

'Enamelled meads and the most beautiful pastures still added to this scene of magnificence with which I was truly enchanted.' Francois le Vaillant • intrepid explorer • on visiting Outeniqualand • 1781

Great Brak River **X**-

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BUFFELSDRIFT







two lighthouses along the South African coast that maintained a 24-hour watch. It was also sought-after by lighthouse keepers as wives were allowed to live in. It is open to the public between 10am and 3pm every day between April and October, with visits by arrangement during the rest of the year. Location: 6 Point Rd, Mossel Bay Price: small fee





The longest natural rock pool on the South African coast is

located in Mossel Bay. Known as Die Poort, rows of dipping sandstone formed this tidal pool. For generations, the town's children have learned to swim in this pool where chains and ropes have been secured across the pool to assist swimmers when the surging tides cause strong currents to wash down the

pool. At the upper end of the pool, there is a diving board over a deep pool with high rocks on the seaward side. This is Blougat, a much deeper pool than the first, giving it a deep blue colour and thus its name. Many hours can be spent exploring the rocks around the pools or just lying in the sun. Location: Point Road Price: free

between Riversdale and Albertina, take the R305 for 26 km till you reach the sea





068 022 9183 Price: fee



immerse themselves in the more than 640 irons on display as well as washing machines and implements. Some of the items in the collection are the only remaining examples of their kind in the world. Location: 3 Onderbos Ave, Hartenbos Price: small fee

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Riversdale

1 3

his little town, on the N2, was first founded as a church on the farm, Doornkraal, as a centre for all the farms in the area. It was oclaimed in 1839 and named after Harry Rivers, the missioner and Resident Magistrate of Swellendam. The highlight of this farming town is the Langeberg mountain range, noticeably the Sleeping Beauty Peak, which offers numerous

A 17

outdoor pursuits. Worth seeing are the many well preserved vernacular houses, the Julius Africana Centre, Korentepoort Dam for watersports lovers and the home, for 2 years, of CJ Langenhoven, the father of the Afrikaans language and the author of the poem 'Die Stem' from which the anthem was derived. Location: On the N1 between Swellendam and Mossel Bay Information: www.explorersgardenroute.co.za • 028 713 7829 Price: free

Garcia Pass 2

When you stay at Riversdale, Garcia Pass, a few kilometres away, is definitely worth a day trip. This is one of the few passes that was not created by Thomas Bain, or his father, Andrew. Maurice Garcia was a civil commissioner at Riversdale and his main ambition was to connect Riversdale to the Klein Karoo interior. His finished product, in1868, could be described as a

bridle path through the Goukou River gorge. Alas, in 1872, the famous Thomas Bain was commissioned to improve the pass which was finished in 1877 by convict labour Today. the pass is in good motoring order and tarred. The attraction today is 11.7 km of beautiful mountain scenery to drive, places to stop, a visit to the old A toll house, picnic, visit rock pools, niking or, for the more adventurous, climbing. **Loc** Riversdale Information: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gra7yC8xfo4 Price: free

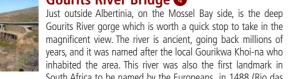
Albertinia 3



town, originally Fonteinvlei, was founded in 1900 and named after a Dutch Reformed minister, Johannes Albertyn. Fronting the N2 are shops and amenities that make it a popular rest stop. Behind these is a working town, with farming, thatching, mining and one of the largest aloe ferox production areas in the world and now, since 2004, a cultural history

museum can be visited. You can visit an aloe factory and then pose next to the largest sculpture of an aloe in the world. This is also the home of Louis Oosthuizen, who won the British Open in 2010: it is here, as a young golfer, that he honed his skills on the local ninehole course with greens made of sand and oil. Location: N2 between Riversdale and Mossel Bay Information: explorersgardenroute.co.za/project/albertinia/ Price: free

