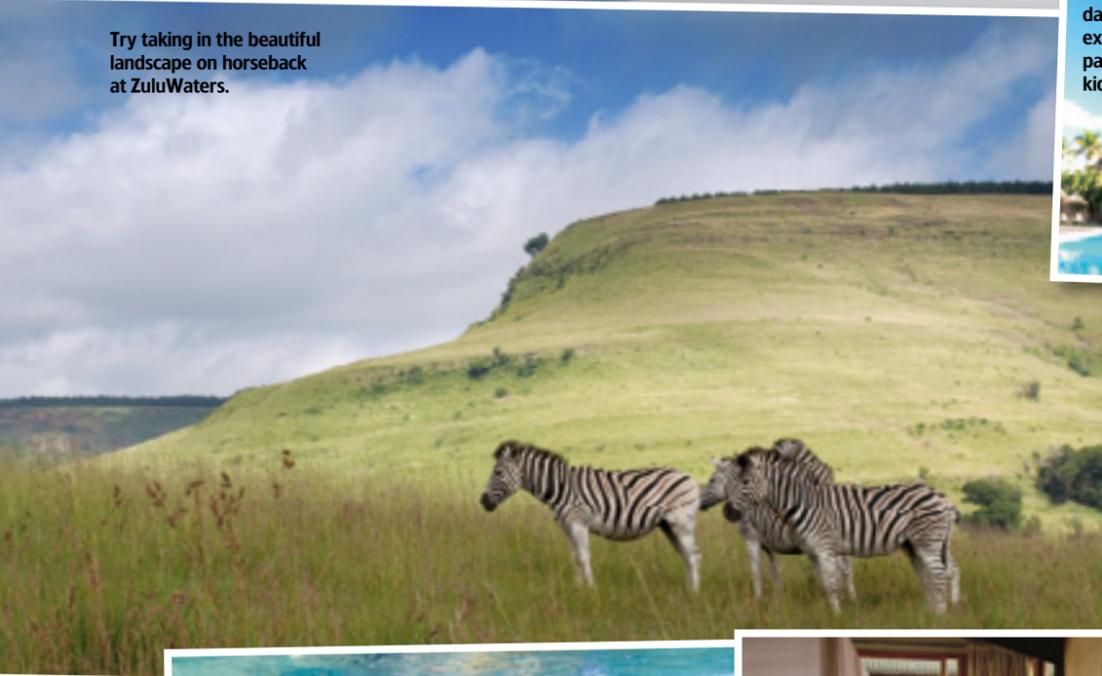


THE COOLEST MID-YEAR BREAKS



Not sure what to do with the kids for the winter holidays? Here are some great experiences to book and places to get away from it all. There's even a romantic retreat if you need some quality time with your hubby

Try taking in the beautiful landscape on horseback at ZuluWaters.



Peermont Mondazur, a relaxing experience for parents and kids alike.

One of the best ways to enjoy the scenery.



Rocktail Beach Camp

This is unlike any bush holiday you've been on. Located within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Rocktail boasts some of the best scuba diving in the world, thanks to the 15 exclusive access reefs. If you're trying scuba for the first time, there's a PADI dive centre with courses for beginners and advanced divers. Little ones can go on the snorkelling route. Either way, the kaleidoscope of colours is truly magnificent. The renowned loggerback and leatherhead turtle nesting site is also in the vicinity. Depending on the time of year, your ranger will take you out in the dark of night to see these gentle giants lay their eggs. The focus is on families. Every day, you gather at the veranda or dining room to share your adventures over a hearty meal. There are 17 tented rooms and, if the weather's not playing along, there's a children's playroom with games and fun activities.

GO FOR IT

Rocktail Beach Camp is located midway between Kosi Bay and Sodwana Bay, approximately six hours from Durban and seven hours from Joburg. Prices start from R1 579 per adult per night sharing. For children aged 6-12, it's R411 per child per night sharing. Those aged five years and younger stay free. A single supplement is R599. The price includes accommodation, dinner and breakfast, and excludes activities, lunch, laundry, personal items and park fees. To book, email info@wilderness-adventures.com or call 011 257 5111. For more info visit wilderness-adventures.com.

ZuluWaters Game Reserve, Midlands

If you're in need of a romantic retreat, ZuluWaters is top of the list. Tucked away in the Natal Midlands, this is the place where you can escape from it all. Stay at the elegant Shaka Lodge or the romantic one-bedroomed Lake Cottage. Both are built for privacy and comfort, offering a tranquil and luxurious respite from the rigours of city living. Instead of a romantic game drive, you might opt for a horse-trail or even have a romantic picnic. Perhaps take it in from an entirely different perspective with a hot-air balloon ride – you might see a Cape buffalo or even a leopard. During your stay, you'll even get your own personal chef. All round, it's a rejuvenating experience that you'll want to do again.

