

South Africa

Inspiring new ways

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Safari in South Africa remains a top tourist attraction

December 2017

Urban Jungle: 10 species of wildlife you'll meet in Cape Town!

You don't need a wardrobe to find Narnia—it's right here at the tip of Africa. Although our squirrels, dassies, baboons, and seals don't say much, they are just as magical. Here's a look at some of the urban wildlife you'll find in and around Cape Town, according to Cape Town Tourism!

Chacma **Baboons** are a source of much joy and mischief at Cape Point. They're also to blame for the most adorable and bizarre traffic jams when the families take over the road for a social gathering. They are prominent and popular with visitors but can be quite dangerous when they become accustomed to people and start to associate them with free food. You should be very careful around them and rather admire them from afar.

Where you'll find them: The most popular spot is Cape Point.

Fun fact: The baboons in the Cape are said to be the only baboons in the world that indulge in seafood.

More information: www.capetown.travel



Photo: @retkiliebe



Quaggas are basically a kind of zebra, and they look just like zebras, except only the front of their bodies has stripes. Established in 1987 the Quagga Project aims to bring the Quagga back from extinction, and aims to rectify the sins of the past when the Karoo-dwelling Quaggas were hunted to extinction by settlers. Where to find them: At the Groote Schuur Reserve in Cape Town. You can often spot them on the hill just above Hospital Bend while driving onto the M3.

Fun fact: Quaggas are known for their less-than-sunny dispositions, and were known to be skittish and bite. People believe this is why Quagga and zebras weren't ever successfully domesticated like horses were.

More information: www.capetown.travel

Cape fur seals like to frolic about in the waters of harbours around Cape Town. In the water, they behave almost like dogs—playful and friendly—but they're territorial on land. They eat mostly fish, squid, and crabs and are preyed upon by large predators like sharks and orcas.

Where you'll find them: The harbours of Kalk Bay and Hout Bay, the V&A Waterfront and in Houtbay.

Fun fact: When they sleep in the ocean they rest different parts of their brains at different times so they can stay afloat and keep a lookout for predators.

More information: www.capetown.travel



Photo:stephenphotog



Dassies, the rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) is the cute (or sometimes slightly unsettling) mammal that soaks up the sun on the rocks of Table Mountain. They're social animals, living in groups of up to 80. These furry brown creatures use sentinels as a lookout and have 21 different vocal signals to communicate danger. Unlike most mammals, they can't fully regulate their temperature, which explains their sun lounging.

Where you'll find them: All over Table Mountain and Cape Point.

Fun Fact: Dassies share a common ancestor with elephants and sea cows.

More information: www.capetown.travel

FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA – DECEMBER 2017



ABANTU BOOK FESTIVAL

When: 7 – 10 December 2017

Where: Soweto

More information: www.abantubookfestival.co.za

Africa is a mosaic of colours, crafts and cultures. This festival is held in the vibrant, historically significant Soweto, designed to acknowledge and hail the incredibly diverse literary heritage. Writers and poets from all corners of the African continent and transforms Soweto into a literary village.



TABLE MOUNTAIN CABLEWAY SUNSET SPECIAL

When: December 2017

Where: Cape Town

More information: www.tablemountain.net

The Table Mountain Cableway offers a Sunset Special during Cape Town's summer months. Guests experience an African sunset from the top of one of the world's 7 Wonders of Nature by taking a cable car to the mountain's summit.



FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS

When: 27 December 2017

Where: Sea Point

More information: www.sa-venues.com/events

The Festival of Chariots is an amazing East-meets-West cultural experience and everyone is welcome. The festival offers you the opportunity to explore and appreciate a culture and lifestyle that is friendly to oneself, others and the environment. It makes a fun day out for the whole family.



MORE EVENTS

- ☑ Cap Classic & Champagne Festival (2-3 Dec 2017) www.franschhoekmcc.co.za
- ☑ Community Chest Twilight Team Run (5 Dec 2017) www.comchest.org.za
- ☑ The Galileo Open Air Cinema (Dec 2017) www.thegalileo.co.za
- ☑ Pure Gin Festival Asara Wine Estate (16 Dec 2017) www.wine.co.za
- ☑ Cape Town Tango Marathon (8-10 Dec 2017) www.capetowntangomarathon.com
- ☑ Rage Festival (2-9 Dec 2017) www.ragefestival.co.za

South African Embassy Tourism Newsletter

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