

*Garden Route*

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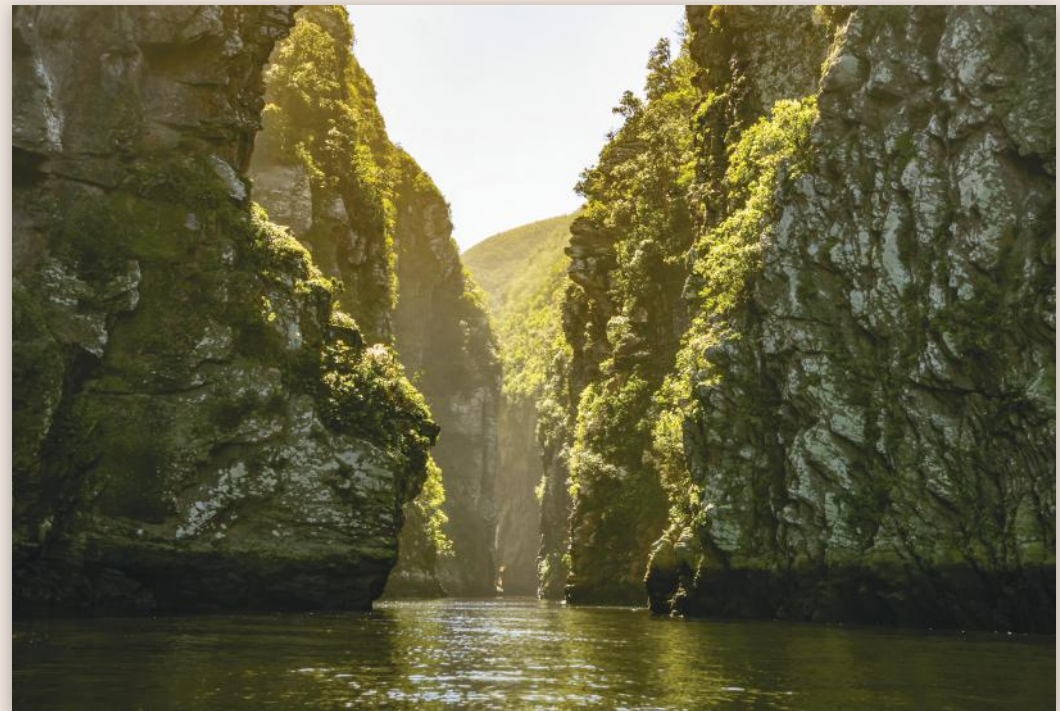




## *Tsitsikamma National Park*

Situated along South Africa's beautiful coast, the Tsitsikamma National Park is a haven for adventure and nature lovers. Known for its thick ancient forest, dramatic coastline, and magnificent rivers, the park offers a plethora of activities. The Tsitsikamma National Park falls within the exquisite and famous Garden Route National Park and encompasses a gorgeous marine conservation belt stretching five kilometres out into the ocean, as well as the renowned Otter Trail. The park is home to diverse fauna and flora, including over 9000 species of indigenous fynbos, the stunning Knysna Loerie, dolphins and porpoises, Cape Clawless Otter, Blue Duiker, and many other animal and bird species. Visitors can look forward to hiking to The Big Tree - The Big Tree is a massive Outeniqua yellowwood tree estimated to be over 800 years old. The tree is located near the entrance of the forest and is a popular spot for tourists to take photos. Exhilarating activities include kayaking at Storms River Mouth, cycling, swimming, zip-lining, camping, snorkelling, diving, mountain biking, and sailing.

<https://www.tsitsikamma.info/>







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## *Nature's Valley*

Situated along the Groot River Estuary within the Tsitsikamma National Park, Nature's Valley is a truly unique destination. It's the only residential area within a South African national park, offering a one-of-a-kind experience. Set in the heart of the pristine Tsitsikamma coastal forest, this charming village is alive with rich flora and fauna. The encircling forested slopes are home to a diverse mix of birds whose colourful feathers contrast against lush green surroundings. The estuary opens up onto a secluded beach that stretches the length of the village and is bordered by the warm Indian Ocean, where bottlenose dolphins and southern right whales can be seen. Visitors can enjoy dolphin watching, fishing, kayaking, bird watching, hiking, cycling, and swimming.

