



## South African Tourism: What's New For 2022



**London, December 2021:** South Africa's tourism industry has been working hard to ensure the destination is ready to welcome travellers as soon as travel restrictions have been lifted. As tourism businesses prepare for a new dawn in 2022, they are ready to showcase a range of new accommodations and attractions that have recently opened. From new hotels such as Sanctuary Mandela in the late President's former home, to unique accommodations including Kruger Shalati: The Train on the Bridge, as well as the world's longest zipline and a new 'positive impact' safari from KwaZulu-Natal's Thanda Safari, there will be no shortage of new, exciting and meaningful ways to explore South Africa in 2022.

### ACCOMMODATION NEWS:

#### **Bridge House Rooms added to Kruger Shalati: The Train on the Bridge**

Kruger Shalati: The Train on the Bridge is one of the most iconic openings in South Africa that many British travellers won't yet have had a chance to visit. Located in Kruger National Park, the accommodation is permanently stationed on the historically-rich Selati Bridge above the Sabie River in a re-envisioned train. As well as the 24 carriage rooms, seven land based Bridge House rooms have now opened too. These overlook the bridge in a serene garden setting and are ideal for families. The glass-walled, large train rooms allow for infinite views along the length of the majestic Sabie River while the style of the train is a celebration of African design in collaboration with local art and crafting skills. High above the riverbanks, aligned with the floor level of the train, lies a deck with a pool, offering a swimming experience unlike any other – with crocodiles, hippos, buffalos and elephants greeting guests metres below. Overnight stays start from £377 per adult per night in a carriage room. <https://www.krugershalati.com/>



### **Sanctuary Mandela now officially open in Johannesburg**

Mandela's former home from 1992 to 1998 on 13th Avenue in Houghton, Johannesburg, has been transformed into an exquisite boutique hotel, named Sanctuary Mandela. Opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, the transformed and refurbished boutique hotel boasts nine bedrooms, including the presidential suite which was Mandela's old bedroom, two meeting rooms, a restaurant called the Insights @ Sanctuary Mandela, a bar, a swimming pool, and a garden. The bar and restaurant are open to the public. It's a space of reflection and tranquillity and offers guests the opportunity to intimately experience the hospitable nature of Mandela. Overnight stays start from £189 in a deluxe studio including breakfast. <https://www.sanctuarymandela.com/>

### **Farmhouse58 is now open near the Cradle of Humankind**

The new Farmhouse58, based outside of Johannesburg and right near the Cradle of Humankind, is a hotel concept that pivots around nature, harmony and balance with a key focus on the local community. Even when being built, locals were able to upskill and the interiors were all sourced locally featuring artwork from the area. It provides guests with the opportunity to reconnect and regenerate with silent zones, a meditative writing room and a library. Activities centre around nature and the community with guided hikes, regenerative farming sessions with the resident farmer and a scent workshop with a local perfumer – enabling guests to give back to the community whilst on holiday. <https://www.farmhouse58.co/>

### **Glass dome safari accommodation at Misty Mountain Reserve**

A one-of-a-kind accommodation has just opened in the Tsitsikamma Forest, stretching east along the coast from Plettenberg Bay. Part of the Misty Mountain Reserve, the new glass dome sits in amongst the trees set 230m above sea level. The clear dome is perfect for stargazing at night or looking out onto the Indian Ocean by day. Filled with a queen size bed with an electric blanket, a fully stocked bar fridge and a 40-year-old wine barrel tub with hot and cold water and an outdoor shower on the decking, this is the ultimate luxury experience. Guests have the option to have picnic baskets or braai baskets delivered straight to the dome. Prices available on request: <https://www.mistymountainreserve.co.za/copy-of-lake-side-tented-lodge>



