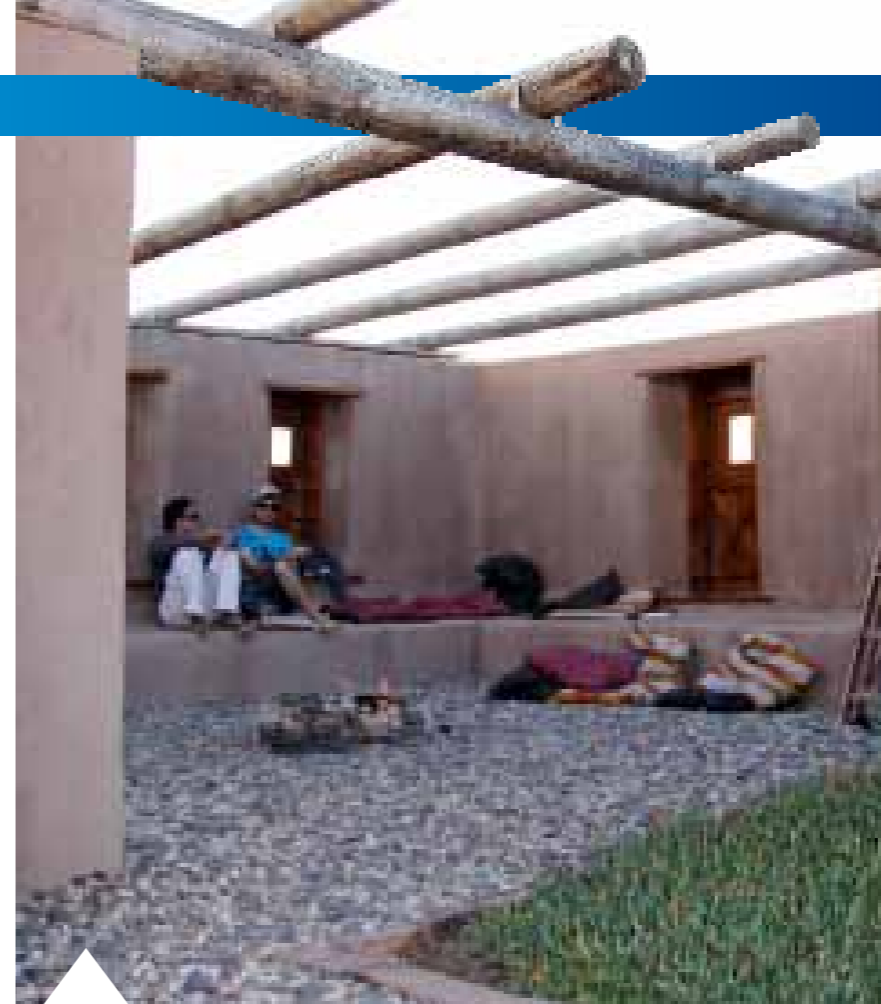


10 BUDGET beach GETAWAYS

With summer around the corner, we're dreaming of toes-in-the-sand lazy days, sundowners, seafood braais and dips in the sea. Book a weekend (or more) at one of these 10 budget-friendly beach houses and start making great summer memories happen. **By Leah van Deventer**



1 MANGOCHI BEACH COTTAGE

WHERE Britannia Bay
X FACTORS This quintessential beach shack is perched on the northern point of Britannia Bay, affording 180° views over the Atlantic from its deck and living area – you'll definitely see whales in season. There are also crayfish, mussels and fish aplenty here, so just bring basic groceries and enjoy fresh fruits of the sea every day (with proper licences, of course). There's a cleaning service, so you won't have to do much tidying up, plus there's hot and cold air-con. Hounds are welcome for an extra R50 per dog per night (maximum of two).
TRIED AND TESTED 'The neighbouring houses sit further back, so it feels like you've got the place all to yourself! And all the bedrooms have low windows, so you can watch the waves crashing from your bed.' – Joy Louw
VITAL STATS Sleeps 7 | From R1 250 per night | www.budget-getaways.co.za



2 STRAW REVOLUTION

WHERE Elands Bay
X FACTORS Designed by architect Matthew Beatty and boasting bespoke fixtures and fittings, this ecofriendly straw-bale house's thick walls keep the rooms cool in summer and warm in winter, plus there's an indoor fireplace. The open-plan kitchen and living area has a sliding door that lets you spill out into a courtyard – perfect for indoor-outdoor beach living and providing space for sandy surfboards and slip-slops. Dogs are welcome, but note that the property is unfenced.
TRIED AND TESTED 'This was epic! The architecture really invites you to unwind, and the outside shower is a breath of fresh air. We occupied our evenings with roaring fires and the catch of the day ... crayfish in abundance! Great surf too!' – Clinton Cowan
VITAL STATS Sleeps 6 | From R1 100 per night | 072 130 1755 | www.strawrevolution.co.za



3 DIE POMPHUISIE

WHERE Paternoster
X FACTORS Right opposite the white sandy beach, this whitewashed West Coast double storey is both charming and comfortable. As the owner says, it has everything you need 'down to a potato peeler and a bottle opener'. Its adjacent flatlet, which sleeps two, is a lovely add-on for grandparents – or teens – who may want to be apart from the group. It has a low, unobtrusive wall too, making it child- and pet-friendly. In season, catch your own crayfish or buy from the locals. (Just make sure they adhere to size regulations!) The resident housekeeper keeps the place shipshape.



