

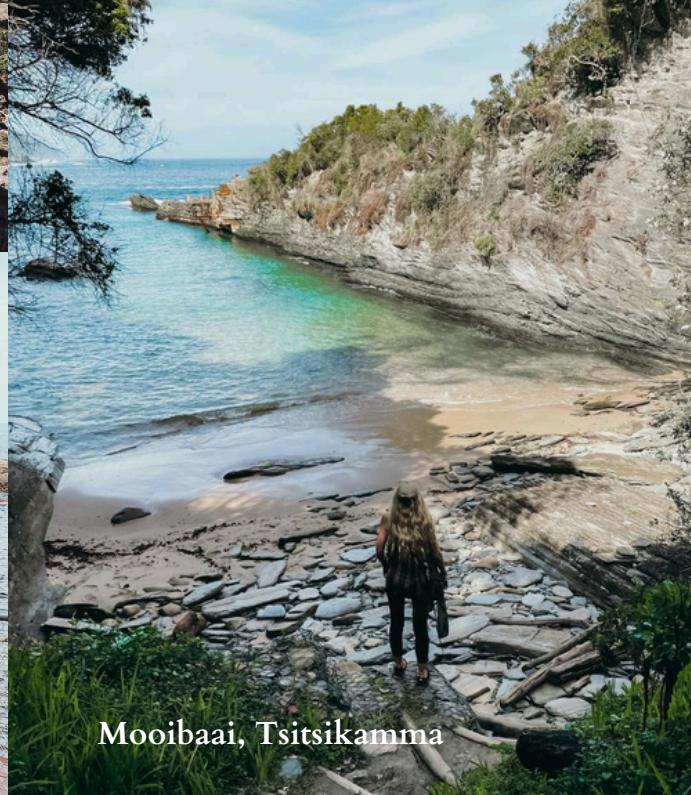
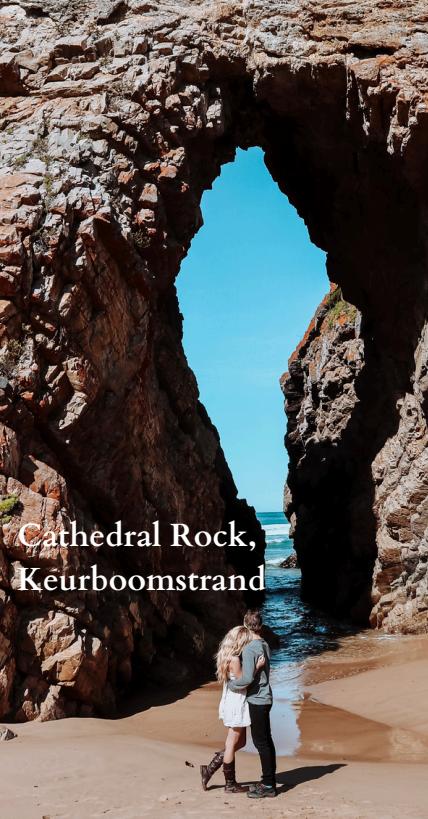


The Ultimate Guide

GARDEN ROUTE

South Africa

Ruthie Betts



Garden Route Guide

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The Garden Route, South Africa



Welcome to the Garden Route Guidebook! (a little [video](#) to spark your excitement)

We're so thrilled that you've chosen to explore this breathtaking region of South Africa, and we're truly honoured to be your guides on this journey. The Garden Route holds a special place in our hearts. Over the past four years of travelling full-time, we've crisscrossed the globe, yet we constantly find ourselves drawn back to this stunning stretch of coastline. Now, we can't wait to share everything we've learned about this magical corner of the world with you. Stretching from Mossel Bay in the Western Cape to Storms River in the Eastern Cape, the Garden Route is famed for its diverse landscapes, from golden beaches and lush forests to dramatic mountains and tranquil lagoons. This 300-kilometre-long route has something for everyone: nature lovers, adventure seekers, families, and those simply looking for a peaceful escape.

In this guidebook, we've poured our hearts into creating a resource that's both informative and inspiring. Here's a glimpse of what's to come:

- **Accommodation & Food:** Recommendations for places to stay, local dining spots, and cosy coffee shops.
- **Hiking Adventures:** From super easy trails to challenging routes, we'll guide you to the prettiest hikes and the most spectacular viewpoints.
- **Beaches & Wildlife:** Discover the best spots to soak up the sun and encounter the unique animals of the region.
- **Travel Tips:** Practical advice on getting around, budgeting, and packing for your adventure.
- **Sustainability:** How to travel responsibly and leave no trace.

And so much more!

Whether you're a first-time visitor or returning for the umpteenth time, we've crafted this guide with you in mind. Our aim is to make your journey along the Garden Route as seamless, enjoyable, and unforgettable as possible.

So, grab a cup of coffee (or tea, if that's your thing), sit back, and let's start planning your adventure.

We can't wait to share the wonders of the Garden Route with you!

Garden Route Guide

Meet Your Guides: Josh and Ruthie Betts

Hi there! We're Josh and Ruthie Betts, better known online as [@life_of_betts](#), and we're absolutely thrilled to be your guides through this adventure along the Garden Route!

Thanks for choosing us <3

As full-time travellers for the past four years, we've had the incredible privilege of exploring South Africa from top to toe, uncovering hidden gems and unforgettable experiences. Out of all the places we've roamed, the Garden Route remains one of our favourites. Its endless beauty, diverse landscapes, and unique charm keep pulling us back time and time again. Our passion is helping others experience the joy of travel, and with our expertise in crafting perfect itineraries, we're here to ensure you get the very best out of your journey. Whether you're an intrepid adventurer, a nature lover, or someone looking for the ultimate road trip, we've got you covered.

Through this guide, we're sharing not just tips and recommendations but a piece of our hearts. So, buckle up, let's hit the road, and together, we'll explore one of South Africa's most picturesque regions!



Garden Route Map



The Right to Roam & Traceless Tourism

The Right to Roam

South Africa is a country of diverse landscapes and open spaces that invite exploration. However, while the idea of “the right to roam” is common in some parts of the world, in South Africa, most land is privately owned or managed, including many areas of natural beauty. This means it’s essential to respect property boundaries and seek permission where required. Luckily, South Africa is home to an extensive network of national parks, nature reserves, and public hiking trails that make it easy to experience the outdoors responsibly. Yay! We suggest always sticking to marked paths, following local guidelines, and taking the opportunity to connect with the land in a way that honours its heritage and ecological importance.

In the Garden Route, SANParks (South African National Parks) plays a vital role in protecting some of the region’s most spectacular landscapes. Key destinations like the Garden Route National Park encompass gems such as Knysna Forest, Tsitsikamma, and Wilderness. These parks offer well-maintained hiking trails, camping facilities, and eco-adventures that cater to all levels of fitness and interests. Information on permits, entry fees, and activity bookings can be found on the SANParks website or at park offices.

Traceless Tourism in the Western Cape

The Western Cape’s natural beauty is one of its greatest assets, but preserving it requires conscious effort from every visitor. Practising traceless tourism means leaving the environment exactly as you found it. Always take your rubbish with you, avoid picking plants, and minimise disturbances to wildlife. When hiking or camping, stay on designated trails and use established sites to prevent erosion and habitat damage. South Africa’s biodiversity is unique and fragile—by treading lightly, we can ensure that future generations get to experience its wonder too! Every small act, from carrying a reusable water bottle to supporting eco-conscious accommodations, helps protect this stunning region. <3



Seasons / When to Travel, and Where?



Seasons: When to Travel, and Where

The Garden Route is a destination that shines no matter the season. Its incredible landscapes, diverse activities, and mild climate make it an enchanting place to visit all year round! That being said, we've broken down what it's like to visit during the different seasons so you can better plan when you'd like to plan your trip.

Summer (December to February) is ideal for outdoor activities! The long sunny days are perfect for beach trips, swimming, and exploring the many hiking trails. However, this is also peak season, meaning accommodation and camping prices are at their highest, and popular spots can get busy. If you're planning a summer trip, we recommend booking well in advance to secure the best deals and avoid missing out on your favourite activities.

Autumn (March to May) brings cooler temperatures and fewer crowds, making it one of the best times to visit, in our opinion. The forests take on golden hues, and the beaches are quieter, creating a serene atmosphere. This season is perfect for nature walks, birdwatching, and exploring hidden gems off the beaten track. There's still a few warm days so you can enjoy the beaches too!

Winter (June to August) surprised us and many other travellers with its charm! While cooler and wetter, winter offers a quieter and more intimate experience of the Garden Route. It's a great time for whale watching along the coast, cosy fireside evenings at your charming accommodation, and enjoying the lush greenery that thrives after the rains. Plus you'll get many off-season specials making it an affordable time to visit. <3

Spring (September to November) sees the region bursting with life. Wildflowers blanket the landscape, the weather is warming up, and the crowds are yet to arrive in full force! This is a fantastic time to enjoy outdoor adventures, the hiking trails look beautiful this time of year and bird sightings are amazing.

Our personal recommendation? Late spring (October to November) and early autumn (March to April) which offer the perfect balance of good weather, fewer crowds, and more affordable rates.

Remember, the Garden Route is a year-round gem—each season brings its own magic.

Garden Route Guide Digital Tools

Offline Maps are a Must

Many parts of the Garden Route, especially hiking trails and remote campsites, have limited or no signal. Download offline maps on apps like Google Maps, or Maps.me before you hit the road. Mark key locations like fuel stations, accommodations, and trailheads to stay on track even when you're off the grid.

Loadshedding Solutions

South Africa's loadshedding (scheduled power outages) can catch you off guard. Apps like EskomSePush is a lifesaver, providing updated schedules for your area so you can plan your charging and downtime accordingly. Keep a portable power bank or solar charger handy for your devices.

Hiking Apps

For hiking enthusiasts, download the App AllTrails, which offers detailed trail maps, difficulty ratings, and reviews. It's invaluable for finding the perfect hiking trails and navigating the paths safely.

Campsite Resources

Planning to camp? Check out Overlander.com or Camping SA, which provide comprehensive details on campsites, including facilities, reviews, and GPS coordinates.