### **New eco PODs at Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve**

As part of the Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve and located in a secluded part of the Camdeboo Plains are two new eco-friendly PODs. The two pods blend in seamlessly with the natural landscape, providing every comfort while leaving a light environmental footprint. The PODs are unfenced offering guests a unique opportunity to be fully immersed in nature and include a luxurious queen bed that looks out onto the Camdeboo Plains, an en-suite bathroom, kitchenette and wood burning hot tub – the perfect escape for couples, honeymooners and wildlife lovers. Prices available on request: <https://newmarkhotels.com/places/reserves/mount-camdeboo/#accomodation-tab>

### **New luxury five-bedroom house at Babylonstoren, Western Cape**

One of the oldest Cape Dutch farms, Babylonstoren, has opened the new Fynbos Family House, a luxury and beautifully designed five-bedroom house. Nestled at the foot of the Simonsberg and Franschhoek mountains, the Fynbos Family House is an elegant, exclusive-use home in Cape Dutch-style in the heart of the Cape Winelands. Each bedroom has a fireplace and spacious en-suite with marbled floors and luxurious freestanding baths. Leading off the lounge is a contemporary glass cube, seamlessly encompassing a fully equipped kitchen. The heart of the house is the private central courtyard, offering a gathering space for friends and family. Prices start from £2,834 for ten guests in low season. <https://babylonstoren.com/hotel/manor-house>

### **Radisson RED opens in Johannesburg**

A new 222 room hotel has opened in the heart of Johannesburg's commercial and residential Rosebank suburb. The Radisson RED hotel is filled with bold designs, with locally inspired African décor in each of the rooms. Ideal for business travellers, the hotel is just 10km from the central hustle and bustle of Johannesburg. The hotel is designed with comfort and convenience in mind, offering king-sized beds, rain showers, and free Wi-Fi in each room. Prices start from £64 per room per night. <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-red-johannesburg-rosebank>

### **New sustainable amenities range at Saxon Hotel, Villas & Spa in Johannesburg**

The Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa is taking its renowned luxury further with a new and sustainable amenities range, *SOUL* by Saxon. The range is proudly South African, developed by local experts, featuring its own unique signature fragrance in all the products, made of the finest local ingredients.



The initial launch of the collection will include body wash, body lotion, hand wash, hand lotion, shampoo, conditioner, room spray and soap bars.

The award-winning team behind the Saxon Hotel's two-storey urban wellness sanctuary, the Saxon Spa, has launched several new wellness initiatives focusing on rebalancing and relaxation, helping guests to reduce anxiety and stress following the challenges of the last 20 months. Experts in holistic wellbeing, the Saxon spa team was one of the first to offer pioneering sound therapy rituals in South Africa, a signature treatment that remains a firm favourite with hotel guests. The three new treatments are themed around detox using the ancient Bellabaci cupping technique, sleep and digital detox. <https://www.saxon.co.za/>

#### **A new 'positive impact' safari from KwaZulu-Natal's Thanda Safari**

KwaZulu-Natal's Thanda Safari is offering the chance for guests to 'travel with a purpose' when booking its five-night Collars for Conservation Safari. Guests are offered the chance to witness first-hand the positive impact of their visit by joining the Wildlife Conservation Team in identifying, darting to sedate and placing a collar on one of Africa's iconic species – a lion, leopard, elephant, cheetah or hyena. An essential yet thrilling task, their contribution enables more effective species monitoring and protection as well as gathering research data. Abercrombie & Kent ([www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk); 01242 386 460) is offering the Collars for Conservation safari from £6400pp on a fully inclusive basis including international flights and private helicopter transfers. <https://www.thandasafari.co.za/>

#### **38-room Upington Inn opens in the Northern Cape**

The new Upington Inn, previously known as Naba Lodge, has been extensively refurbished. There are now 38 rooms and suites, as well as the newly built sunset deck. The restaurant has indoor and outdoor seating accommodating up to 120 guests. Nestled on the banks of the Orange River, Upington is the largest centre in the region and the perfect base from which business and leisure travellers can explore the area. Popular attractions include the picturesque Augrabies Falls, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Namibia, Richtersveld National Park and the West Coast of South Africa. Overnight stays start from £62 based on two sharing including breakfast. <https://upingtoninn.co.za/>



