

ESTABLISHED 1918

TRANS AFRICA SAFARIS

LUXURY TAILOR-MADE TOURS

SOUTH AFRICA • BOTSWANA • NAMIBIA • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE • EAST AFRICA • INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Dear friend,

Indaba, Africa's premier travel event, held in Durban from 9-12 May, has come and gone. The show, after many years of consistent growth, did not escape the global economic downturn as buyer and exhibitor numbers were marginally down on last year. The quality of participants, was however, perceived by most, to be good.

For some it was the Soccer World Cup Indaba and certainly there was tremendous interest in this event which kicks off in just over a year's time. Everything appears to be on track and South Africa will, I'm quite sure, host a spectacular event.

Trans Africa Safaris made a number of delightful discoveries at the show and we would like to share these with you.

I came across these charming words recently and thought they beautifully encapsulate the lure of our destination

" I believe there is no sickness of the heart too great that cannot be cured by a dose of Africa.

Families must go there to learn why they belong together on this earth, adolescents to discover humility, lovers to plumb old but untried wells of passion, honeymooners to seal marriages with a sense of bafflement, those shop-worn with life to find a tonic for futility, the aged to recognize a symmetry to twilight.

I know this sounds a bit much, but if ever I have seen magic, it has been in Africa." (First Footsteps in Africa by John Heminway)

Best regards,
André

LONDOLOZI - Electric Jeeps & Specialized Photographic Safari

Renowned for its innovative thinking and pioneering spirit, Londolozi now introduces to the safari industry a vehicle which moves guests silently through the wilderness with a lower carbon footprint than the conventional 4x4.



Using rechargeable batteries, Londolozi has moved a step closer to more efficient use of propulsion energy. In recognition that more needs to be done, Londolozi will continue to work closely with the prototype developers to improve battery efficiencies and the use of solar power to achieve a zero emissions status of this new technology.

The New Generation Photographic Safari Vehicle is the brain child of Londolozi's General Manager who was heard to say "it's not about the bathroom, safari is about being in the wilderness, it's about the animals and the people!"

For photographic enthusiasts, Londolozi has modified a standard Land Rover with comfortable adjustable seats that are able to swivel 180 degrees allowing four guests maximum flexibility to achieve unusual camera angles and to create exceptional images. Equipment for personal guest use includes a stills and video camera, night vision goggles, individual scorpion torches, an e-reference book (loaded with over six reference books including birds, trees, mammals & stars), a star laser pointer for an informed understanding of the African skies and "sound safari" equipment designed to amplify the sounds of the African bush.

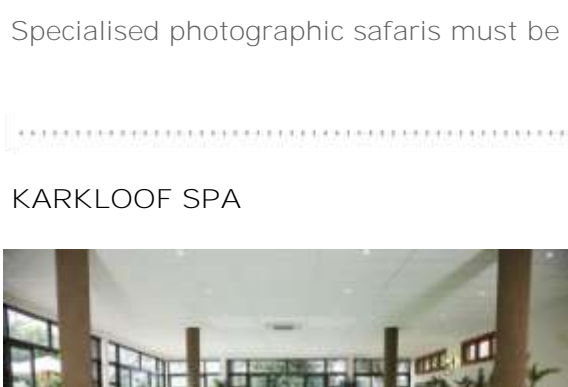


"Imagine sitting in the dark with a pride of lion hunting adjacent to the Land Rover. The lights are off but you are seeing and hearing just like the lions."

Vital to the success of the safari is the quality and experience of the ranger/guide and tracker. Guides have a minimum of five years guiding experience and an in-depth knowledge of all the latest digital, computer, sound, editing and photographic equipment.

Specialised photographic safaris must be booked in advance. Rates will be released in early June 2009.

KARKLOOF SPA

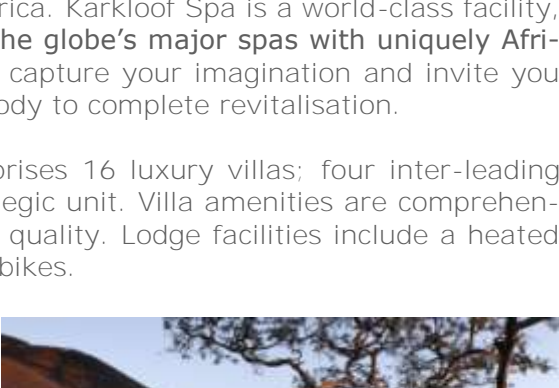


Located near Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal's magnificent Midlands and set in a verdant bowl surrounded by towering cliffs, Karkloof Spa: Wellness and Wildlife Retreat provides levels of intimate exclusivity and personalized service unparalleled in this part of Africa. Karkloof Spa is a world-class facility, blending the best of the globe's major spas with uniquely African sensibility. It will capture your imagination and invite you to submit mind and body to complete revitalisation.

