



HOLIDAY destination

The renovated Sabi River Sun Resort in Hazyview, Mpumalanga, offers plenty of family fun

On our four-hour drive from Johannesburg to the newly refurbished four-star Sabi River Sun Resort, it was bucketing down and I was sure our weekend would be confined indoors. Fortunately, as we were ushered through to the reception area, the sun came out, allowing us to take in views of the

surrounding bushveld while enjoying a beer. From there we made our way to Eden Spa for a blissful full-body massage before sundowners at the dam – a beautiful wash of reds and yellows forming a backdrop to the hippos departing for their evening graze.

Our own evening graze was a tasty affair. You can dine indoors or, weather permitting, on the terrace, with its sweeping vistas of the main pool and

18-hole golf course. The menu's packed with options, from traditional family favourites to pizzas straight from the wood-fired oven and a melt-in-the-mouth warthog potjie.



After a good night's rest and a hearty continental breakfast, it was time to try the many activities available. Elephant Whispers (www.elephantsanctuary.co.za/hazyviewabout.htm) offers an encounter like no other: you'll learn about pachyderms and have the opportunity to touch and feed these magnificent animals. Remember to wear flat walking shoes and a sunhat, and bring your camera – this is an experience you'll want to capture.

Elephant Herd Tours & Safaris (www.elephantherd.co.za) took us on an unforgettable excursion to the Kruger National Park (the gate's only 12km from the resort). We saw leopard just a few metres away, as well as cheetah, hyena, waterbuck and kudu on our three-hour drive. Dennis, our guide, was a wealth of knowledge, explaining how the drought has affected the park and surrounding areas, and what's being done to curb the rapidly declining rhino population.

The next morning was a treat for thrill-seekers like me. Skyways Trails (www.skywaytrails.com) offers two adventure activities. The aerial cable trail takes you down into the valley basin, stopping en route at a number of elevated platforms from which you can admire the vegetation, birdlife and views, while the Tree-Top Challenge is an elevated obstacle course – like a giant jungle gym in the sky.

Sabi River Sun Resort's revamped rooms are modern and chic (ours had two queen-sized beds and could comfortably fit a family of four, although the bathrooms are a tad small), with a choice of guestrooms or timeshare chalets. Visit: www.tsogosun.com/sabi-river-sun-resort – **Shaun Mallett**



THE PERFECT STOPOVER: SURVAL BOUTIQUE OLIVE ESTATE

Situated at the foot of the Swartberg Mountain range (a Unesco World Heritage Site), Surval Boutique Olive Estate is the perfect oasis in the midst of the Klein Karoo. It offers a total of 23 standard or luxury rooms, including family suites and a honeymoon suite with a Roman bath in front of the king-sized bed.

In nearby Oudtshoorn, you can visit ostrich farms, a wildlife ranch or the famous Cango Caves. The estate can also arrange a guided Swartberg Mountain tour, or a five-hour "circle route" from Oudtshoorn over the Swartberg Pass to Prince Albert, Meiringspoort and De Rust. *The Surval Boutique Olive Estate is located on the R328, Cango Caves Rd, Oudtshoorn. Visit: www.surval.co.za – Eugene Yiga*

