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Kitchen Trends

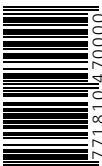
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30-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION



Coastal Zen

HOMES AND DECOR
INSPIRED BY THE SALT AIR

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Cabin Confidential

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVEN THE MOST DISCERNING OF CABIN AFICIONADOS IN OUR ROUNDUP OF BEACHSIDE BUNGALOWS AND ELEVATED EYRIES ALONG OUR WESTERN AND EASTERN CAPE SHORES.

WORDS | MARTIN JACOBS



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COAL CABIN, WILDERNESS, GARDEN ROUTE
● Positioned high above the Indian Ocean in five hectares of forest and fynbos near the Garden Route's rugged Wilderness, Coal Cabin takes an alternative approach to the traditional beach bungalow. Rather than straddling the shoreline, the compact A-frame is immersed in the landscape, with a glass facade framing the Indian Ocean beyond. Designed for two, the nano-cabin (that's minimal footprint, maximal efficiency, for the cabin-curious) boasts a *shou sugi ban* blackened timber exterior that blends with its hillside surroundings. Light filters through a skylight, windows and the glass frontage, and the compact interior includes a solar-powered kitchenette complete with a Nespresso machine, as well as an open bathroom. The layout of the interior prioritises one thing: uninterrupted ocean views. Furnishings are low-slung, inviting you to take in the seascape from the queen-sized bed, and encouraging you to make the most of outdoor spaces, which include a deck, a private boma, a firepit, a wood-fired hot tub and an outdoor shower. cocooncabins.co.za/rooms/coal-cabin

ABOVE AND OPPOSITE The *shou sugi ban* exterior of Coal Cabin camouflages it within the landscape; the nano-cabin's outdoor firepit.
BELOW Centrally located, The Keep still feels removed from Hermanus's bustle. Designed by Newman Architecture and Design, the seaside cabin champions natural materials.





THE LANDSCAPE OF FYNBOS, MARSHLAND AND EVER-CHANGING LAGOON COLOURS IS A NATURAL COUNTERPOINT TO THE COTTAGE'S PARED-BACK CHARACTER.

■ THE KEEP, HERMANUS, OVERBERG

● Built into the remains of an old stone lighthouse, The Keep is a one-bedroom retreat that offers respite from the world while remaining centrally located in Hermanus. Access to the town's shops and Saturday farmers' market is easy, and matched by just-as-easy private access to Hermanus's cliff path. Designed by Newman Architecture and Design, the cottage nods to the character of the original ruin while introducing a restrained palette of lime-washed timber. It's about as sophisticated a take on a coastal cabin as you're likely to find anywhere, with large ocean-facing windows providing ample opportunity for whale-watching. Rustic materials and nature-inspired colours invite the landscape indoors, and are offset by modern conveniences that include Smeg appliances and

a Nespresso machine. Window seats make the most of The Keep's seaside location, as does the KolKol tub outdoors. For those in want of a swim, there's a tidal pool below the property. perfecthideaways.co.za/hideaway-hermanus/the-keep

■ HOUT HUISIE, CHURCHHAVEN, WEST COAST

● Isolated on a peninsula at Schrywershoek in the West Coast National Park, Hout Huisie delivers private island feels less than two hours' drive from Cape Town. This off-grid, two-bedroom timber bungalow couldn't get closer to the lagoon's rippling waters and sandy shore, and its closest neighbours take the feathery form of pink flamingos,

sandpipers and other migrant waders. The surrounding landscape of fynbos, marshland and ever-changing lagoon colours is a natural counterpoint to the cottage's pared-back character. Charm in the whitewashed interiors and on the spacious deck takes the form of blue-and-white decor (think slipcovers and French stripes) with red accents, and rustic-chic wicker and driftwood. Days at Hout Huisie kick off with kayaking and SUPing on the lagoon, include Mediterranean-inspired siestas, and end with braais in the adjacent lapa. With shops and restaurants nowhere nearby, and the southerly peninsula almost exclusively your own, the bungalow offers an idyllic opportunity to switch off, unwind and settle into Churchhaven's natural rhythms. perfecthideaways.co.za/hideaway-churchhaven/hout-huisie



ABOVE With casual whitewashed interiors, picturesque Hout Huisie in Churchhaven couldn't get closer to the lagoon edge.