GO FOR IT

ZuluWaters is situated two hours' drive from Durban and four hours' drive from Joburg. A private grass airstrip is available to those wishing to be chartered directly to the reserve. A double room starts from R2 500 per person sharing at Lake Cottage and R3 500 at Shaka Lodge. Children are welcome (under 12 pay half price). To book, call 036 352 0100 or email info@zuluwaters.com. For more info visit zuluwatersgamereserve.com.

Peermont Mondazur Hotel and Spa, KZN

When you have kids, you cannot head for the coast without going near a beach. Luckily, the Peermont Mondazur Hotel and Spa in San Lameer offers a happy compromise for kids and parents alike. The Blue Flag beach borders the estate. Golf lovers will enjoy its 18-hole Championship golf course, rated among the top 10 toughest courses in the country. For something more relaxing you could do yoga or Zumba classes, or head to the spa. This section of the coast is a deep-sea fishing paradise with species such as tuna and many varieties of shark. For adrenalin junkies, Oribi Gorge is one of the world's highest abseil locations. The Lagoon Bar and Grill specialises in fresh seafood and you can enjoy dinner at the restaurant or promenade. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers a kiddies' menu. Light meals are also available on the pool deck.

GO FOR IT

Peermont Mondazur Hotel and Spa is located at San Lameer. Prices start from R1 300 per couple per night. This rate includes breakfast. To book, call 039 313 0011 or visit mondazur.com.

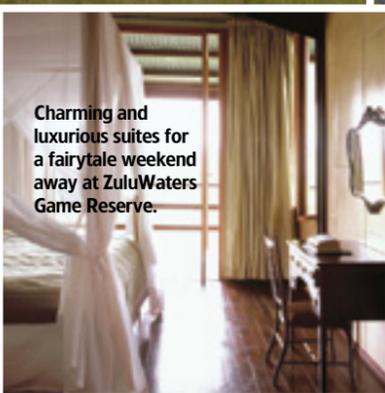
Lavender Farm Guest House, Franschhoek

Franschhoek is one of those places we often completely take for granted, until we've been there. The great thing is, it's just an hour from Cape Town. As soon as you drive down the main road, the quaint and quiet charm will draw you in. The newly renovated Lavender Farm Guest House is the perfect place to stay with its cosy yet luxurious rooms, each decorated slightly differently. No trip to Franschhoek is complete without a stop at a few vineyards. A particularly special one is the family-run boutique cellar, Morena MCC, where they serve their spectacular sparkling wine. Franschhoek is a treat for foodies, so make sure you take full advantage, but book early. Lunch at La Petite Ferme is legendary and you've also got award-winning Le Quartier Français – with seemingly endless amazing choices. A must to see is the Franschhoek Motor Museum on L'Ormarins farm, where you can look back at 100 years of motoring history. For the little ones, Butterfly World is sure to impress.

GO FOR IT

Prices start from R475 per person sharing at Lavender Farm Guest House in low season until the end of July and from R625 per person sharing from August. Children up to the age of 12 pay R300 when sharing a room and those older than 12 pay R450 when sharing a room. These rates are on a bed-and-breakfast basis. To book, call 021 876 2671 or visit ldf.co.za.

The Franschhoek Motor Museum features more than a century of motoring.



Charming and luxurious suites for a fairytale weekend away at ZuluWaters Game Reserve.



A fun way to enjoy the ocean at Rocktail Beach Camp.

holidays

Keep the kids entertained

Laugh a little

Who would have thought that a comedian would top the Forbes Celebrity 100 list of most powerful entertainers for two years running? Jeff Dunham has done just that, which is why he's coming back to SA. His much-loved characters, such as the bumbling skeleton and dead terrorist, Achmed; Walter, the grumpy retiree; and the furry and manic Peanut are back in full force and ready to go. Tickets start from R250 each in Cape Town, Durban, Sun City and Joburg from 5 to 16 June. Book at computicket.com.

Ice, ice baby

The kids will love this! For the first time in SA, Disney on Ice presents *Worlds of Fantasy*, when some of Disney's favourite stories come to life with dazzling skating and special effects. Dive into The Little Mermaid's enchanting undersea kingdom and enter the mystical world of Pixie Hollow with Tinker Bell and the Disney Fairies. Or join Buzz Lightyear, Woody and the rest of the *Toy Story* gang as they head 'to infinity and beyond'. It's happening in Joburg at the Coca-Cola Dome from 26 June to 1 July and at the CTICC in

Cape Town from 6 to 8 July. Tickets start from R180. Book at computicket.com.

