

ADVERTORIAL FEATURE

IF South Africa is the world's "rainbow nation", then the Mother City is its reigning queen! Rest assured that Cape Town is, without reserve, a Gay Friendly City, home to a thriving community network and host to a range of dazzling events glam enough to have put it firmly on the international Gay Culture Map. A range of nightlife is available ranging from pubs, clubs and entertainment. Specialised services, shopping, cafes and restaurants are all readily available. The "Gay

Casually chic, The Glen Boutique Hotel (gay exclusive) blends some of the best elements of hotel service with personalized hospitality to offer a discreet haven for the discerning gentleman and his friends, without compromising privacy or persuasion. Situated half way between beaches and De Waterkant Gay Village in Sea Point, the property has been fully refurbished to the highest standards. All rooms have direct dial phones,

have an excellent chance of experiencing close encounters with the 'Big 5' - elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard - as well as six species of cat; many species of antelope, several dog-like species including spotted hyena and cape hunting dog, two species of jackal, and a variety of smaller mammals. The Kruger National Park boasts the world's largest land mammal (elephant), tallest (giraffe), fastest (cheetah) and smallest (dwarf shrew) and a wondrous array of some

SOUTH AFRICAN SUN & SAFARI

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO QX READERS

Village" in Cape Town's Green Point is the hub of the gay scene with all of the above within easy walking distance of each other. Cape Town is famous throughout the world for its majestic mountain setting, and the many places and sights that both the city and the Cape Peninsula offer the tourist. Over the centuries, visitors have marvelled not only at the peninsula's natural splendour but also at the cultural diversity of the "Mother City" - the blending of Eastern, African and Western ways of life, which is constantly evident in architecture, dress and local customs. After some time to settle in and relax a representative from Europcar will deliver your group "B" rental vehicle to The Glen Hotel at noon. This is a Toyota Corolla or similar (1.6 litre, manual with air conditioning, radio/tape, and power steering. Based on super cover (R 3000 excess deposit refundable and 6 day rental period.) You also get free mobile rental with your rental car. (You only pay for the calls made and insurance.)

satellite television, a safe, in-room refreshments tea/coffee facilities. Many rooms have double size showers and vanity units with emphasis on luxury. The terrace is the outdoor hub and overlooks the pool where you soak up the sun. Why not enjoy the Moroccan styled steam room which has its own splash pool and changing room facilities.

Optional extra excursions available in Cape Town include:

Full day Wine tasting tour.

Full day Cultural Tour including Robben Island.

Full day White Shark Diving Experience.

Triple X Experience Wind/Water/Wave (Sunset Cruise, Sport Helicopter Flip and High Speed Boat Tour.)

Walk up Table Mountain.

Horse riding, abseiling, kite-surfing or guided shopping, the possibilities are endless...

DAY 7

2 nights, Vuyatela Lodge, Sabi Sands Game Reserve, Kruger Park, Full Board & Game Drives.

THIS morning you drive to Cape Town airport and check in for your flight to the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport. On arrival at the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport you are collected by our representative for a 20 minute light aircraft transfer to Vuyatela Lodge.

This new top-class lodge has just eight air-conditioned luxury suites. All are spacious with a large separate sitting area and private plunge pool, surrounded with a large private deck. A sumptuous bathroom adjoins the bedroom, which is furnished with contemporary African art. At the main lodge building guests can enjoy a gym and relaxation room, the bird-watching tower, aquarium and a continual array of larger animals passing to and from to the water-hole just a few hundred feet away.

So diverse is its habitat and wildlife that you

350 bird species.

Botanically too, this is a wonderland. The reserve is blessed with great diversity of habitat, from acacia woodland to riverine forest. You can still observe at close quarters the natural relationship between predator and prey. Big game abounds and roams freely through this pristine part of our ancient African continent.

Safaris

Game drives are conducted in specially customised open Landrovers in the unspoiled wilderness, and strict regulations are in place to minimise pressure on both the game and the habitat in the reserve.

Game drives are conducted throughout the year at optimum viewing times when game activity is generally at its peak, i.e. early morning and late afternoon into evening. The morning safari departs at sunrise, and the evening drive leaves late enough in the afternoon for guests to enjoy a bush sunset, and the opportunity to view nocturnal creatures after dark. The spectacular southern night skies, especially vivid during the winter months, provide guests with stunning views of famous constellations such as the Southern Cross, Orion (in summer) and Scorpio (in winter) on clear evenings.

A must for all nature enthusiasts is the bush walk (i.e. foot safari). This affords guests the ultimate, close-to-the-wild experience, and a chance to focus on the smaller bush inhabitants including birds, insects and butterflies. One can also discover the interesting worlds of trees, grasses, flowers, geology and ecology - of course, occasionally big game can be seen on walks - including the Big 5. Bush walks take place either just before or just after breakfast, depending on the time of year and prevailing weather conditions.

Summer (October to March) tends to be hot, but the bush looks wonderfully green and lush. Many mammals produce their offspring in the height of summer (December/January) and the youngsters are a special treat on safaris. Game viewing remains superb all year round - not just on safari, but also at the

Lodge, due to its setting on the banks of the Sand River which attracts game continually. The pattern of your days revolves around the two game drives, with much of the time between spent enjoying wonderful food! Your first afternoon you will set off after afternoon tea and cake, in search of the animals as they emerge to enjoy a drink at dusk. You stop for 'sundowners' and then the game drive continues after dark, using powerful nightlights to search for predators which hunt at night. The local Shangaan trackers are amazingly adept at spotting small movements or the glint of an eye in the darkness. Your return to camp just gives you time to swap safari tales over an excellent dinner, before you get an early night - in preparation for more pre-dawn excitement!

DAY 8

Vuyatela Lodge, Djuma Game Reserve.

THE following morning as the animals rise early, to hunt in the cool of the day, you will take your game drive immediately after early morning tea and coffee. The two to three hour drive finishes in time for a late breakfast which will be keenly appreciated after your early morning activity. After breakfast if you wish, you can go on a guided walk into the bush with a ranger, or you can simply relax around the lodge during the heat of the day before you next game drive starts after tea.

DAY 9

Fly Home.

AFTER a last early morning game drive and breakfast you are transferred back to the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport by small aircraft, in time for your flight to Cape Town.

On arrival at Cape Town International Airport you proceed to International Departures to check in for your flight home.

Between October 2003 - April 2004 the special discounted price for QX readers is R 17 350 per person sharing. For a single person the discounted price is R 22 000 per person. This includes: Accommodation and meals as detailed, car rental, internal/domestic flights, safari activities while at game lodges and transfers as detailed but excludes international flights and travel insurance.

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CAPETOWN "THE MOTHER CITY"

