



Your choices are limitless -
don't let your imagination hold you back!

Exciting News

All members' subscription fees must be paid in full by 31st January 2009. All payments received on OR before 31st January 2009 will qualify for a 10 % discount.

All Exclusive Use members must remember to send in their instructions for utilization for 2009 nine (9) months in advance in order to avoid forfeiting their module/points for 2009.

It is once again time to share all the latest news and happenings with our Funseekers members and we hope you will also enjoy reading about all the up-coming events for 2009 together with all the great specials that Funseekers has to offer. As this year is rapidly coming to an end, the next newsletter will be sent out to all our members in the coming year.

Valentine Specials for 2009

The resort offers a games room with pool tables, darts and much more. Other facilities include 3 cold swimming pools, 1 outdoor heated pool, trampolines, mini golf and much, much more.



Mpumalanga Crystal Springs 192 Points
13-16 February 2009, 1 bedroom, sleep 4

At the top of the historic Robber's Pass is Pilgrim's Rest and on the nearby 5000 hectares of pristine countryside lies the picturesque Crystal Springs Mountain Lodge. This popular RCI resort is conveniently situated to some of the region's most popular attractions such as the historic Pilgrim's Rest and the nearby towns of Sabie and Graskop.

The resort's thatched lodges all have a fully equipped kitchen leading onto a spacious open plan lounge/dining area with fireplace and TV. All main bedrooms have a queen size bed and own TV. The second and third bedrooms each have twin single beds and share a bathroom with bath and separate shower. A sliding door leads from the lounge to an open wooden deck equipped with patio furniture and an electric braai.

Drakensberg: Champagne Valley 301 Points
13-16 February 2009, 3 bedrooms, sleep 6

Champagne Peak is one of the highest peaks in the Central Drakensberg region and is home to Champagne Valley resort. Remaining almost entirely unaffected by development, this enchanting valley offers a perfect retreat from city stresses. The valley, which is easily accessible from the N3 - the major route between Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, is home to more than 150 species of birds, making it extremely popular with birders. Champagne Valley is also renowned for the number of activities available to visitors, which include hiking, horse riding, river rafting, quad biking, mountain biking, abseiling, gliding and fishing. A number of exciting golf courses also draw the avid golfer to the region.



Limpopo: Mabula Private Game Lodge
200 Points

13-16 February 2009, 2 bedrooms, sleep 6

This 12 000ha of malaria free reserve is home to an abundance of wildlife and birds, including the world famous BIG 5. Mabula Game Lodge offers a traditional outdoor experience for visitors wanting to brave the African wild and guests have the chance to get up close and personal with nature and encounter a new dimension in bush life. Mabula is renowned for its beauty and natural splendor and prides itself on offering discerning travelers a highly personalized outdoor experience.

Exclusive accommodation in air-conditioned luxury thatched chalets with en-suite bathrooms have been designed to offer guests complete comfort and relaxation in this beautiful natural setting. Mabula offers an endless range of exciting activities and facilities but is also home to some 60 mammal species, 300 bird species, 100 plant types and numerous reptile and insect species. This is the Heartland of the Safari experience where all of nature's wonders are revered - from the Big 5 to the "Small 5".



Up-coming Events for 2009

In every issue of our newsletter, we are going to tell you about some of the most popular events taking place in 2009, which will include a bit of history and news you might not have known. During this issue we are going to look at the Comrades marathon, the Argus Cycle Tour and Whale Watching in Hermanus. We hope you find it just as interesting as we did!

The Comrades Marathon: 24 May 2009

Arguably the greatest ultra marathon in the world this event attracts athletes from far and wide. Stretching over @ 90km between the cities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban, it provides the participants with the ultimate test of physical and mental strength and owes its beginnings to the vision of one man, World War 1 veteran Vic Capham.



With the hope that his 56 mile race between Pietermaritzburg and Durban would become a living memorial to the spirit of the soldiers of the Great War, Clapham's first Comrades Marathon took place on 24th May 1921 (Empire Day) with 34 participants setting off from the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. Over the years, the Comrades Marathon has grown in popularity and stature and has become a cherished national treasure attracting thousands of runners, spectators and television viewers each year.

