



Activities & Excursions

Meet the Team

The Concierges at The Silo Hotel are passionate about Cape Town. Thanks to their incredible network of contacts, they know exactly what's going on in the food, wine, coffee and art scenes.

Led by Jessica Pöhl, who is a member of the prestigious Golden Key Society (Les Clefs d'Or), our Concierge Team specialises in creating and enabling exclusive experiences that can elevate your Cape Town vacation to a whole new level.

To enjoy any of the activities in this PDF, reach out to our Concierge Team - they'll be delighted to assist.



LEFT: CEMONE HARROD
MIDDLE: JESSICA PÖHL
RIGHT: CHELSEA JEHPTAH

Sightseeing

TABLE MOUNTAIN CABLEWAY

One of the most iconic peaks in the world, Table Mountain offers breathtaking views of the city bowl and ocean, including the working harbour and Robben Island. The best way to ascend and descend is by using the cableway, which also offers panoramic views. On days when the 'tablecloth' of white cloud is absent, Table Mountain is an extremely popular destination, so we would recommend asking our Concierge Team to pre-book your tickets for you.

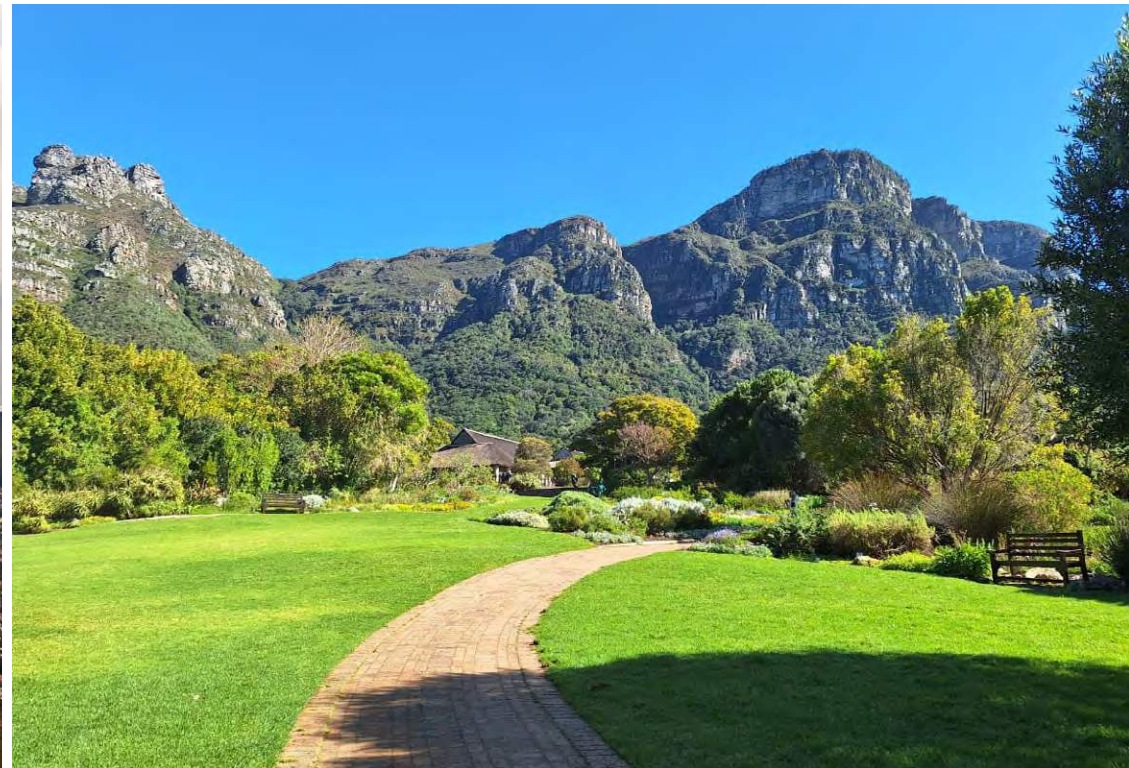
Driving to the cableway base station takes around 20 minutes, while the trip itself takes around four minutes each way. Parking can be a challenge during peak times.



KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDENS

If you enjoy gardening – or simply being surrounded by nature – then you'll love the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens at the foot of Table Mountain. Discover the many different indigenous species of plant that grow in South Africa, including the unique fynbos biome. Take a picnic, take your time, and take a stroll along the new treetop walkway for the ultimate green day out.

Kirstenbosch is around 20 minutes' drive from The Silo Hotel – ask our Concierge Team for directions.



