

south africa

TRAVEL
Trip notes**Getting there**

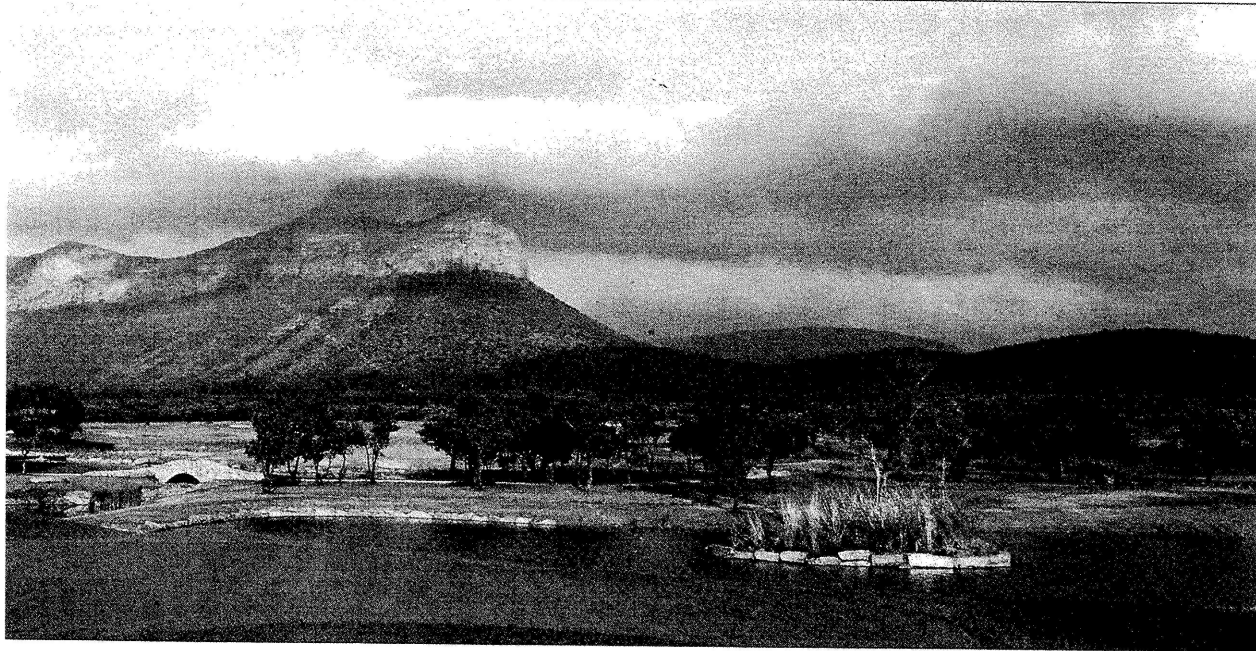
▶ Qantas has daily flights between Sydney and Johannesburg and Perth and Johannesburg (from \$1400 return).

Staying there

▶ Legend Golf & Safari Resort has six lodges within the reserve. Prices per person, sharing, start at 1590 rand (\$249, low season); 1850 rand. legend-resort.com.

Golfing there

▶ An Extreme 19th experience for four people, including helicopter and six balls each, costs 6700 rand.
▶ Legend Golf & Safari Championship Course: 450 rand a person including card, lunch and water. Tribute Course: 200 rand a person. Safari drive: 250 rand a person.



mine – a golfer – once hit a hole-in-one on a par three (on the 3th hole on Friday the 13th – I kid you not). If this wasn't remarkable enough, his brother-in-law then pipped the ante – he addressed the ball and, incredibly, followed suit. But they were passionate golfers and not with a chance.

My optimism flails. The ball just can't reach the fairway – a handkerchief-size patch between the scrub and the green – and then roll over the green's front section (the "Atlas" mountains).

Two ball spotters, course rangers, are strategically placed in the

reserve below. A radio crackle breaks the silence; the rangers have found my ball. We whoop with excitement; in this thick bushveldt that's a coup in itself.

This time, Legend keeps its prizemoney.

We leave the mountain and head to the Africa-shaped green in another exhilarating helicopter ride. The kamikaze pilot manoeuvres the helicopter as though he's in a James Bond film. We swoop down the cliff face before flattening out suddenly.

At the green, Wilhelm completes the hole. To celebrate (and

commiserate), we head to the more "traditional" 19th hole – the drinking hole. We hunch over our pints and, like a group of drunken fishermen bemoaning *The One That Got Away*, we relive our experiences of Playing the Extreme 19th. Legends indeed.

As for my own tale? My ball was definitely impeded by a passing wildebeest. Pity it wasn't intercepted by a monkey. I might have been in with a better chance.

The writer was a guest of South African Tourism and Qantas Airways.