## **NEW ACTIVITIES:**

### **World's longest zipline set to open in the Western Cape**

South Africa is set to steal the accolade of world's longest zipline from the Jebel Jais flight in the UAE with the opening of the K3 zipline. Set to open in early 2022, K3 is coming to Caledon, an hour's drive from Cape Town and will be more than 3km long and 500m high. South Africa already boasts exciting ziplines such as the ones in the Karkloof and the Magaliesburg but the K3 is expected to take things to a whole new level. <https://www.saforestadventures.co.za/index.php/worlds-longest-zipline-k3-to-open-in-south-africa/>

### **Wine walks in Stellenbosch**

Visit Stellenbosch has launched Stellenbosch Wine Walks every Saturday to encourage locals and visitors to appreciate the town's outdoor beauty as well as its food and wine appeal. The 8km route starts at 8:30am at Rustenberg gate, where parking will be available, and goes along Old Helshoogte Road to Thelema for a wine tasting before ending at Le Pommier for another tasting and lunch. Transport back to the starting point leaves Le Pommier at 3pm.

<https://www.visitstellenbosch.org/listing/stellenbosch-wine-walks/>

### **e-biking now available in iconic South African locations**

e-biking is now available in locations across South Africa, providing a new way to see some of the country's most iconic sights. From e-biking with wild game in Pretoria's Groenkloof Nature Reserve to Table Mountain's Panorama Route, the tours are ideal for first time e-bikers. All tours are guided at a leisurely pace, offering a soft adventure nature experience and each is accompanied by a professional guide and a support vehicle allowing for total peace of mind whilst exploring. A three-hour tour through the Groenkloof Nature Reserve costs from £69pp. <https://e-biking.co.za/>

### **The Kruger Station is now open**

Those visiting the Kruger National Park can now visit the Kruger Station, a new destination set within the disused old station. Known as the railway that saved the Kruger National Park, the Selati line is one of the most expensive railways ever built connecting Komatipoort with Tzaneen during the gold rush heydays. Visitors can enjoy 20-minute screenings on the national park in the Kruger 360 Cinema. Viewers sit on chairs that swivel and rotate in order to give them the full 360 experience.



In addition to the cinema, visitors to Kruger Station can enjoy refreshing drinks at the Round in 9 Bar, as well as artisanal foods at 3638 Restaurant, easy snacks at the Grab 'n Go, and kids entertainment in the Lil' Gricers playzone. <https://www.krugerstation.com/>

#### **NEW RESTAURANTS:**

##### **South Africa's first Michelin-starred chef opens new restaurant**

Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen, South Africa's first Michelin-starred chef, has opened Restaurant Klein JAN at Tswalu Kalahari in the Northern Cape. The region's underexplored ingredients were Jan's inspiration to open a new restaurant and bring fine dining home. Every aspect of Klein JAN has been carefully designed and curated, including the chairs made from repurposed French oak wine barrels. A glass wall opens up in fine weather, creating a fully immersive dining experience in the undulating plains of the Kalahari. Other features include the subterranean root cellar, located 13 feet below the ochre sands of the Kalahari. <https://janonline.com/restaurantkleinjan/>

##### **Highest urban bar in Africa opens**

[Alto234](http://www.alto234.co.za/), the highest urban bar in Africa, has opened on the rooftop of The Leonardo Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg. The hotel is already the tallest building in Africa and its new rooftop bar boasts 360-degree views with panoramas stretching as far west as the Magaliesberg, ideal for sunset drinks. Named 234 for how many metres high the building is, the bar serves light tapas and drinks and even has a mini-Moët vending machine! <http://www.alto234.co.za/>

**-ENDS-**

#### **Note to editors**

South African Tourism is the national tourism agency responsible for the marketing of South Africa as a preferred tourist and business events destination. Issued by Finn Partners, on behalf of South African Tourism.

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