**<https://southafrica.co.za/history-natures-valley.html>**





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## *Knysna*

Sandwiched between the towering Outeniqua Mountains and the Indian Ocean, Knysna is known as the 'Garden of Eden.' It is surrounded by world-renowned forests, lovely lagoons, and pristine beaches. Visitors can look forward to an array of markets offering delicious food and organic locally made goods, explore the town's picturesque waterfront and quaint streets, adventure through the lush forest, skip over streams and catch a glimpse of the multicoloured Knysna Loerie, take a ferry trip to the famed Knysna Heads and sample the local oysters. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy many exciting activities, including surfing, swimming, yachting, jet-skiing, boating, fishing, and golfing.

**<https://www.visitknysna.co.za/discover/knysna/>**







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## *Plettenberg Bay*

The seaside town of Plettenberg Bay is a popular holiday destination situated just 2.5 hours' drive west of Gqeberha, on the spectacular coastal Garden Route; the Portuguese explorers called it the 'Beautiful Bay', and it's easy to see why. Plettenberg Bay is a picturesque, charming town with endless pristine beaches, tranquil lagoons, clean rivers, indigenous forests, and a dramatic rocky peninsula. Playground to the wealthy, beach mansions overlook the Indian

Ocean, often dotted with luxury yachts, while leisure time is given over to polo and golf, among other things. However, all kinds of visitors will feel at peace here as simply swimming in the warm water on a safe beach is a great way to experience the beauty of Plettenberg Bay. Adrenaline seekers can visit Bloukrans Bridge, a 30-minute drive away, to do the highest bungee jump on earth.

**<https://www.plett-tourism.co.za/>**







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## *Wilderness*

Set on the spectacular Garden Route of South Africa, along the Indian Ocean coastline, Wilderness is a gorgeous little town famous for its enthralling jungle-like nature reserve and beautiful beach lagoon. The town is wedged between the Kaaimans River, the Goukamma Nature Reserve, and the Outeniqua Mountains, providing many landscapes to explore. The Wilderness National Park is a Ramsar site (wetlands of international importance), home to numerous exquisite birds and animals, including the legendary, brightly coloured Knysna Loerie, as well as some fascinating archaeological sites. Visitors can enjoy whale and dolphin spotting at Dolphin Point and can look forward to plenty of opportunities for hiking, water sports, abseiling, kloofing, paragliding, hang-gliding, quad biking, canoeing, horse riding, and cycling. A collection of charming shops, restaurants, and art galleries complete the experience.

**<https://wildernessguide.co.za/>**







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## *Oudtshoorn*

Located along the well-known Route 62 in South Africa's beautiful Klein Karoo, the charming town of Oudtshoorn is known as the world's ostrich capital. It is surrounded by numerous ostrich farms and the golden arid landscape of the Karoo. Visitors can enjoy the locally produced wine and port, sample ostrich meat and biltong, learn about the ostrich feather boom at the C.P. Nel Museum, and visit the world-renowned Cango Caves, the most extensive cave system in Africa featuring ancient rock formations and sparkling stalactites and stalagmites. Other popular activities include mountain biking, paragliding, horse riding, and taking a day trip to the quaint town of Prince Albert over the scenic Swartberg Pass.

**<https://www.oudtshoorn.com/>**







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## *George*

Resting in a fertile valley of the majestic Outeniqua Mountains along South Africa's world-famous Garden Route, the historic city of George is the sixth oldest town in the country and was once a woodcutter's outpost. Today, this is the commercial hub of the Garden Route. Surrounded by endless beaches, soaring mountains, and glittering lakes, it is a haven for nature lovers and adventurers while providing all the luxuries of a modern town, including many excellent restaurants and shops and a large mall. Visitors can play a round of golf on various championship courses, discover local history at the fascinating George Museum and visit the Garden Route Botanical Garden, which features sublime trails and brightly coloured local fynbos plants.

**<https://visitgeorge.co.za/>**







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## *Mossel Bay*

Set along the idyllic Garden Route on South Africa's spectacularly scenic coastline, the port town of Mossel Bay has grown impressively from its days as a little fishing village. Today, the thriving holiday resort town has plenty of recreational attractions – one is the Mossel Bay golf course, which boasts a spectacular sea view from every tee, allowing visitors to whale watch as they line up their next shot. Visitors can also enjoy various other wonderful activities, including visiting the 19th-century Cape St. Blaize Lighthouse, sampling local cuisine, and enjoying 4x4 excursions, swimming, hiking, and kayaking. The large bay, edged by long, gorgeous sandy beaches lapped by warm Indian Ocean waves, is still the primary drawcard for many visitors.