Accommodation comprises 16 luxury villas; four inter-leading family and one paraplegic unit. Villa amenities are comprehensive and of the finest quality. Lodge facilities include a heated pool, wine cellar, boutique, guest business study and mountain bikes.

The spa boasts a hydro area (Roman bath, Kneipp pools, jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, combi steam/sauna) flotation room, rassoul, manicure & pedicure node, 17 treatment rooms, reflections room and hair studio. Healthy cuisine is available at Greens & Tea Spa Café.

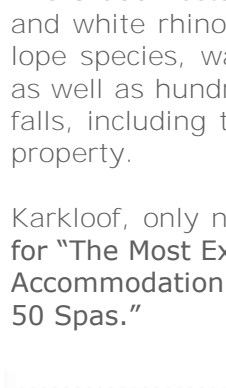
The 3 500 hectare (8 648 acre) property is stocked with black and white rhino, Cape buffalo, giraffe, zebra, numerous antelope species, warthog, bushpig, samango and vervet monkey as well as hundreds of species of indigenous birds. Five waterfalls, including the 105 meter Karkloof Falls, are found on the property.



Karkloof, only nine months old, has already scooped two special awards, namely The Tatler Spa award for "The Most Exciting Discovery 2009" and the South African Tourism's Welcome Award for "Best Overall Accommodation Provider." Karkloof Spa also featured on the Conde Nast USA Hot List of "World's Top 50 Spas."

ZIMBABWE UPDATE & SPECIALIST GUIDE

Zimbabwe is slowly but surely returning to the international fold, demonstrated by the lifting of travel warnings on Zimbabwe by the US, Japanese and German governments last month with other countries expected to follow suit. The Australian Embassy in Harare has recommended to its government that Victoria Falls be taken out of its travel advisory against Zimbabwe, and it is hoped that they too will lift the entire travel warning soon.



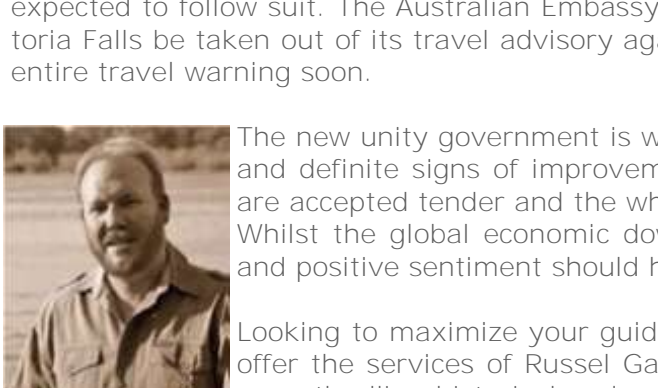
The new unity government is working hard to redress the economic and social problems and definite signs of improvement are evident. The US Dollar and South African Rand are accepted tender and the wheels of trade are once again moving.

Whilst the global economic downturn has impacted regional arrivals, pent-up demand and positive sentiment should hopefully see 2009 end on a solid footing.

Looking to maximize your guided experience in Vic Falls? Trans Africa Safaris is able to offer the services of Russel Gammon, a third generation Zimbabwean who will provide an enthralling historical and cultural account of the area. Russel has a fascination with Africa's history and over time has developed a keen understanding of past events as well as great insight into how they have shaped the culture and lives of the people of Africa. He has also made a detailed study of the life of the Victorian explorer, David Livingstone, who is a distant relative by marriage.

Russel has built an outstanding reputation as Guide and Master Story Teller and his presentation on the life of David Livingstone is highly acclaimed. His "Mists of Time" Tour of the heroes and villains that have shaped the destiny of this continent is both fascinating and highly entertaining.

ATHOLPLACE

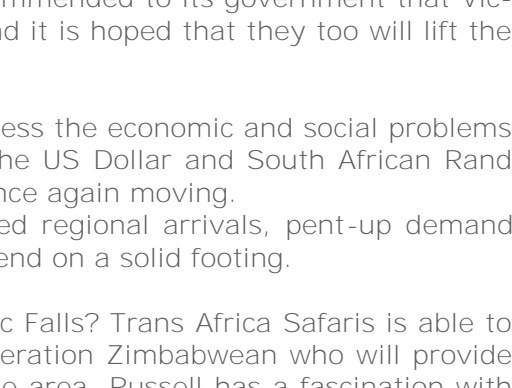


AtholPlace, a small luxury boutique hotel located in the cosmopolitan northern suburb of Atholl in Johannesburg offers ten individually decorated suites. Suites are spacious – each larger than 50 square meters (540 sq ft) and open onto a private balcony. A style signature is the white percale Frette bed linen imported from Italy and luxurious duck-down duvets.

