

# IN THE GREEN ZONE

TREES MAKE LIFE MORE INTERESTING. ESPECIALLY IF YOU ROOT OUT ONE OF THESE EPIC ADVENTURES  
By Nick Dall

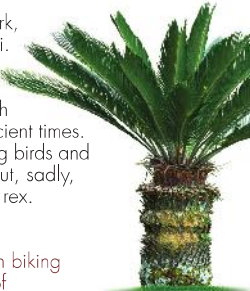


## 1 LUVUVHU RIVER DRIVE Kruger National Park, Limpopo

What happens when you combine the big five with a crocodile-infested river and a fever tree forest? You get one of the most exotic places on the planet. Just don't get out of your car! Kruger National Park north, near Pafuri Gate  
013 735 5574  
sanparks.org  
After Picnic at the riverside spot

## 2 MODJADJI CYCAD RESERVE Modjadji, Limpopo

Forget Jurassic Park, come to Modjadji. A forest of giant cycads (some 13m high!), which dates back to ancient times. There are amazing birds and animals to spot but, sadly, no Tyrannosaurus rex.  
R36, near Tzaneen  
015 311 7009  
After Go mountain biking in Magoebaskloof



## 3. KNYSNA ELEPHANT PARK Garden Route, Western Cape

The Knysna Forest is the biggest and most well-known forest in the country, but we bet you haven't seen it like this. The reserve offers guided tours and elephant rides and even allows you to sleep in the same building as the ellies.  
Off the N2, between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay  
044 532 7732  
knysnaelephantpark.co.za  
After Hit the beach in Plett



## 4 DLINZA FOREST AERIAL BOARDWALK Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal

Kirstenbosch may be home to SA's most known aerial boardwalk, but the one in Dlinza is as amazing. The 150m walkway gives you a view of the tropical forest, taking you up to a 20m-high tower.  
Off Kangela Street  
035 474 4029  
After A ground-based forest walk

## WE LOVE

### 5 THE BOOMSLANG Cape Town, Western Cape



Most Cape forests require a bit of a hike, but this 130m long serpentine boardwalk brings the forest to you. Soar above the canopy and marvel at the views of Table Mountain and Table Bay. Kid- and wheelchair friendly.  
Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Rhodes Drive  
021 799 8783  
sanbi.org  
After Take in a Summer Sunset concert every Sunday in the warmer months from November to April, or simply picnic in the garden.

### 6 ZIP-LINING Hermanus, Western Cape

Zip through the trees on the modern version of a foefie slide, the closest thing to actually being an orang-utan! Paintballing and quad biking are available for non-sliders.  
On the R320, Hemel-en-Aarde  
083 517 3635  
saforestadventures.co.za  
After Wine-tasting in Hemel-en-Aarde

### 7 ORANGE KLOOF FOREST Cape Town, Western Cape

Only a few kilometres from Hout Bay, Table Mountain's largest indigenous forest is an otherworldly place. Book ahead and get a free permit; limited to 12 hikers a day. Start at the parking lot of Constantia Nek.  
Off the M63  
021 422 1601  
After Stay in Orange Kloof's tented camp

### 8 DELHEIM MUSHROOM FORAGE Stellenbosch, Western Cape

Fascinated by wild mushrooms but just too scared to pick them yourself? Get all the flavour minus the stress on one of Delheim's guided forages. Tours only take place a couple of times every winter, so book in advance. Not only is the setting in the Stellenbosch Winelands magical, but you'll learn some fascinating fungi facts.  
Delheim, Knorhoek Road  
021 888 4600  
delheim.co.za  
After Enjoy a delicious mushroom-filled lunch in the restaurant.



### 9 QUIVER TREE FOREST Near Nieuwoudville, Northern Cape

Just one spiky silhouetted quiver tree is an incredible sight, but a whole forest is out of this world. If you visit in May, you may be lucky enough to see them in bloom, when every sugarbird in the Cape descends on this forgotten, dusty corner of the Northern Cape. This is definitely one for the bucket list  
25 km from Nieuwoudville, on the Loeriesfontein Road  
027 218 1336  
niewoudville.com  
After Crack open a beer and watch the sun set over the forest.



### 10 GROOTVADERS-BOSCH NATURE RESERVE Near Heidelberg, Western Cape

You could plan a hike or mountain bike for days in the Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. The park's trees are enormous, the ground is squelchy and the bird life is incredible. And the best part of all? Hardly anyone knows it exists, so you'll be sure to enjoy some much-needed relaxing time in nature on your own.  
Off Tradouw Pass, R324  
021 483 0190  
capenature.co.za  
After A swim in the Duiwenhoks River



PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCA BARAUSSE, GALLO/GETTY IMAGES/THINKSTOCK, COURTESY IMAGES