Sightseeing

THE V&A WATERFRONT

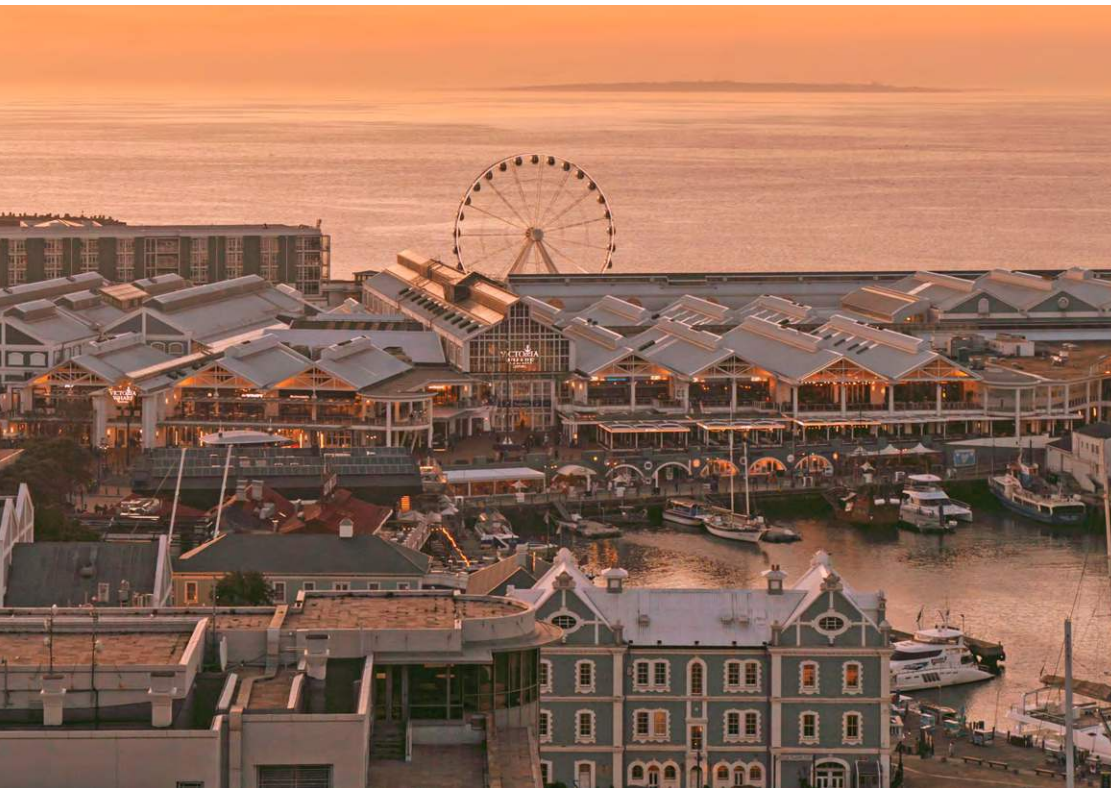
A bustling blend of working harbour, retail therapy and foodie heaven, the V&A Waterfront is just a stone's throw from The Silo Hotel. Be sure to explore each of the different attractions, including the Watershed for crafts and gifts, the Two Oceans Aquarium for immersive underwater adventures (including the infamous shark tank) and the Cape Wheel – another way to enjoy great Cape Town views.

Our Concierge Team can offer recommendations and suggestions on what to see and do, including the new Time Out Market for street-food style meals.

ROBBEN ISLAND

This small island, visible from Cape Town, played a hugely important role in the story of modern South Africa. The country's first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela, spent almost 20 years on Robben Island as a political prisoner (during the apartheid era).

Regular ferries connect the island to the mainland, and pre-booking your tickets is recommended. Our Concierge Team can also assist with private helicopter tour arrangements.



Sightseeing

CAPE POINT TOUR

There are multiple scenic routes to reach what is one of the most southerly points in Africa – whichever one you choose, allow at least half a day to fully appreciate the rugged scenery, ocean vistas, fascinating history and local wildlife – including the penguins at Boulders Beach.

You'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to lunch stops – ask our Concierge Team for recommendations and help with reservations. For more inspiration for day trips, take a look at our [Tours PDF](#).

PENGUINS AT BOULDERS BEACH IN SIMON'S TOWN

The pretty seaside town of Simon's Town has a great deal to offer – naval history, some great seafood restaurants at the water's edge, and of course some very famous residents – the African penguins at Boulders Beach.

A visit to Simon's Town can be combined with a longer excursion to Cape Point – our Concierge Team know all the best routes and places to eat.