TRIED AND TESTED 'If you're looking for a beach house that has some of the greatest views of the West Coast shores, this is the one.' – Duane Nicol
VITAL STATS Sleeps 9 | From R1 400 per night | 083 261 5617 | diepomphuisie.wordpress.com →





5 DINKY'S DEN

WHERE Arniston

X FACTORS Offering all the bells and whistles of modern life – fully equipped kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine, DSTv and a daily cleaning service – Dinky's Den makes for fuss-free group holidays. There's something for everyone, whether you're into swimming, snorkelling, fishing, caving or beach walks ... and the dunes are great for both sandboarding and sundowners. If you want to simply take in Indian Ocean views, the deck offers it in spades. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'What a treat not to worry about cleaning up after boozy braais and beach missions and just read, play cards or build a puzzle. Truly relaxing.' – Leah van Deventer **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 10 | From R1 900 per night | 082 706 5902 | www.trobertson.co.za/dinkysden



4 SEASCAPE COTTAGE

WHERE Betty's Bay

X FACTORS Neatly nestled in a gully among Cape fynbos, this secluded stone cottage – with cosy fireplace – will make you feel far from civilisation. French doors from the open-plan living area lead onto front and back patios, giving you options of sea or mountain views. Once you've rinsed off the sand in the hot outdoor shower, why not go for a hike (or mountain-bike ride) in the pristine Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve? **TRIED AND TESTED** 'We loved that there were no other houses in sight, and that with the two patios you can always be sheltered from the wind. The outside shower overlooking the sea is a lovely touch.' – Olivia Andrews **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 4 | From R1 600 per night | 028 272 9261 or 083 679 4769 | www.capestay.co.za



6 DUNE DREAMS

WHERE Cannon Rocks

X FACTORS This double storey sleeps eight adults and five kids, making it perfect for extended-family holidays. And with beach and dunes as far as the eye can see, you won't be on top of one another. Whales, dolphins and bushbuck are abundant, the sand is strewn with seashells and there's even a shipwreck. Twitchers will delight in several endangered bird species too. A cleaner is available for a daily fee. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'No other place could ever compare. Watching whales frolicking while brushing your teeth in the morning is only one of the thrilling experiences Dune Dreams has to offer.' – Niki Stander **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 13 | From R1 500 per night | 083 305 0105 | www.dunedreams.co.za



7 RIVER SHACK

WHERE Mossel Bay

X FACTORS Recently redecorated, the River Shack is fully equipped with everything you need for a comfortable holiday, and its position in a nature reserve on the Blind River Mouth ensures total privacy. Take in the sea, river and dune views from the balcony and braai deck before walking down the steps or boardwalk onto soft grass or the vast, unspoilt beach. Paddle skis are provided for river and sea fun. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'You won't beat the River Shack – the best beach house I've stayed in.' – David Cotton **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 8 | From R1 800 per night | 083 268 9113 | absolutegetaways.co.za



8 BLUE HORIZON

WHERE Tsitsikamma

X FACTORS This luxurious log cabin balances on the edge of a hill, right next to the crashing waves of the Indian Ocean. Each room has spectacular soul-nourishing views; it's even possible to see dolphins splashing about in the surf while you drink your morning cuppa in bed. When you're ready, grab the kids for some rock-pool exploration while the fishermen in the family catch lunch directly off the cliffs. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'This place is really super! The views are so beautiful you'll never want to leave ... otters, whales and dolphins can be seen through the windows. It's a very romantic place, ideal for nature lovers!' – Nadine Arnou **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 8 | From R1 800 per night | 083 268 9113 | absolutegetaways.co.za



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10 WHALEBACK COTTAGE

WHERE Ramsgate

X FACTORS This was the first holiday cottage built in Ramsgate, and has pride of place in the village, with splendid sea views. Alan Paton wrote *Cry The Beloved Country* here, and explorer Kingsley Holgate visited here on his *Afrika: Dispatches From The Outside Edge* trip. The six-bedroomed house has been modernised to include all the comforts you need, and it's serviced. Bring your pets – they're welcome by arrangement. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'Whaleback Cottage has an amazing location and we absolutely loved our stay. The beaches are amazing too and the fact that it's dog-friendly is great. Doreen, the housekeeper, was fantastic and always smiling.' – Lara Tranter **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 13 | From R1 500 per night | 039 314 4837 | www.billsbest.co.za GH



9 CLIFTON COTTAGE

WHERE Kei Mouth

X FACTORS Step directly onto soft beach sand from this ideally situated beach house. Keep an eye on the kids – and even project manage their sandcastles – from the comfort of the patio, cool spritzer in hand. The sunrises from the cottage are sensational, while the lagoon looks magical under moonlight. If you need a break from the sun, there's DSTv in the cool, comfortable lounge. Plus the fridge is never far away. **TRIED AND TESTED** 'What a beautiful place! Not only is it right on the beach but the décor and comforts are top-class. Will most certainly go back!' – Natalie Swales **VITAL STATS** Sleeps 7 | From R1 600 per night | 043 841 1333 | keimouthaccommodation.co.za