



(Keep an eye on your car keys during that massage.) You'll also get to stand on an ostrich egg and pose for a photo with ostrich feather accessories. I found the "things found inside an ostrich's stomach" display rather fascinating.

Humans are not the only creatures seeking warm winter sunbeams

If you want to see wildlife of a different kind, meerkats specifically, winter is a good time to visit Oudtshoorn. At 5 Shy Meerkats (that is the name of the company; there are many more meerkats), you can witness these adorable creatures basking in the warm rays, just like you.

This experience requires getting there just before dawn. While the temperature may be chilly, the benefit of going in winter is that you get to sleep in a little longer as the sun rises later. After the guides direct you to where the meerkat family has their burrow, and you arrange your camping chair in full view, it probably won't be too long before the meerkats come looking for the same winter sunbeam you're basking in.

One of the best things about this experience is that you get to see these creatures up close in a completely ethical way. Absolutely no touching or feeding is permitted, and the company goes to great lengths to ensure that the human visitors don't have any negative effects on the animals' wellbeing.

While winter mornings can be a bit chilly,



seeing these adorable creatures in their natural environment is sure to warm your heart.

Winter is the best time to see some wildlife

Aside from the Ostrich tractor safari, winter is the best time of year to go on a safari in the more traditional sense. During the colder months, the vegetation is less dense and the wildlife is more visible. Wildehondekloof Private Game Reserve is home to many antelope species. With no dangerous predators, visitors can experience wildlife by game drive, mountain bike, hike, or guided walk. Giraffes, sable, Cape mountain zebra, kudu, springbok, eland, nyala, gemsbok, blesbok, and black wildebeest are among the creatures you are likely to see here. To help you brave the cold on chilly mornings, their safari vehicle comes equipped with blankets, hot water bottles, and everything you need for a tea and coffee break when you've found the perfect scenic stop.

Whatever you decide to do, Oudtshoorn is sure to warm your heart like the sight of a half-asleep meerkat struggling to stay awake and upright in the early morning sun.

Wildehondekloof Private Game Reserve, Safari Ostrich Farm, and 5 Shy Meerkats are members of Cape Country Routes.

www.cango-caves.co.za

www.capecountryroutes.com 🐾