The Comrades Marathon Wall of Honour is situated along the Comrades Marathon route at a look-out point overlooking the Valley of a Thousand Hills. It was created several years ago to serve as a permanent landmark to commemorate the achievements of Comrades Marathon runners who completed the epic journey. The wall is constructed of attractive interlocking blocks of the types commonly used for retaining walls. Runners who successfully complete the marathon are able to purchase their own block for perpetuity, which records their name, race number and status. In 2009 Comrades Marathon will take place on Sunday, 24th May. Closing date for entries has been set as Tuesday, 31st March 2009. We encourage you to participate in this world-renowned event



Whale Watching: June to November 2009

Every year, these gentle giants congregate off our shores to mate and calve. South Africa is one of the most incredible destinations in the world for watching marine mammals. In early June, southern right whales leave their Antarctic feeding ground to frolic in the warmer waters of the Western Cape coast. Here they mate, calve and generally hang out, occasionally flopping a tail up, or sticking their heads out of the water, much to the delight of on-lookers. They are a true marvel to behold. Whale watching season in South Africa is normally from June to November, although it is not uncommon for whales to be spotted outside this period along some of the most beautiful stretches of our coastline. Some of the best viewing spots include Lamberts Bay on the Cape West Coast, the Cape Peninsula, False Bay, Hermanus, Arniston, Mossel Bay, Wilderness, Sedgefield, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. Some 37 species of whales and dolphins are found in South African waters but most commonly spotted are the humpback whales.

Hermanus is one of the best places for whale watching in South Africa and is home of the Southern Right Whale which derived its name from being considered to be the 'right' whale to catch. It is no surprise then to discover the whale crier whose job it is to alert everyone to the whales' whereabouts. And should you need details to help you recognize him, other than the huge black and white 'whale crier' sign around his neck and his constant bugling, he's the guy with an odd looking feather in his cap!

Wherever you choose to watch these magnificent creatures, it is an absolute must to anyone visiting the area. South African whale watching is truly an unforgettable experience!

The Argus Cycle Tour: 9 March 2009



The Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour is the largest timed sporting event in the world. Attracting in excess of 35 000 cyclists from around the globe each year, this prestigious event is definitely a unique experience for participants and spectators alike.

Based in Cape Town, the Argus encompasses 109km of some of the most scenic spots in the world. Starting in the City Center the race makes its way down the Blue Route leading into Simons Town, turns at Smitswinkel, heads back along the coastline before the steady climb up Chapman's Peak and up the short, steep hill of Suikerbossie. The downhill to the finish line in Green Point is a welcome respite for the weary cyclist!

As this is a non-profit event, all proceeds go to two charities. Pedal Power

Association uses their share to develop cycling in the community by sponsoring development cyclists and hosting fun rides in the Western Cape area. The second charity, the Rotary Club of Claremont, invests their share into a variety of fundraising projects. There are a few races catering for young and old cyclists before the main event on the 9th March 2009!



Resort of the month



Mozambique is an independent republic which lies on the south-east coast of Africa and forms part of the Southern African region. Mozambique has a growing free market and the local currency is the Metical (plural Meticals). Although Portuguese is the official language, English is widely spoken.

Our Resort of the Month is situated on the beach at Xai-Xai and is set back against the dunes. It enjoys an all-year summer, with winter temperatures between 20° - 30° C and summer temperatures between 30° - 40° C. Although this is officially a malaria area, when the breeze blows, which is most of the time there are very few mosquitoes around. The resort consists of 26 chalets of which 20 are wooden chalets with thatch roofs. The 6 sleepers have 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, while the 4 sleepers have 1 bedroom and 2 couches in the lounge. The 5 more luxurious chalets are constructed of brick and tile and have 2 bedrooms and a bathroom. The chalets are fully self-catering but are serviced daily (except Sundays).

All chalets overlook the beautiful Indian Ocean and from June - October you can sit on the deck of the restaurant and watch the whales playing. The swimming beach is 1km from the resort and there are swimming pools at the resort. Fishing is excellent at Xai-Xai with boat charters catching fish on every launch so far. Shore fishing is good at certain times of the year, especially from May to July, which is Kingfish time. There are restaurants and the resort also offers Beach Dinners for guests looking for a romantic evening.

Eat some traditional food and see how they live. If you want to see the better part of Africa, come to Xai-Xai Beach Resort.

Entry requirements, regulations and safety and health tips are available on request.



Member Comments

Notice... All future notices will be available on the Funseekers website. The NEW Funseekers website will be back on-line as soon as its upgrading has been completed.



“A huge thank you to the reservations team for booking us a great escape at Sondela Nature Reserve. It was a very pleasant stay and we hope to visit the resort again soon.”



Season's Greetings...

Funseekers International would like to take this opportunity to thank all its members for a successful year. May all of you enjoy the holiday season and if you are going on holiday, may you have a safe journey.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Ons het die week by Manyane in die Pilansberg vreeslik geniet. Dit laat 'n mens se hart warm klop omdat daar nog mense soos Anneke Luus is wat uit haar pad gaan om te sorg dat Funseekers se lede goeie diens ontvang en gerieflik is . Baie dankie Anneke, dit word opreg waardeer—jy is jou gewig in goud werd”