To market, to market...

The Food Market in Durban North is a foodie haven, exclusively supporting KZN producers – it's also a great one to take the whole family to because the organisers of the market endeavour to find and celebrate the many undiscovered home-grown producers. It's a fun day out and you won't know where to start: locally produced cheese, pork, herbs, pâté, fudge, coffee, confectionary, pies, tarts, game meat, olives... and loads more. If you can't make the one on 30 June, not to worry, the market happens on the last Saturday of every month from 8am–1pm. Visit thefoodmarket.co.za.

Ready, steady, cook!

If you're in Franschhoek on 15 June and like hands-on food experiences, make sure you don't miss Cook Franschhoek. Food and wine enthusiasts can join some of the valley's highly acclaimed chefs and winemakers as they present hands-on demonstration

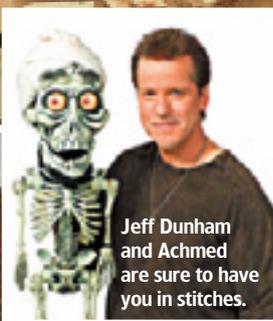
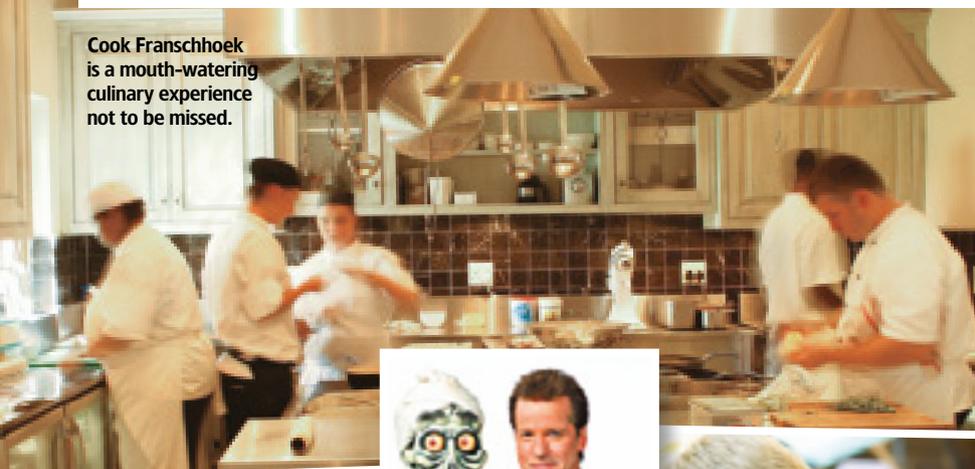
kitchens. Master the art of bread-making, sushi or truffles or simply appreciate the skill of pairing food and wine. Participating restaurants include Coteage Fromage, Le Quartier Français and Bread and Wine at Môreson. Classes are kept small – eight to 30 people – and prices vary according to the class. To book, visit webtickets.co.za.

Wildlife wonder

Would you like front-row seats to a once-in-a-lifetime wildlife extravaganza? This June, the annual sardine migration happens on the country's Wild Coast. What makes this show so spectacular is not only the gigantic waves of silver sardines but the number of predators that congregate en masse. The waters teem with sharks, dolphins, seals and on occasion, orcas, albatrosses and penguins. Watch this phenomenon on the beach while enjoying a delicious picnic prepared by chefs at Mantis' Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve (just outside of Port Alfred). Or, if you feel like staying indoors, you'll have the perfect view from the lodge's comfortable lounge. To book, call 083 616 0605 or email reservations@oceanreserve.com.

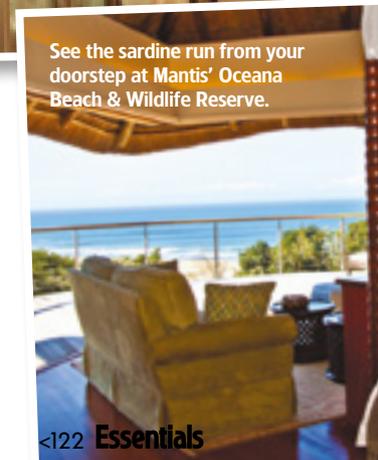
FEATURE: LISA VAN DER KNAAP. PHOTOS: LISA VAN DER KNAAP AND SUPPLIED

Cook Franschhoek is a mouth-watering culinary experience not to be missed.



Jeff Dunham and Achmed are sure to have you in stitches.

See the sardine run from your doorstep at Mantis' Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve.



Great for the whole family, the Durban Food Market has something for everyone.



Disney's *Worlds of Fantasy* is ideal for the kids.

The charming town of Franschhoek prepares for the big Cook Franschhoek.