Weather Updates

The Garden Route's weather can change quickly, so using the app on your phone or WeatherSA will keep you prepared. Be sure to check conditions before heading out for hikes or water-based activities! And try keep a raincoat in your hiking pack just in case :)

Wildlife & Birding Apps

The Garden Route is teeming with fascinating wildlife. Apps like iNaturalist, or BirdPro help you identify plants and animals along the way! Both can be downloaded from the App Store on your phone.

Backup Your Essentials

Save digital copies of important documents like IDs, bookings, and permits on your phone or in cloud storage. Having quick access to these can save you a lot of hassle.

Garden Route Guide Budget

One of the best things about the Garden Route is its versatility—it caters to every type of traveller, from those on a shoestring budget or those splurging on a luxury getaway!

To help you plan, we've outlined a rough idea what you can expect to spend on accommodation, activities, and more. Hopefully, this helps you plan the perfect itinerary!

Accommodation Costs

- **Budget-Friendly Options:** Backpacker hostels, camping sites, or basic self-catering stays can cost as little as R250–R400 per person per night.
- **Mid-Range Stays:** Cosy B&Bs, guesthouses, and boutique lodges typically range from R800–R1,500 per room per night.
- **Luxury Accommodations:** High-end lodges, beachfront villas, or 5-star hotels can cost upwards of R3,000–R10,000+ per night, often including gourmet meals, private tours, or spa treatments.

Activity Costs

- **Low-Cost Activities:** Many of the Garden Route's best attractions, like hiking trails, beaches, and nature reserves, are free or cost a nominal entrance fee of R50–R200.
- **Mid-Range Adventures:** Activities such as canoeing, guided forest walks, or zip-lining are generally priced between R300–R800 per person.
- **High-End Experiences:** For bucket-list experiences like swimming with seals, luxury safari game drives, or paragliding over the mountains, expect to pay anywhere from R1,500–R5,000+ per person.

Food and Drink

- **Budget Eats:** Groceries for self-catering can be as low as R100–R200 per day, while fast-food meals are typically R50–R150.
- **Mid-Range Dining:** Local restaurants and pubs serve hearty meals for around R150–R300 per person.
- **Fine Dining:** A special dinner at a high-end restaurant might cost R500–R1,200 per person, often paired with local wines, and inclusive of a starter or dessert.

Transport

- **Car Hire:** Essential for exploring the Garden Route, car rental starts at approximately R400–R600 per day, excluding fuel.
- **Fuel Costs:** With the distance you'll be covering, plan for R1,000–R2,000+ depending on your itinerary and fuel efficiency.
- **Tolls:** There are minimal tolls along the route, but budget around R50–R150 just in case.

Garden Route Guide Budget

Daily Budget Estimates

- Budget Traveller: R500–R800 per day
- Comfort-Seeker: R1,200–R2,500 per day
- Luxury Explorer: R5,000+ per day

Saving Tips

- Travel in the off-season to take advantage of lower accommodation and activity prices. Also, try book your accommodation at least three months prior to your trip, guaranteeing that you'll secure the best spots at the best rates!
- Look for accommodation with self-catering facilities to cut down on dining costs.
- Combine free activities like hikes and beach days with one or two splurge-worthy experiences.
- Share costs by travelling with friends or family.

Garden Route Guide Packing List

Here's a guide to help you pack smartly for your trip:

Clothing Essentials

- Layer Up: The Garden Route's weather can shift unexpectedly, so pack lightweight layers for daytime and warmer clothing for cooler evenings. A fleece or windbreaker is a must.
- Activewear: Comfortable clothing for hiking and outdoor activities. Opt for quick-drying fabrics for maximum ease.
- Rain Gear: Even in summer, occasional rain showers can surprise you. A compact waterproof jacket or poncho will come in handy.
- Swimwear: Whether it's lounging on the beach, kayaking, or a dip in a waterfall, swimwear is essential.
- Footwear:
 - Comfortable hiking boots or trail shoes.
 - Sandals or flip-flops for beach days.
 - Casual sneakers or flats for strolling around towns.
- Hat & Sunglasses: Sun protection is non-negotiable.



Garden Route Guide

Packing List

Outdoor & Adventure Gear

- Daypack: Perfect for hikes or day trips. Look for one with compartments for water bottles and snacks.
- Reusable Water Bottle: Stay hydrated and reduce waste.
- Binoculars: For wildlife spotting!
- Headlamp or Flashlight: Great for camping, night walks, or during loadshedding.
- Towel: A quick-drying travel towel works well for both beaches and campsites.

Tech & Navigation

- Phone & Charger: Essential for navigation, photos, and keeping in touch.
- Power Bank: A must-have for loadshedding or long days on the go.
- Offline Maps: Download maps ahead of time (Google Maps or Maps.me).
- Camera or GoPro: If you need one to capture all your special memories!
- Universal Adapter: For international travellers.

Toiletries & Health

- Sunscreen: High SPF as sun protection is non-negotiable.
- Bug Spray: Mosquitoes can be pesky, especially in the evenings.
- First Aid Kit: Include essentials like plasters, painkillers, antihistamines, and antiseptic cream.
- Personal Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and soap.

Documents & Essentials

- ID or Passport: Always have a copy with you.
- Park Permits & Tickets: For any activities or reserves you've booked, keep a digital copy handy .
- Cash: Some smaller establishments may not accept cards or the card machines may not be working.

Extras to Consider

- Snacks: Energy bars or trail mix are great for hikes and road trips.
- Books or Kindle.
- Eco-Friendly Bags: Reusable bags for shopping or carrying wet gear.

Seasonal Add-Ons

- Winter: A heavier jacket, gloves, and a beanie for chilly mornings and evenings.
- Summer: Rash guard, sun umbrella, or snorkelling gear for water adventures and extra beachwear.

Getting Around: Navigating the Garden Route



Airport: Fly to the Garden Route

George Airport is probably the best option for landing in the Garden Route! We've also used Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport in Gqeberha then rented a car and drove a couple hours to reach the Garden Route.

Self-Drive: The Ultimate Freedom

The best way to experience the Garden Route is by car. Renting a vehicle gives you the flexibility to explore hidden gems, stop for impromptu photo opportunities, and tailor your itinerary to your pace.

- **Car Hire:** Rental cars are readily available at major airports and towns like George and Knysna. Rates start from R400 per day, excluding fuel. Opt for a reliable vehicle with good ground clearance for gravel roads.
- **Fuel Costs:** Petrol stations are plentiful along the route, but it's a good idea to fill up in towns before heading to remote areas.

Public Transport: Limited Options

While public transport exists, it's not the most convenient for exploring the Garden Route. Minibus taxis are the primary form of local transport but can be unreliable and challenging for tourists unfamiliar with the system. There is Bolt available in some of the bigger towns like George, however it can be unreliable.

Shuttle Services & Guided Tours

If driving isn't your thing, consider shuttle services or guided tours:

- **Shuttle Services:** Companies like Baz Bus offer hop-on, hop-off services catering to backpackers, connecting major towns and hostels.
- **Guided Tours:** Ideal for those who prefer a curated experience, guided tours often include transport, accommodation, and activities. Your accommodation should be able to connect you to a guided tour option.

Cycling & Walking

For eco-conscious travellers or those craving a slower pace, cycling and walking are great options:

- **Cycling:** The Garden Route offers scenic cycling trails, such as those in the Knysna Forest or along the Robberg Peninsula. Bring your own bike or rent one locally.
- **Walking:** Some areas, like Wilderness and Nature's Valley, are pedestrian-friendly, with marked trails connecting key attractions.

Garden Route Guide

Wildlife & Animals

The Garden Route is a paradise not just for travellers but also for wildlife enthusiasts!

Wildlife in the Wild

- Knysna Forest Elephants: Deep in the ancient Knysna Forest, local whispers of the last remaining wild elephants captivate imaginations. While sightings are incredibly rare, knowing that one might be out there adds a sense of magic to visiting these beautiful forests.
- Leopards in Plettenberg Bay: These elusive cats roam the forests and mountains surrounding Plettenberg Bay. Though they are seldom seen, they play a vital role in the region's ecosystem. We were lucky enough to spot a wild leopard drinking water from the Keurboomsriver in Plettenberg Bay in 2022!
- Seals at Mossel Bay: Along the rocky shores of Mossel Bay, playful Cape fur seals can often be seen basking in the sun or frolicking in the surf. You can catch a boat to visit the seals, but prepare for a rather stinky experience ;).
- Great White Sharks: The Garden Route's coastal waters are famous for great white sharks. Shark spotters and sirens in towns like Plettenberg Bay and Mossel Bay keep swimmers and surfers safe, with flags indicating current conditions:
 - Green Flag: Safe to swim.
 - Black Flag: Poor visibility, exercise caution.
 - Red Flag: Shark sighting, no swimming allowed.
 - White Flag with Shark: Shark in the area, siren sounded—leave the water immediately.

Game Reserves and Wildlife Parks

The Garden Route boasts several game reserves where you can witness South Africa's iconic wildlife up close:

- Gondwana Game Reserve: Located near Mossel Bay, this private reserve offers Big Five safaris amid stunning fynbos landscapes.
- Botlierskop Private Game Reserve: Between Mossel Bay and George, this family-friendly reserve features game drives and luxurious tented accommodations.
- Plett Game Reserve: Just outside Plettenberg Bay, this reserve is perfect for day visitors seeking a shorter, intimate safari experience.



Garden Route Guide

Wildlife & Animals



Animal Sanctuaries

For ethical animal encounters and rehabilitation efforts, the Garden Route offers exceptional sanctuaries, a few of our favourites are:

- Knysna Elephant Park: Walk among rescued elephants in a safe, open environment while learning about their stories.
- Tenikwa Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre: Near Plettenberg Bay, Tenikwa focuses on conservation education and offers behind-the-scenes tours of its wildlife hospital.
- Monkeyland & Birds of Eden: Both near Plettenberg Bay, these sanctuaries provide free-roaming habitats for primates and exotic birds, creating an unforgettable experience for visitors.
- Garden Route Wolf Sanctuary: Near Plettenberg Bay, a sanctuary for wolves.

Marine Life and Coastal Wonders

- Whales and Dolphins: Between June and November, the coastline becomes a prime whale-watching destination, with southern right whales making their annual migration. Dolphins can often be spotted year-round.
- Offshore Adventures: Swim with seals off the coast of Plettenberg Bay! Such a bucket list experience, and if you're not keen to get in the water you can observe from the boat.

