





Sedgefield Beach



Oudtshoorn



Monkeyland



Outeniqua Choo Tjoe

The Garden Route

Much of this stunning stretch of coastline with mountainous back drop is protected by the **Wilderness** and **Tsitsikamma National Parks**. Whilst the region offers un-spoilt beaches, lagoons and forests as well as some excellent interactive animal sanctuaries, it is also home to sophisticated coastal resorts such as **Knysna** and **Plettenberg Bay**.

Unspoilt beaches - Lagoons & estuaries - Animal sanctuaries - Adventure activities

Activities and Attractions

The Garden Route, known as South Africa's Eden, stretches from Mossel Bay in the West to Tsitsikamma in the East although here we also include part of the arid but beautiful Little Karoo, just in-land. A trip on the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe, a narrow-gauge train which steams over bridges and through plantations between Knysna and George, is a fun

and memorable way to gain an insight into this scenic region.

A host of activities, such as forested walking trails and boating on inland lakes, are focused on the pristine natural environment, whilst swimming for children can ideally be enjoyed in the tranquil lagoons and estuaries, such as those found at Nature's Valley.

Travellers looking for something more adventurous can try a Tree Canopy Tour, or even the highest bungee jump in Africa, off the Bloukrans Bridge!

Excellent wildlife sanctuaries also enable visitors to get close to South Africa's terrestrial wildlife, such as Knysna Elephant Park and The Elephant Sanctuary, where guests can feed and learn more about the residents.

Monkeyland near Plettenberg Bay is the world's first free roaming multi-specie primate sanctuary whilst Birds of Eden close by, is a free-flight bird haven, encompassing 2 cubic hectares of forest.

Dolphins are resident in the waters year round, whilst whales follow the coast on their annual migration between June and November.

Plettenberg Bay offers boat trips for closer sightings.

At the foot of the Swartberg Mountains in the Little Karoo, Oudtshoorn provides a good base for visiting the Cango Caves, Cango Wildlife Ranch and the nearby Ostrich Farms where you take an unusual ride!

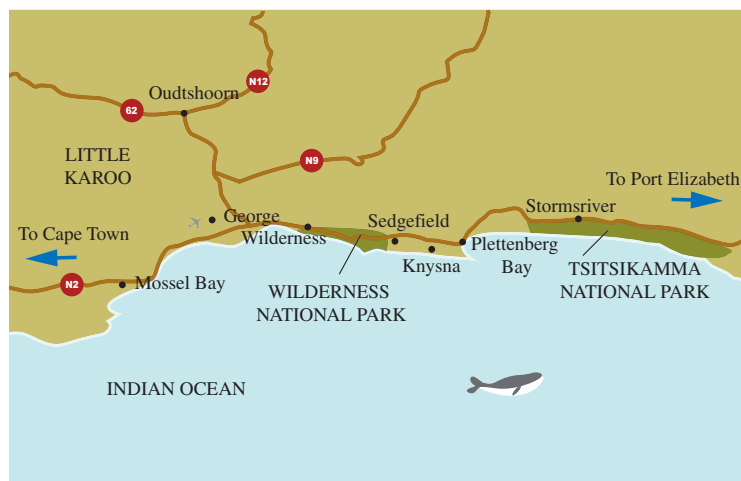


Accommodation

There is a wide selection of accommodation on the Garden Route, generally based near Knysna, famous for its expansive lagoon and oysters, or the attractive beaches of Plettenberg Bay.

It is possible to base yourself in one location and day trip to all the attractions mentioned above whilst many also offer a range of activities on site from horseriding to boating. A number of the hotels also have particularly good facilities for children such as outdoor play areas as they are set in large gardens.

| Average | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Min temp °C | 15 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| Max temp °C | 25 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 23 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 63 | 59 | 69 | 71 | 53 | 45 | 43 | 68 | 60 | 64 | 61 | 59 |



Garden Route

Accommodation



Hunter's Country House ★★★★★ 🏠

Hunters, well located between the coastal resorts of Knysna and Plettenberg Bay, offers guests luxurious accommodation in thatched and cape colonial style cottages, nestled in beautiful gardens surrounding the original homestead. All 23 rooms offer private bar and terrace and the option of in-room beauty treatments, whilst Classic and Forest suites also benefit from a private garden and plunge pool. Guests can choose to dine in the Homestead or the more informal, poolside Summerhouse during warmer months.