Gourits River Bridge 4



South Africa to be named by the Europeans in 1488 (Rio das Vaccas 'river of herdsmen'). In modern times, In 1986, Hilton Davies jumped off the bridge with his climbing rope, paving the way for a commercial venture when Kiwi Extreme introduced bungee jumping in 1991. This venture lasted till 2009 when the authorities deemed the old bridge unstable. The first of the three bridges to cross this section of the river was built in 1892. Location: Between Albertinia and Mossel Bay Price: free



Information: www.stilbaaitourism.co.za Price: free

Mossel Bay 6 Mossel Bay is a great holiday destination with one of the mildest climates in the world. It offers beautiful beaches and many other attractions and activities. Mossel Bay can boast many firsts in South African history, such as the first landing of Europeans on Southern African soil (1488), the first European meeting with the local population, the first

his little coastal town, established in 1894 on the Goukou

River estuary, is a sought-after get away destination. For those

who don't want to just relax and do nothing and feel like

some adventure or want to explore, there are 3 nature

eserves on your doorstep, endless beautiful coastlines to walk

or hike and there are river and sea watersports including

successful trade by Vasco de Gama nine years later (a bull for three bracelets), and the first form of a postal system when a sailor's boot was left hanging from a tree which served passing ships and, when Dias died a few years later, a small church was built, making this the first European structure on South African soil. The bay is named after the mussel shells found here. The 1865 and 1900 ostrich feather booms and discovery of natural off-shore gas in 1969 helped the town to prosper. Location: N2, between

swimming, surfing, windsurfing, kite surfing, angling, sailing, canoeing, boating and

waterskiing. Within the area are a number of interesting archaeological sites including

ancient fish traps and shell landfill that has been carbon dated to around 1000BC. The

famous Blombos Cave, 12km outside of Stilbaai, where artefacts have been carbon

dated to about 100000-77000 years ago, can also be visited. Location: Nearly halfway

Stilbaai 🗿

Bartolomeu Dias Museum Complex 🥑



The complex is dedicated to celebrating the rich history of the region. It was originally established in the 1960s, but was officially opened under its current name in 1989. The complex is home to the 500 year old post office, The Post Office Tree, the oldest in SA. The first written letter was left here (likely in a shoe) warning of the troublesome conditions in Calcutta. The

Maritime Museum is also housed in the complex and displays, not least of all, the Dias Caravel, a life-size replica of one of the caravels used by Portuguese explorers. The complex also houses the Shell Museum and Aquarium, the Ethno-Botanical Garden which has indigenous plants and trees used as herbs by the early inhabitants of the area. Malay graves, discovered in 1968, are situated near the Post Office Tree. The complex has a host of attractions and activities within close proximity. Location: 1 Market Street, Mossel Bay

Die Poort



Information: www.diazmuseum.co.za Price: fee







Point of Human Origins 🕑 With the development of the Pinnacle Point Beach and Golf

Resort, a discovery was made over 17 years ago by Dr Peter Nilssen, who undertook the impact study that would astonish the scientific world and general public alike: caves along our nodern shoreline that were home to some of the less then a 000 individuals that made up the entire African population 150 000 and 200 000 years ago. We know today that these individuals are our genetic ancestors

that ended up populating the world. There might be a chance that your ancient relative came rom these caves. These caves remain part of ongoing international studies under Professor Curtis Marean, with over 40 scientists from all over the world involved in the process. Location: Pinnacle Point, Mossel Bay Information: Advance booking essential, by appointment only for the Human Origins Experience Tour that explores the beginning of modern human behaviour. Price: Available on request

Diaz Express 🕕

The Diaz Express is a fun rail experience for the whole family, run on the existing Transnet rail network between George and the seaside resort of Mossel Bay. Mossel Bay serves as the main point of departure with excursions to a variety of ttractions, including the ever-popular Santos Beach,

Great Brak River, Glentana and Maalgate. The trip provides unsurpassed scenery, history, visits to quaint shops and art galleries and exceptional food experiences. All excursions have lovely views over the Indian Ocean (with a ringside seat for whale watching during the season), river estuaries and the indigenous plant life of the Cape Floral Kingdom, Location: Hartenbos Station, Port Natal Avenue, Hartenbos Information: www.diazexpress.co.za Price: fee

