The Lap of Luxury

Travel tip
There are many great golf courses from which to choose.

Travel fact
If your clients have a taste for fine living, then South Africa will not disappoint.
Travel fact
There are large fashion-conscious malls that carry international designers – perfect spots for those who love to shop

Yacht charters
Be it for just a few hours, a sundowner cruise or an overnight trip, the Cape’s waters may also deliver memorable sightings of local marine wildlife such as penguins, dolphins, seals and whales.

There are several small harbours around Cape Town where boats are berthed, including Hout Bay, Simon’s Town and Mykonos at Langebaan.

But most popular with tourists is the V&A Waterfront in Table Bay, where several operators offer cruises ranging from sundowner trips to Camp’s Bay on a catamaran, to full-day trips on the water aboard luxury vessels with cuisine and drinks to match.

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The Links at Fancourt
The Links is one of three courses at Fancourt designed by South African golfing icon Gary Player, and regarded by Player as possibly his finest design. It has been listed as being among the top 100 golf courses to play outside of the United States.
There are two other 18-hole courses on site: Outeniqua (named after the surrounding mountains), and Montagu, located in parkland layouts carefully designed to shelter players from the prevailing sea winds. There are also two golf shops on site as well as an associated golf academy for those who wish to improve their game.

Fancourt has top quality hotel accommodation, a spa and restaurants, along with many other recreational sporting facilities such as tennis courts, volleyball, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and jacuzzis.

**Did you know?**

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**Franschhoek**
Did you know?
Franschoek lays claim to being the gourmet and wine capital of South Africa

The town derives its name from the French Huguenots who first settled here over 300 years ago to escape persecution by the Catholic church, bringing a distinctly Gallic flavour to the Cape Winelands.

Today, the town lays claim to be the gourmet and wine capital of South Africa, and owning a wine farm here is something of a status symbol for the very wealthy.

If your clients are keen to visit, advise them to book ahead for high-end restaurants like the Tasting Room at Le Quartier Francais, regularly listed among the top 50 restaurants in the world and whose chef, Margot Janse van Vuuren, enjoys international acclaim.

Your clients will also want to include a visit to a wine farm or two – and could even do this on horseback as a novel way of experiencing the area. The pretty main road of the town is lined with galleries, gift shops, restaurants and even a chocolate factory, and there are several golf estates in the vicinity.

Gateway Theatre of Shopping

Once billed as the largest mall in Africa, here your clients will find all the major South African retail outlets, including about 400 stores and more than 60 restaurants, along with an extraordinary array of entertainment facilities.
Among the entertainment facilities on offer are Electric Avenue, which features 10-pin bowling, arcade games, dodgem cars, go-kart racing and paintball, and the Gateway sports arena with its long-grass synthetic turf pitches suitable for indoor soccer and other sports.

There are also a host of cinemas, including an XD theatre featuring the latest 4D simulation, so viewers get to feel and see what they’re watching.

And then, in keeping with Durban’s surfing tradition, one of the Gateway’s top attractions is the Wave House, with two ‘Flowriders’ that simulate surfing, snowboarding and wakeboarding all in one.

You can tell your clients that there is also accommodation on site at the Gateway Hotel, which has 146 rooms, including 40 deluxe rooms.

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*Image courtesy of Gateway Theatre of Shopping*

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**Sandton City**

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**Travel fact**

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Sandton City is within easy reach of the Sandton Gautrain station that connects directly to OR Tambo International Airport

Located in Sandton, in what is sometimes called ‘Africa’s richest square mile’, this high-end shopping centre features the most sought-after local and international fashion brands.

The centre has close to 300 shops that offer cosmopolitan glamour with a distinctly African flavour, as well as many fine-dining restaurants located around Nelson Mandela Square, which features an iconic 6m-tall statue of the former president of South Africa.

The centre is within easy reach of the Sandton Gautrain station that connects directly to OR Tambo International Airport, and there is a nearby taxi rank as well as extensive parking facilities.

Sandton is renowned for its excellent hotels, entertainment and nightlife.

Feature image courtesy of Paul Jacobson

V&A Waterfront

There’s a wide choice of restaurants here, many of which offer the chance for some alfresco dining while watching the passing parade in the working harbour.

Other attractions include a craft market, the Two Oceans Aquarium, the Cape Town Diamond Museum and the chance to go on a helicopter flip or a sightseeing boat trip. The Old Clock Tower precinct is also the departure point for trips to Robben Island, a World Heritage Site destination that tops the must-do list of many visitors to the city.

The V&A Waterfront shopping hours are from 9am to 9pm, with restaurants staying open later. An outdoor stage also hosts free performances for visitors, and there are usually several sidewalk musicians and performers active at any given time.

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The Winelands

There are many great wine routes close to Cape Town where your clients will be able to sample the best wine South Africa has to offer, and where they can dine in an outdoor setting, often under oak trees typical of this region and surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery.

Among the most popular areas for wine tours are the Cape’s original wine-growing area of Constantia, the exceptionally scenic Franschhoek and the historic university town of Stellenbosch. All are within an hour’s drive of the Cape Town city centre, and there are many companies that offer wine tours.

Should your clients visit in spring, they might wish to combine a whale-watching trip to Hermanus with wine tasting in the Hemel en Aarde Valley, which has a reputation for producing exceptional wines.

Most top wine estates offer wine-tasting sessions, but it is advisable to enquire ahead as to opening hours and whether it is necessary to pre-book.

An added benefit for visitors is that many top wine estates also feature their own restaurants, some of which are regarded as the best in the country. Once again, advise your clients to book ahead if they wish to secure a table.

Should your clients wish to make a few days of it, many wine estates also have comfortable guest-house accommodation and offer outdoor activities such as horse riding, hiking and mountain biking.

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Travel tip

Among the most popular areas for wine tours are Constantia, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch.
Did you know?

Constantia is the Cape’s original wine-growing region

The Gary Player Country Club golf course

The golf course was designed by legendary South African golfer Gary Player, and stretches over a magnificent 7km, making it one of the longest in the world.

Each December, some of the world’s best golfers gather for the Nedbank Golf Challenge (previously known as the Million Dollar Challenge), a tournament known as ‘Africa’s Major’.

The club’s offerings include a fully equipped spa, jogging tracks, tennis courts, a gym, squash courts, and mountain-biking and watersport facilities. The bar and restaurant overlook the beautiful fairways and greens located in this lush, hilly bushveld location.

As this club is part of the Sun City complex, your clients could also enjoy game viewing and hot air ballooning at the nearby Pilanesberg Game Reserve, spend time at the Valley of the Waves water park, or spend an evening in the casino or at a show.

Did you know?

The golf course was designed by legendary South African golfer Gary Player

Travel tip

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