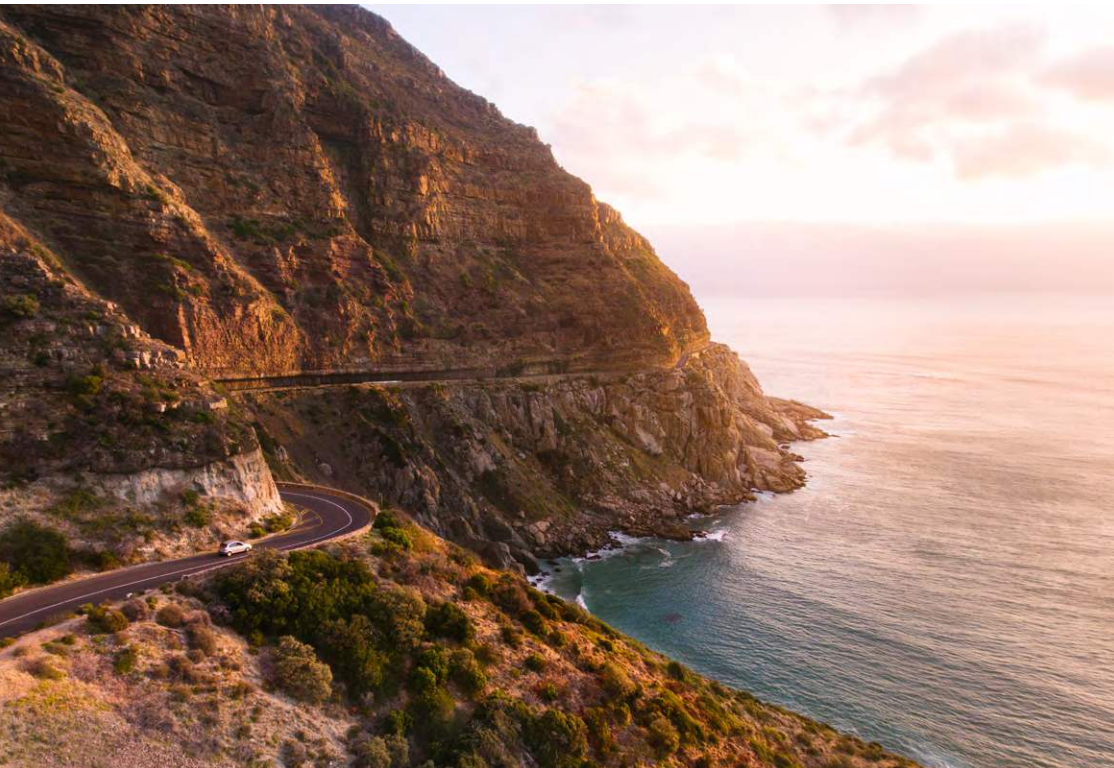


Sightseeing

CHAPMAN'S PEAK DRIVE

An incredibly scenic coastal road that has starred in many iconic car adverts, and which features numerous ocean viewpoints. The road itself seems to cling to the side of the cliffs, with mountains rising above it and the ocean waves crashing far below.

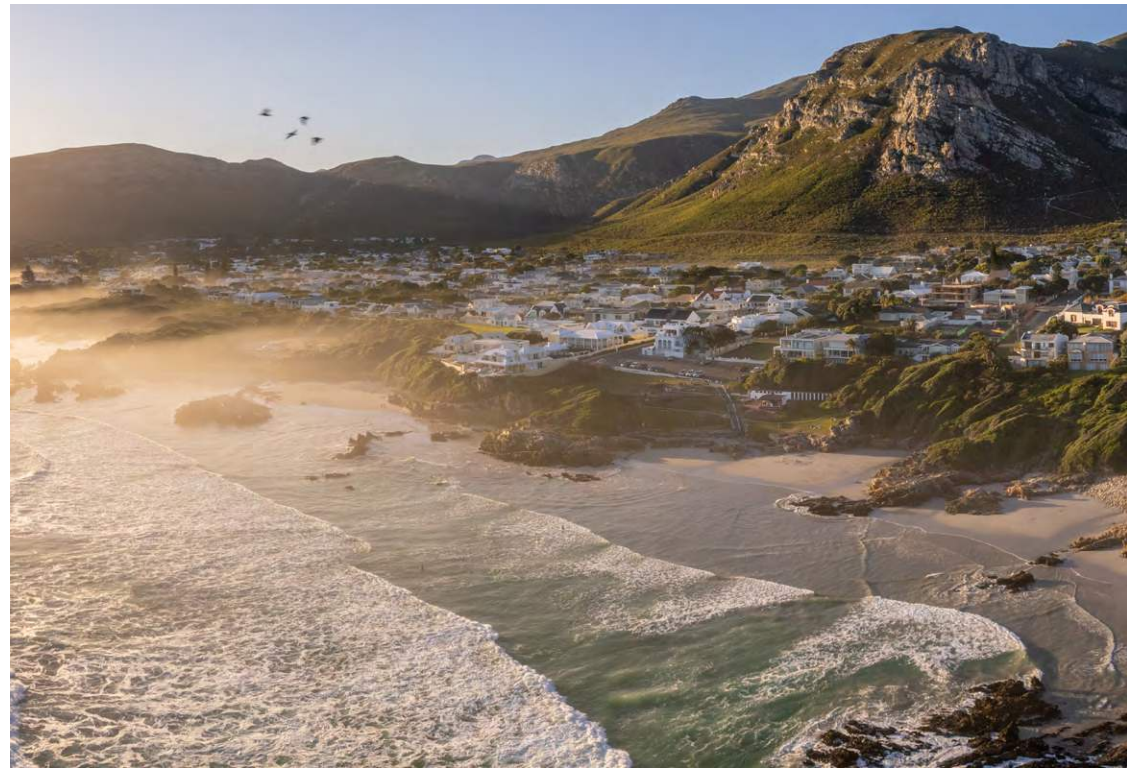
This drive can also be incorporated into a trip to Cape Point – our Concierge Team can show you how.



HERMANUS TOUR

For a refreshing change of pace from Cape Town's bustling atmosphere, the seaside village of Hermanus is easily reached in one of our chauffeur-driven luxury vehicles. Well-known as a centre for the arts and for its exceptional cuisine, Hermanus offers a calmer, back-to-nature feel.

The combination of sea views (and possible sightings of migrating whales), fragrant fynbos and a very walkable scale make Hermanus the ideal destination for a full- or half-day excursion from The Silo Hotel. Once there, you'll be spoilt for choice amongst the many galleries, cafés and restaurants. Speak to our Concierge Team for advice on enjoying the best of Hermanus.



Excursions

SUNSET CRUISES | PRIVATE CHARTERS

Watching the sun sink into the sea as the colours of the sky are reflected in the waves is a truly magical experience, and an opportunity to not only relax, but also to tap into Cape Town's maritime heritage.

The Concierge Team at The Silo Hotel can recommend private and scheduled charter operators if this is something you'd like to experience.

BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

One of the many reasons people love living in Cape Town is the fact that they have world-class beaches on their doorsteps. The water may be a little on the cold side, but beaches like Camps Bay, Clifton and Llandudno are perfect places to see and be seen, and to catch a few rays...

Chat to our Concierge Team if you'd like directions or assistance with transport options



Excursions

HIKING TRAILS

The National Park around Table Mountain contains a number of hiking trails, ranging from the leisurely to the strenuous. Whichever trail you choose – including the iconic Lion's Head – you'll enjoy great views and the chance to see the unique fynbos vegetation up close.

Our Concierge Team can recommend a route suited to your fitness levels, and connect you with a local guide – walking with someone who knows the area will add greatly to the experience.

RUNNING

If you're used to running at altitude, you'll love the spring in your step that you'll feel in Cape Town, thanks to being quite literally at sea level. The city also has a lot of steep ascents – you have to work for those views as a runner!

Our Concierge Team can share routes of different lengths and levels of difficulty that begin at The Silo Hotel, and knowledgeable local guides if you prefer to run on trails instead.

CYCLING

Both road cycling and mountain biking are immensely popular in Cape Town, and it's not hard to see why! There are a great many options for cyclists of every level of fitness and experience, and nothing quite beats the views of the city, ocean and mountains as you ride along.

Ask our Concierge Team about bike hire options and recommended local guides.



Excursions

GOLF

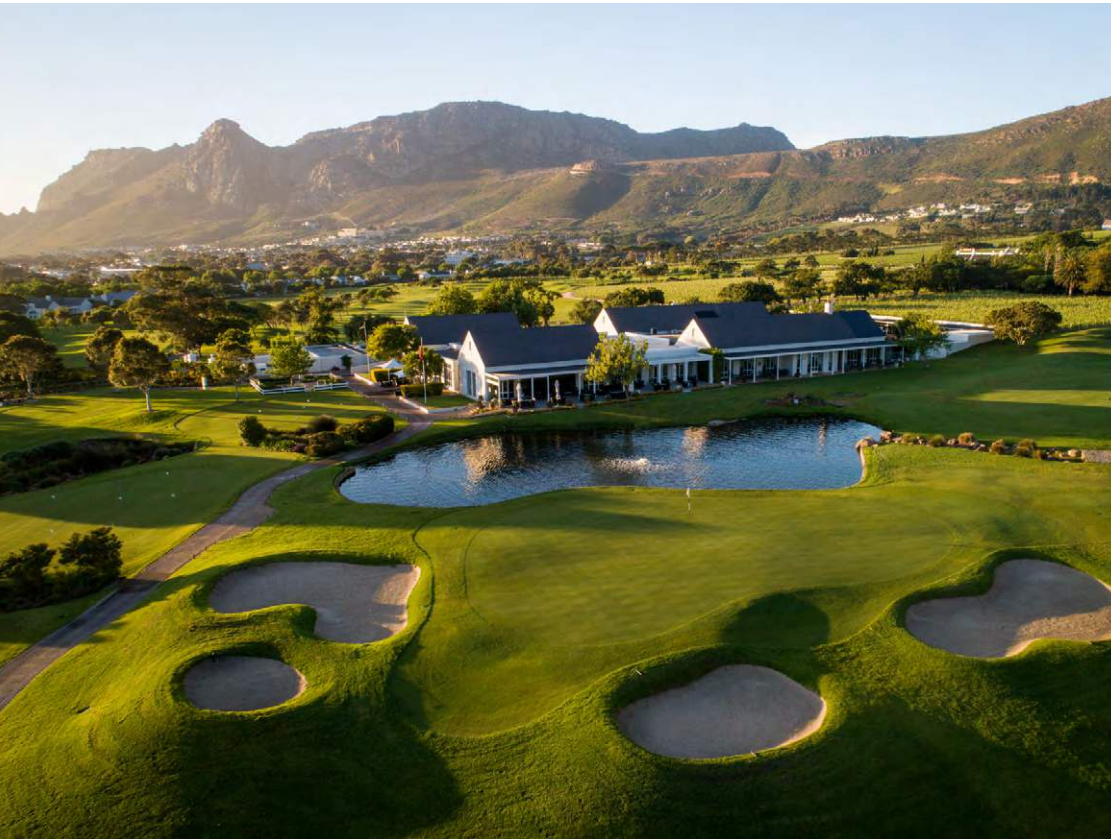
The wonderful climate in Cape Town and South Africa's rich golfing heritage mean that there are multiple world-class courses within easy range of the city. Legendary Western Cape golf courses include the Metropolitan Golf Club, Steenberg, Westlake and Pearl Valley.

A round or two on one of these courses will create golfing memories to last a lifetime. Our Concierge Team have the necessary contacts to arrange rounds and golf club hire, if needed.

HORSE RIDING

There are many well-established stables around Cape Town that offer you riding opportunities along beaches, through wine estates and vineyards, and amidst the gorgeous landscapes of the Western Cape. Many of these stables are able to cater to the needs of riders of all ability levels, including novices.

Discuss your needs with our Concierge Team for the ideal choice for you and your family.



Excursions

HELICOPTER TOURS

Chartering a helicopter gives you a great many options, and no matter which destination you choose, you'll enjoy wonderful views to every side – and soar above any traffic on the roads below.

Our Concierge Team can assist with bookings with reputable operators and can suggest routes for your flight. These might include heading to Cape Point and back, or to the beach at Camps Bay.