<https://www.visitmosselbay.co.za/>







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## *Sedgefield*

Nestled between Knysna and George, Sedgefield is a sleepy yet burgeoning town. It offers a mix of sea air from its beaches and pine-scented forests. Nature lovers will relish the diverse bird species and hiking trails, while Swartvlei provides safe bathing and fishing opportunities. Gerickes Point boasts striking rock formations, attracting spear fishers and nature enthusiasts alike.

**<https://southafrica.co.za/sedgefield.html>**







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## *De Hoop Nature Reserve*

Set along the famously beautiful Garden Route, De Hoop Nature Reserve is known for its spectacular natural scenery, excellent hiking trails and abundant wildlife. This magnificent reserve stretches over 34,000 hectares and is decorated by awe-inspiring brightly coloured indigenous fynbos. The area is home to a variety of mammals, including bontebok, eland, Cape Mountain Zebra, and baboon, and also encompasses a marine section that extends for five kilometres into the ocean, allowing for excellent snorkelling opportunities among pristine turquoise pools and shallows. The birdlife in this area is also prolific. Enjoy a fantastic selection of activities, including the popular 5-day Whale Trail (one of the best hikes in South Africa), exploring the environment-sensitive Elim Wine Route, and taking adrenaline-pumping eco-quad bike tours.

**<https://www.dehoopcollection.com/>**







## *Activities*

The Garden Route in South Africa offers a variety of activities for travellers seeking adventure, relaxation, and exploration.







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## *Scenic Drives*

The Garden Route is renowned for its breathtaking coastal and inland landscapes, making it perfect for leisurely drives. Some iconic routes include the Garden Route Coastal Road, the Outeniqua Pass, and the Swartberg Pass.







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## *Nature Reserves and Hiking Trails*

Explore the diverse ecosystems of the Garden Route by venturing into its numerous nature reserves and hiking trails.

The Tsitsikamma National Park offers a range of trails, including the famous Otter Trail and the suspension bridge hike. Robberg Nature Reserve near Plettenberg Bay provides stunning coastal walks with opportunities to spot seals and dolphins.







## *Beach Activities*

Enjoy the pristine beaches along the Garden Route. Popular beaches include Plettenberg Bay, Robberg Beach, and Buffalo Bay. Activities range from sunbathing and swimming to surfing and beachcombing.







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## *Boat Cruises*

Take a boat cruise on the Knysna Lagoon to explore the Knysna Heads, or embark on a marine safari to spot dolphins, seals, and whales. Plettenberg Bay also offers boat-based whale-watching tours during the migration season







## *Adventure Sports*

For adrenaline junkies, the Garden Route provides opportunities for activities like bungee jumping at Bloukrans Bridge (one of the highest commercial bungee jumps in the world), zip-lining through forests, paragliding over scenic landscapes, and quad biking through dunes.





## *Caving*

Explore the fascinating Cango Caves near Oudtshoorn, where guided tours take you through intricate limestone formations in an underground world







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## *Wine Tasting*

Explore the Garden Route Wine Route, which winds through picturesque landscapes dotted with vineyards and wineries. Sample award-winning wines and enjoy cellar tours and tastings at estates like Bramon Wine Estate in Plettenberg Bay and Jakkalsvlei Private Cellar in Herbertsdale.





## *Golf*

Golf enthusiasts can enjoy world-class golf courses with stunning views along the Garden Route. Fancourt in George boasts three championship courses, while Knysna offers the Pezula Championship Golf Course and Simola Golf & Country Estate, both set against breathtaking backdrops.





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## *Cultural Experiences*

Delve into the local culture by visiting towns like Knysna, known for its arts and crafts markets, or Mossel Bay, home to the Bartolomeu Dias Museum Complex, which commemorates the area's maritime history. Learn about indigenous cultures and traditions through guided tours and cultural experiences. Whether you seek adventure, wildlife encounters, or a laid-back getaway, the Garden Route offers diverse activities to suit different interests and preferences.





## *Accommodation*

Nestled amidst the lush landscapes and breathtaking vistas of the Garden Route in South Africa lies an exquisite sanctuary of luxury and serenity. Welcome to our carefully curated selection of premier accommodations, where indulgence meets nature's splendour in perfect harmony. Immerse yourself in unparalleled elegance and comfort as you embark on a journey of unforgettable experiences.

Each of our handpicked establishments is a testament to refined luxury, offering a haven of sophistication and tranquillity. From lavish suites adorned with bespoke furnishings to panoramic views that will leave you breathless, every aspect of your stay is meticulously crafted to exceed your highest expectations.

Indulge your senses with unparalleled gastronomic delights prepared by world-class chefs, showcasing the finest local ingredients and international culinary mastery. Unwind and rejuvenate your body and soul with luxurious spa treatments amidst the soothing sounds of nature, or embark on adventures that will ignite your spirit and awaken your sense of wonder.

