



TALK OF THE TOWN

THE DARLING OF FALSE BAY, SIMON'S TOWN OFFERS A LOT MORE THAN UNIFORMED NAVAL OFFICERS, PENGUINS AND A FAMOUS DOG. THERE'S PLENTY TO SEE AND DO FOR THRILL-SEEKERS, FASHIONISTAS AND FOODIES ALIKE

By Nick Dall



(Eat)

THE MEETING PLACE UPSTAIRS

Accessed via a tiny staircase, which is very easy to miss, this beautifully decorated and spacious venue has everything from light, fresh salads to indulgent pork belly. The views from the balcony are the best in town and the Chardonnay is served perfectly chilled. It's the best spot for kicking back.
100 St Georges Street
021 786 5678

MONOCLE & MERMAID

This super-laid-back spot opposite Jubilee Square serves up delicious AeroPress coffee and wickedly tasty 'Stuff on Bread'. A signboard propped outside proclaims 'NO HIPSTERS' ... but I'm pretty sure they're only kidding.
126 St Georges Street
021 786 1370

(Drink)

LORD NELSON INN

One of Simon's Town's oldest hotels also happens to have its most atmospheric pub, with beer on tap and fine vintages of Scotch. There's also a wine bar.
58 St Georges Street
021 786 1386
lordnelsoninn.co.za

THE MEETING PLACE EMPORIUM

This huge open-plan space sells all sorts of pretty goodies (I love the fancy doorknobs) and also serves up coffee, cakes, tasty light lunches and breakfasts. Anyone for a scrambled egg and salmon croissant washed down with a red cappuccino?
100 St Georges Street
021 786 5678

(Shop)

SALTWATER

'More' is most definitely 'more' in this rambling antiques shop, specialising in adding va-va-voom to old, weathered furniture. Make sure you look in the back rooms too... You'll find everything from century-old christening robes to Cape Point fynbos sealed in resin teardrops.
128 St Georges Street
021 786 4232

LARIJWORKS

With its svelte mix of sleepwear, reconditioned oars, and contemporary and traditional model boats, Larijworks puts a stylish European spin on the maritime theme. Hands down the chicest shop in town.
86 St Georges Street
083 977 9182
larijworks.com

(Do)

SCRATCH PATCH

It goes without saying that the kids will love scrabbling on their hands and knees for semi-precious gems, but what's surprising is how addictive it is for adults too. Buy a container (a small bag is only R17) and fill it with treasures. Alternatively, you can buy more valuable rocks and curios from the on-site shops.
Dido Valley Road
021 786 2020
scratchpatch.co.za



OLLAVA

Rudy and the guys at Ollava take their diving seriously, but they also offer a fantastic snorkelling trip to frolic with seals at nearby Partridge Point. For only R650, you can get up close and personal with False Bay's friendliest mammals. As an added bonus, the boat ride to the dive spot offers unrivalled opportunities for spotting the area's penguin colony.
82 St Georges Street
021 786 1261
ollava.co.za



FRINGE HAIR SALON

This vintage hair salon more than delivers on its promise to 'bring glamour back'. Trendy guys and girls from all over Cape Town flock here for its eco-friendly approach to beauty. Why not make a day of it and hit one of the nearby beaches to soak up the sun once you've been shorn? You'll be sure to turn heads.
82 St Georges Street
021 786 4282
fringehair.co.za

BOULDERS BEACH

No visit to Simon's Town is complete without checking in on its most famous residents. The first pair of penguins arrived at Boulders in 1983 and the colony now has more than 2 000 birds. If you visit in summer, you can even swim in the calm, crystalline waters ... as long as you're prepared to shiver, that is. Enquire about entrance fees at the visitor centre. If you have a Wild Card, entrance to the beach is free.
1 Kleintuin Road
021 786 2329
sanparks.org



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