

Anything fabulous to declare?

Shop while you globetrot, says Daisy Finer

CAPE TOWN

Where fresh, quirky coolness meets local handcrafted design. Come for sunshine and sundresses, organic delis and fantastic wines, beautiful hand-beaten bowls and intricate beaded handbags. This is a city riding the wave of its new dawn, championing local talent alongside art, fashion and furniture. Easy to negotiate, with plenty of small neighbourhood finds, this is Africa's Sydney – upbeat, beside-the-seaside eco and brightly, breezily modern.

BEST MARKETS Don't miss the organic-glam Neighbourgoods Market, held every Saturday in the renovated Old Biscuit Mill at 373–375 Albert Road, full of wood-fired breads, fresh juices, great big wheels of handmade cheeses and stalls selling ceramics, jewellery and unusual design work. It's a scene as well as a shopping mecca. Also hit Greenmarket Square, a great flea market open daily (on the corner of Shortmarket and Burg Streets), where you can find masses of African crafts, *right*, from all over the continent, including trinkets, wirework and carved wooden salad servers – all a cut above the norm.



BEST STREETS For local character, steer away from V&A Waterfront and head for Long Street and Kloof Street, which run parallel to each other and are packed with quirky boutiques selling one-off pieces, hot new

HOTTIPS

The **best beaches** in the Cape are in Noordhoek and Kommetjie... Go up **Table Mountain** as soon as possible, as there is often cloud cover... Book into **La Colombe** (tel: 00 27 21 794 2390) in Constantia, one of the world's most wonderful restaurants, with incredible local produce, such as springbok carpaccio and a chocolate and Earl Grey wafer with rose sorbet.

galleries, secondhand bookshops and African music stores. For gorgeous local women's fashion, check out Mungo & Jemima, *bottom left*, at 108 Long Street (tel: 00 27 21 424 5016), Stefania Morland at 15 on Orange Hotel (tel: 00 27 21 422 2609) and Alexandra Höjer at 50 Kloof Street (tel: 00 27 21 422 4149).

BEST AFRICAN CRAFT Monkeybiz, at 65 Rose Street (tel: 00 27 21 426 0636; monkeybiz.co.za), is all about decorative African beadwork made by women in the townships. Look out for bags, animals, place mats, bowls and dolls – some are now collectors' items, *below right*, which have sold at Sotheby's Contemporary Decorative Arts Exhibition in London. Heartworks, at 98 Kloof Street (tel: 00 27 21 424 8419), is pure South Africa without the tourist tat – contemporary handblown glass vases, fine woven baskets and painted plates.

BEST BRUNCH Manna Epicure at 151 Kloof Street (tel: 00 27 21 426



2413) is the perfect pitstop for yummy smoothies, ostrich burgers and roasted aubergine and gorgonzola salad with toasted pecan nuts.

MOST UP-AND-COMING AREA

The Waterkant is Cape Town's latest restored design hub, with edgy new arrivals such as the Oculus (tel: 00 27 21 421 0023), *above*, the coolest, most hi-tech opticians, where you will find wonderful and unusual specs and handbags. Also look out for the Lisa King Gallery at Shop B14 Cape Quarter, 72 Waterkant Street (tel: 00 27 21 421 3738), specialising in top South African abstract and contemporary art, including this perfume bottle, *above right*.



BEST SCULPTURE Dylan Lewis is a young animal sculptor who has exhibited at Christie's. It's worth visiting his studio for the best selection and value, at Mulberry Farm, Stellenbosch, outside the city (tel: 00 27 21 880 0054; dylanlewis.com).

BEST SIDEKICK An hour from Cape Town and you're in Franschhoek, the kitchen of the Cape, a kind of idealised Provence but with great craggy mountains and awesome shops. Head to Ebony (tel: 00 27 21 876 4477; ebonydesign.co.za), a fantastic little number that showcases the coolest local contemporary furniture. ▷

SECRET AGENT

Chris Weir, owner of the great little boutique hotel Kensington Place, is a mine of information who makes it his business to know what's hot and new, and vets everything himself. Look out for his website – simplifiedplayground.com – pulsing with all his travel secrets. It's due to launch in February.

BOOK IT: Africa Travel (tel: 0845 450 1535; africatravel.co.uk) offers four nights with breakfast at Kensington Place and two nights at La Residence in Franschhoek from £2,095 a person, including flights with British Airways and car hire.



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