

HOLIDAYS

Hit the road!

Why not save money and do some student-style travelling this holiday? *FM Campus* and Backpack & Africa Travel Centre's Chris Duncan put together this list of recommended road trips

Cape Town to Port Elizabeth

With exciting activities such as shark diving in Gansbaai or the world's highest bungee jump (216 m) at Bloukrans, the Garden Route is a must-see. From Cape Town, head along the coast to Kleinmond or Hermanus to get in a bit of whale watching.

From Hermanus, take the R43 south to Cape Agulhas and the southernmost tip of Africa. From there you can go back north through Bredadorp and join up with the N2 at Swellendam or Heidelberg. Then head east to Mossel Bay, over Robinson Pass and on to ostrich territory: Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo.

Be sure to check out the world-famous Cango Caves before you drive back to the coast on the N12, passing through George and on to Knysna or Plettenberg Bay. Stop in at the Elephant Sanctuary, a "halfway house" for young elephants. If you feel like going a bit further before you call it a day, there's great camping in the Tsitsikamma National Park, near Storms River. Finally, if you're a surfing fan, don't miss the legendary surf breaks in Jeffrey's Bay before you head on to PE.

□ Possible overnight stops:

Hermanus: Fisherhaven Traveller's Lodge (www.ftlodge.com).

Dorm: R80/person; camping: R50/person

Knysna & Jeffrey's Bay: Island Vibe (www.islandvibe.co.za).

Dorm: R70/person

Plettenberg Bay: Nothando Backpackers Lodge

(www.nothando.com). Dorm: R80/person

Storms River: Dijembe Lodge (www.dijembelodge.co.za). Dorm:

R80/person; camping: R60/person

□ **Best for:** Surfers, nature lovers and adrenaline junkies.

Port Elizabeth to Durban

Just 75 km from Port Elizabeth, stop in at Addo Elephant Park, home to more than 450 elephants and the "Big Seven" (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, leopard, southern right whale and great white shark). From there, join up with the N2 and head to Grahamstown, where you can stay at the Old Gaol Backpackers in revamped jail cells. There are some interesting towns on the

minor routes between PE and East London, but the real beauty is the Wild Coast, between East London and Port Shepstone. But be warned: the road is less spectacular than the scenery.

Head off to Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall, a detached cliff-like structure with a giant opening carved through its centre by the ocean. Further along the N2, if you're lucky, you may catch the annual Sardine Run at the laidback town of Port St Johns.

Once in KwaZulu Natal, there are loads of camping options. But give yourself a day to explore Oribi Gorge, especially if you're an adventure lover. You can hurl yourself off Lehr's Waterfall (33 storeys), abseil, white water raft and foofy slide or swing across the gorge. If you follow the R102 coastal road, you can hop from town to town along the coast before you get to Durban.

□ Possible overnight stops:

Grahamstown: Old Gaol Backpackers (www.oldgaol.co.za).

Dorm: R70/person; camping: R50/person

Coffee Bay: Coffee Shack (www.coffeeshack.co.za). Dorm:

R70/person; camping: R40/person

Bulungula Eco Resort (www.bulungula.com) Dorm: R100/per-

son; camping: R50/person

Port St Johns: Amapondo Backpackers (www.amapondo.co.za).



Coffee Bay



Cape Agulhas

Storms River Mouth rest camp

Dorm: R75/person; camping: R45/person
Umtentweni: Spot Backpackers (www.spot-backpackers.com). Dorm: R75/person; camping: R50/person

Durban: Anstey's Beach (www.ansteys-beach.co.za). Dorm: R75/person; camping: R50/person

□ **Best for:** Nature lovers, surfers, adrenaline junkies.

Durban to Johannesburg

You could just take the N3 between Durban and Johannesburg — but if you're intent on sightseeing, you actually want to be on the alternative routes. If you travel north of the N3, you can get in an historical tour of the Anglo-Boer and Anglo-Zulu wars with the Battle Fields route, stopping off in Eshowe, Isandlwana (the site of British defeat by the Zulus), Rorke's Drift and Dundee, before heading back onto the N3 via the N11.

