

## WHERE TO STAY



### Cook's Cottage, Franschhoek

*Mangez bien, riez souvent, aimez beaucoup*, as the French say. Eat well, laugh often, love abundantly. This is a saying Cook's Cottage in Franschhoek must understand, with its open-plan kitchen-entertainment area, recipe books stacked on shelves, a pile of wood at the fireside and a collection of teas in the cupboard. In a town geared to eating, drinking and socialising true to its French roots, this self-catering cottage allows its guests to indulge their foodie passion, don the chefs hat and create a meal for those with whom they share this temporary home.

**EAT HERE** Huguenot Road is sardined with restaurants worthy of their place in South Africa's Gourmet Capital. On the outskirts, Bread & Wine at Mōreson (tel 021 876 3692) has a shady courtyard and kids' menu. Or pre-order a basket at Solms Delta (tel 021 874 3937) and picnic beside the Dwars River. **DO THIS** Catch the hop-on, hop-off Franschhoek Wine Tram ([www.winetram.co.za](http://www.winetram.co.za)) for tastings at Haute Cabrière and Grande Provence, among others. **NEED TO KNOW** The children's room is small, so despite its generous size, the house isn't recommended for more than four adults plus two kids. **WHY WE LIKE IT** Cook's Cottage is perfectly suited to a weekend of collecting fresh breads, cheeses and wine as you explore the area to be enjoyed by the fire or around the dining table. **From R1 600 a night for two people (R225 a person thereafter).** [www.explorersclub.co.za](http://www.explorersclub.co.za).

### Driftwood Cabin, Suiderstrand

A lonely gravel road from Cape Agulhas takes you to Suiderstrand, where this stilted wooden house seems to smile at you. Beyond its broad front balcony and large windows, there's a home that inspires meals around the large dining table and evenings playing board games on leather couches before getting lost in one of the battered novels stacked on the shelf. You won't even feel like turning on the TV.

In a tiny cluster of seaside houses, Driftwood Cabin ticks all the boxes for a quiet family holiday: few other people, the constant sound of crashing waves and a short walk to the beach. While you can wake up and enjoy views of the sea from the main bedroom, kids will be comfortable in the twin bedroom just across the hall.

**EAT HERE** The kitchen is fully equipped, but if you don't feel inspired, drive the five kilometres to L'Agulhas and sink your teeth into fresh fish at L'Agulhas Seafoods (tel 028-435-7207). **DO THIS** The most popular activity in Suiderstrand is to take long walks along the pebble beach just down the road. **NEED TO KNOW** Suiderstrand has no grocery stores; stock up on supplies in Struisbaai. **WHY WE LIKE IT** Driftwood Cabin is where you finally get the chance to take that longed-for extended walk along the beach. The fact that you're surrounded by the beauty of Agulhas National Park doesn't do any harm. **From R1 000 a night for the four-sleeper house. Tel 021-786-4760.**