Cape St Blaize Lighthouse 🕕



St Blaize Lighthouse, within Mossel Bay, is worth a walk up the hill for its commanding views and its historical significance. The foundation stone was laid in 1862 by visiting Governor Wodehouse. Thus the name Wodenhouse was suggested for the ighthouse but it was never adopted. St Blaize was completed in 864 and stands 14 m high.Until recently, it was one of only

Mossel Bay Zipline

Opened in 2020, Mossel Bay can now boast having the longest over-ocean zipline in the world at 1100m. The average speed of the ride is 80km/h with 90m of air below you to the ocean. There are spectacular views of the sea cliffs of Cape sandstone that were deposited 400-500 million years ago which have been distorted to a near vertical position when

the Falklands Plateau collided into Africa during the creation of the super continent, Gondwana, 280-235 million years ago. Above this formation, one can see the famous horizontal layers of the Kirkwood formation. This formed during the break up of Gondwana 135 million years ago. Location: Book in at 6 Point Road, under the lighthouse at Cape Saint Blaize, Mossel Bay Information: www.mosselbayzipline.co.za

Janine Iron and Washing Museum (B)

This little private museum was started by Jan Ellis when he purchased a collection of irons for sale in Kleinmond in 1976. His ever-growing collection of laundry equipment became a museum, on the death of his daughter, which is named after her. On entry, visitors can watch a 20 minute video about the history of laundry through the ages from where they can



ATKV's Hartenbos Museum 🚇

ne ATKV-Hartenbos Museum of the Great Trek documents e Voortrekkers - the Boers (Dutch farmers) who famously moved en masse from the Cape in 1838 in search of land away from the stranglehold of colonial rule. The Voortrekkers took everything they had, including cattle, oxen, furniture and horses and moved over mountains and over rivers to new

ne museum commemorates the symbolic Ox Wagon Trek of 1938 - the re-enactment of the event that took place in its centenary year. The ATKV-Hartenbos Museum boasts a fine collection of historical artifacts, including ox wagons, weapons, household implements and clothing etc. The museum also documents the history of Hartenbos. Location: Majuba Ave, Hartenbos Price: small free

George 🚯 The area of George was a woodcutters outpost in 1776, set



up by the Dutch East India Company. Under the second British occupation of the Cape, they established George as a town and drostdy in 1811 and later a municipality in 1837. It is the 6th oldest town in South Africa. The city is worth visiting for its location (the largest continuous natural forest in South

Africa) and historical value, from the The Slave Tree, an ancient English Oak planted by Landdrost van Kervel, King Edward VII Library building and the oldest Roman Catholic church in the country. The Outeniqua Transport Museum, which houses replicas of old stations, displays of locamotives and coaches, is well worth a visit. The city has excellent road, air and rail links to all major centres within the country, and is a convenient base from which to explore the many attractions of the Garden Route and Klein Karoo. Information: www.visitgeorge.co.za Location: Between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth on the N2 Price: free

Outeniqua Pass 🔞



After three passes had been built over the mountain (Montagu Pass, the Voortrekkerspas and the Treinspoor Pass), there was a need for a pass that could handle the traffic volume of the modern age. The Outeniqua Pass was started in 1942 using Italian P.O.W.s. They were replaced with half the number of local labourers which saw an immediate

improvement in the pace of construction. Two tunnels were planned in the original design but were not needed in the final outcome. The 14.5 km pass was opened in 1951 and, in 1993, the road went through extensive widening. This route, with numerous viewing sites, breathtaking vistas and historical significance, is a must even if just a drive up and down it as the objective. Location: Between George and Oudtshoorn Information: www.samountainpasses.co.z Price: free

📗 Outeniqua Transport Museum 🕕



For any train enthusiast, this is the place to visit, with a variety of 13 steam locomotives, including a narrow gauge, the Emil Kessler- Johannesburg's first steam locomotive, the impressive GL Garrett, together with carriages from a bygone era, such as a coach from the Royal Train of 1947. Paul Kruger's coach and private saloons, just to name a few, are on display.

