



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD

Cape Town and Surrounds – Western Cape, South Africa

Four staff members from our Johannesburg office recently visited Cape Town and its surrounds. Linda Maloka (Groups & Series), Mpho Lebakeng (EU/UK), Khanyisa Madhlazi (Latin/Retail) and Ianka Van Wyk (Ukama) were led by our Cape guru, Brendan McCarthy, Product Manager from our Wilderness Private Journeys division. The ladies explored Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and the Overberg region including Hermanus.

Properties that were visited during this inspection trip:

Ellerman House, Kensington Place, Belmond Mount Nelson, Cape Grace, One&Only Hotel, Victoria&Alfred Hotel, Dock House, Queen Victoria Hotel, Future Found Sanctuary, Tintswalo Atlantic, Lanzerac, Delaire Graff, Boschendal, Mont Rochelle, La Petite Ferme, Le Quartier Francais, Leeu Estates, La Providence, La Residence, Abalone Lodge, Auberge Burgundy, Birkenhead House, Grootbos, Mosaic, and Coot Club.

The top three properties that stood out, and made an impression on the team are:

Cape Grace – Fantastic service with friendly staff; attention to detail was impeccable and they made us feel at home completely. There is definitely a reason why they are our one of our key partners in Cape Town.

La Residence – WOW, this is over-the-top, spectacularly stunning and overwhelming at the same time. Staff was amazing and lunch delicious. This is a place to escape to ...

Grootbos – Here you can see the staff has a passion for what they do, from the sommelier describing the best wine pairing for our meals, to the guide who did our site inspection. This is a very special gem of a place.

The Oyster Box – Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

As soon as you step into the Oyster Box you can feel the opulence and grace of this historic hotel. Buzzing with charm and charisma, the hotel offers stunning views of Durban's northern beaches with the iconic lighthouse as a backdrop. With 86 rooms, it is quite a large hotel. The room types vary from the standard room which I found to be a bit small to the suites which is slightly more spacious moving to the villas which offer space but no sea view. They finish off with the very grand Presidential Suite that extends over two floors. We had dinner at The Grill Room, and it was one of the best meals that I have had! The food is simply outstanding! The hotel is very popular with locals, and the famous High Tea on offer is usually booked out far in advance with the locals. You are made to feel very welcome from the moment you enter this beautiful hotel. Great product!
Deshni Moodley – Product Manager

The Beverly Hills Hotel – Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The Beverly Hills is also a landmark in the Umhlanga area, but offers a very different atmosphere to that of The Oyster Box. Being part of the Southern Sun Collection, the Beverly Hills feels a little more business-like than leisure-focused. This 89-room accommodation ranges from standard rooms to the Presidential Suites. Each room offers sea views with a small private Balcony. The one thing that stood out for me is that all of the hallways/common areas on the room levels and the rooms are carpeted – which is not to everyone's taste. There were a lot of business lunch meetings that were happening while we visited. There are also boardrooms available. We had lunch at The Sugar Club and the food was very good!
Deshni Moodley – Product Manager



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Thanda Tented Camp – Thanda Private Game Reserve – Northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Tucked away on a hilltop in Thanda Private Game Reserve, far to the north, Thanda Tented Camp offers a very authentic, relaxed safari experience. Thanda Tented is a 4-star offering of the Thanda brand, but offers great value. Thanda, which means 'Love' in IsiZulu, is certainly apparent in the way in which the staff make you feel at camp. Great service! The rooms are spacious with a lovely deck area to relax. However, it is a little rustic and could do with a soft refurb. The food was good! The game viewing is rather relaxed but you do get to see a good variety. I would say it is definitely recommended for a second safari visit. The lodge is also supported nicely by the domestic market. The 5-star option is Thanda Safari Lodge in the same reserve – just about a 15-minute drive from Thanda Tented Camp. The rooms at Thanda Safari are spacious and offer a private plunge pool and sala area. The views at both properties are just amazing! Great service and good guiding at both properties.

Deshni Moodley – Product Manager

Time and Tide Chinzombo Camp, South Luangwa, Zambia

Aptly Named the *Valley of the Leopard*, South Luangwa National Park certainly delivered! Ten minutes into our first game drive we experienced a mamma leopard and her cub interacting with a hyena – an incredible sighting. Chinzombo Camp is Time + Tide's flagship offering, and certainly delivers in terms of food and service. Chinzombo Camp is situated outside the national park. South Luangwa National Park is a very busy park that services a number of different camps, which means that sightings can get overcrowded. A great variety of wildlife can be seen in the park! Walking safaris are what South Luangwa is famous for – we unfortunately did not get the chance to do one here, but with the landscape – it is an incredible experience!

Deshni Moodley – Product Manager

Time + Tide Chongwe Camp – Albida Suite, Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia

Set along the banks at the confluence of the Chongwe and Zambezi rivers, Chongwe Camp has an unsurpassed location. Guests fly into Royal Airstrip to access Chongwe Camp. The drive to camp is about 30 minutes. The Albida Suite offers privacy, comfort and incredible views! The water activities offers an entirely different experience to the traditional game drives at South Luangwa. The variety of activities also means that you can try something new every day. On offer is a private breakfast or lunch boating experience for guests staying three nights or more! Highlight for me was the fishing and canoeing. We didn't catch any fish but the experience of being on the mighty Zambezi River was unforgettable.

Deshni Moodley – Product Manager

Time + Tide Luwi Camp, South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

The newly refurbished Luwi Camp in South Luangwa National Park offers an intimate and authentic safari experience. With only four tents on offer, it is perfect for small groups and families travelling together. The tents are comfortable and immersive in the bush! We did a walking safari at Luwi, and it was an exhilarating and magical experience! Being within walking distance of elephants, hippos, crocodiles and everything else in between was both humbling and terrifying at the same time. We were treated to a traditional braai and the food was amazing! Great product!

Deshni Moodley – Product Manager