Respecting Nature

When encountering wildlife, remember to observe from a safe distance and avoid feeding animals. These creatures thrive in their natural habitats, and your respect helps preserve their well-being! With the right to coexist with nature, we have the responsibility to protect it. <3



Now that we've covered all our bases
let's get started



Stanley Island, Plettenberg Bay



Ballots Bay, George ([Video](#))

A hidden coastal retreat offering a beautiful family friendly treehouse, sleeping 6 people with stunning ocean views. Ideal for nature lovers and fishing enthusiasts.

Website: [Ballots Bay](#)

Price: Approx. R3,000 per night.

Buff and Fellow Eco Cabins, George ([Video](#)) ([Video 2](#))

Luxurious eco-friendly cabins on a buffalo farm, featuring private hot tubs, braai areas, and serene views. Perfect for couples or families. Epic 8 sleeper Safari Villa!

Website: [Buff and Fellow](#)

Price: From R4,500 per night.

AfriCamps at Oakhurst, Wilderness ([Page](#))

Boutique glamping tents on a working dairy farm, perfect for families. Features include hot tubs, hiking trails, and mountain biking.

Website: [AfriCamps at Oakhurst](#)

Price: From R1,450 per tent per night.

Fernhill Guest Farm & Tented Treehouses, Knysna ([Video](#))

Experience rustic farm life or unique tented treehouse stays on this working farm.

Perfect for families and couples seeking a peaceful escape. Enjoy farm animals, hiking trails, and braai areas.

Website: [Fernhill Guest Farm & Tented Treehouses](#)

Price: Approx. R1,200–R1,800 per night.

Premier Resort The Moorings, Knysna ([Video](#))

A modern resort along the Knysna Lagoon offering a range of accommodations, a pool, and a restaurant. Perfect for families or business travellers.

Website: [Premier Resort The Moorings](#)

Price: Approx. R1,800–R3,000 per night.

Cloud9 Estate, Knysna ([Video](#))

A luxury retreat perched above Knysna with breathtaking lagoon views, modern amenities, and a tranquil atmosphere. Ideal for family getaways or special celebrations.

Website: [Cloud9 Estate](#)

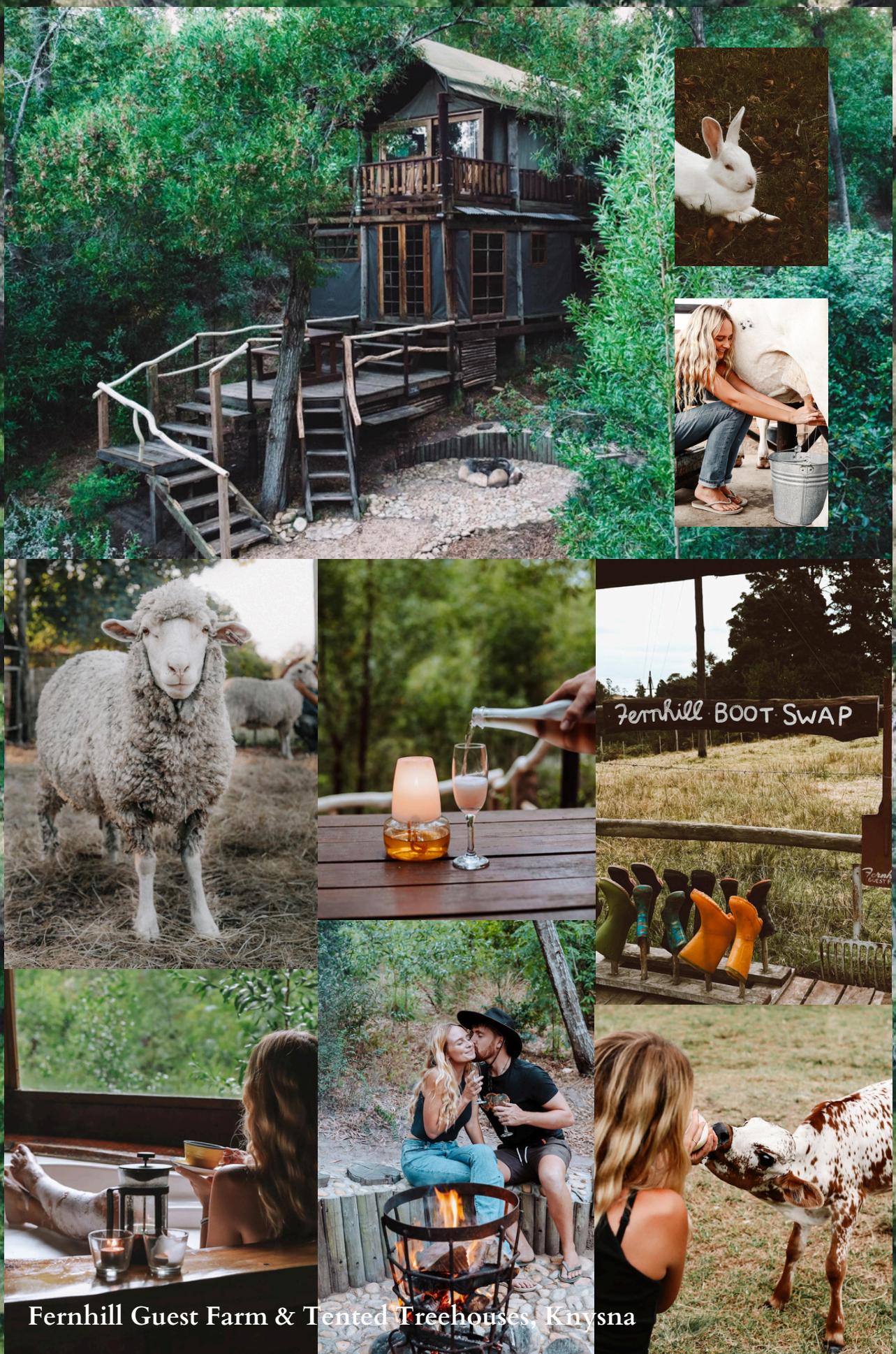
Price: From R3,500 per night.

Pezula Nature Retreat, Knysna ([Video](#))

A luxury retreat with world-class amenities, including a spa, fine dining, and stunning golf course views. Perfect for a romantic or family getaway.

Website: [Pezula Nature Retreat](#)

Price: From R4,000 per night.



Dreamy Destinations

Romantic Getaways

Treedom Villas & Vardos Wilderness ([Video](#))

Stay in whimsical, luxurious vardos (gypsy wagons) or eco-friendly villas surrounded by nature. Perfect for a romantic getaway or creative retreat.

Website: [Treedom Villas & Vardos](#)

Price: Approx. R2,200 per night.

Nima Lodge, Wilderness ([Video](#))

Perched on a hill, this eco-lodge offers panoramic views of the forest and mountains.

Stay in luxury cabins with private decks and outdoor baths.

Website: [Nima Lodge](#)

Price: From R3,400 per night.

Cliffhanger Cottages, Knysna ([Video](#))

If you are looking for a superior Knysna log cabin with spectacular views, Cliffhanger self-catering cottage lives up to its name.

Website: [Cliffhanger Cottages](#)

Price: Approx. R2,500 per night.

Forest Edge Nature Lovers' Retreat, Knysna ([Video](#))

A tranquil retreat nestled at the edge of the Knysna forest, perfect for nature lovers.

Enjoy cosy cottages with outdoor showers, braai facilities, and serene garden views.

Website: [Forest Edge Nature Lovers' Retreat](#)

Price: Approx. R1,400 per night for two people.

Lazy Leopard Forest Retreat, Knysna ([Video](#))

Set in the heart of the forest, this retreat features private self-catering cabins with stunning views. Ideal for couples and nature enthusiasts.

Website: [Lazy Leopard Forest Retreat](#)

Price: From R1,400 per night.

Amanzi Island Lodge, Knysna ([Video](#))

A boutique guesthouse located on Leisure Isle, offering lagoon-facing rooms and a tranquil setting. Features a pool and complimentary bike rentals.

Website: [Amanzi Island Lodge](#)

Price: Approx. R3,000 per night.

The Bungalow, Plettenberg Bay ([Page](#))

A beachfront boutique stay in Plettenberg Bay with chic interiors and ocean views.

Features a restaurant, bar, and direct beach access.

Website: [The Bungalow](#)

Price: Approx. R2,500 per night.

Sky Villa Boutique Hotel, Plettenberg Bay ([Page](#))

A luxurious hilltop hotel with panoramic views, stylish rooms, a pool, and fine dining. Perfect for honeymoons or special occasions.

Website: [Sky Villa Boutique Hotel](#)

Price: Approx. R4,500 per night.

Stanley Island, Plettenberg Bay ([Video](#))

A private island retreat offering rustic cottages and serene surroundings. Perfect for family vacations or group getaways. Accessible by boat.

Website: [Stanley Island](#)

Price: Approx. R2,000 per night.

The Dome at Misty Mountain Reserve, Tsitsikamma ([Video](#))

Stay in a unique, futuristic dome overlooking stunning mountain landscapes. Features a private deck, outdoor seating, and luxury amenities.

Website: [Misty Mountain Reserve](#)

Price: From R6,000 per night.

Garden Route Guide

Nature's Embrace



Sanjika Escapes, George ([Video](#))

Nature Lover Getaways

Luxury nature villa offering breathtaking forest views, designed for ultimate relaxation. Features private hottub, modern interiors, and fully equipped kitchen.

Website: [Sanjika Escapes](#)

Aardts Cabins, De Rust ([Video](#))

Aards Guest Farm, is situated in the de Rust, it has private parking with 1 double bed and 1 bunk bed. There is also a small kitchen with the basics to prepare meals, with a firepit just outside that can be used for a BBQ.

Website: [Aardts Guest Farm](#)

Price: Approx. R1,700 per night.

Misty Mountain Reserve Lodge & Self-Catering, Tsitsikamma ([Video](#))

A range of accommodations, including lodges and chalets, surrounded by pristine wilderness. Ideal for families and nature lovers.

Website: [Misty Mountain Reserve](#)

Price: From R4,500 per night.

Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa, Tsitsikamma ([Video](#))

Charming log cabins set in the heart of Tsitsikamma, offering spa treatments, a restaurant, and adventure activities nearby.