DAY-TRIP SAFARI OPTIONS

In less than two hours' drive from Cape Town, you can enjoy an authentic guided game drive experience including the opportunity to see all of Africa's most spectacular wild species.

Time in the wild provides a wonderful counterpoint to your city adventures in Cape Town. Talk to our Concierge Team about your options for taking a drive on the wild side.



Wine Experiences

HELICOPTER WINE TOURS

For the ultimate in uplifting experiences, our Concierge Team can arrange a combination of a scenic helicopter flight and visits to some of our favourite wine estates for an excursion that seamlessly blends vertical take-offs, bird's eye views, and vertical tastings.

Destinations recommended by our Concierge Team include La Residence, our boutique property in the Franschhoek Valley, and Birkenhead House on the Hermanus coastline – another of our properties, and within easy reach of the award-winning wineries of the Hemel en Arde Valley. Our Concierges can create bespoke itineraries involving helicopter flights, luxury road transfers, and visits to the estates you most want to experience.

FRANSCHHOEK DAY TOUR

Franschhoek has a well-deserved reputation as the gourmet capital of South Africa. It enjoys a scenic location, surrounded by lush vineyards and towering mountains. It's also just 50 minutes from Cape Town, making for an easy and enjoyable excursion involving shopping in the picturesque main street with its antique stores and boutiques, lunch in one of the many excellent restaurants for which the town is known, and perhaps a visit to our sister property, La Residence, for a stroll through the gardens and orchards.

Please talk to our Concierge Team for recommendations.



Wine Experiences

FOOD AND WINE SCENE

Cape Town and the Cape Winelands are the epicentre of South Africa's exciting food and drink revival, and the local restaurant scene is dynamic and innovative. Our Concierge Team keep tabs on all the new must-eat destinations, and know many of the leading chefs personally.

Please review our comprehensive [guide to local eateries](#) - from the casual to the classy - and then ask us for assistance with making a reservation for lunch or dinner.

CULINARY TOURS

Cape Town is a melting pot in every sense of the word, with many different cultures having contributed their stories and flavours to the culinary tapestry of the city. People from all around the world have made Cape Town their home down the generations, and local dishes contain influences from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

You can follow these flavour narratives across time and space on a culinary tour with an expert local guide, including behind-the-scenes tours of restaurants and visits to secret chefs' kitchens. If this whets your appetite, talk to our Concierge Team for details and help with bookings.



Cultural & Historical Experiences

EXPLORE THE CITY

Our Concierge Team excel at tailoring tours to your specific interests, whether you're interested in a particular period of history or architecture, or buildings and places associated with a certain religious or cultural tradition.

You may be into music, movies or art – either way, ask our Concierge Team to recommend the places you must visit during your time in the city, and the ideal people to show you around. Particular highlights include the District Six Museum, the Company Gardens, and the colourful houses of Bo Kaap.

PLACES TO VISIT:

- St George's Cathedral
- The Great Synagogue and South African Jewish Museum
- The Centre for the Book
- The National Library of South Africa
- Bertram House
- The Castle of Good Hope
- The Iziko Old Town House Museum
- The Company's Garden



Cultural & Historical Experiences

URBAN TOUR

Informal settlements – formerly known as townships – are part of the legacy of apartheid. Even today, they are home to many South Africans. They range from established areas that have been significantly improved by the people who live there, to much newer settlements that often lack basic amenities.

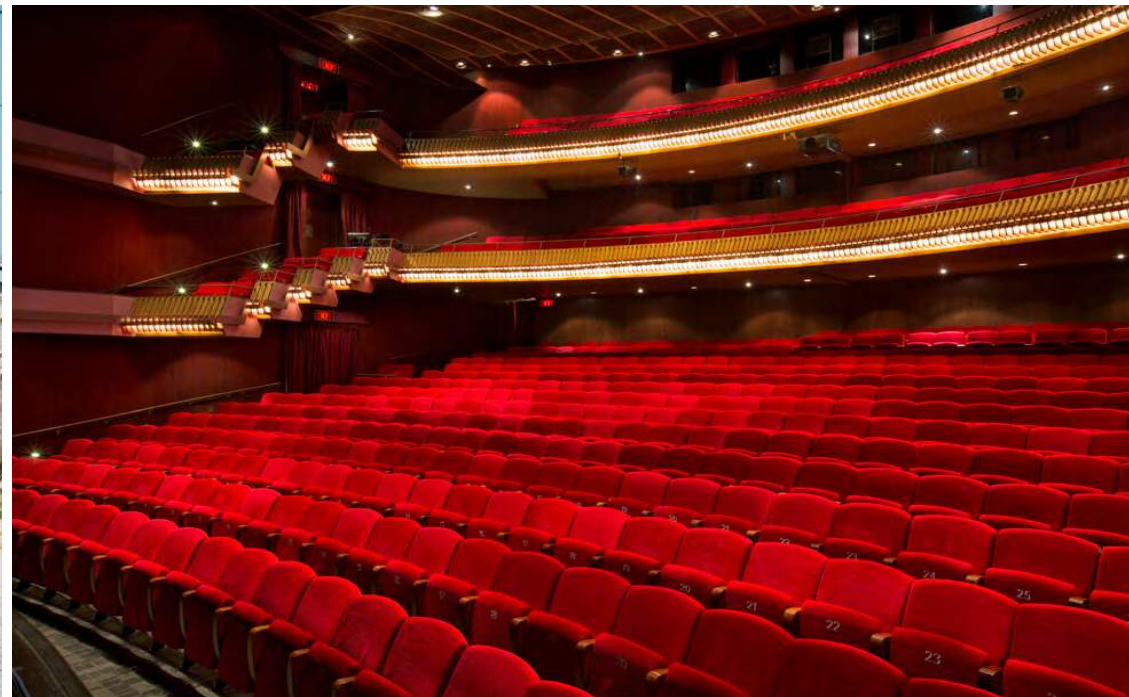
Despite the challenges of living in these areas, they have a vibrant energy and spirit reflective of the people of Cape Town, and are often centres of creativity and entrepreneurship. A guided tour of some of the settlements around Cape Town can be an eye-opening, thought-provoking but ultimately uplifting experience – ask our Concierge Team for details.



