

Cape Town

Weskus

Little Karoo

Garden Route

Great Karoo



Transkei

Durban

N3 Highway

Johannesburg

Back Home

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124

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173

183

207

255

# Cape Town

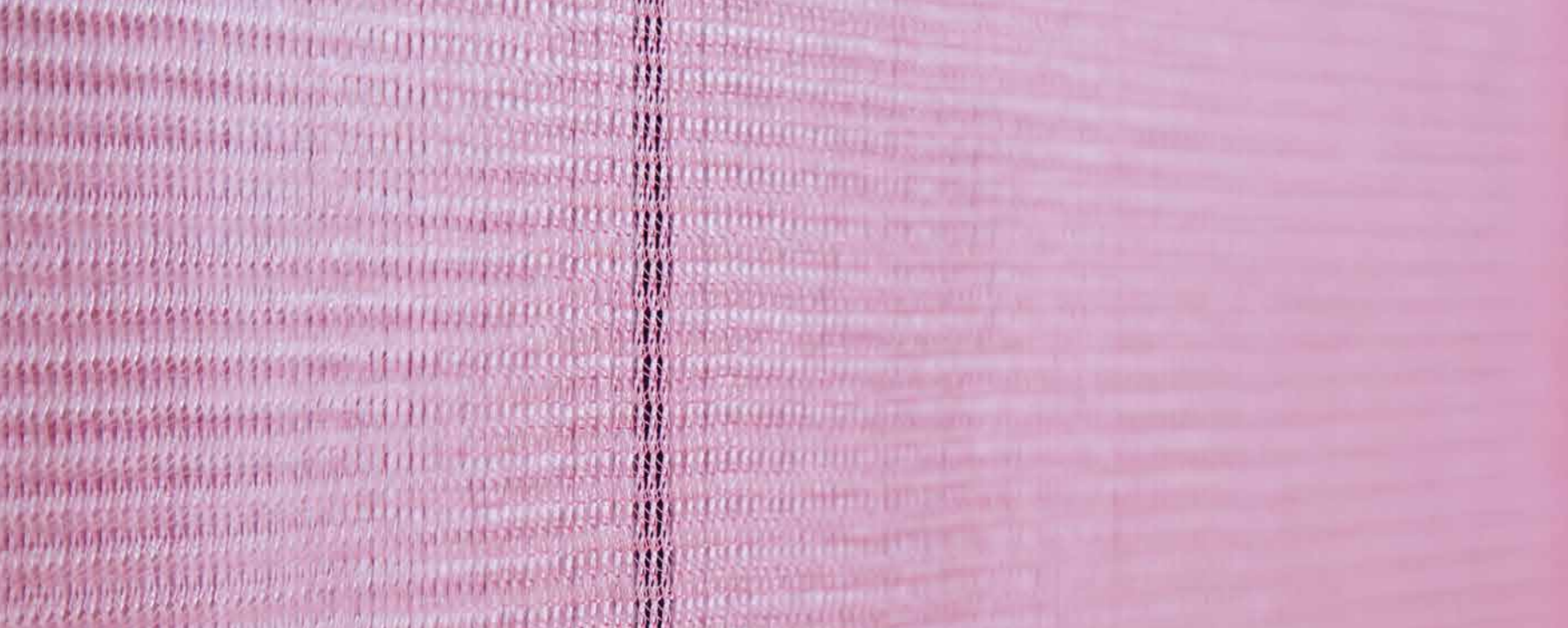
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Cape Town, the most southern city of the African continent, is the kind of place you can't help but fall in love with. There are very few cities around the world where the impact of nature on the city's layout and development is so tangible, and where the environment has such a strong influence on the everyday experiences of both residents and visitors. The iconic Table Mountain dominates the Mother City, but wherever you look, you are struck by the stunning ocean, the strong winds, the intense sunlight, the impact of the dry climate and the vegetation.

At the same time, Cape Town is known for its dark history. The city's past has become synonymous with colonisation and exploitation, and unfortunately this is still very tangible in today's South Africa. Nevertheless, we decided to look on the bright side, discovering and showcasing a city where different cultures and colours live together, and one where ultimately wealth will hopefully be distributed more fairly.

Cape Town has also become a surprising rainbow hotbed, giving rise to exciting new developments in different fields, such as cuisine, fashion, and music. Now all that remains is for others to follow this positive trend, so this city can really become a city of 'good hope' for everyone!



Combining the old with the new, hipsters and blue-collar workers, trendy boutique-style art shops and wholesale fabric outlets, healthy fruit and ginger juices and greasy burgers with lashings of sauce, Woodstock has it all. It is both boiling hot and cool, both elegant and raw.

Couvaloup, the wolf den. That's what Laurent Bayard named his house, after the town in southern France where he spent so many summers with his grandparents, who were antique dealers. They taught him to appreciate beautiful things, and encouraged his love of nature and animals.

Laurent left his parental home at a young age for Paris, where he worked for a famous shoe designer. Some years later he moved to London where he continued to work in fashion. He started travelling for his job, buying jewellery and other accessories. His life was hectic, exciting and wild. A bit too wild even, at one point. He realised that he needed a way out. Almost 15 years ago he made the switch to another lifestyle, after a friend recommended Cape Town as a place to escape. There he would be able to restore some semblance of balance to his life.

After a few years of working with antiques in Cape Town, his continuing desire for change led him to Hopefield, where he ended up by coincidence. In this village of little significance, he stumbled upon a dilapidated house with a for sale sign. Laurent immediately spotted its charm and potential. In less than a year's time, he succeeded in transforming the house and garden into the welcoming, arty and lavish place that Couvaloup is today.