Pool - Restaurant - Summerhouse - Lounge Bar



Family

Several rooms have separate children's sleeping areas, whilst Family Suites offer master bedroom and sitting room converted to children's bedroom. Cub's Corner is a wonderful indoor and outdoor play area for young guests.



Hog Hollow Country Lodge ★★★★★ 🏠

Situated in a private nature reserve near Plettenberg Bay, the Lodge offers panoramic views over the indigenous Tsitsikamma Forest, best enjoyed from the social dining area, boma and pool deck with sauna. 15 rooms with music system, private bar and hammock nestle in the attractive hill-side gardens.

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge Bar



Family

Loft Suites set over 2 levels accommodate up to 2 children under 12 with parents. Friendly staff are happy to assist in planning family outings to local beaches and attractions, including the provision of picnics and boogie boards!



Tarn Country House ★★★★★ 🏠

Tarn is set in extensive grounds with stunning views over the Whiskey Creek Nature Reserve, close to Plettenberg Bay. Guests receive a personal welcome and are accommodated in 8 charmingly decorated en-suite bedrooms with tea & coffee facilities and garden access.

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge/TV Room



Family

Parents travelling with up to 2 children can be accommodated in either an upgraded room or interleading accommodation. Younger guests will enjoy the gardens and can participate in Sand Art workshops or help collect the eggs for breakfast!

“Our room was outstanding, the whole team wonderful and the food superb”
 Hog Hollow Country Lodge

The Kurland ★★★★★ 🏠

As host to international polo tournaments, the Kurland is surrounded by ponies grazing on immaculate emerald-green pastures. This exclusive hideaway, close to Plettenberg Bay and Nature’s Valley, was established by Baroness Dianne Behr on the 1700 hectare family estate with the aim of creating an indulgent escape. After a delicious meal enjoyed in the gardens or on the verandah, guest can retire to one of 12 spacious Elegant, Luxury and Superior Suites set in Cape Dutch style cottages with lounge area, terrace, satellite TV and mini-bar.

2 pools - Spa - Gym - Library - Restaurant - Lounge areas



Family

Exceptional facilities for children include a swimming pool/play area, dining conservatory and supervised activities, whilst Luxury and Superior Suites have Loft Rooms that are specially furnished for children with their own bathrooms.

Lake Pleasant Living ★★★★★

These spacious self-catering suites are set in an idyllic location, beside a picturesque lake, a short drive from Knysna. 20 air-conditioned one and two bedroom apartments, serviced daily, have open-plan living areas with satellite TV and kitchenette leading to patios and balconies overlooking the pretty landscaped gardens.

2 pools - Tennis Court - Spa - Bistro



Family

Sitting rooms include a sofa bed for up to 2 children whilst a play area with pool provide a focus for younger guests.

The Fancourt ★★★★★

Set at the foot of the stunning Outeniqua Mountain Range, the prestigious Fancourt boasts 4 Gary Player designed golf courses which capture the timeless beauty of the Garden Route. The restored Manor House and contemporary Garden Suites are home to 149 luxurious, air-conditioned rooms offering mini-bar and tea & coffee facilities.

2 Pools - Spa - Tennis Courts - Gym - 5 Restaurants



Family

Family accommodation is provided in the Garden Suites whilst a year-round children’s club is also available for a charge.

Protea Knysna Quays ★★★★★

Located in an enviable position, in the heart of the bustling Knysna Quays Waterfront, the Hotel provides a good standard of accommodation on the shores of a yacht marina, with a range of excellent shops and restaurants close by. Bushbaby recommends the larger air-conditioned lagoon-facing rooms with satellite TV and tea & coffee facilities.

Pool - Breakfast Restaurant - Bar



Family

Up to 2 children under 12 share free and the Protea 'Prokidz' programme will ensure families feel welcome.