

# GET OUT OF TOWN

WHERE TO GO WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH  
BY JAZZ KUSCHKE

**HERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN** travelling and being on holiday. It comes down to the definition really – travel is getting from A to C via B with a possible detour through D... all the while taking in the vibes, sights, sounds, food and smells along the way. Think backpack, (dirty) tie-dye shirt and a thumbed (cheap) paperback. There's a lot to be said for it, but it's not relaxing or stress-free.

A holiday, on the other hand, should be much more of a feet-up story. We've put together a selection of South African spots where you can fade deep into a couch, watch the world go by and fall asleep with a magazine (or even a cheap paperback) on your lap.

## The Swart Tobie Hiking Trail

**Where** Koekenaap, West Coast  
**Stress-less factor** Slackpacking – you carry only a daypack and have all your camping kit (including cold beers if you wish) waiting for you at the next overnight stop.  
**Bookings** www.jacanacollection.co.za, 012 734 2978  
**Rates** R900 per person for five days and six nights, self-catering.

It's classic West Coast – coastal fynbos, rocky gullies, misty seas and (besides the odd diamond operation) trackless beaches. It's all concession land, so the (very few) miners are the only people you'll see as you walk about 20km a day over soft sand, sea cliffs and farm roads. And if you've raised an eyebrow at the price (working out to R150 per person per night, self-catering) it's not much more than most campsites, plus these are private, isolated and on the beachfront. A word of warning though: don't expect flush toilets and warm showers...

Besides the spectacular walking; the scenery and solitude; it's the history and tangible diamond fever in the area that make for a soul-reviving week out of the rat

race – which, unless you haven't heard, is over... the rats won.  
**Hot tip** You don't have to carry them, so pack camping chairs, comfortable mattresses or stretchers.



## Umngazi River Bungalows and Spa

**Where** Wild Coast  
**Stress-less factor** All meals catered for and a host of river-activities right at your chalet door.  
**Bookings** www.umngazi.co.za, 047 564 1115/6  
**Rates** From R655 to R1 150 for dinner, bed and breakfast, per person per night sharing. Enquire about out-of-season specials.

Picture it: rolling green hills, distant huts with smoking chimneys, cattle on the beach and fish-rich estuaries. The Wild Coast has long been the escape of discerning South African holidaymakers. While owning your own piece of that paradise is neigh impossible, you can experience it at Umngazi.

If its long reputation isn't enough to go by then check out the pics on the website – the location is spec-bloody-tacular with the lodge hugging the hillside overlooking the Umngazi River mouth.

It's a winner for families (you'll probably only see your kids at bedtime) and honeymooners alike – peace, privacy and spa packages.  
**Hot tip** Pack surface (popper-style) and soft, plastic drop shot lures for serious game-fishing action in the estuary.

# SPEED UP TO SLOW DOWN

## THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL DOS AND DON'TS

### 1 DO RESEARCH BEFORE YOU GO

Investigate the place you plan to visit. Guidebooks, websites, postcards – you don't need to qualify as a tour guide on the place, just know the prevailing weather patterns, basic history, places of interest and local vibes and culture. Research extends to where you're staying too. And budget – what is it going to cost you per day?

### 2 DO ELIMINATE PACKING HEADACHES

Once you've done your planning, you'll know what to pack and what to stuff it all into – take a duffel bag rather than