If natural wonders are more your thing, stay on the N3 to Howick, and visit the 95 m Howick Falls. From there, head west to fly-fishing paradise Himeville, the Drakensberg and the SA-Lesotho border: the Sani Pass. You generally need a 4X4 to get up the pass, but you can arrange transport with a local tour operator. Don't forget your passport — and don't forget to stop in at the highest pub in Africa.

The Drakensberg has great camping and self-catering lodges, plus great views and hiking trails. A beautiful detour before heading up to the goldfields of Gauteng is a stop at the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State.

□ Possible overnight stops:

Eshowe: Zululand Backpackers (www.eshowe.com). Dorm:

R85/person; camping: R55/person

Sani Pass: Sani Lodge (www.sanilodge.co.za): Dorm: R80/per-

son; camping: R50/person

Central Drakensberg: Inkosana Lodge & Trekking

(www.inkosana.co.za). Dorm: R90/person; camping: R60/person

Northern Drakensberg: Karma Backpackers (www.karma-lodge.co.za). Dorm: R100/person; camping: R50/person



Oribi Gorge

TOP TRAVEL TIPS

Essential travel tips, from Student Flights' Amanda Hardy:

□ **Budget properly:** Know what you're prepared to spend and stick to it. There's no use embarking on your trip, making one or two stops, and then having to head home because your cash has run out.

□ **Take a map or GPS:** Know where you're going and how to get there — including side trips you may take along the way.

□ **Stock up on essentials:** Make sure you've got enough food, cooking equipment and camping gear, if you're looking at camping or self-catering options.

□ **Get your car checked:** Make sure your car is roadworthy, that you have a tyre-changing kit and that your cellphone is fully charged. A membership with the AA or companies that offer a breakdown service could also come in handy.

□ **Enjoy yourself!** Relax, have fun and remember to be responsible (no drinking and driving!).

□ Possible overnight stops:

Nelspruit: Funky Monkey's (www.funkymonkeys.co.za). Dorm: R110/person; camping: R50/person

Kruger National Park (www.sanparks.org). Camping: from R120 for two. Additional adults pay R42/person (up to six adults per camp site)

Graskop: Valley View Backpackers (www.yebo-afrika.nl). Dorm:

R85/person; camping: R60/person

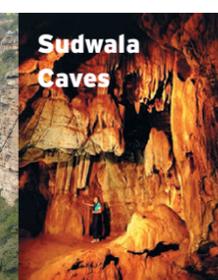
Sabie: Sabie Backpackers Lodge (www.sabiextreme.co.za). Dorm:

R90/person; camping: R60/person

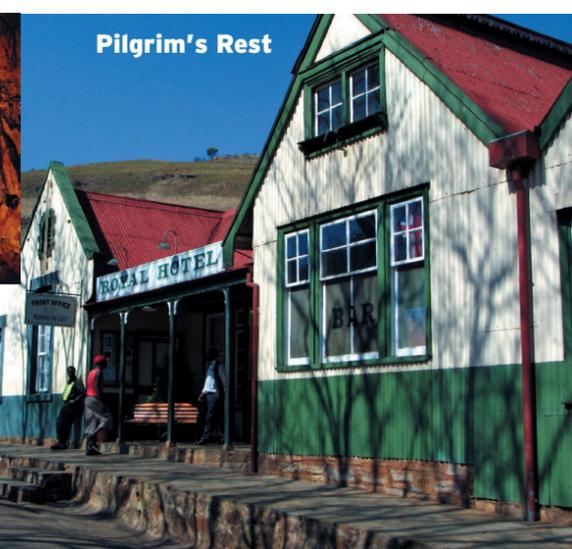
□ **Best for:** Nature lovers, adrenaline junkies, history buffs.

Prices are subject to change. For accommodation and information, visit: www.backpackingouthafrica.co.za

Eugene Yiga



Sudwala Caves



Pilgrim's Rest