Website: [Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa](#)

Price: From R2,000 per night.



Treedom Villas & Vardos, Wilderness



Sanjika Escapes, George

Garden Route Guide

Campsites We Love

Point Caravan Resort, Mossel Bay ([Video](#))

Nestled on the seafront, this campsite offers spectacular ocean views and is close to Mossel Bay's attractions. Amenities include clean ablution blocks, laundry facilities, and electrical hookups. Ideal for surfers and families alike.

- Website: [Point Caravan Resort](#)
- Price: From R280 per night for 2 people

Victoria Bay Camping Site, George ([Video](#))

A stone's throw from the famous Victoria Bay beach, this site is perfect for beach lovers and surfers. It offers shaded spots, braai facilities, and well-maintained bathrooms.

- Website: Not available (Book via SANParks or directly through the local municipality)
- Price: Approx. R200–R300 per night

Swartvlei Caravan Park, Sedgefield ([Video](#))

Located near the Swartvlei Lagoon, this park is ideal for water sports enthusiasts. Enjoy fishing, kayaking, and birdwatching. Facilities include modern ablution blocks, electricity, and shaded sites.

- Website: [Swartvlei Caravan Park](#)
- Price: From R320 per night

Lake Pleasant Chalets and Lodges, Sedgefield

A serene campsite along the banks of Groenvlei Lake, this spot combines camping with a touch of luxury. The site features self-catering chalets, fishing opportunities, and picnic areas.

- Website: [Lake Pleasant Chalets](#)
- Price: From R250 per site

Buffalo Bay Caravan Park ([Video](#))

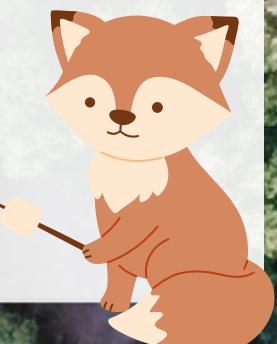
Set on the beach, this campsite is ideal for beach lovers. Facilities include well-maintained ablutions, braai areas, and close proximity to the ocean.

- Website: [Buffelo Bay Camping](#)
- Price: Approx. R300 per night

De Hoek Mountain Resort, Oudtshoorn ([Video](#))

Set in the mountains near Oudtshoorn, this campsite is a hiker's dream. It offers rustic accommodation with mountain views, hiking trails, and rock pools.

- Website: [De Hoek Mountain Resort](#)
- Price: From R150 per night



Garden Route Guide

Campsites We Love

Firefly Falls, Plettenberg Bay ([Page](#)).

Located near The Crags, this charming campsite blends nature and adventure. It features cosy campsites, a communal kitchen, and nearby adventure activities.

- Website: [Firefly Falls](#)
- Price: From R200 per person

Plettenberg Bay – A Forever Resort ([Video](#)).

This family-friendly resort is situated along the Keurbooms River. Facilities include swimming pools, fishing, and playgrounds for kids.

- Website: [Plettenberg Bay Forever Resort](#)
- Price: From R350 per night

Storms River Mouth Rest Camp, Tsitsikamma ([Video](#)).

One of the most iconic campsites in South Africa, this SANParks site is located in Tsitsikamma National Park. Campsites have sea views, and you can enjoy hikes, kayaking, and more.

- Website: [Storms River Mouth Rest Camp](#)
- Price: From R300 per night

Garden Route Guide

Restaurants We Love

Wilderness

Pomodoro Restaurant

- A Wilderness go-to for hearty Italian dishes and friendly vibes. Their wood-fired pizzas and homemade pastas are absolute crowd-pleasers.

Blue Olive Restaurant

- Nestled in Wilderness, this spot combines great food with a lush forest setting. Try their burgers or seafood while soaking up the relaxed ambiance.

Mozambik Wilderness

- A vibrant spot bringing Mozambican flavours to Wilderness. Think prawns, peri-peri chicken, and cocktails that scream island holiday vibes

Knysna

Persello Pizzeria

- A Knysna favourite for wood-fired pizza and classic Italian dishes. Casual, cosy, and perfect for a relaxed dinner with friends.

Garden Route Guide

Restaurants We Love

Knysna Waterfront

- A dining hotspot with a variety of restaurants overlooking the lagoon. From fresh seafood to global flavours, there's something for every palate here.

Sirocco

- Located at Thesen Island, this trendy restaurant offers an upscale menu with a focus on fresh seafood, stunning views, and a buzzing vibe.

Plettenberg Bay

Beacon Island Resort

- A Plettenberg Bay icon, Beacon Island Resort offers a variety of dining experiences with stunning ocean views. Enjoy fresh seafood, gourmet dishes, and the perfect sunset backdrop.

Ristorante Enrico

- Located in Keurboomstrand, this Italian gem offers authentic pizzas, pastas, and a warm, welcoming vibe with unbeatable oceanfront views. Don't miss the tiramisu!

Island Beach Bar

- Situated on Stanley Island in Plettenberg Bay, this laid-back spot serves refreshing cocktails and light bites with toes-in-the-sand vibes.

Down to Earth

- An eco-conscious eatery combines wholesome meals with rustic charm. Their farm-to-table ethos makes every bite taste like home.

Tsitsikamma

Marilyn's 60's Diner

- Step back in time at this Tsitsikamma spot, where retro vibes meet comfort food. Think juicy burgers, thick milkshakes, and classic rock tunes.

Tsitsikamma Cattle Baron

- Famous for its perfectly grilled steaks and cosy ambiance, this restaurant inside Tsitsikamma National Park pairs incredible food with breathtaking natural surroundings.

Cliffhanger Pub

- Located near Bloukrans Bridge, this casual pub offers pub grub and cold beers with a side of adrenaline. Watch bungee jumpers while enjoying a hearty meal.

Garden Route Guide

Cafés and Cute Coffee spots



Mossel Bay

The Blue Shed Coffee Roastery

- A buzzing coffee shop in Mossel Bay offering artisan coffee and a rustic, inviting vibe. Perfect for unwinding with a hand-crafted cup and indulging in their delicious baked goods.

Wilderness

The Green Shed Coffee Roastery

- A charming gem for coffee lovers in Wilderness, offering fresh, locally roasted brews. The cosy atmosphere pairs perfectly with their light snacks and homemade pastries.

Hoekwil

Hoekwil Country Cafe

- A countryside favourite for hearty, home-style meals made from fresh, local ingredients. Their cheesecake is the stuff of legends and a must-try for anyone visiting the area.

Knysna

île de pain

- This iconic artisan bakery and café in Knysna is a haven for foodies. Indulge in freshly baked pastries, hearty breakfasts, and memorable lunches in a warm, stylish setting.

Apollo Coffee Knysna

- A minimalist coffee haven offering perfectly brewed single-origin coffees in a calm and relaxed environment. This spot is all about high-quality coffee done right.

Plettenberg Bay

Emily Moon

- A showstopper of a restaurant with magical riverside views. Emily Moon blends gourmet cuisine with rustic elegance, creating the perfect backdrop for special occasions or a relaxed indulgent meal.

Garden Route Guide

Cafés and Cute Coffee spots

Clare's Cakes & Coffee Shop

- A cosy little café with some of the best homemade cakes and pastries in Plettenberg Bay. Perfect for a sweet treat, a light brunch, or a moment of indulgence over freshly brewed coffee.

THYME & AGAIN

- This stylish farm stall and café near Plettenberg Bay serves up mouthwatering pies and wholesome meals. A great stop for delicious comfort food in a rustic setting.

Ristorante Enrico

- A local favourite for authentic Italian food with a beachside vibe. Enjoy wood-fired pizzas, fresh seafood, and rich pastas, all while taking in unbeatable ocean views.

Tsitsikamma

Marilyn's 60's Diner

- A quirky blast from the past, this retro diner serves up all-American classics like juicy burgers, creamy milkshakes, and crispy fries. The 60s decor and fun atmosphere make it a standout spot for families and nostalgia lovers.

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

The Prettiest Hikes

Knysna

Circles in the Forest Trail

This magical trail in the Knysna forest is inspired by Dalene Matthee's famous book Circles in a Forest. It's perfect for nature lovers and history buffs.

- Distance: 3 km or 9 km options
- Cost: R50 per person
- Permits: Available at the entrance



Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

The Prettiest Hikes

Plettenberg Bay

Robberg Nature Reserve

Robberg offers breathtaking coastal views, pristine beaches, and unique wildlife sightings, such as seals and seabirds.

- Trail Options: 2.1 km, 5.5 km, and 9.2 km loops
- Cost: R60 per adult, R40 per child
- Permits: Pay at the entrance gate

Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma Mountain Trail

This multi-day trail takes you through the stunning landscapes of Tsitsikamma National Park, featuring waterfalls, indigenous forests, and fynbos. There are shorter day hikes available for those who want a taste of the trail.

- Distance: 3–6 days or shorter loops of 6–10 km
- Cost: R50–R200 per person (depending on the route)
- Permits: Available at the SANParks office

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Viewpoints and Super Easy Hikes

Wilderness

Dolphin Point

Beautiful viewpoint along the road offering sweeping views over Kaaimans River.

- Distance: Park and view.
- Cost: Free



Knysna

Knysna Heads Viewpoint Parking

A short walk from the parking lot leads to panoramic views of the Knysna Lagoon and the Indian Ocean.

- Distance: Less than 1 km
- Cost: Free

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Viewpoints and Super Easy Hikes

Knysna

East Head View Point

Located in Knysna, this viewpoint offers a quick and rewarding walk to stunning ocean views.

- Distance: Less than 1 km
- Cost: Free

Plettenberg Bay

Signal Hill View Point

This viewpoint offers sweeping views over Plettenberg Bay and its beaches.

- Distance: A short walk from the parking area
- Cost: Free

Tsitsikamma

Suspension Bridge (Storms River Mouth)

An iconic, family-friendly walk leading to the dramatic suspension bridge over the Storms River gorge.

- Distance: 2 km round trip
- Cost: R50 per adult, R25 per child
- Permits: Included in SANParks entry fee

The Big Tree, Tsitsikamma

- An easy trail to see a giant Outeniqua Yellowwood estimated to be over 800 years old.
- Distance: 1 km boardwalk
- Cost: R40 per person
- Permits: Purchase at the entrance

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Easy Hikes

Wilderness

Hidden Waterfall (Kaaimans River)

Accessible only via kayak, this unique trail takes you to a secluded waterfall.

