

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Condé Nast Traveller

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25 of the world's best beach houses



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First in a two-part guide
to Britain's best boutique hotels





The open-plan living/dining room at No 7 Glen Beach. Above, from left: the cottage in its Cape Town setting; the kitchen; the outdoor deck



3 No 7 Glen Beach

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

It's a shack with a chandelier; a simple clapboard cottage with a zebra-skin rug; a retreat just 15 minutes from the city centre. And, although surrounded by neighbouring cottages, No 7 Glen Beach is surprisingly private. At night the only sound you are likely to hear is the crashing of waves on Glen Beach, 30 metres away, a little-known cove between Cape Town's more famous beaches, Camps Bay and Clifton. Accessed via a leafy garden with a plunge pool and sauna, the cottage has been reconstructed on three levels, including a simple whitewashed loft with twin beds reached by a set of very steep stairs. The ground floor comprises a big open-plan bedroom/bathroom and a kitchen/living/dining room area (furnished with the aforementioned chandelier, dark-stained boards, butler table, oriental rugs and porcupine-quill lampshades) that opens onto a pale-blue-washed deck with sun loungers and an outdoor shower. Back inside, down a spiral staircase, past the guest bathroom and a study, is a second kitchen/living area, decorated in summery blues and whites. There are three further bedrooms: a double, a twin and one with bunks. The pretty boulders-and-sand beach is reached down a narrow public pathway next to the property. The Malawian chef/housekeeper, Sam Banda, will take care of everything – he even serves cocktails on the beach.

Sleeps Six comfortably, 10 maximum

Cost US\$3,500–US\$8,400 per week, including chef/housekeeper

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Photographs: Micky Hoyle