Various models of steam locomotives, a brilliant collection of steam locomotive number plates and makers plates can also been seen. There is an extensive model train room and, to add to this, a road motor vehicles and a private vintage car selection. Location: 2 Mission Rd, George Central, George Information: www.outeniquachootjoe.co.za/ museum.htm Price: small fee

Montagu Pass 18



This was the first road between George and Oudtshoorn built by Henry Fancourt White. This pass was opened in 1848, having taken 3 years to build by some 250 convicts at a cost of 36,000 Pounds Sterling. It lays claim to being the oldest, unaltered pass still in use in South Africa and covers 17,1 kms of magnificently scenic narrow, gravel road driving, ascending

from the tiny hamlet of Herold, on the northern side of the Outeniqua Mountains, up and over the summit and then all the way down to the outskirts of George. The passage over the Outeniqua mountains, which used to take a full three days over the Cradock Pass, could now be accomplished within three hours. Today it takes 15 minutes by car. A normal car can drive this pass. Location: Between Herold and George Price: free





e the wonderful diversity of the Souther ape in a breathtaking setting and made er on beautiful walkways with a neelchair-friendly loop. This garden is nique as it is pet and picnic friendly o joy lunch at the tea garden, shop at the nous nursery or spend some time at r bird hide. See you there Caledon St, Campher's Drift, George 044 874 1558 • info@botanicalgarden.org.za www.botanicalgarden.org.za • entrance R20

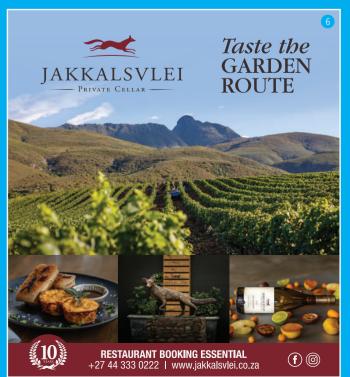


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named after leguaans found in the valley (also referred to as Wilderness Pass)

Outeniqua Power Van 📵 A must for rail enthusiasts, as well as those looking to

take in the sheer beauty of the Outeniqua Mountains. This unique rail trip, in two small carriages, takes in the cenery and beauty of the area, passing through six tunnels on the upwards journey, through forest and past

fynbos and waterfalls, to the top of the mountain. This is a unique eco experience and you can enjoy the Garden Route from the comfort of rail buses in exclusive groups. About halfway down the pass, the van stops at a picnic site to enjoy packed lunches and take in the surrounding scenery. Daily trips between 07:00 and 21:00 are available. Location: 2 Mission Rd, George Central, George (Outeniqua Transport Museum) Price: fee

Redberry Farm Hedge Maze 🕗



Explore the largest permanent hedge maze in the Southern Hemisphere. Tucked away in the town of George is one of the most remarkable attractions in South Africa. The maze consists of seven strawberry stations, a 25m underground tunnel and a look-out point – found within

10km of pathways. The hedges are grown from over 30 000 Syzygium Paniculatum plants. Your goal is not to navigate your way to the exit, like in a traditional maze, but rather to find all seven strawberry stations hidden inside and to stamp your maze card with the unique icon at each station. You can claim a reward at the end only if you present your maze card stamped with the seven unique icons. At the center of the maze, be sure to climb up to the deck to get an aerial view of the labyrinth. Location: Geelhoutboom Road (off the R404), Blanco, George Information: www.redberryfarm.co.za Price: fee