- Distance: 4 km (combined kayaking and walking)
- Cost: Kayak rental approx. R400 per person
- Permits: Not required



Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Easy Hikes

Half Collared Kingfisher Trail (Wilderness)

Follow the Touw River to a stunning waterfall, passing through lush forest, mostly along a boardwalk or trail but there are a few steep stairs to climb.

- Distance: 8 km
 - Cost: R55 per person
 - Permits: Available at Garden Route National Park Wilderness office

Knysna

Pledge Nature Reserve Hike - Knysna

A peaceful hike through lush indigenous vegetation, offering stunning views of the Knysna Lagoon. Ideal for birdwatching and reconnecting with nature.

- Price: R30 per person.
 - Best Weather: Mild days, especially in spring or autumn.
 - Booking: Entry tickets available at the reserve entrance.

Jubilee Creek Picnic Site

A scenic forest walk ending at a tranquil picnic site and stream. Perfect for families and beginners.

- Distance: 3.6 km
 - Cost: R40 per person
 - Permits: Available at the entrance

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Mosselbay Moderate Hikes

Mosselbay

Moderate Hikes

St. Blaze Hiking Trail

A coastal trail between Mossel Bay and Dana Bay offering dramatic cliff views.

- Distance: 13.5 km one way
 - Cost: Free
 - Permits: Not required

Sedgefield

Gericke's Point (Sedgefield)

A tidal-dependent hike to an incredible rocky outcrop with rock pools and marine life.

- Distance: 4 km round trip
 - Cost: Free
 - Permits: Not required

Garden Route Guide

Hiking Trails

Moderate Hikes

Knysna

White Elephant Trail - Near Knysna

A scenic 8km loop through dense forest, offering glimpses of wildlife, beautiful viewpoints, and a refreshing rock pool at the end for a swim. Perfect for hiking enthusiasts and nature lovers.

- Price: Free entry.
- Best Weather: Cooler mornings or mild days in spring and autumn.
- Booking: No booking required; self-guided trail.

Plettenberg Bay

Cathedral Rock (Keurboomstrand)

A scenic coastal trail leading to the famous rock formation. Best visited at low tide.

- Distance: 3 km round trip
- Cost: Free
- Permits: Not required

Tsitsikamma

Waterfall Tsitsikamma

A more challenging hike in the Storms River area with rocky paths leading to a beautiful waterfall.

- Distance: 6 km round trip
- Cost: R50 per adult, R25 per child
- Permits: Included in SANParks entry fee

Storms River Viewpoint

A longer loop trail offering stunning views over the gorge and ocean.

- Distance: 9 km
- Cost: R50 per adult
- Permits: Included in SANParks entry fee





Waterfall, Half Collard Kingfisher Trail, Wilderness

Garden Route Guide

Things to Do

Mossel Bay

Mossel Bay Zipline

Zipline across the ocean for 1.1 km, enjoying stunning views of the coastline below.

- Price: R450 per person
- Best Weather: Clear, calm days
- Booking: Mossel Bay Zipline

Wilderness

Paraglide Africa

Soar above Wilderness with tandem paragliding for breathtaking aerial views.

- Price: R1,200 per flight
- Best Weather: Windy, sunny days
- Booking: Paraglide Africa

Kaaimans Adventures

Kayak through the Kaaimans River and discover hidden gems like the waterfall hike.

- Price: Approx. R350 per person
- Best Weather: Calm days
- Booking: On-site

Fairy Knowe Hotel (to rent kayaks for Wilderness National Park)

Rent kayaks to explore the serene rivers and wetlands of the Wilderness National Park.

- Price: R200–R350 per kayak (2–3 hours)
- Best Weather: Warm, calm days
- Booking: On-site at Fairy Knowe Hotel

Sedgefield

Paraglide Africa

Glide over Sedgefield and the surrounding landscapes for spectacular views.

- Price: R1,100 per flight
- Best Weather: Windy, sunny days
- Booking: Paraglide Africa

Knysna

Knysna Ziplines

Soar above the forest canopy with stunning views of the Knysna area on this zipline adventure.

- Price: R750 per person
- Best Weather: Dry, sunny days
- Booking: On-site

Garden Route Guide

Things to Do

Ocean Sailing Charters

Enjoy a luxurious cruise on a catamaran, complete with sunset views or a champagne breakfast.

- Price: From R950 per person
- Best Weather: Summer for calm waters
- Booking: Online or at the Knysna Waterfront

Adventure Land

A family-friendly water park with slides, pools, and braai facilities.

- Price: R150 for adults, R80 for kids
- Best Weather: Warm months
- Booking: On-site

Charlesford View Cottages Kayaking

Paddle along the peaceful rivers and scenic views near Charlesford View Cottages.

- Price: Approx. R300 per person
- Best Weather: Warm, calm days
- Booking: On-site or via Charlesford View Cottages

Knysna Elephant Park

Experience an intimate encounter with rescued elephants in a safe, natural environment.

- Price: R350 per person
- Best Weather: All year round
- Booking: Knysna Elephant Park

Oudtshoorn

Chandelier Game Lodge & Ostrich Show Farm

Feed and interact with friendly giraffes in a beautiful setting, offering a memorable wildlife experience for visitors of all ages.

- Price: R200 per person
- Best Weather: Sunny days for outdoor activities
- Booking: On-site or via Chandelier Game Lodge

Plettenberg Bay

Offshore Adventures

Snorkel with seals or enjoy a boat ride exploring Plettenberg Bay's marine life.

- Price: R900–R1,200 per person
- Best Weather: Calm, sunny days
- Booking: Offshore Adventures



Offshore Adventures, Plettenberg Bay

Garden Route Guide

Things to Do

Garden Route Wolf Sanctuary

Visit this unique sanctuary dedicated to the care and conservation of wolves and dogs.

- Price: R150 per person
- Best Weather: All year round
- Booking: Garden Route Wolf Sanctuary

Tsitsikamma

Face Adrenalin Bloukrans Bungee

The world's highest commercial bridge bungee jump (216 m) offers adrenaline junkies stunning views before taking the leap.

- Price: R1,400 per jump
- Best Weather: Clear days for the best views
- Booking: Face Adrenalin

Stormsriver Adventures

Try treetop canopy tours and ziplining through the lush forests of Tsitsikamma.

- Price: R695 per person
- Best Weather: All year round, as the forest canopy provides cover
- Booking: Stormsriver Adventures

Untouched Adventures

Snorkel or kayak through the Storms River gorge to experience nature up close.

- Price: R400–R600 per person
- Best Weather: Warm, sunny days
- Booking: Untouched Adventures

Storms River Bridge

A marvel of engineering, this bridge offers incredible views of the gorge below.

- Price: Free entry; Guided tours R150
- Best Weather: Clear days for the best views
- Booking: Tours available on-site

Guano Cave

Explore this fascinating cave filled with history and a thriving bat colony.

- Price: Approx. R200 per person (guided tours available)
- Best Weather: All year round
- Booking: On-site

Garden Route Guide

Things to Do

ZIPLINE @ Tsitsikamma Falls Adventure

Zoom across breathtaking waterfalls and lush forest landscapes.

- Price: R695 per person
- Best Weather: Dry, sunny days

Booking: Tsitsikamma Falls Adventures

Garden Route Guide

Things to Shop

George

Garden Route Mall

- For all your essentials, this mall offers retail stores, restaurants, and entertainment.

Wilderness

Milkwood Village Shopping Centre

A collection of quirky shops and eateries in Wilderness.

- Best Weather: Any weather
- Highlights: Souvenirs and local treats

Sedgefield

Wild Oats Community Farmers' Market

A bustling farmers' market offering fresh produce, baked goods, and local crafts.

- Open: Saturdays, 7:30 am – 12 pm
- Best Weather: Dry mornings

Knysna

Knysna Waterfront

A hub for boutique shopping, dining, and boat tours.

- Best Weather: All year round
- Tip: Try a sunset cruise for a perfect end to your visit

Garden Route Guide

Things to Shop

Plettenberg Bay

Old Nick Village

A charming spot for handmade crafts, pottery, and textiles. It also features an organic café.

- Best Weather: Any weather
- Tip: Visit on a weekday for a quieter experience
- Website: [Old Nick Village](#)

Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma Khoisan Village

Step into history with this cultural experience showcasing the traditions of the Khoisan people.

- Price: From R120 per person, including a guided tour
- Best Weather: Cooler months for outdoor comfort
- Booking: On-site

Garden Route Guide

Best Beaches

George

Victoria Bay Beach

A gorgeous beach with grassy lawns overlooking the sea.

- Best Weather: Summer
- Tip: Rent a surfboard or have lunch at Vickies.

Wilderness

Wilderness Beach

A stunning, wide beach great for long walks and whale watching in winter.

