



Welcome

It's no secret that the The Big Five is the reason so many guests come back to the Hippo. The Big Five, yes, that's right, they're all here at Hippo. No, we're not talking about wildlife, we're talking about the top five reasons you book with us when there are so many alternatives.

Our big five consist of **1) Superheroes**, namely our front-of-house team of Caoife, Fiona & Warda, **2) Location, location, location**, smack in the coolest part of the city, **3) Quality coffee** in bed anytime, from your own kitchenette, **4) Cool technology**, like computers & free Wi-Fi in every room and finally **5) Fabulously free parking** – because it's the small things that make a big difference, especially in our busy city.

But that's just our selection, and we know that everyone differs, so we're giving you the chance to vote for your own – and **win a 2-night stay**, as well as vouchers to the great restaurants downstairs, The Fat Cactus & Greens. How? Sign up to our Hippo Facebook page and write your favourite feature or service at Hippo on our wall....Couldn't be simpler? [Click here](#) to do it now.





The Black Book.....where are we going to this month.

EAT

From the same owner as Kyoto Garden Sushi comes **Ultima Tapa**, another quality restaurant but this time focused on traditional Spanish tapas. Traditional is an important distinction since the word 'tapas' is thrown around very loosely these days. An intimate interior suitably blocks out the Long Street bustle while a small bar area allows for a quick casual bite. And the menu keeps it authentic: small simple dishes made with fresh ingredients.

224 Long Street, CBD. 021 422 2003.

SHOP

Church is a lone bastion of hipster cool on Spin Street, but well worth a visit. Run by The President (the design company, not the politician), the shop changes their interior monthly to suit themes based around products they sell. These range from books and magazines to clothing, fragrances and jewelry. There are also always a few really unique and quirky items on show, the Batman 'adult piñata' being a particularly fun one. 12 Spin Street.

DRINK

Head down to **Societi** where their snug bar (actually called Snug) offers comfortable lounge seating, complete with oversize Chesterfield-style chairs. There's also a wood fireplace for those chilly evenings, and a good selection of wines and other drinks make it a great place to pass the time regardless of the weather. Dinner at the restaurant next door is also adviseable.

50 Orange Street, Gardens. 021 424 2100.

SEE

Head to the What If The World Gallery in Woodstock for the Athi-Patra Ruga exhibition entitled, **Teeth Are The Only Bones That Show**. A eyebrow-raising critique on many local South African issues, from Xhosa initiation to homosexual stereotypes. Ruga's portraits question our perception of masculinity and the satirical 'camp' touches create a thought-provoking exhibition. On show until 13 November.

First Floor, 208 Albert Road. 021 448 1438.

Upcoming Highlight

Whisky Live is the biggest annual celebration of whisky, and the showcase event hits Cape Town from the 3rd - 5th November 2010. Get down to the CTICC where you can sip some fine tippie, meet some Master Distillers and lose yourself in the world of fine whiskies. More at www.whiskylivefestival.co.za.