

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

[South Africa](#)

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SOUTH AFRICA

Destination:	Babylonstoren
Suits which type of traveller:	Perfect for couples and family travel, and for those interested in self-sustaining farm experiences.
Recommended activities:	<p>One of the unexpected delights of our visit was the Essential Oils Tour. The knowledgeable staff walked us through the entire extraction process, explaining each step with enthusiasm and clarity. What began at the still pot moved on to the steam generator, followed by the condenser, and finally ended at the separator, where the essential oils are collected. We also had a behind-the-scenes look at how their olive oil is produced, adding even more depth to the experience.</p> <p>The Mountain Drive offered a scenic and relaxing way to explore the vast 1,400-hectare (3,500-acre) Babylonstoren Estate. Along the route we were lucky enough to spot grey rhebok, springbok and even water buffalo — a surprising and fascinating highlight.</p> <p>Our guide shared snippets of the farm's history, including the story behind the name Babylonstoren, which added a meaningful touch to the experience. The drive also took us past the boathouse, where canoes and fishing gear are stored.</p>
Cuisine & offering:	<p>The food at the restaurants was absolutely outstanding – fresh, seasonal and bursting with flavour. Breakfast is served at Babel Restaurant, and featured a beautifully presented cold buffet, while hot dishes were cooked to order, offering the best of both worlds. They also have the Greenhouse, which is popular for its relaxed setting and delicious lunch offerings served in a charming glasshouse surrounded by greenery.</p> <p>One of the most heart-warming and unforgettable moments of our visit was being invited to pick naartjies straight from the trees. Sharing that simple, wholesome joy with our daughter made the experience feel even more special.</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>From the moment we arrived, we felt peaceful, welcome, and cared for. A definite highlight for us was exploring the spa facilities which were truly impressive. From the sauna, to the salt and steam room and the hot tub, everything was thoughtfully designed to promote relaxation and wellbeing.</p> <p>We were also amazed to learn that the estate features four swimming pools and a wine museum. Another lovely touch was that each suite comes with its own set of bicycles, giving guests the freedom to cycle around the estate at any time of day. We absolutely loved staying in one of the Fynbos Cottages. We had a two-bedroomed unit, which was incredibly spacious and comfortable.</p>
Caveats:	Babylonstoren is located in the Cape Winelands, about a 25 minutes' drive from Stellenbosch/Franschoek, and 45 minutes from the Cape Town airport. Therefore you will need a car if you want to explore the Winelands further.



Destination:	Madikwe Safari Lodge
Suits which type of traveller:	<p>There are three distinct camps, each tailored to suit different types of travellers:</p> <p>Lelapa Lodge is the Family Friendly option suited to guests with kids of all ages</p> <p>Kopano is perfect for small groups of friends travelling together and Multigenerational Families</p> <p>Dithabo is for Adults only – which would be suited to Couples/Friends travelling together</p> <p>These camps are suited to ALL Markets however particular good for the UK markets as its great value for money</p>
Recommended activities:	Their main activity is game drives, where we saw lots of animals. We also enjoyed bush walks, star gazing, wildlife talks, and fun things for kids to do.
Cuisine & Offering:	The food was wholesome, well-prepared, and offered a great variety. They have a dedicated kids' menu with plenty of options, making the dining experience enjoyable for all ages
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>The lodge is beautifully perched on an escarpment, offering sweeping views of the surrounding reserve.</p> <p>The attention to detail around meal times for the children was truly exceptional. The staff went above and beyond to cater to their individual preferences, ensuring that each child was happy and well taken care of. The Eco Club at Lelapa Lodge was another highlight — the activities were both engaging and interactive, keeping the kids entertained throughout. One standout moment was when the children got to bake their own biscuits, which they absolutely loved. Hot Chocolate was the drink of choice and was always readily available which made the kids very happy!</p> <p>The highlight of our visit was an unforgettable sighting of an adult male lion. We followed him as he gracefully crossed a river—an extraordinary moment of game viewing that I will never forget. Witnessing a lion swim across a river was truly spectacular.</p> <p>I would highly recommend Lelapa Lodge to families with young children. Their thoughtful approach to hosting kids, combined with the genuine care and effort from the team, makes it an ideal destination. Taking care of children is no easy task, but Lelapa Lodge delivers on this aspect with excellence.</p>
Caveats:	<p>Lelapa is the only lodge specifically designed for families.</p> <p>Dithaba caters exclusively to adults.</p> <p>Kopano welcomes guests aged 16 and older.</p> <p>Elela Villa is an exclusive-use villa that accommodates children of all ages.</p> <p>All camps are set atop a scenic hilltop, offering stunning views – but may not be suitable for guests with mobility challenges due to the terrain.</p>

