MOUNT NELSON

A BELMOND HOTEL
CAPE TOWN

MOUNT NELSON, A BELMOND HOTEL, CAPE TOWN LAUNCHES EXPERT-LED MARINE BIOLOGY ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING WHALE WATCHING AND SHARK DIVING

JULY 2023 - Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town launches a series of exhilarating marine-centric adventures that showcase the breathtaking beauty of the Cape from a new vantage point – along its mercurial shoreline. Guests are invited to explore the intriguing ocean world that fringes the city, on the carefully curated series exclusively led by marine biologist Justin Blake of the Rockhopper Fund.

For curious travellers wanting to scratch below the surface of the city, it's beyond the borders of the hotel where true discovery can be found. Dive into rhythmic kelp forests, snorkel with spectacular wild inhabitants, spot southern right whales from the air and sample the region's creative terroir through delectable food and wine.

In an exclusive partnership with Mount Nelson, all journeys are led by local marine biologist and shark scientist Justin Blake of the Rockhopper Fund, whose lifelong mission is to promote healthy oceans, starting with Smart Marine Reserves. In an effort to protect and promote travel with a social conscience, the proceeds from each marine-biology experience will go straight to the Rockhopper Fund's vital work in protecting sea life.

Guests of Mount Nelson can choose from three expert-led experiences, with optional add-ons including a hosted dinner or a visit to the world-famous Two Oceans aquarium, with Justin Blake:

The Whales, Wine and Helicopters adventure offers an unforgettable trio of activities, hooked to peak whale season, which takes place between June and November, every year. It is during this time that the southern right whales skirt the shore, as they migrate to calf and mate in warmer waters. An expert-led helicopter flight will see guests swoop between two oceans, along the coast of Walker Bay toward the whale-watching hotspot of Hermanus, now a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

Landing in the aptly named Hemel-en-Aarde (heaven and earth) Valley at the award-winning Creation Wine Estate, founder and pairing enthusiast Carolyn Martin and her team will lead a bespoke wine tasting, followed by a private 6-course 'Taste the Terroir' lunch, before catching a flight back to Mount Nelson Hotel.
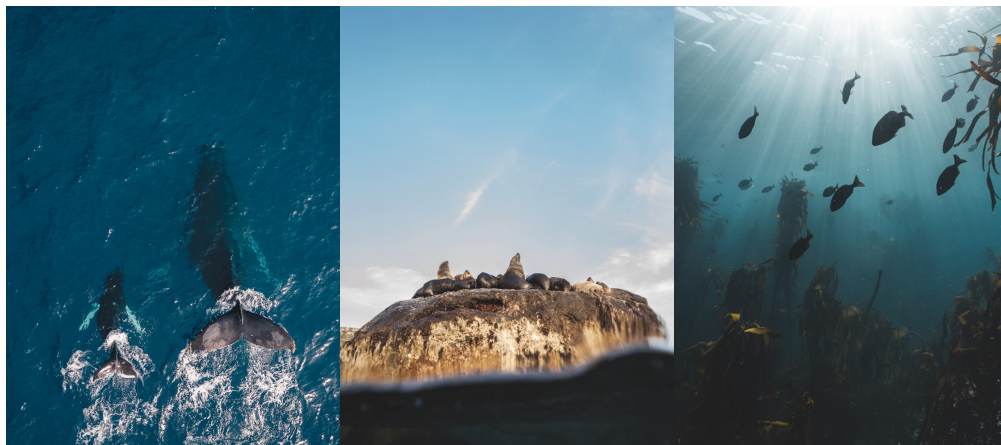
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To discover the splendour of the Cape's Ocean life, the Be A Marine Biologist boat adventure sees guests join Justin Blake on a once-in-a-lifetime excursion into the otherworldly Cape Kelp Forests (now one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World); the octopus gardens made famous in Oscar-winning documentary My Octopus Teacher and captivating sea caves. With spectacular views of Cape Town, both above and below the water line, snorkel with friendly sharks, track tagged sharks and look for seals, penguins and dolphins, humpback and southern right whales.

Back on terra firma, the RockHopping with a Marine Biologist breakfast is a fun and insightful morning experience in the city's peaceful, pristine rockpools. With Justin Blake as a personal guide, seek out starfish, spiny sea urchins, nudibranchs and more on the thriving shoreline. With freshly brewed coffee, scrumptious baked treats, this laid-back learning experience, away from the crowds, is the perfect way to start the day.

Whether soaring over whale-inhabited waters or wading through rockpools, each of the Beyond the Cape adventures is deeply connected to the destination, giving guests the opportunity to uncover the city's lesser-known narrative.

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ABOUT THE ROCKHOPPER FUND

The RockHopper Fund is a South African Non-Profit Organisation creating Smarter Reserves and Healthier Oceans. We put the power to restore and heal the ocean into the hands of individuals all over the world. The experiences we provide are fuelled by scientific insights and a quest to experience the ocean and her creatures more intimately - providing unique and exclusive insights into the remarkable tales taking place all around us. Funds generated through bookings fuel our work, so each guest plays a tangible part in ocean conservation. Find out more at www.rockhopper.co.za or watch this interview with Justin Blake.

ABOUT BELMOND ABOUT THE ROCKHOPPER FUND

Belmond has been a pioneer of luxury travel for over 45 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring destinations.

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys. Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 50 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguazu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.
Belmond.com

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