

# Gems of Discoveries

## GEMS OF DISCOVERIES – KIDDING AROUND

### GARDEN ROUTE AND WESTERN CAPE

#### GONDWANA GAME RESERVE



The Gondwana Big Five Game Reserve in Mossel Bay allows children aged six and older to be game rangers with its Junior Rangers programme. Children will receive a fun ranger's backpack and safari booklet to fill in throughout their stay. During game drives and other safari activities with a ranger, children will be taught how to identify mammals, birds, Fynbos species, and even stars. They will gain an understanding of conservation and eco systems and will be quizzed on what they've learnt. They then receive a level 1 Junior Ranger patch and certificate, as well as a picture with their ranger for their safari book.

#### PREMIER HOTEL KNYSNA MOORINGS



Premier Hotels and Resorts Group has launched a children's outdoor play area at Premier Hotel Knysna Moorings. The large play area caters for children up to seven years old and offers swing sets, a giant chess set and a ship-themed jungle gym. Picnic tables have been set up next to the play area so parents can let their kids play while enjoying some drinks and lunch. Premier Hotel Knysna also offers family waterfront villas on the private channel of the lagoon. The family suites can accommodate up to five people, with two bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms upstairs and a sleeper couch downstairs.

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### FANCOURT



Fancourt is situated on the Garden Route near George and is the perfect place for families to spend their holiday. They cater to children of all ages but specific venues include the 'Kidz Club' and the 'Teen Lounge'. Fancourt provides teens with their fair share of age-appropriate activities in the trendy, laidback Teen Lounge. Designed to provide choice entertainment and leisure, the Teen Lounge is equipped with gaming facilities, table tennis, table football, and a pool table. The Fancourt Kidz Club at the Leisure Centre offers fully supervised activities for children aged 3-10. Putting parents' minds at ease, this facility is managed by a trained and experienced team that is dedicated to taking care of little ones and engaging them in fun activities including arts and crafts, nature walks and board games.

### SHAMWARI



When you book your stay with your little ones, the Kids on Safari programme will keep them entertained and also teach them the importance of nature conservation. Parents travelling with young kids will be delighted to know that the Riverdene Lodge facility is the ideal place for families to spend time together. They even have a designated children's coordinator at the lodge who plans various social, sporting, arts and cultural activities for them. And, upon arrival, each young explorer receives their own age-appropriate gift pack.

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## GAUTENG AND NORTH WEST

### MAROPENG'S VISITOR CENTRE



Maropeng's Visitor Centre, near the Sterkfontein Caves in Gauteng, aims to entertain and educate children on evolution, diversity, sustainability and the unique characteristics of being human. The tour of the centre begins with a boat ride, where children are taken back in time through the four elements – earth, air, fire and water. They then walk across a bridge that goes through the centre of a turning tunnel. The colours and motion of the tunnel create a vortex effect that imitates a return back in time to when the world was being created. Once children go through the 'vortex', they arrive at a hologram globe. The globe displays the earth as it was at the beginning of time; the continents are all attached and then slowly split apart, showing the continental drift. At the interactive zone they can use their senses to understand the science relating to the study of evolution, the formation of fossils, DNA and life on Earth. The tour ends at the original fossil display, which includes some of the rarest fossils found in the Cradle of Humankind region.

### SUN CITY



With so many kids' activities available, Sun City Resort is the perfect family destination where kids can explore, have fun and make magical childhood memories. From outdoor adventures to indoor arcade gaming and educational kids' entertainment, the fun starts at Sun City. Start at Waterworld Lake, where you will find Animal World, delighting kids with free educational up-close encounters with birds and animals. While you're there, head over to Finders Keepers where you can dig for treasure. Right next door is Kamp Kwena that provides year-round kids' activities programmes designed to keep little ones entertained. Then buy your ticket to a railroad adventure on the Stimela Train. Discover the amazing world of crocodiles at Kwena Gardens. Get lost together in The Maze, the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Challenge the family on a Mini Golf tournament or have some muddy fun at the Mini Quad Biking track. Don't forget the Valley of Waves water park, which is Sun City's legendary hub for all kinds of water fun.

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## GAME LODGES

### &BEYOND GAME LODGES



With its warm heart, welcoming people and sunny skies, Africa is a dream destination for a family holiday with children of all ages. A place where time slows down, it offers the luxury of a leisurely pace, ideal to reconnect and renew relationships among families, as well as grow friendships between the children and land, animals and people of Africa. &Beyond's WILDchild programme, designed especially for children visiting the safari lodges and camps in Africa, is filled with fun, interactive activities that offer opportunities to learn and discover new experiences and cultures. Deeply rooted in the love for the African bush, it not only creates a series of unforgettable moments for the whole family but forges strong bonds between our young guests, our planet and its people.

## SABI SABI



Families with children have always been welcomed at Sabi Sabi's Bush Lodge. The EleFun Centre is a fully fledged children's facility within the lodge environs which fosters children's awareness and appreciation of nature. The centre was designed by childcare professionals who set about creating a space that is fun, safe and educational. The EleFun Centre offers hands-on, interactive activities designed for 2 distinctly different age groups. The Junior Tracker programme is for 4 to 8 year olds, and the Junior Ranger programme is for children between the ages of 9 and 12. The EleFun Centre is filled with learning opportunities which all of Sabi Sabi's young visitors will have the chance to experience. Age-appropriate bushveld themed activities and 'edutainment' are designed and supervised by qualified staff, and will include interesting bush craft subjects – animals, bugs and birds, tracking, map-reading – a long list of environmentally sensitive subjects that every child will find fascinating. There will also be time for creative hobbies, arts and crafts, and the afternoon sessions will be for fun-filled bushveld games. Selected rangers will lead bush walks and talks, as well as specially planned children's game drives.