Laurent knows no limits, and sometimes his obsessions send him down the wrong path. But most of the time, his boundless energy and talent help him accomplish what other people take years to complete or never even bother to start with in the first place.

Couvaloup is Laurent's home and also a B & B, where he and his five dogs personally welcome his guests. There are eight rooms, all of which have been decorated in Laurent's own style. Antique, modern and handmade items are arranged alongside each other. Large photographs, works of art, and funny gadgets seamlessly blend together in a playful and eclectic mix: Laurent's style in a nutshell.

Transforming the garden into the verdant space it is today was a huge feat. Laurent loves to work in the garden. It 'grounds' him.

At Home

Laurent  
Bayard

A Frenchman  
in Hopefield

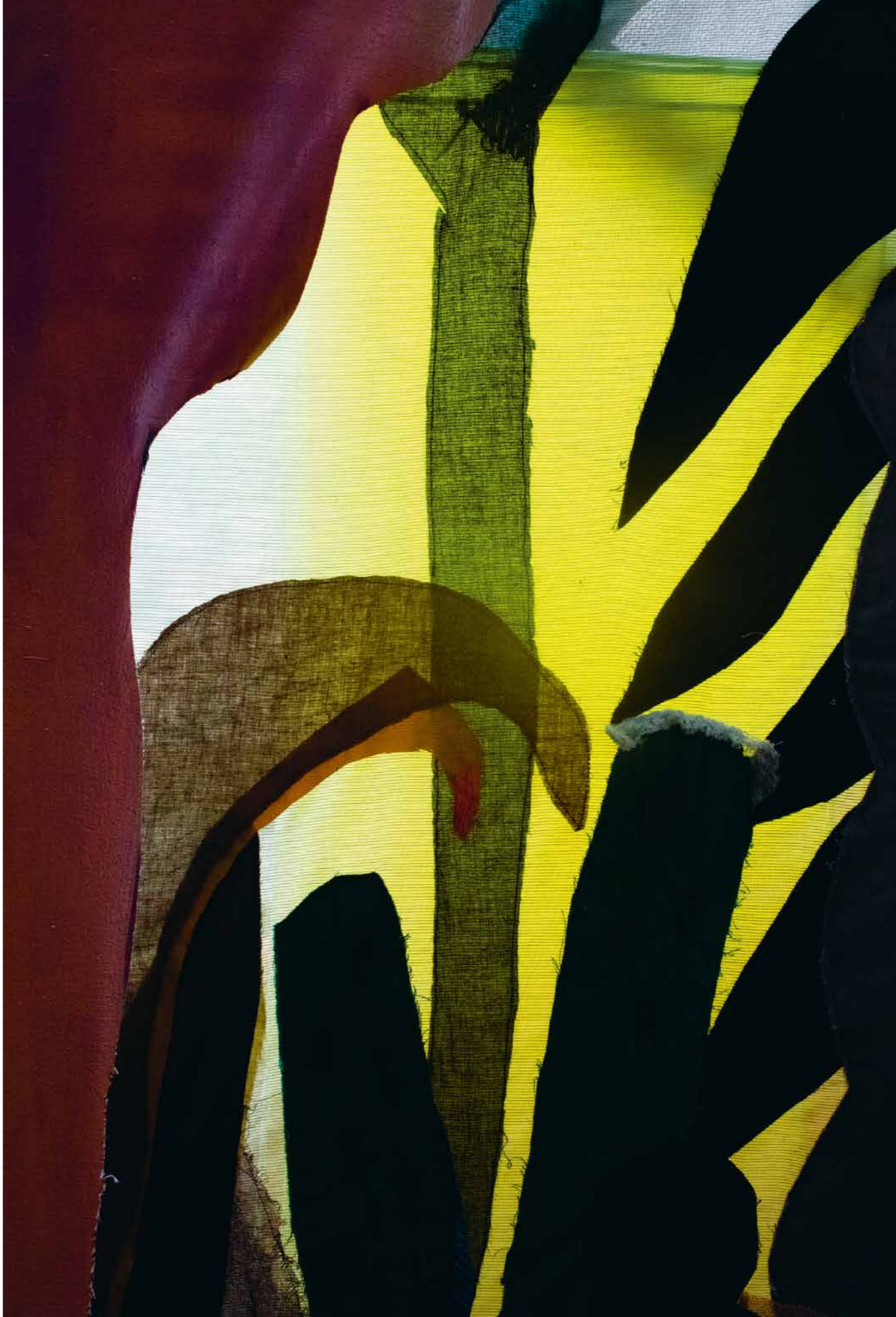




# Garden Route

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It is not entirely clear where the Garden Route starts and where it ends. But who cares? This itinerary takes you past some of the most beautiful places in the country.

When most people hear 'garden route', they envisage a short Sunday ride, past lovely little gardens that are contenders in the competition for the best-cut hedge or the best-kept rose bed. But this route has none of that. No pristine, manicured gardens here. Instead, the Garden Route winds its way along the wild coastline, through mountain ranges and game reserves.





NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

MOZAMBIQUE

PRETORIA

JO'BURGE

KRUGERPARK

MAPUTO

SWAZILAND

KIMBERLEY

BLOEMFONTEIN

LESOTHO

DURBAN

TRANSKEI

COFFEE BAY

PATERNOSTER

HOPEFIELD

CAPE TOWN

CALITZBORG

STILL BAY

MOSSEL BAY

TSITSIKAMMA

OYSTER BAY

PORT ELIZABETH

ADDO

SPRINGS

NIEUW BETHESDA

CLARENS

DRAKENSBERG

E D F E G H I J K L M N O P Q R