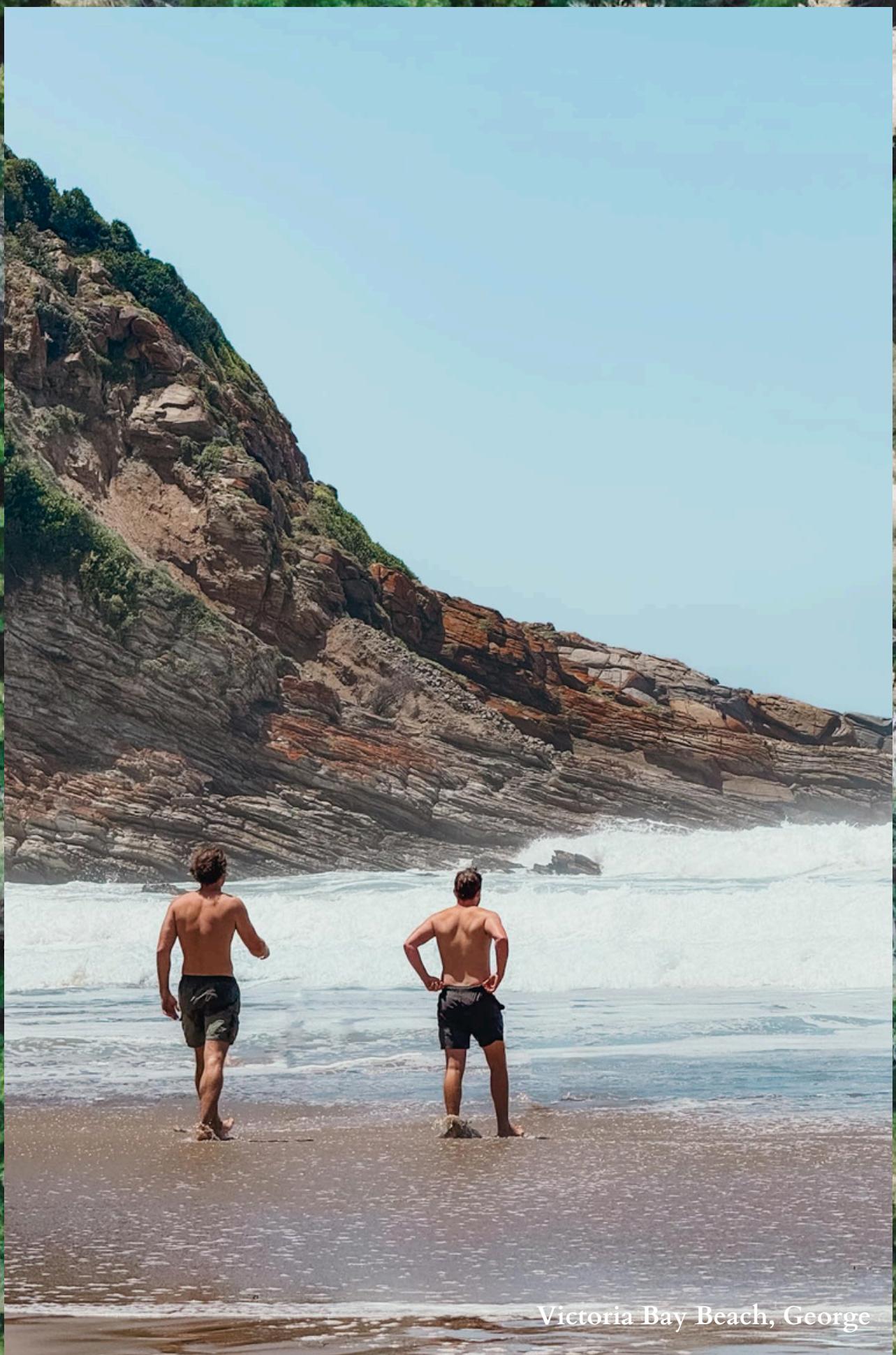
- Best Weather: All year round

Sedgefield

Swartvlei Beach

A long stretch of sand, ideal for walks and sunset views.

- Best Weather: All year round



Victoria Bay Beach, George

Garden Route Guide

Best Beaches

Sedgefield

Gericke's Point

A stunning beach and rock formation near Sedgefield, perfect for tidal pool exploration.

- Price: Free entry
- Best Weather: Low tide for the best experience
- Booking: On-site

Knysna

Buffalo Bay Beach

A family-friendly beach known for calm waters and pristine sand.

- Best Weather: Summer
- Tip: Pack a picnic.

Noetzie Beach

Famous for its "castle-like" homes and secluded location.

- Best Weather: Sunny days
- Tip: Be prepared for a steep walk to access the beach.

Plettenberg Bay

Robberg 5 Beach

A tranquil beach near Plettenberg Bay, perfect for a relaxing day.

- Best Weather: Summer
- Tip: Look out for dolphins.

Garden Route Guide

Hidden Gems

Mossel Bay

Cape St Blaize Cave

Explore this historical cave, a significant archaeological site with panoramic ocean views. A short walk from the St Blaize Hiking Trail.

- Price: Free entry
- Best Weather: Clear days for ocean views
- Booking: No booking required

Garden Route Guide

Hidden Gems

Mossel Bay

Die Poort - A Tidal Pool

- Stunning large tidal pool, easy to access and fantastic for swimming.
- Price: Free
- Best Weather: Sunny, warm days
- Tip: Pack swim costumes, sunblock, towels, and a picnic

Wilderness

Waterfall, Half Collard Kingfisher Trail

A beautiful hike through the forest to a cascading waterfall, perfect for a swim or picnic. The trail is 8 km total.

- Price: R50 SANParks permit
- Best Weather: Cooler mornings or mild days in summer
- Booking: Permits available at Ebb & Flow Rest Camp

Hidden Waterfall (Kaaimans Adventures)

A secluded gem tucked away in the forest, offering a serene spot for a swim and relaxation. Requires a kayak to reach.

- Price: Free entry
- Best Weather: Warm days for swimming
- Booking: No booking required

Knysna

Coney Glen Beach

A braai area below the Knysna Heads offering boardwalks and a rocky bay.

- Price: Free
- Best Weather: Year-round, with summer being ideal for water activities
- Tip: Smaller rock pools are safe for swimming at low tide, but be cautious of strong sea currents

Noetzie Beach

Known for its iconic castles and pristine sands, this secluded beach offers a peaceful retreat and clear waters for swimming.

- Price: Free entry
- Best Weather: Spring or summer for sunny days
- Booking: No booking required



Cathedral Rock, Keurboomstrand

Garden Route Guide

Hidden Gems

Jubilee Creek Picnic Site

A magical spot for picnics, surrounded by lush forest and offering a short trail to a serene stream. Ideal for families and nature lovers.

- Price: R50 SANParks permit
- Best Weather: Mild days, especially in spring or summer
- Booking: Permits available at the entrance

Keurboomstrand (Plettenberg Bay Area)

Cathedral Rock

A stunning rock formation that's perfect for photography, particularly at sunrise or sunset. Accessible via a short beach walk.

- Price: Free entry
- Best Weather: Low tide for easy access
- Booking: No booking required

Ristorante Enrico

A hidden gem offering authentic Italian cuisine with incredible ocean views. Perfect for romantic sunset dinners.

- Price: Meals from R150–R300
- Best Weather: Sunset for a magical experience
- Booking: On-site or via phone

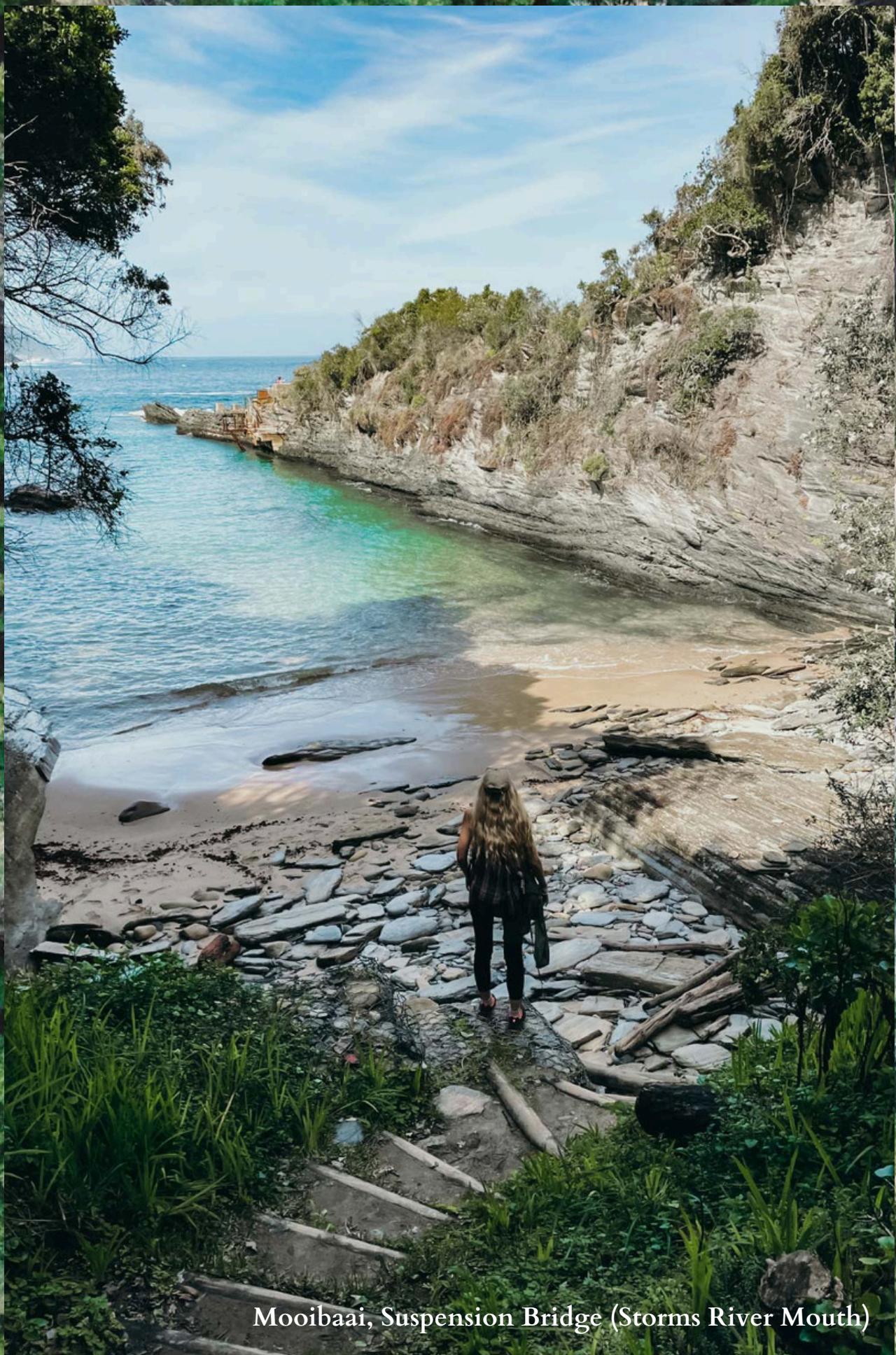
Tsitsikamma

Mooibaai Beach

A tranquil, lesser-known beach found along the Stormsriver Suspension Bridge hike; look for a small sign along the boardwalk.

- Price: R70 SANParks entrance
- Best Weather: Sunny days, especially in summer
- Booking: On-site





Mooibaai, Suspension Bridge (Storms River Mouth)

Garden Route Guide

Camp & Wander

8 day camping itinerary

Day 1 & 2: Mossel Bay

- Stay: Point Caravan Resort – Affordable camping with spectacular ocean views.
Price: ±R400 per night.