George Museum 🖉

The drostdy, dating back to 1811, houses this museum which was established in 1967. The main focus of the museum is the timber industry, which was the financial foundation of George. To this end, a large part of the museum is dedicated to the old tools and implements used in the timber trade of long ago, as well as a stunning Yellowwood remake of the woodcutter's

cottage. The Mini Museum (inside the main one) is an incredible rendition of the times of old, all recreated by the founder of the museum, Charles Sayers. Another fascinating feature of the George Museum is the exhibition dedicated to the forced removals that marked the apartheid regime. The museum examines this segregation on a personal level, putting a face to those that suffered the injustices. Location: 9 Courteney Street, George Information: www.gardenroute.com/george-museum_content_op_view_id_52 Price: fee

Victoria Bay 2



/ictoria Bay is a small cove situated on the Garden Route etween George and Wilderness. It is a popular beach for urfers, consisting of a right hand reef-like wave which rolls ver small rocks for about 200m. A number of camp sites overlook the bay and clusters of holiday chalets hug the coastline. The grassy area above the beach has braai

facilities and a small shop and restaurant are situated at the top of the beach road. Running above the bay is the railway line that was once used by the famous Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe which ran between George to Knysna. Sadly it is no longer operating due to severe storm damage to the tracks in 2006. Location: 3km off the N2 between George and Wilderness Information: www.gardenroute.com/victoria-bayhiddengem_content_op_view_id_2574 Price: free

Seven Passes Road 😕

his is one of the oldest mountain passes between George and Knysna. The pass is just south of the Outeniqua Mountains. Built piecemeal from 1868-1883 by master road-builder, Thomas Bain (helped by his brother-in-law Adam de Smidt, the district engineer), the road crosses seven rivers and passes through indigenous forest and

impressive river gorges as it winds along the foot of the Outenigua range. Today, it is a tourist attraction and very popular with mountain bikers (partial gravel road). Location: between George and Knysna Information: www.7passes.co.za Price: free

Kaaimans Pass 🚇

For the early settlers of George, the way up the east coast vas blocked by forests and impassable ravines except for one weakness, the Kaaimansgat Pass, that was once used as a foot trail by Khoi inhabitants. The first European to travel this pass on horseback was A. Beutlier in 1752. This was followed, 26 years later, by the first recorded wagon crossing

by Gov J. van Plettenberg. When the Seven Passes route was built, it diminished the amount of traffic on this dangerous pass. In the 1920s, a gravel road was built around Dolphin's Point to Kaaimans where it crossed the causeway and linked on the other side to Woodifield. This became a popular way to the Wilderness. Kaaimans Pass, as it later became known, came into its own when the new N2 forced major upgrades to the road (1940s) and a new bridge was built in the 50s. Several upgrades have occurred since then. For the visitor, there is a beautiful beach, canoeing or just taking in the spectacular scenery of the gorge with its quaint little houses on the water's edge. Location: Between George and Wilderness Price: free

Wilderness 🕗

When it comes to our past, Wilderness was one of the last areas of the Garden Route to be opened up to development due to its isolated nature with the Kaaimans river gorge blocking its western flank from the Cape and inpenetrable forest surrounding it. It was only later, when the Seven Passes Road was built, that

the farm, 'The Wilderness', was laid out in 1877. It would take till the 1920s before it started resembling a town, with the only train stop on the line between George to Knysna in 1928. Today, Wilderness, with its natural beauty and long white beaches, lakes and indigenous forests, has become a premier holiday destination for those who just want to relax or, on the other hand, those who want some adventure with outdoor pursuits, from beach activities, fishing, hang-gliding, hiking, biking, canoeing, birding and waterskiing. Location: Between George and Sedgefield on the N2 Information: www.georgeherald.com/news/News/ General/160767/The-history-of-Wilderness-revisited Price: free

Map of Africa 🙆



This viewing site is one of the most spectacular on the Garden Route. Inland, it offers the visitor uninterrupted views of the Map of Africa created by the Kaaimans River. Forested hills extend all the way to the backdrop of the Outeniqua Mountains. Turning south, one can take in the never-ending views. Sea cliffs lie to the west while the beaches and lagoon of

