



South Africa DURBAN & CAPE TOWN

Despite its 2,800 kilometres of coastline, South Africa has not been on the average superyacht's radar for long. Rough weather and the sheer distance from the Med and Caribbean have meant it was difficult for all but the largest of superyachts to visit. However, the announcement that the country will host this year's FIFA World Cup has prompted interest as potential ports of call gear themselves up for the arrival of the world's superyacht fleet. TCR asked some locals in South Africa's biggest ports, Durban and Cape Town, for the best advice for visiting crews.

How would you sum up South Africa in five words? Wild, diverse, breathtaking, multicultural and inexpensive. *Dave Elton (DE), Del Shipping & Trading*

Where is the best place in South Africa to enjoy a bit of local flavour/hospitality and why? With 11 official languages and a variety of cultures, there is "local flavour" to be found just about everywhere. The coastal provinces of Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Western Cape, with their major cities of Durban and Cape Town, are full of fascinating spots to experience the people, music, dance and cuisine of our colourful country. If you rent a car and drive inland, be sure to get a little off the beaten track. There are many small and lively towns scattered throughout this beautiful land. In the Cape try Moyo at Spier Wine Estate (spier.co.za), a restaurant with lots of African flavour and good local beats. *Rich Prangley (RP), African Avenue*

Where are the most popular places for people to go for nightlife, both for owners and crew? For centuries Cape Town has been known to mariners as "The Tavern of The Seas", a refreshment station on the long voyage to the Far East. Today it remains a welcome stop-off point and its laid-back cosmopolitan lifestyle attracts people from around the world. The city is a vibrant mix of breathtaking scenery, friendly locals and rich cultural history. It is also home to some of the country's

top clubs, bars, restaurants and eateries. Long Street, in the downtown area, is lined with small nightclubs and late-night restaurants that play a good mix of music. For something a little more sophisticated think about heading to Karma (karmalounge.co.za) in Camps Bay, or Mercury Live (mercury1.co.za) for a fun and funky venue that hosts a variety of music genres. *RP*

In Durban, in addition to the Florida Road, head out to Umhlanga Rocks, which is packed with beachfront hotels that see lots of action in holiday time. Three kilometres up the road is Gateway (gatewayworld.co.za), the biggest mall in the southern hemisphere and packed with places for some night-time action. *Ian Robinson (IR), Doc Robinson Brand Consultancy*

Where do you go to escape from it all in South Africa and the surrounding region?

There are two world heritage sites: the 3,000-metre Drakensberg Mountains with ancient bushman paintings, waterfalls and trails or the Hluhluwe/Umfolozo Game Parks with the big five. This is where the black rhino was saved from extinction. You can see it along with lion, cheetah, buffalo and elephant. *IR*

What is the one thing that people visiting South Africa simply have to do/visit? From Durban there are five-star game lodges and the Drakensberg Mountains. From Cape Town there is Table

Mountain, the wine region and waterfront. *DE*

Are there any areas that are best avoided at night or if you are on your own? Like in most of the world's major cities, do not stray off the popular tourist paths and do not flash your cash or swing your bling. *IR*

Is there any produce made locally you would recommend, and where can you buy it? South African wines are one of our most enjoyed exports. The history of wine in the Cape dates back to the 1600s when the French Huguenots landed here. The best wine estates are found just a short drive from Cape Town, where the country's top restaurants produce amazing cuisine to complement award winning wines. Try Rueben's Restaurant and Bar (reubens.co.za) in Franschoek. A visit to Stellenbosch and Franschoek gives one the opportunity to experience the scenic vineyards and taste some remarkable red and white wines. Most tastings are open to the public, although some of the smaller estates may need to be booked prior to arrival. *RP*

Have a bunny chow: a quarter loaf of bread filled with curry of your choice (beware the curries in Durban are hot). Or try biltong: a dried, spiced beef developed by the Voortrekker pioneers to preserve meat (great with a cold beer as a snack); available from butcheries and supermarkets. *IR*

Are there any good cafes you would recommend? If you are in Cape Town pop into Carlucci's (+27 21 465 0795), centrally located in Oranjazicht. Café Caprice (cafecaprice.co.za) and Sandbar (sandbar.co.za) on the Camps Bay beachfront are two of the city's hottest cafes and a great option for cocktails at sunset. *RP*

Besides the Florida Road, the beachfront is being revamped for the FIFA 2010 World Cup with restaurants, bars and cafes opening onto the beach and it is worth a visit. Also try Bel Punto in Umhloti, Cafe Fish in the yacht basin, the Oyster Bar in Umhlanga and the Wilson's Wharf area in the bay. The 50-kilometre stretch north of Durban (near the new international airport) is one holiday town after another with day- and night-time action in season. *IR*

Can you recommend any good places to stay

in South Africa? Both for lower budgets and for splashing the cash? Durban and Cape Town

hotels are good value for money and range from economy- and backpacker-grade to six-star, depending on the need. Visit villalpalma.co.za for furnished apartments in Durban. Good accommodation websites are roomsforafrica.com or wheretostay.co.za. *DE*

The Florida Road area is great for backpackers and has some top-class boutique hotels like Quarters (quarters.co.za) and The Benjamin (benjamin.co.za). For serious beachfront luxury try The Oyster Box (oysterboxhotel.com). *IR*

Where is the best anchorage or beach in the region?

The V&A Waterfront (waterfront.co.za) is the perfect place to base yourself, or your yacht, when staying in Cape Town. The harbour provides good shelter for superyachts of all sizes. With the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer just around the corner, the V&A will be berthing a number of the larger yachts and owners coming to share in this global sporting event. The Cape has some incredibly beautiful beaches that come alive during the summer months. Clifton, Camps Bay and Llandudno have to be our favourites but beware the water is a little chilly. In Mozambique on the east coast of southern Africa, the climate turns more tropical and coral reefs make for some world-class diving. There are palm-studded islands and endless white beaches; mix in a unique and fascinating culture, making this a great place to visit. Exclusive island retreats like Azura in the Bazaruto Archipelago provide an ideal romantic getaway. *RP*

If the sea is calm head up to Salt Rock/Thompson's Bay area for an anchorage, or drop anchor off the main beachfront. Most beaches are protected by shark nets, so do not get tangled. For beaches, start at North Beach area in Durban for great surf and swimming, then explore the north coast. Note that the Indian Ocean here is not like the Med; get some local knowledge from the guys at Professional Yachtmaster Training (pyt.co.za). *IR*

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