Day 1:

- Hike the scenic St Blaize Hiking Trail (free). This trail is within walking distance of the campsite, just ask the reception or use google maps to direct you to the start (at the Point Hotel & Spa). This trail is not for the faint of heart, one way is 13.5km. We recommend an 8am start so you beat the heat, pack lots of water, snacks and sufficient sun protection! You do not need to complete the trail, just walk a few km along the coastal path then turn around at any point that suits you and follow the trail home. The trail is marked with the sign of the oystercatcher. The views are totally worth it even if you don't complete the entire trail :).
- Afterwards, cool off at one of our favourite rock pools which is also walking distance from the campsite! Die Poort – a picturesque tidal pool (free entry).

Day 2

- Visit the fascinating Point of Human Origins for R150 pp, where you'll learn about early human habitation.
- Enjoy the golden sands of Mossel Bay's beaches.
- Worth a Visit: Pop into The Blue Shed Coffee Roastery for a delicious cup of coffee.

Day 3 & 4: George

- Travel: A quick 34-minute drive from Mossel Bay to George.
- Stay: Victoria Bay Camping Site – Sea-view camping!
 - Price: ±R450 per night for Railway Terrace. For a little extra comfort, we recommend the Western Terrace at ±R530 per night, which includes private ablutions and uninterrupted ocean views.
 - Tip: Say hi to Sylvester, the friendly manager who sells the BEST Namibian firewood. Let him know Josh & Ruth sent you!

Day 3 & 4

- Rent a surfboard and hit the waves at Victoria Bay (±R200).
- Relax on the grassy seating areas overlooking the ocean or soak up the sun on the beach.
- Enjoy a braai / bbq at this picturesque campsite.
- Treat yourself to pizza or a cocktail at Vicky's Restaurant.

Garden Route Guide

Camp & Wander

8 day camping itinerary

Food: Stock up on supplies in George at the Garden Route Mall which offers many different shops & grocery stores. We recommend Food Lovers Market, for all your groceries!

Day 5 & 6: Wilderness

- **Travel:** A short 15-minute drive from George to Wilderness.
- **Stay:** Ebb-and-Flow Rest Camp (Garden Route National Park - SANParks).
 - **Price:** Camping starts at ±R275 per night, while Rondavels cost ±R550 for two people.
 - **Note:** An additional conservation fee of ±R52 per person per day applies unless you have a Wild Card.

Day 5

- Start the morning early on the Half-Collared Kingfisher Trail (free if staying in SANParks). This tranquil trail winds along the Touw River to a waterfall, it's about an 8km round trip and is a moderate trail. Pack your costume to enjoy a swim at the waterfall.
- Afterwards, treat yourself to the BEST cheesecake ever at Hoekwil Country Café (it's about a 10 minute drive and totally worth it).

Day 6

- A day to take it slow...Explore Milkwood Village for quirky shops and local souvenirs and indulge in freshly brewed coffee at Green Shed Coffee Roastery (it's delish!).
- Spend the afternoon taking a leisurely stroll at the vast Wilderness Beach, ideal for long walks or quiet contemplation.

Day 7 & 8: Plettenberg Bay

- **Travel:** A scenic 1-hour 5-minute drive from Wilderness to Plettenberg Bay.
- **Stay:** Forever Resort, Plettenberg – Fantastic campsite along the Keurboomsrivier.
 - **Price:** ±R150–250 per site per night.

Day 7

- If you're feeling tired, we recommend taking a beach day on the pristine sands of Robberg 5 Beach (free).

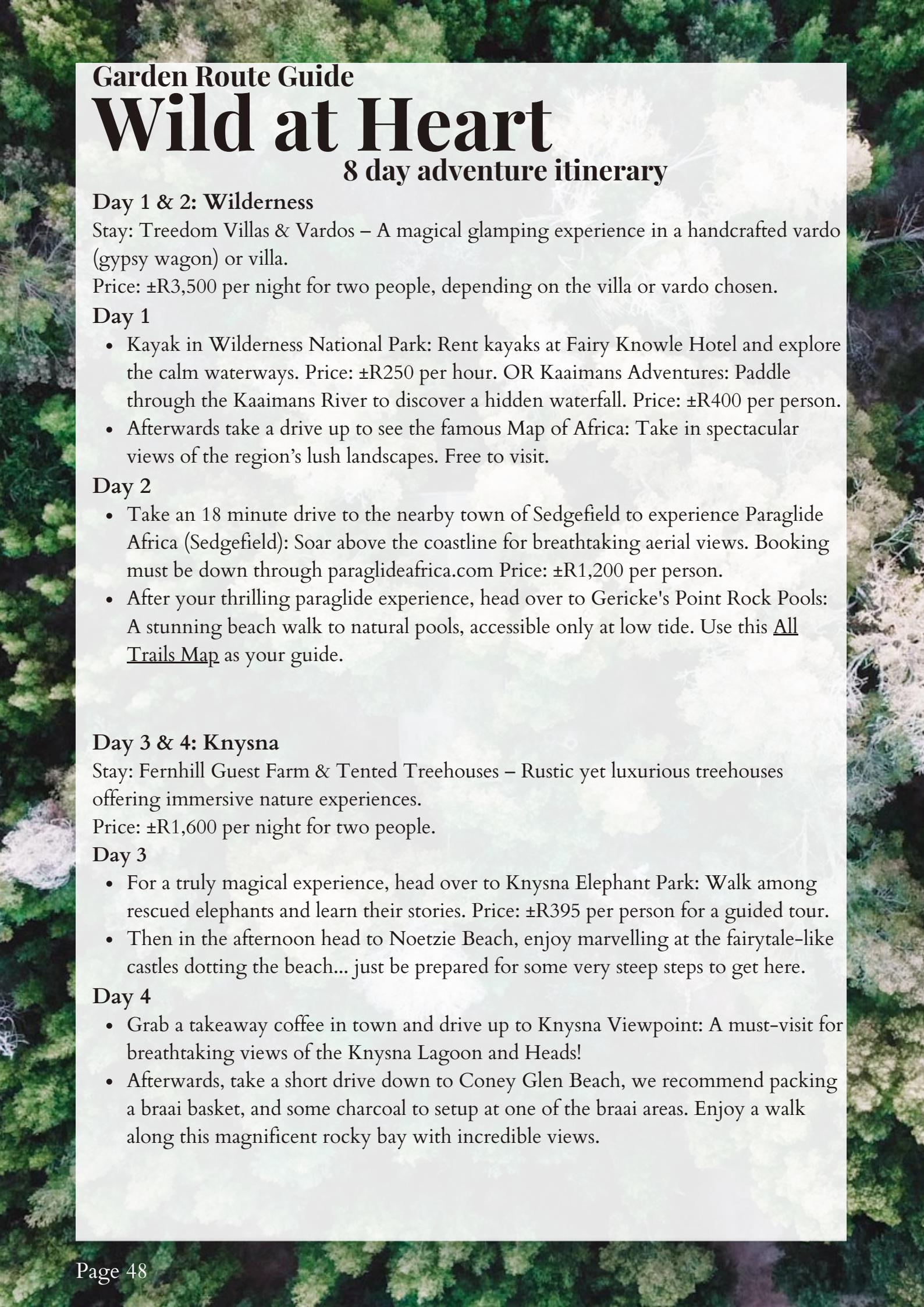
Camp & Wander

8 day camping itinerary

- If you're feeling up for another day of hiking, we highly recommend the Robberg Nature Reserve Trail! (R65 pp) It's an incredible place for breathtaking coastal views, there are three trails available here. The Gap - A 2.1 km trail that's good for a relaxed walk. The Witsand Trail - A 5.5 km trail that takes about 2–3 hours to complete. It's moderately challenging and passes a colony of Cape fur seals. And finally, The Point - A 9.2 km trail that takes about 4–5 hours to complete. It's the most difficult trail and involves some rock scaling.

Day 8

- For a relaxed beach walk, take the beach trail to Cathedral Rock in Keurboomstrand (free). Visit during low tide for the best experience. The start of this walk is at Ristorante Enrico, just walk along the beach.
- In the afternoon, catch the free ferry to Stanley Island Beach Bar and enjoy a cocktail with a view.



Garden Route Guide

Wild at Heart

8 day adventure itinerary

Day 1 & 2: Wilderness

Stay: Treedom Villas & Vardos – A magical glamping experience in a handcrafted vardo (gypsy wagon) or villa.

Price: ±R3,500 per night for two people, depending on the villa or vardo chosen.

Day 1

- Kayak in Wilderness National Park: Rent kayaks at Fairy Knowle Hotel and explore the calm waterways. Price: ±R250 per hour. OR Kaaimans Adventures: Paddle through the Kaaimans River to discover a hidden waterfall. Price: ±R400 per person.
- Afterwards take a drive up to see the famous Map of Africa: Take in spectacular views of the region's lush landscapes. Free to visit.

Day 2

- Take an 18 minute drive to the nearby town of Sedgefield to experience Paraglide Africa (Sedgefield): Soar above the coastline for breathtaking aerial views. Booking must be down through paraglideafrica.com Price: ±R1,200 per person.
- After your thrilling paraglide experience, head over to Gericke's Point Rock Pools: A stunning beach walk to natural pools, accessible only at low tide. Use this [All Trails Map](#) as your guide.

Day 3 & 4: Knysna

Stay: Fernhill Guest Farm & Tented Treehouses – Rustic yet luxurious treehouses offering immersive nature experiences.

