



THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO
BIRKENHEAD HOUSE

Hermanus

★★★★★

ACTIVITIES
AT BIRKENHEAD
HOUSE



SURFING

Voelklip beach, which is in front of the hotel is perfect for surfing. We have surfboards and wetsuits available for you, and lessons can easily be arranged. Please contact reception for further details



WALKS

There is an abundance of walks for keen hikers to choose from and each one is spectacular whether you choose a beach, or mountain route.

Fernfloof Nature Reserve offers several grades of walks. The area is clad in spectacular fynbos and as you wind your way up the pathways, you will find an ever widening bird's eye-view of Walker Bay and the surrounding mountains.

The Cliff Path is a unique feature of Hermanus and traces the coastline through exquisite fynbos from one end of the town to the other. Walking from Birkenhead House to the town centre is approximately 5.5 km. Just before town there is a detour for about 400m walking along the Main road rejoining the path by the grass field near town. Once you have finished your walk and explored the town, please feel free to ask Reception at The Marine Hotel to call us and we will gladly collect you.





WHALE WATCHING

From the main deck at Birkenhead House you'll see pods of dolphins splashing playfully past the front deck as well as Southern Right and Humpback Whales. There is a telescope in the main sitting room as well as numerous sets of binoculars for you to get a good look at these fascinating and calming creatures. For the more inquisitive, speak to our front desk about whale watching at sea or from the air





MUSSEL PICKING

Birkenhead House offers the opportunity to pick your own mussels (seasonal) with one of our team down at Voelklip beach. After picking black mussels from the rocks, spend some time with the chef who will demonstrate how to prepare the mussels for your meal. Choose your wine by doing a wine tasting with the sommelier and then enjoy a glass with your freshly prepared mussels.



BIRD WATCHING

About 60 species have been recorded on Hermanus' cliff paths, the most common being the Cape Cormorant, Kelp Gull, Cape Robin, Rock Pigeon, and Cape Francolin. While the cliffs are alive with feathered life, Hermanus' two large lagoons positively buzz with it. Around 187 different bird types have been spotted at the bird sanctuary surrounding the Botrivier lagoon and Afdaks River that feeds it.



S P A

The Birkenhead House Spa invites you to relax and enjoy our wide range of treatments. We offer a number of signature treatments and products. Our highly skilled therapist will ensure you are treated like royalty, and you can tailor your treatment to your specific requirements.





IN HOUSE WINE TASTING

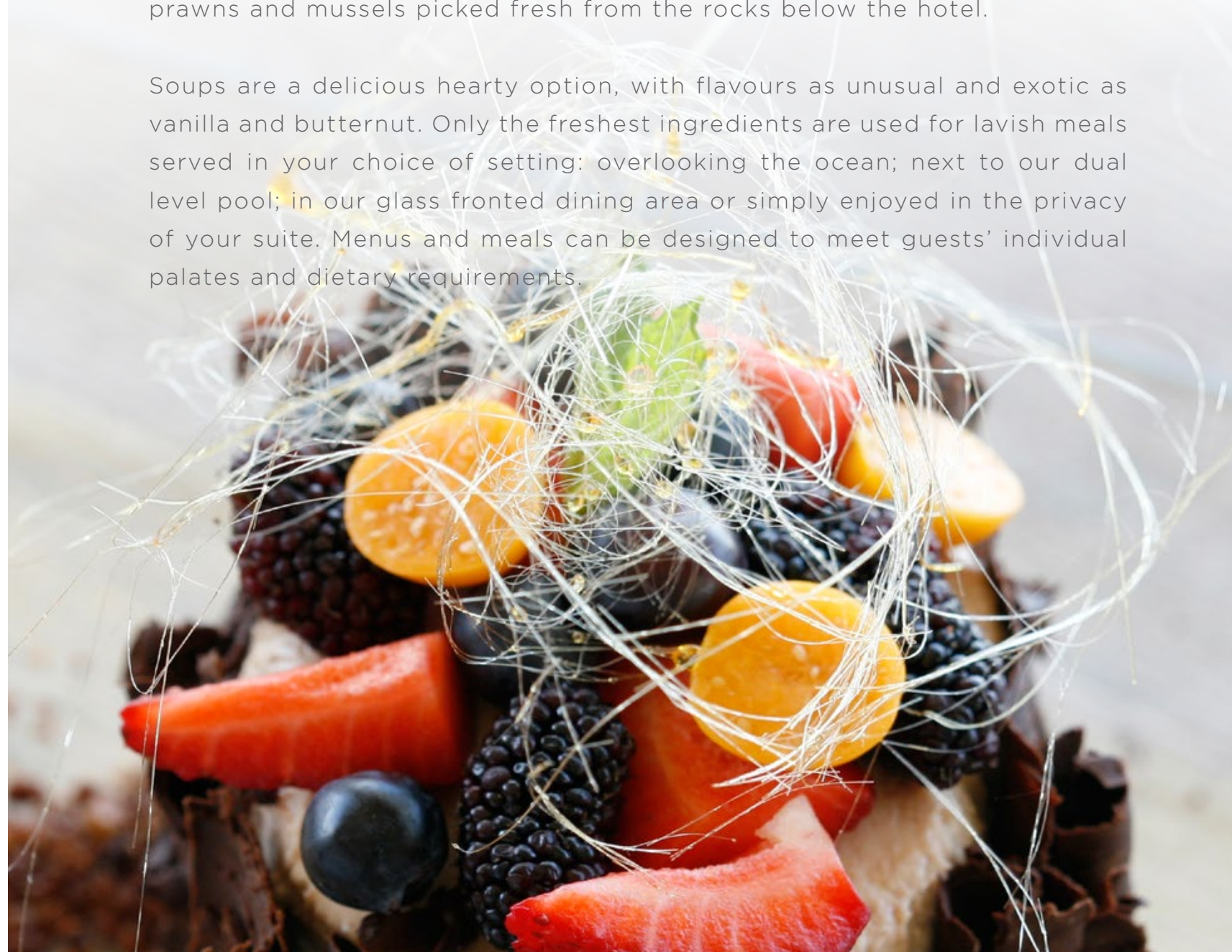
Join our wine stewards for a wine tasting in the cellar or on the front deck. We have carefully crafted a list of house wines from the surrounding areas, which can be paired with any meal. The wine list is constantly enduring and we offer a complimentary tasting of all house wines. For the more discerning there is a reserve wine list for an additional fee.