Wilderness lie to the east. When the weather is right, the sky will be full of paragliders who use this spot as a take-off area due to the reliable updrafts coming off the beach. Location: Wilderness, Remskoen Street Information: www.gardenroute.com/map-of-africa-scenicview-at-wilderness_content_op_view_id_2844 Price: free

Kingfisher Trails 🕗



Set within the Wilderness section of the Garden Route National Park are hiking trails of varying difficulties and lengths to suit any outdoor enthusiast. The Half Collared Kingfisher Trail is a 7.2 km shady out and back walk through the forest to a waterfall. It is a wonderful area for bird life where one is likely to see The Knysna Turaco and Giant Kingfisher. An enjoyable

alternative to this is to hire a canoe from Eden Adventures and canoe the first half of the trail and walk only the second half along a boardwalk to the waterfall. The Brown Hooded Kingfisher Trail. at 4.1km, follows a rivercourse through the forest and leads to another waterfall. This trail is also popular for bird watching. The Cape Dune Molerat Trail is a 6 km very sandy trail, where you can see the fynbos and beautiful proteas close at hand. It is also a circular route with no shade. For those people who are not interested in hiking, you can visit a number of bird hides around the lakes. Location: Ebb and Flow Drive, Wilderness Information: www.eden.co.za 044877017 • https://www.sanparks.org/parks/ garden_route/camps/wilderness/tourism/hiking.php Price: Small fee

Sedgefield 2



Sedgefield was once a farm called Ruigtevlei granted to Lord Charles Somerset's widow in 1878. The farm was divided up and sold whereupon Henry Barrington bought two lots and named them Sedgefield after his father's birthplace. Two factors helped expand the small town: a push in the 1920s by the Herald newspaper for families to buy a 'winter resort' and the establishment of a railway line that went through the town in 1928. The main

road was completed going through Sedgefield in 1947. Today, Sedgefield is marketed as the 'slow town' for people to come and relax and enjoy all that the town offers from pristine beaches, a lagoon with all the activity surrounding it, nature walks, biking, fishing, surfing, diving and then there are the markets, arts and crafts and er creative outlets that one can get involved in. **Location:** Between Wilderness and Knysna Information: www.discover-sedgefield-south-africa.com Price: free

Goukamma Nature Reserve 29



This World Heritage Site extends from Buffels Bay all the way to Groenvlei Lake just outside Sedgefield. Cape Nature manages this pristine marine-protected area where day visitors and overnighters can experience fascinating habitats and an abundance of smaller wildlife, birds, fish, dense coastal forests including Milkwood, Yellowwood and Candlewood. Visitors can

enjoy picknicking, whale watching, swimming, horse riding, hiking, canoeing, fishing and bird watching. There are nine camps, lodges and cottages that visitors, who want to stay overnight, can use. The landscape has a bit of everything from beaches, rocky shorelines, bays, forests, a lake and an estuary on the Goukamma river which the nature reserve is named after. Location: Between Sedgefield and Knysna Information: www.capenature.co.za/ reserves/goukamma-nature-reserve/ Price: fee

Buffelsbaai 🚳



Halfway between Sedgefield and Knysna, as one enters the Goukamma Valley, a road, just after you cross the river, will take you to Buffelsbaai. The story of this place right from the beginning is one of holiday get aways, relaxing and escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The main village is set on a small peninsula jutting out into the Indian Ocean which is flanked

by two pristine beaches. The eastern beach is 14 km of unbroken sand. Activities include surfing, swimming, snorkelling, fishing, or canoeing. Restaurants and a shop are conveniently situated above the beach. Location: Between Sedgefield and Knysna Information: www.sahistory.org.za/place/buffalo-bay-beach-goukamma-nature-reserve Price: free