BELOW Sleeping six - the most in our roundup - Casaplanca offers outdoor activities along Tsitsikamma's coastline.





ABOVE Ocean's Edge may sit high above the Indian Ocean, but it doubles as the perfect hideout from which to spot wildlife.

BOTTOM Aesthetes will enjoy Klein-Hangklip's moody interior palette, which includes Eames loungers and Malawi armchairs.

■ CASAPLANCA, EERSTERIVIERSTRAND, TSITSIKAMMA

● On a clifftop in Eersterivierstrand in the Eastern Cape sits Casaplanca, an A-frame timber cabin that all but guarantees its guests will drift off to sleep to the sounds of waves crashing against the rocks below. Set in Kammabaai in the Tsitsikamma region, the cabin is situated on a stretch of coastline known for its rugged and relatively undeveloped character. Life at this ocean's edge is defined by thunderous surf and the cry of gulls, while a rocky shoreline and beach within easy walking distance offer up-close-and-personal experiences with both. There's opportunity to swim, fish and mountain bike, making this an ideal getaway for those with children. Step inside and the living is light and breezy. The quaint interiors are characterised by charming, cottagey decorating and a healthy dose of sea breeze - just what the doctor ordered. Casaplanca sleeps six across three bedrooms (each with a double bed, two with ocean views), which share a bathroom. lekkeslaap.co.za/accommodation/casaplanca

■ OCEAN'S EDGE, BALLOTS BAY, GARDEN ROUTE

● The pale timber tones and neutral palette of Ocean's Edge sit high above the ocean in Ballots Bay Private Nature Reserve near George. Its timber structure and Scandi interiors effortlessly marry a Nordic hygge retreat with chic coastal cool. The cabin's open-plan living space maximises views, extending out to the deck and braai area. A fully equipped kitchen and fireplace make indoor living a pleasure regardless of the season, and two en suite bedrooms - each with an extra-length king-size bed, one with a freestanding tub - deliver comfort. Outdoors, a hot tub provides another secluded spot from which to take in the coastal landscape. Ideal for cabin lovers in search of walking trails and animal sightings - think zebra, antelope and wildebeest - this is a stay that's less about barefoot beach time and more about an immersive wildlife experience, with the Indian Ocean as your closest neighbour. lekkeslaap.co.za/accommodation/oceans-edge-41



■ KLEIN-HANGKLIP, ROOI-ELS, OVERBERG

● The ultra-chic charcoal and black interiors of the eyrie-like Klein-Hangklip cabin make for a richly cocooning experience, and draw the eye to the panoramic views of False Bay, with Simon's Town and Cape Point on the horizon. Just beyond and above the seaside escape of Rooi-Els, this solar-powered cabin is perfect for anyone in search of an off-grid coastal retreat with rock pools and white sands on their doorstep - but not so close that noise from holidaymakers disrupts birdsong and tranquillity. Instead, this four-sleeper escape promises elevation and elegance. Eames loungers, Nguni skins and Malawi armchairs serve up a generous dose of style, with air conditioning and ample storage delivering easy living. Two bedrooms and a bathroom lead off the generously proportioned open-plan living area (complete with a fireplace), which extends onto a deck with two suspension hammocks. There's a firepit and a wood-burning hot tub, both of which boast some of Rooi-Els's best views. lekkeslaap.co.za/accommodation/klein-hangklip 

THE ULTRA-CHIC CHARCOAL AND BLACK INTERIORS OF THE EYRIE-LIKE KLEIN-HANGKLIP DRAW THE EYE TO THE PANORAMIC VIEWS OF FALSE BAY.