CINEMAS AND THEATRES

If you enjoy the visual arts, Cape Town has many wonderful venues to explore, from grand old theatres and movie houses to more contemporary spaces and even al fresco events where you can enjoy a picnic along with some big screen action or a dramatic performance.

Our Concierge Team are absolutely the best people to know when it comes to getting last-minute tickets or impossible to find opening night seats – just ask!



The Royal Portfolio Foundation Experiences

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCES

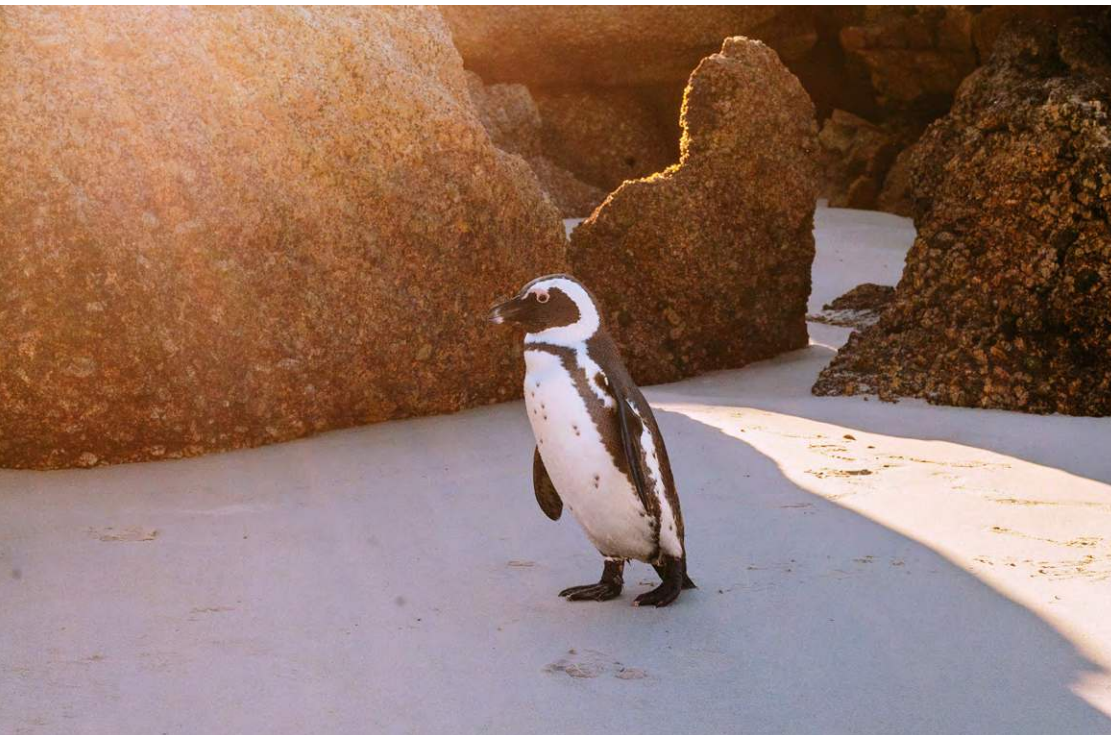
The Royal Portfolio Foundation – our charitable arm – supports and champions numerous conservation projects in and around Cape Town. During your stay at The Silo, you can arrange with our Concierge Team to visit some of these projects, and perhaps even make a difference by getting involved.

Travel with a purpose to witness the work of seabird conservation volunteers from SANCCOB, or learn about the fascinating work of the Cape Leopard Trust. Learn more [here](#).

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

At The Silo Hotel, members of the communities around us are our most important stakeholders, and they infuse everything we do with added purpose. Under the auspices of The Royal Portfolio Foundation, we focus in particular on projects that address the health and education needs of children and young adults, many of whom find themselves in challenging or vulnerable situations.

During your stay, you can speak to our Concierge Team about visiting the volunteers and youngsters at one of the community projects we support, and other ways that you can have a real and lasting impact. Learn more [here](#).





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

LIZ BIDEN | *Owner and Founder of The Royal Portfolio*

1. SHOPPING SECRETS

Each property in The Royal Portfolio has its own unique style, and when I need to source special items or find inspiration, there are certain special places I seek out in Cape Town.

Tribal Trends is my first stop for authentic African sculptures and wall hangings, while Delos Antiques helps me bring the past to life and give it new relevance. When I need handcrafted artisanal pieces, I pop into Jambo, while Cape Cobra has supplied many of the leather items in our hotels and lodges. Perhaps my favourite place to explore is Milnerton Market at weekends – you never know what you might find.

2. KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS

Nestled at the foot of Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens offer a wonderful opportunity to explore the sheer diversity of South Africa's indigenous plants and trees, with the mountains forming a wonderfully rugged backdrop. The many intertwining footpaths reveal surprises at every turn, no matter what season or time of day you visit.

The treetop walkway offers a new perspective on the forest, while birds and butterflies add extra splashes of colour.

You can visit Kirstenbosch to be inspired as a gardener, awed by the beauty of nature, or simply to seek a few hours of serenity in a busy world. Definitely one of my favourite places in Cape Town!

3. BEACH WALKS

All my life, I've loved walking along Cape Town's wonderful beaches – the ever-changing views out to sea or inland are captivating, and I've always found the waves to be extremely energising. There's something magical about seascapes, and I love that special feeling of being at the very edge of Africa, where land, sea and sky meet and merge.

The ocean is a constant source of inspiration to me; I love how it is unchanging, but somehow different. I adore its different moods, and the way they seem to reflect my own. Leaving my footprints in the sand – and watching them wash away again – connects me to my childhood and my dreams for the future.





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

LUIS PINHEIRO | *General Manager*

1. THE ORANJEZICHT MARKET

Cape Town is rightly renowned for its markets, and my favourite is definitely the weekend Oranjezicht City Farm Market. After enjoying a cup of coffee or tea on your balcony at The Silo Hotel, stroll down to the market and mingle with locals looking for artisanal bread, cheeses and more - it's the perfect place to find breakfast spoils.

Warm croissants in hand, continue your walk to the Sea Point tidal pools at Milton Beach or Saunders' Rocks Beach, from where you can hire bikes for a leisurely ride back to the hotel. When you arrive, you'll find a bike drop-off point across from our entrance - how perfect is that?

2. ENJOY A SHOW

The arts scene in Cape Town isn't just about the visual arts - performance arts are also well represented here. Taking in a show at one of the many theatres or concert halls is certain to be a highlight of your stay.

I would recommend the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra on a Thursday evening, or for something more lighthearted, a comedy evening at the Theatre on the Bay.

The Baxter Theatre on the UCT Campus in Rondebosch is always a treat if you enjoy more avant-garde theatre - be sure to include a meal at the nearby vegan Prashad Café as part of your evening.

3. SAUNDERS ROCK

Few experiences are as revitalising and energising as a dip in the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Cape Town has many perfect spots for entering the sea, but one of the best is Saunders' Rocks Beach - especially at sunset or sunrise.

It's an easy Uber trip (don't forget your beach towel) and you'll return with remarkable memories and a new glow that just won't fade.





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

JOHANDRI RAS | *Deputy General Manager*

1. KLOOF STREET HOUSE

Cape Town has many fine restaurants, but few are harder to get a table at than Kloof Street House. Unless of course you happen to know the Concierge Team at The Silo Hotel...

Located in an old Victorian house, this eatery has managed to get noticed despite being in a city where new places open all the time, and the already sky-high standards are constantly rising. Don't leave Cape Town without having dinner here – I promise you won't regret it.



2. PARAGLIDING IN CAPE TOWN

Paragliding combines the thrill of the air rushing by you with a sense of remarkable stillness – and then there are the views. No experience is needed for a tandem paragliding jump from Lion's Head or Signal Hill, and any initial trepidation will soon be converted into adrenaline!

The views and the feeling of complete freedom are unbeatable. With an instructor pulling the strings, you'll eventually float down for a completely safe, controlled landing.



3. CHAPMAN'S PEAK

Whoever first said that the journey is more important than the destination, must have been speaking after travelling along Chapman's Peak Drive. This remarkable road is perched high above the rocky ocean shore and below the towering crags of the Cape Peninsula.

Enjoy feeling like you're in your very own car advert – you can almost feel the wind in your hair, even if it's not a convertible!





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

JESSICA PÖHL | *Concierge Team*

1. GIN TASTING AT THE SILO

When you're staying at a hotel which has a gin guru working behind the bar, why wouldn't you want to join a gin tasting? Especially when it's taking place on the Sky Terrace right here at The Silo Hotel, and includes a side of spectacular views to go with our array of local and international gins.

Be sure to try the South African gins made with fynbos botanicals - a G&T doesn't get more authentic than that!

2. BLOUBERG COAST

Driving up the coast to Blouberg is one of my favourite short trips - for me, it is quite literally going home, and the lovely beach also offers picture-postcard views back to the city and Table Mountain. This could just be the view of the mountain that inspired your desire to visit Cape Town, and is definitely a bucket list vista.

For the ultimate souvenir of your visit to Cape Town, we can arrange a private photoshoot with a professional photographer, with Table Mountain as the backdrop to your perfect family memories.

3. DURBANVILLE WINE ROUTE

The hidden gem that is the Durbanville Wine Route offers the opportunity to explore the many wine estates in this leafy region immediately to the north of Cape Town. Many of the wineries here in the Tygerberg Hills offer tastings, and this is probably the closest wine region to the city, making it ideal for a half-day or full-day excursion.

Durbanville is known as 'sauvignon blanc country', and some of the country's finest examples of this wine come from here. One of the best ways to see Durbanville and the surrounding area is on a scenic helicopter flight from Meerendal Wine Estate - naturally, our Concierge Team can book this for you.





