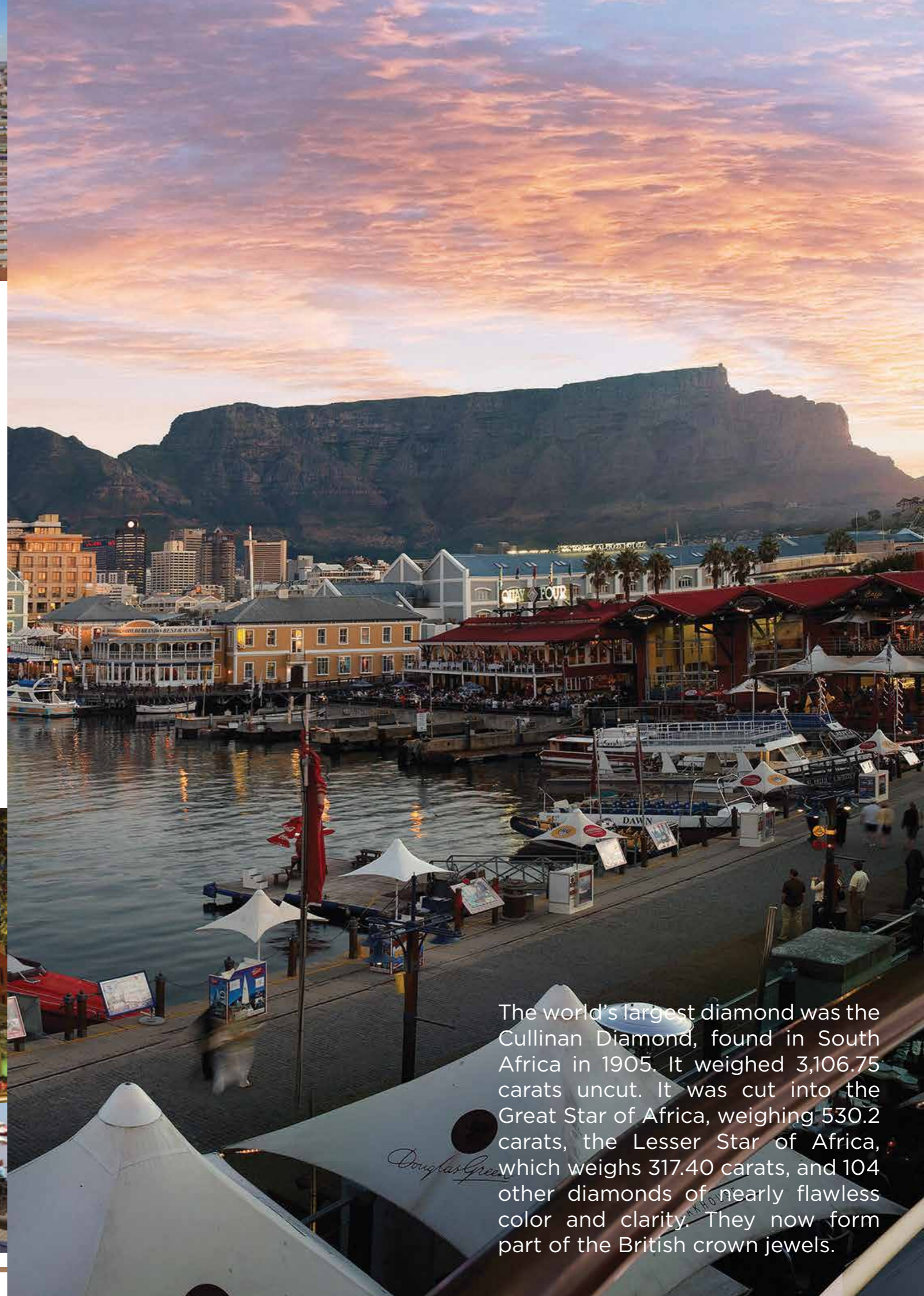
### JOHANNESBURG & PRETORIA

Johannesburg and Pretoria have a wide variety of hotels, restaurants, museums and other facilities associated with large cities worldwide.

The world's richest hominid fossil site, the Cradle of Humankind, is a short distance north of Johannesburg and there are a number of tours through the fossil sites as well as the Maropeng Museum which has been built nearby. More than 1,000 hominid fossils have been found in the area which include some of the oldest ever identified.

Elsewhere tours are conducted around Soweto, the scene of much conflict during the struggle against apartheid, including visits to Nelson Mandela's old home and the Apartheid Museum which is a short distance outside the township. The Apartheid Museum documents some of South Africa's often turbulent history. Many tours stop at local restaurants to enable visitors to sample local food and meet Sowetans.

Underground tours of an old gold mine can be arranged at Gold Reef City which is near the Apartheid Museum. There are dozens of other museums and art galleries. Both cities have excellent hotels and restaurants.



The world's largest diamond was the Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3,106.75 carats uncut. It was cut into the Great Star of Africa, weighing 530.2 carats, the Lesser Star of Africa, which weighs 317.40 carats, and 104 other diamonds of nearly flawless color and clarity. They now form part of the British crown jewels.



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