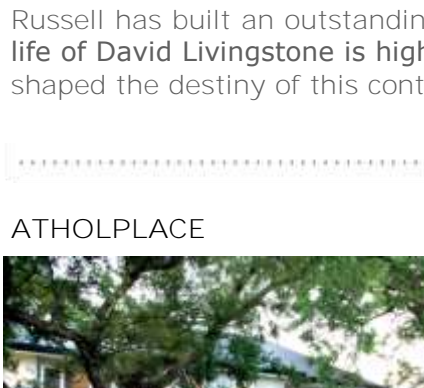
Contemporary-classic glamour and understated elegance meet at AtholPlace. Guests can enjoy the comfortable library with built-in fireplace, large swimming pool and beautiful garden.

All meals are expertly prepared by the in-house chef in the hotel's private kitchen and the restaurant is for the exclusive use of hotel guests.

Athol Place offers an unforgettable leisure experience in Johannesburg's cosmopolitan heart.



AFRICAN RELISH



African Relish, opening in July 2009 is a Recreational Cooking School. Located in the Karoo town of Prince Albert it is the only purpose-built facility of its kind in the country. Here guests can discover the culinary pulse of South Africa in this quaint village with its indefinable qualities of hospitality and sense of place in South Africa's history.

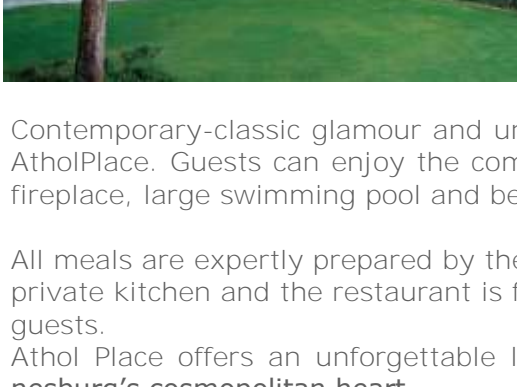
Itineraries of 1-6 nights are available and will appeal to gourmet travellers and recreational cooks. Guests can indulge their culinary cravings while pairing these with small or large portions of botany, rock art, birding, astrology, golfing, cycling, horse trails and hot air ballooning – it just depends on the size of your appetite!

The Western Cape's wines have long been world-renowned, its restaurants producing award winning chefs, and the area is fast becoming known as the country's culinary capital. African villages will incorporate the best of both towns and villages as they follow Route 62 scattered with opportunities to access farms, hotels and other 'foodie' points of interest.

With their resident chef and an array of other specialist South African chefs, the emphasis is on learning and enjoyment. The ingredients are fresh, organic and governed by the seasons. Recipes reflect the core and heritage of South African cuisine influenced by African, Dutch, French, English, Mediterranean, Indian and Malay culture.



UTHANDO – MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Uthando, meaning "love," is a non-profit organization aimed at providing a platform and sustainable infrastructure for the upliftment and support of the country's most destitute and marginalized communities.

The Uthando Field Trip gives visitors the opportunity to visit social development projects in disadvantaged areas around Cape Town, in order to discover, learn, understand, see, experience, feel, and most importantly, be inspired by the work that people are doing in the face of great adversity. Visitors can meet locals in an authentic, non-commercialized setting whilst knowing that the projects visited are recipients of funding from Uthando. Projects visited are only too happy to receive visitors as this facilitates raising the awareness of the work they are doing. The tours commence with an introduction to, and insight into, the political and cultural heritage of South Africa and the townships around Cape Town with visits to memorials of champions of the Apartheid struggle.

This tour, combined with an afternoon Robben Island excursion, combines for a very interesting full day cultural program.



ROVOS RAIL ROUTE CHANGE – AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Due to practical considerations, Rovos Rail has changed their Durban itinerary. The new itinerary includes a number of advantages and improvements over the old routing via Mpumalanga and Swaziland. Amongst these are Big 5 safari opportunities, a Battlefields tour and an excursion to Ardmore Ceramics with practical improvements including a smoother track, no passport / immigration requirements and excursions in malaria-free safari areas. The scenery on this three-day journey is also far superior with the 300 km section between Ladysmith and Durban being a **photographer's dream.**

Rovos Rail recently celebrated its 20 anniversary.



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