Whether you seek a romantic retreat, a family escape, or a solo sojourn into nature's embrace, our recommended accommodations promise an unparalleled blend of luxury, comfort, and unmatched hospitality along the enchanting Garden Route. Prepare to embark on a journey where every moment is a cherished memory in the making.





## *Kanonkop House*

Kanonkop House is beautifully positioned at the top of Kanonkop Hill in a private indigenous forest, overlooking the iconic Knysna Lagoon with breathtaking views stretching to the famous Knysna Heads and the Indian Ocean. The tranquil setting just outside of the main town centre allows guests the relaxed enjoyment of the natural beauty that the Garden Route is famous for, while the restaurants, activities, and shops of the town of Knysna are just a 5-minute drive away. In-house activities are available, including discounted golf, cycling, birding, hiking, kayaking, beach, and all water sports. Kanonkop House is ideally situated to take advantage of all Garden Route Tourist attractions. The hosts are always on hand to make recommendations and arrange guest bookings. The property only has seven rooms and is not open to the public, so guests can enjoy true privacy. For families and small groups, the Kanonkop Team hosts guests at exclusive-use Villas throughout Knysna.

<https://www.kanonkophouse.com/>







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## *The Turbine Hotel and Spa*

The Turbine Hotel and Spa is a boutique 5-star hotel which offers luxurious accommodation, exceptional cuisine, and a range of world-class facilities. This hotel is situated on the picturesque Thesen Island, within the scenic Knysna estuary and occupies an old power station building. Some of the machinery used in this power station forms an integral part of the hotel's aesthetics. The hotel features seventeen standard rooms, six luxury rooms, a honeymoon suite, and a self-catering Water Club apartment. Each room provides luxurious amenities such as a flat-screen TV, Wi-Fi, a fully stocked mini-bar, and a tea and coffee station. Other facilities include two onsite restaurants and a spa.