DINING

On offer are homemade breads, ice creams and sorbets, as well as delicacies such as tempura strawberries. Fresh local seafood includes fish such as Cape Salmon, Kingklip, Hake, Marlin, Red Roman and Kabeljou as well as crayfish, prawns and mussels picked fresh from the rocks below the hotel.

Soups are a delicious hearty option, with flavours as unusual and exotic as vanilla and butternut. Only the freshest ingredients are used for lavish meals served in your choice of setting: overlooking the ocean; next to our dual level pool; in our glass fronted dining area or simply enjoyed in the privacy of your suite. Menus and meals can be designed to meet guests' individual palates and dietary requirements.





THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO
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Hermanus



ACTIVITIES
NEAR BIRKENHEAD
HOUSE



MARINE DYNAMICS SHARK CAGE DIVING

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| MEETING PLACE: | Gansbaai, Great White House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | determined by the weather conditions. |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 40 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 3 - 4 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Swimsuit, warm clothes. Wetsuits and towels are supplied |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, sunscreen and warm clothes to wear afterwards |

SUMMARY:

Once guests reach the Great White House, they are offered a continental breakfast, as well as tea / coffee (30 minutes). After this, they are seated upstairs and receive a detailed briefing with regards to the sharks, conservation, habitat & safety on the boat etc. (25min). Guests are then taken outside where they receive their life jackets & are shown down to the harbour. The boat trip to Shark Alley takes approximately 20 minutes, and the boat will then anchor there. The boat can take approximately 40 persons in total and a maximum of 7 in the cage. After the boat trip, guests can enjoy refreshments at the Great White House while watching the DVD of their trip.

KINDLY NOTE:

Sandwiches, crisps & juice are offered on the boat.

Underwater cameras can be bought at the Great White House.

DVD of the trip can be bought.

DYER ISLAND CRUISES

WHALE WATCHING

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| MEETING PLACE: | Gansbaai, Great White House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Weather dependent (provisional) |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 40 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 3 - 4 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Warm clothes |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

Once guests arrive at the Great White House, guests are given a briefing with regards to the conservancy, habitat of the whale, safety on the boat, etc. This takes approximately 20 minutes. Afterwards, guests are given their life jackets and taken down to the harbour. The boat trip lasts for about 3 hours. The boat takes 22 persons.

After the boat trip, guests can enjoy refreshments at the Great White House while watching the DVD of their trip.

KINDLY NOTE:

No snacks are provided on the boat, only water is provided.





WINE TOUR: STELLENBOSCH & FRANSCHHOEK

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| MEETING PLACE: | Birkenhead House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Morning Departure |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 1h30min |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 7 – 8 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Dress according to the weather |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, something warm, sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

Enjoy a beautiful scenic tour through our most prestigious and historic wine country, visiting some stunning wine farms, and lunch at one of the amazing properties.

KINDLY NOTE:

Tour cost includes all entrance and tasting fees for 2 farms, but excludes lunch charges.

WINE TOUR: HEMEL & AARDE VALLEY

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MEETING PLACE: | Birkenhead House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Approximately 10h00 |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 20min |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 3 - 4 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Dress according to the weather |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, something warm, sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

The Hemel & Aarde Valley boasts with the best pinot noir in South Africa, and also great Chardonnay and other vintages. Set in a spectacular valley overshadowed by the Babylonstoren mountain peak, this valley appeals to all your senses.

KINDLY NOTE:

Tour cost includes all entrance and tasting fees for 3 farms.