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

CEMONE HARROD | *Concierge Team*

1. SCOOTERS AND SEAFOOD

For another great Cape Town combination, try mixing bracing sea air with the freshest sushi. It's easy to do when you hire an e-scooter to zip along Sea Point Promenade (watching out for the joggers) to The Codfather restaurant in Camps Bay, which is deservedly known as the finest sushi spot in Cape Town.

2. PIZZA AND COCKTAILS

Few things go together as well as pizza and cocktails, and here in Cape Town, you can enjoy the best of both - all on the same street. For a slice of the gourmet pizza action, I Love The Dough in Bree Street takes some topping. Continue your evening with the Mother City's best botanical cocktails at Fable. At both of these establishments, you'll be truly spoilt for choice, and you can then indulge in some mellow jazz grooves at The Blue Room.

No wonder Bree Street is known as one of the hottest - and coolest - addresses in town!

3. MORNING HIKE

It may not be as high as Table Mountain, but Lion's Head is an equally iconic (and challenging) hiking destination - and it also offers glorious views. It's definitely worth an early start to watch the sunrise from the summit, and then you can descend to Jason's Bakery (very close to the V&A Waterfront and The Silo Hotel).

Be sure to get a croissant (or two) to enjoy with your coffee as you stroll back through the Waterfront at its quietest.





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

CHELSEA JEPHTAH | *Assistant Concierge*

1. SURFERS AT MUIZENBERG

You may never have had a surfing lesson, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy watching local boardriders catching waves off Muizenberg Beach. All you need is a great vantage point, and an expertly built cocktail.

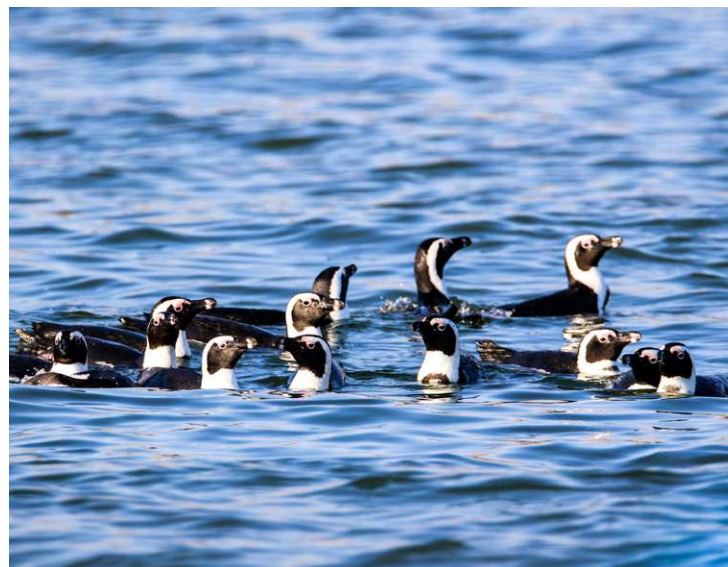
The popular Tiger's Milk bar offers both, with ocean views, an extensive drinks list, and the chance to pick up surfing tips from residents as they emerge from the sea in search of liquid refreshment.



2. KAYAKING IN SIMON'S TOWN

The penguins at Boulders Beach near Simon's Town may seem clumsy on land, but they instantly transform into agile, graceful swimmers when they enter the water. Experience their ocean realm – and give those arm muscles a good workout – on a sea kayak excursion.

Paddle alongside the penguins and marvel at their swimming abilities, then return to Simon's Town for lunch. Finding delicious seafood in the town's many great restaurants is much easier than diving for fish yourself!



3. SUNSET ROCK IN FRESNAYE

Known to locals as Sunset Rock, this location in Fresnaye isn't quite as secret as it used to be. Nevertheless, it's a stunning setting in which to spend that magical hour as day segues into night and the sky glows with colour.

The Royal Portfolio team has often enjoyed a sumptuous picnic setup there, so we can definitely recommend this seaside spot, whether you're looking for somewhere romantic or a place to make wonderful family memories.





My Top 3 Favourite Cape Town Experiences

MICHAEL JACOBS | *Art Concierge & Guest Liaison*

1. ZEITZ MOCAA TOUR

Immediately below The Silo Hotel, you'll find Zeitz MOCAA – the continent's most important collection of contemporary artworks by artists from Africa and the diaspora. The museum enables African stories to be told by African voices, and rewrites the narrative surrounding the experiences of African people.

A private guided tour of Zeitz MOCAA in the company of our expert Art Concierge will help you see Africa through new eyes and become an ambassador for the world's most exciting and intriguing continent.

2. CAPE TOWN OPERA

Cape Town Opera isn't just a world-class opera company; it provides training opportunities for young artists in addition to maintaining a demanding touring schedule. Many of their performances have a distinctly South African flavour, and are best enjoyed in their home city.

For the best seats in the (opera) house, our Concierge Team are absolutely the right people to talk to.

3. DYLAN LEWIS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Take a stroll through the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden near Stellenbosch and discover 'the wilderness within' as you explore this mythical world created by one of South Africa's most renowned sculptors.

Walk the boundary between the wild and the civilised as you discover over 60 imposing, thought-provoking works of art in a landscape that is part natural, part manmade.

Private tours of this remarkable destination can be arranged; please ask our Concierge Team or our Art Concierge.





Our curated list of activities, excursions and experiences caters to every occasion and preference. Should you be looking for something specific, please do not hesitate to ask us for a recommendation or reservation.

Warm wishes
THE SILO CONCIERGE TEAM

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