<https://www.turbinehotel.co.za/>





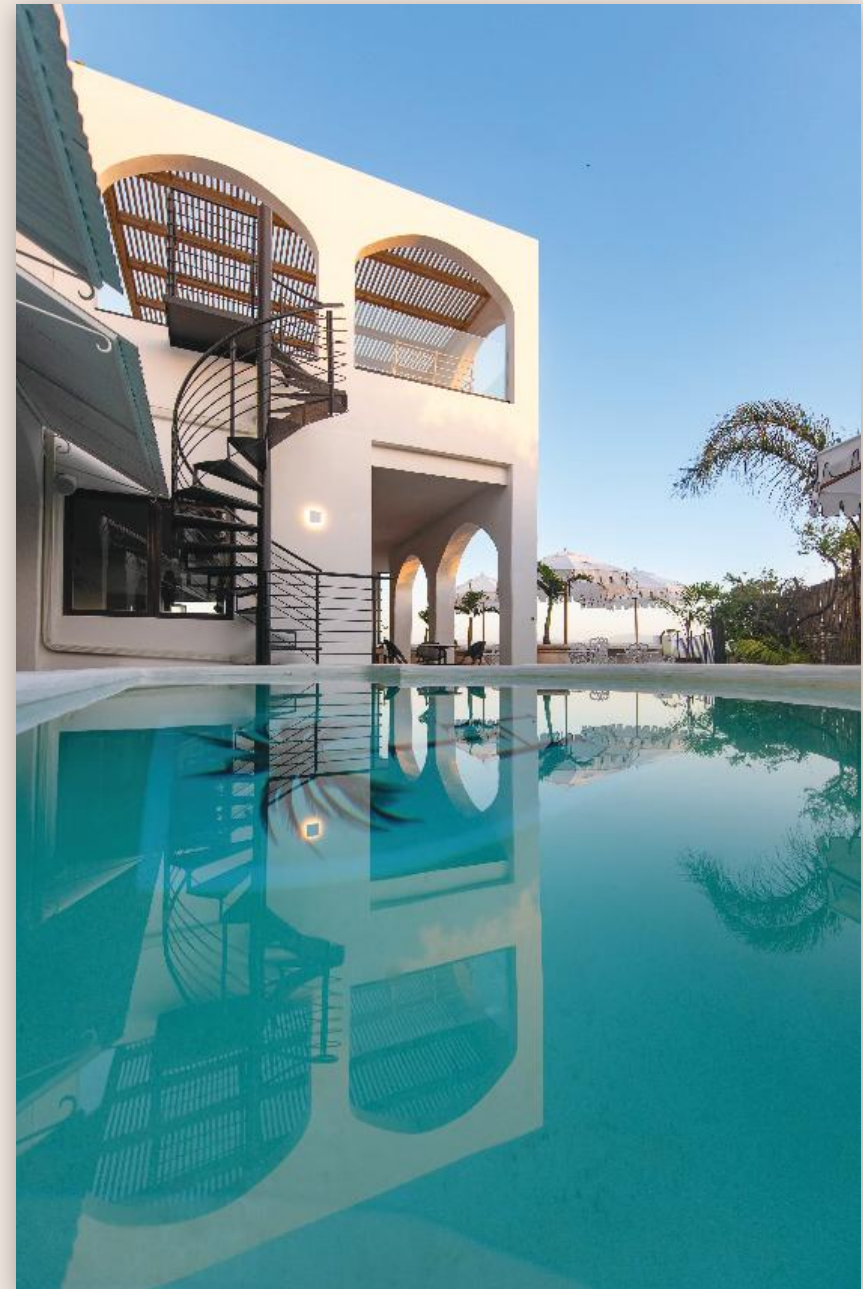


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## *The Ivory Haus*

The Ivory Haus is a brand-new family-owned boutique hotel in the charming coastal town of Plettenberg Bay, perfectly positioned on Main Street. Formerly known as The Grand, this stunning establishment has undergone a remarkable transformation. It offers guests an unrivalled vantage point to soak in the quintessential views of Plettenberg Bay, where the azure waters of the ocean meet the majestic mountains. With 11 spacious rooms, our hotel seamlessly blends the charm of the past with a contemporary touch, preserving the rich history of the building while embracing a classic aesthetic. Each room offers a unique and unforgettable guest experience. Some boast sprawling vistas, while others grant direct access to the main pool deck, inviting you to unwind in tranquil serenity as you bask in the warm embrace of the African sun.

<https://theivoryhaus.com/>







## *The Plettenberg*

The Plettenberg, situated on a rocky headland in one of South Africa's most spectacular beach towns, is the ultimate escape. This property, with thirty-five individually decorated rooms and suites, showcases the most breathtaking vistas in Southern Africa, including views of the ocean, mountains, and endless stretches of golden beach. The Plettenberg is situated in the heart of Plettenberg Bay, along the adventure-rich Garden Route, which is world-renowned for its excellent selection of outdoor activities. From regular dolphin and whale sightings to bungee jumping, treetop canopy tours, and other more daring pursuits in the surrounding countryside, The Plettenberg is the ideal place to relax, unwind, recharge, and reinvigorate.

<https://www.theplettenberghotel.com/>





## *Walkers Beach*

Walkers Beach offers an unrivalled experience in the heart of Plettenberg Bay, South Africa. Its luxurious accommodations, stunning uninterrupted beach and sea views, and proximity to world-renowned attractions make it the perfect destination for those seeking a unique and unforgettable getaway.

<https://walkersbeach.com/>







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## *Fancourt Hotel*

Positioned on 613 hectares in the magnificent Garden Route, just outside George, Fancourt is South Africa's premier lifestyle estate with mountains, indigenous forests, and the warm Indian Ocean in proximity. This internationally renowned estate features 133 luxury rooms and suites, fantastic family facilities, three Gary Player-designed golf courses, The Spa, The Kidz Club, and various excellent restaurants. A hair salon, ladies' boutique, Pro Shops, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fishing dams and walking trails provide guests with endless luxurious and exciting entertainment.

<https://fancourt.co.za/>





## *Morukuru Family De Hoop*

Morukuru Beach Lodge is a luxury 5-suite boutique-style eco-lodge in the De Hoop Nature Reserve, approximately 1 km from the exclusive-use Morukuru Ocean House, along the same pristine coastline. Part of Relais & Chateaux, the lodge offers one Honeymoon Suite, two Ocean View Suites and two Ocean View Family Suites, making this a great stopover location for couples or smaller families travelling along the Garden Route. Morukuru Ocean House is ideal for (multi-generational) families and groups of friends travelling together. From the lodge, it is just a short walk down to the beach, and during whale season (July-October), this is arguably the best location for land-based whale watching in Africa. Other activities include mountain biking, fynbos walks, marine walks, snorkelling and swimming at low tide in protected rock pools, sandboarding, and nature drives. Morukuru Beach Lodge is completely off the grid, with solar panels generating electricity. For the odd longer cloudy periods, a backup generator may be used.

<https://morukuru.com/>







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