AFRICAN HORSE COMPANY HORSEBACK RIDING

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| MEETING PLACE: | Stanford Hills or Grootbos |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 30min |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 1, 2 or 3 hour beach ride |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Long pants & trainers |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

Guests are taken to the stable, where they are given all necessary equipment (helmet, half chaps etc). Guests are then given a safety briefing. And off they go! There is a guide that rides with you all the way whether you are experienced or novice. There are three trails to choose from - 1 hour vineyard ride, 2 hour vineyard ride or a 3 hour beach ride.

KINDLY NOTE:

The beach ride is only recommended for experienced riders, as it is quite a strenuous ride.

GOLF AT ARABELLA OR HERMANUS GOLF COURSE

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| MEETING PLACE: | Birkenhead House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | Arabella: 40 minutes Hermanus: 5 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 5 – 6 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Appropriate golf attire |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Water, something warm, and sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

The overberg boasts with two of South Africa's finest and most prestigious golf courses. You can choose between 9 or 18 holes.

KINDLY NOTE:

Drink plenty of water, and early morning tee off is ideal.





WALKERBAY ADVENTURES SEA KAYAKING

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| MEETING PLACE: | Old Harbour, Marine Drive |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 10 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 2 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Swimming shorts, t-shirt, long sleeve top (optional) |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Sunscreen, warm clothes for afterwards |

SUMMARY:

A guide will meet you on arrival. A safety briefing is given (approximately 30 minutes long). You will then be given your life jacket etc. You will paddle all along the coastline all the way from the Old Harbour in town to the New Harbour, where you take a direct route back to town. Route can change at any time depending on wind or swell.

KINDLY NOTE:

Please ensure you take dry clothes with you.

HERMANUS FOREST ADVENTURES

QUAD BIKING & WINE TASTING

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| MEETING PLACE: | Hemel en Aarde Valley |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 20 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 1 – 1.5 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Outdoor clothes & closed shoes |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Sunscreen, sunglasses, camera & water |

SUMMARY:

Quad Biking: A guide will meet you on arrival. Very relaxing drive through three wine farms - Southern Right, Hamilton Russel & Ashbourne. Along the drive you will see about 360 000 olive trees and the view from Rotary Way, which is amazing! Wildlife is also seen, including baboons, birds, eagles and whales!

Quad Biking & Wine Tasting: A guide will meet you on arrival and take you on a very relaxing drive through Hamilton Russel and Southern Right where the wine tasting will be done.

KINDLY NOTE:

No children under 16 (for safety reasons)

Birkenhead House will supply the water for your trip.





WILLIAM ROBERTSON GUIDED WALKS IN FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE

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| MEETING PLACE: | Fernkloof Nature Reserve Parking area |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 5 minutes |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Outdoor clothes & comfortable waking shoes |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Sunscreen, sunglasses, camera & water |

SUMMARY:

This is definitely for someone who enjoys nature, birds, hiking & environmental education. Billy will meet you at the Fernkloof information hut where you will take a look at all the different species of fynbos, as well as their scientific names. Billy is very knowledgeable and has a great passion for what he does. Not only can you enjoy breath-taking views also enjoy a truly educational experience!

KINDLY NOTE:

Be sure to take water with you.

TOWNSHIP TOUR

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|---------------------|---|
| MEETING PLACE: | Birkenhead House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 10min |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 2 - 3 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | Dress according to the weather |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Something warm, sunscreen, camera and hat |

SUMMARY:

Experience a deep cultural, yet humbling tour of Hermanus' local Township, Zwelihle. Encounter first-hand, the story of our community from pre-apartheid to present and understand the plans that have been put in place to further uplift the approximate 20 000 residents. End off at Birkenhead House's philanthropic project, the Masibulele Creche where you will interact and witness how we are building a foundation through education, for our youngsters of our up and coming generation. Feel free to discuss with your tour guide, how you are able to contribute to Birkenhead House's exciting upliftment program.

KINDLY NOTE:

We do not suggest doing the tour over weekends.





AFRICAN WINGS WHALE WATCHING FLIGHT

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| MEETING PLACE: | Stanford |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 20 minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 2 - 3 hours |
| WHAT TO WEAR: | 30min, 45min & 60min |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera |

SUMMARY:

Once at the meeting point in Stanford, Evan will be there to meet & greet you. A safety briefing is given and you are then ready for your flight. This is an amazing experience and is definitely a must do when coming to Birkenhead House. A great alternative to boat based whale watching.

CORNELLSKOP ANIMAL TRAINING FARM

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| MEETING PLACE: | Botrivier / Birkenhead House |
| TIME OF ACTIVITY: | Subject to availability |
| TRAVELLING TIME: | 45 Minutes |
| LENGTH OF ACTIVITY: | 3 Hours |
| WHAT TO TAKE: | Camera, hat, sunscreen |

SUMMARY:

Movie stars of another kind. This farm boasts with a variety of animals that are well fed and exercised at a regular basis by the passionate staff. Walk among the cheetahs or play with the lions. They also have a host of different animals including ostrich, deer, baboons, crows, nguni cattle, hyena, wolves and squirrel monkeys. Some of the animals have been used in a variety of adverts and also some big Hollywood movies.



PHOTO CREDIT: Hennie Niemand



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www.theroyalportfolio.com