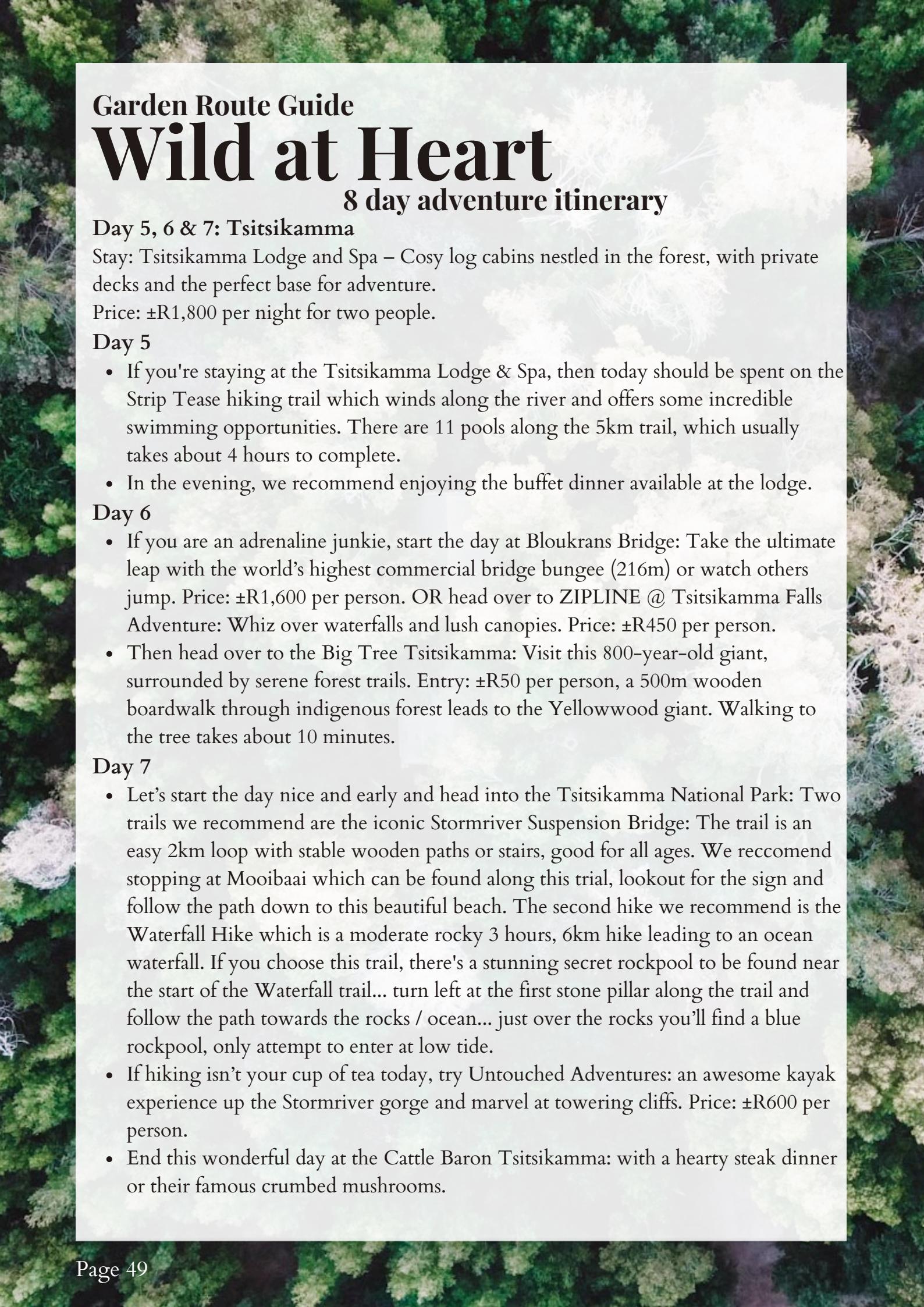
Price: ±R1,600 per night for two people.

Day 3

- For a truly magical experience, head over to Knysna Elephant Park: Walk among rescued elephants and learn their stories. Price: ±R395 per person for a guided tour.
- Then in the afternoon head to Noetzie Beach, enjoy marvelling at the fairytale-like castles dotting the beach... just be prepared for some very steep steps to get here.

Day 4

- Grab a takeaway coffee in town and drive up to Knysna Viewpoint: A must-visit for breathtaking views of the Knysna Lagoon and Heads!
- Afterwards, take a short drive down to Coney Glen Beach, we recommend packing a braai basket, and some charcoal to setup at one of the braai areas. Enjoy a walk along this magnificent rocky bay with incredible views.



Garden Route Guide

Wild at Heart

8 day adventure itinerary

Day 5, 6 & 7: Tsitsikamma

Stay: Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa – Cosy log cabins nestled in the forest, with private decks and the perfect base for adventure.

Price: ±R1,800 per night for two people.

Day 5

- If you're staying at the Tsitsikamma Lodge & Spa, then today should be spent on the Strip Tease hiking trail which winds along the river and offers some incredible swimming opportunities. There are 11 pools along the 5km trail, which usually takes about 4 hours to complete.
- In the evening, we recommend enjoying the buffet dinner available at the lodge.

Day 6

- If you are an adrenaline junkie, start the day at Bloukrans Bridge: Take the ultimate leap with the world's highest commercial bridge bungee (216m) or watch others jump. Price: ±R1,600 per person. OR head over to ZIPLINE @ Tsitsikamma Falls Adventure: Whiz over waterfalls and lush canopies. Price: ±R450 per person.
- Then head over to the Big Tree Tsitsikamma: Visit this 800-year-old giant, surrounded by serene forest trails. Entry: ±R50 per person, a 500m wooden boardwalk through indigenous forest leads to the Yellowwood giant. Walking to the tree takes about 10 minutes.

Day 7

- Let's start the day nice and early and head into the Tsitsikamma National Park: Two trails we recommend are the iconic Stormriver Suspension Bridge: The trail is an easy 2km loop with stable wooden paths or stairs, good for all ages. We recommend stopping at Mooibaai which can be found along this trail, lookout for the sign and follow the path down to this beautiful beach. The second hike we recommend is the Waterfall Hike which is a moderate rocky 3 hours, 6km hike leading to an ocean waterfall. If you choose this trail, there's a stunning secret rockpool to be found near the start of the Waterfall trail... turn left at the first stone pillar along the trail and follow the path towards the rocks / ocean... just over the rocks you'll find a blue rockpool, only attempt to enter at low tide.
- If hiking isn't your cup of tea today, try Untouched Adventures: an awesome kayak experience up the Stormriver gorge and marvel at towering cliffs. Price: ±R600 per person.
- End this wonderful day at the Cattle Baron Tsitsikamma: with a hearty steak dinner or their famous crumbed mushrooms.

Garden Route Guide

Romantic Roamers

8 day romance itinerary

Day 1 & 2: Buff & Fellow Eco Cabins, George

Stay: Eco Pods – Sleek, stylish, and oh-so-romantic, with views over the serene dam.

Price: ±R2,500 per pod per night.

Day 1

- After check-in, get cozy in your eco pod and start the romance with a meal-in-a-box delivery. We highly recommend the Potjiekos, Braai Box, or the indulgent West Coast Fish Braai. Want to dial up the romance? Pre-order the Honeymoon Treat Box—bubbly, chocolates, and bubble bath essentials included!

Day 2

- Wake up to the most magical sunrise over the dam, followed by a morning game drive (R400 per person) where you'll sip champagne after spotting rhinos and buffalo. Spend the rest of the day kayaking on the dam (kayaks are free to use!) or simply unwinding in your private wood-fired hot tub. For dinner, you can either braai at your pod or order another meal-in-a-box—each one is a winner!

Day 3 & 4: Nima Lodge, Wilderness

Stay: Private cabin tucked away in the lush forest with a dreamy wood-fired hot tub.

Price: ±R2,800 per cabin per night.

Day 3

- Check out of Buff & Fellow at 10:00, then take a leisurely drive to Dolphin Point Viewpoint for breathtaking views over Kaaimans River. Meander through Wilderness town and explore Milkwood Village for quirky shops and a bite at The Green Shed Roastery (great coffee) or Pomodoro (delicious Italian!). Before check-in at 14:00, stop at the Wilderness Spar to grab groceries for your stay. Spend the afternoon soaking in your hot tub and end the day with a relaxed braai or BBQ.

Day 4

- Start the day with a breakfast basket delivery straight to your cabin. Then, lace up your boots for the Nima Lodge Kingfisher Waterfall Trail, a gentle 3km hike through the forest. Cool off with a dip in the pool beneath the waterfall before heading back to the lodge, where you'll be greeted by a romantic picnic setup with snacks and Krone Champagne (pre-order required). For the ultimate indulgence, book a massage with Lize (R1,700 per couple) and let her melt your stress away. In the evening, either braai again or head into town for dinner at Blue Olive, Mozambik Wilderness, or Pomodoro.

Garden Route Guide

Romantic Roamers

8 day romance itinerary

Day 5 & 6: Amanzi Island Lodge, Knysna

Stay: Kingfisher Suite – Chic, luxurious, and perfect for couples looking to unwind.

Price: ±R3,200 per night.

Day 5

- After a slow morning, head towards Knysna, stopping in Sedgefield to admire classic cars. Drive up to the East Head Knysna Viewpoint to soak in sweeping views of the lagoon and ocean. Check in at Amanzi Island Lodge and spend the afternoon lounging by the pool. In the evening, board the Bella Vita sunset lagoon cruise (from R450 per person) and finish the night with dinner at Sirocco or Tapas & Oysters—both conveniently located where the cruise docks.

Day 6

- Breakfast is served in the Amanzi Island Lodge breakfast room—don't rush, this day is all about unwinding. Take advantage of the lodge's complimentary activities like kayaking, cycling, or paddleboarding. Go for a swim in the lagoon or enjoy some downtime by the pool. For dinner, we recommend Drydock Food Co or 34 Degrees South, both at the Knysna Waterfront. Arrive early to explore the shops and watch the boats in the harbor.

Day 7 & 8: Misty Mountain Reserve Lodge & Self-Catering, Tsitsikamma

Stay: Dome, Cube, Pyramid, or Hive – These quirky, Insta-worthy stays are as fun as they sound!

Price: ±R3,000-R7000 per night.

Day 7

Before leaving Knysna, stock up on braai meat, drinks, and snacks at Food Lovers Market. Make a pit stop at the Cliffhanger Pub near Bloukrans Bridge, where you can enjoy lunch and watch (or attempt!) the highest bungee jump in the world.

Once you've settled into your incredible dome at Misty Mountain, enjoy a chilled evening soaking up the views and grilling up a delicious dinner.

Day 8

Your final morning starts with a delicious lodge breakfast (included), giving you time to savour the last moments of this magical escape before packing up and heading home.

Thanks so much for traveling with us & for
choosing us to be your guides to
The Garden Route!
until next time, wishing you many happy adventures

All our love,
Josh & Ruthie Betts

