

## Top getaway gems to avoid the Easter crowds

The long Easter weekend is the perfect time for South African to break away for a relaxed holiday with family and friends. The four-day break also brings with it busy roads and increased hustle and bustle in cities and well know holiday towns. The great thing is, there are endless hidden getaway gems to be discovered in every corner of our beautiful country, all with their own unique draw cards, and because they're local, they won't break the bank.



RyanMcGuire via pixabay

So, avoid the queues and crowds this year, take the scenic route and explore an idyllic and quieter holiday spot. SafariNow has put together a list of affordable out-of-the-way places to stay this Easter, where you can put your feet up and relax. All of which come highly recommended by visitors.

## **Western Cape**

• <u>GuBas De Hoek</u>, Robertson, in the heart of the Robertson wine lands, offers comfort and luxury and a choice of self-catering accommodation or a fully catered stay for a truly indulgent break. Enjoy time exploring the surrounding wineries and scenery or just relax by the saltwater pool in the lush garden.

Cost: From R595 per person sharing

• <u>Mo & Rose</u>, Robertson, with its immaculate gardens, provides the perfect respite from the busy city life. With breakfast taken care of, the only decision to make is whether to explore the surrounding cafes and wine farms or indulge at the onsite bistro, serving delicious dishes made from fresh local produce.

Cost: From R600 per person sharing

• Onse Rus Guesthouse (Prince Albert) showcases the best of Karoo hospitality and breathtaking landscapes. Not only is there a refreshing pool to cool off from the heat, but for the more energetic holidaymaker, there are scenic hikes that offer a chance of spotting a Grysbok or Kudu darting across your path.

Cost: From R500 per person sharing

<u>Mai's Guest Lodge</u>, Prince Albert, is a little oasis of tranquility and offers comfort, hospitality and the perfect starting point to explore the sleepy Karoo town of Prince Albert with its art galleries, craft shops and stargazing opportunities.

Cost: From R480 per person sharing

## **Eastern Cape**

• <u>The Fernery Lodge & Chalets</u>, Stormsriver Village, with breathtaking views over the river gorge and the wild Indian Ocean, takes a luxury forest getaway to a new level. With swimming pools, jacuzzis, saunas and private decks, there is no limit to the manner and style in which you can unwind.

Cost: From R1,020 per person sharing or R2,400 for a unit

• <u>Tube 'n Axe Backpackers Lodge</u>, Stormsriver Village, has a wide range of accommodation options from comfortable private rooms to secluded campsites and an elevated bush camp. Socialise with other travellers at the vibey African bush style restaurant and bar, enjoy a scenic hike in the surrounding Tsitsikamma Nature Reserve or simply take a nap in one of the outdoor hammocks.

Cost: From R120 per person sharing or R480 per unit

- <u>Ganora Guest Farm</u> (Nieu Bethesda), just 7km from the historic town of Nieu Bethesda and the renowned Owl House, is an outdoorsy traveller's dream. Choose from bird watching mountain biking, 4x4 trails, hiking and mountain climbing, and guided tours to bushman paintings and artefacts, as well as fossil walks.

  Cost: From R380 per person sharing or R850 per unit
- <u>Crawfords Beach Lodge</u>, Cintsa, combines the best of what the Wild Coast offers, including unspoilt beaches and lush dune forests, with the luxury of a 4-star hotel. Whether it's a relaxed family holiday or a romantic getaway that is planned, Crawfords Beach Lodge has you covered.

Cost: From R600 per person sharing

Limpopo

• <u>Raptors Lodge</u>, Hoedspruit, is nestled in the heart of Hoedspruit with spectacular views of the surrounding bushveld. With 4-star luxury lodges, this is a perfect spot for some real rest and relaxation and a great base for exploring the nearby game farms.

Cost: From R600 per person sharing

Whether it's a culinary experience, some decadent downtime or an outdoor adventure you are after this Easter, you can find it all on your doorstep, so take a road trip to uncover your new favourite getaway.

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