



## MOUNT NELSON HOTEL

### Cape Town

Painted top-to-toe in pale candyfloss-pink, which in itself is an excitement (ask the children to guess what colour the hotel is going to be), the graceful *grande dame* affectionately nicknamed The Nelly is South Africa's colonial classic, and a great launch pad for safari action and Cape exploration – though, trust us, you will want a few nights here rather than just a quick stopover. While it might appear plantation-old-fashioned, the outlook is bright and up to speed. Sleep in the newly revamped Oasis wing (right next to the pool), where there are smart-but-comfy interconnecting suites with mini sitting-room areas and a handy little kitchen. The look is perfectly polished and just what you would expect from the Orient-Express stable – four-posters, fresh flowers and heaps of marble. When you're not out and about, riding a cable-car up Table Mountain (so named because it's so flat; they'll remember that forever) or taking pictures of penguins waddling along the sand at Boulders Beach, you'll probably spend all your time by the huge heated outdoor pool with its pink towels, puffy sun-loungers and crisp staff in crisp shorts. If you want to offload, deliver young ones (aged three to 12) to the Nellie & Nelson activity centre, where unflappable staff will organise cricket matches, face-painting and treasure hunts before settling them down quietly on beanbags for storytime featuring magical old African fables. But whatever else they get up to, do regroup for the extravagant afternoon tea, a transfixing theatre of waiters in gloves arranging itsy-bitsy *Alice in Wonderland* delights including handmade marshmallows, freshly baked biscuits galore and mini lemon meringues.

**JOURNEY TIME** Just over 11 hours' flight, then a 20-minute drive from the airport

**TIME DIFFERENCE** +2 hours

**INSIDER TIP** Sit on an ostrich, stand on a huge egg and feed one of the feathered giants at the West Coast Ostrich Ranch, half an hour from the hotel. Children will be busting to tell their friends.

**BOOK IT** Africa Travel (+44 20 7843 3500; [www.africatravel.co.uk](http://www.africatravel.co.uk)) offers four nights from £1,250 per person, based on two adults and two children, including breakfast, flights and transfers.