Millwood and Jubilee Creek

in 1876, deep in the foothills of the Outeniqua Mountains, James Hooper discovered gold near Rheenendal which started a shortlived and first South African gold rush that brought hundreds of prospectors from around the world. Holes were dug and tunnels sunk and even a village, with hotels, boarding houses, general stores, a post office, police barracks and a hospital, was

established. This all came to a quick end with the discovery of easy gold at the Witwatersrand in 1886. Today, the remains of these few years of madness is scattered throughout the forest with abandoned tunnels, old mining equipment and Monk's Store (Materolli Museum and info centre) where you can see photos and relics of the time. There are three picnic sites within the forest, walks and cycle routes. Location: From Rheenendal take the Bibby's Hoek Road which takes you into Millwood. Information: www.sanparks.org/parks/garden_route/ tourism/activities/goudveld_info.pdf Price: free/fee

Knysna 😰



This has to be one of the most beautiful towns in South Africa with its large lagoon surrounded by forests and the rugged cliff faces guarding the Knysna Heads. The town was established in the late 1700s, mainly by a few woodcutter families. The first person of note to settle here

was James Callander who tried to persuade the Cape government to establish a harbour. It was George Rex, however, who took his idea to fruition. Rex acquired most of the land around Knysna, started farming and developed the timber industry on a large scale. The Thesen family, in 1869, established the shipbuilding industry and dominated it until the steam ships era took over. In 1953, Knysna lost its official status as a harbour because of the railway line. After timber and shipping, Knysna reinvented itself as one of the premier tourist destinations in South Africa. Location: Between Wilderness and Plettenberg Bay Information: www.knysna.gov.za Price: free

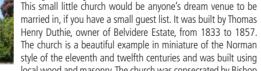
Knysna Museum 🚳



The Knysna Museum is made up of five buildings at different locations within the town of Knysna. Each tells a story about the long history of this area but focuses on different aspects. The Gaol Building has a collection of maritime, angling, old maps and ship models relevant to Knysna's history. Millwood House was dismantled after the shortlived Millwood gold mining boom

and was relocated to Knysna where, today, it is a museum exhibiting the local history and everyday items of bygone days. Parkes Shop, a general dealers shop from the early 1900s, focuses on the forests, woodcutters and timber industry which were once the mainstay of the town. Parkes Cottage, also a house that was relocated from Millwood, displays Millwood history and the story of Knysna's most famous resident, George Rex. Pitt Street House, a wood and corrugated iron labourers cottage, houses a comprehensive display on the Anglo-Boer War. Location: Knysna Information: www.knysnamuseums.co.za Price: fee

Holy Trinity Belvidere 🚳



married in, if you have a small quest list. It was built by Thomas Henry Duthie, owner of Belvidere Estate, from 1833 to 1857. The church is a beautiful example in miniature of the Norman style of the eleventh and twelfth centuries and was built using local wood and masonry. The church was consecrated by Bishop

Grav of Cape Town in 1855, probably because his wife. Sophia, was intensely interested in the project and it was she who obtained the architectural plans from England. The land the church is built on was acquired from his father-in-law. George Rex of Knysna. The estate provided an excellent site for a church. The church was built for his family, friends and their servants. It is now a National Monument, **Location:** 8 Church Street, Old Belvidere, Knysna Information: www.holytrinitybelvidere.org Price: free

Brenton on Sea 3



This small seaside settlement is named after Sir Jahleel Brenton who helped George Rex establish Knysna as a harbour in 1817. The existence of this settlement was purely for holidays and getting away from the hustle and bustle of life. All the houses and amenities are found on a ridge overlooking miles of open beach to the west and five small beaches flanked by rocky outcrops on the

east. The seashore is accessed by wooden boardwalks, so remember what you carry down to the beach has to be carried up at the end of the day. Within Brenton on Sea, is one of the smallest nature reserves in South Africa which was declared for one purpose only - to safeguard the Brenton Blue Butterfly. Location: Sea side of Knysna Lagoon, via Belvidere Estate Price: free

> f you grew up riding motorbikes and still live with the ostalgia and freedom these little machines gave you, this niche museum is really worth a visit. This private collection is defined as 'the bikes we rode when we were growing up'. The museum has concentrated on the bikes from the 1960s to the late 1980s and, especially, the 50cc bikes that many school

classics, vintage enduro bikes, motocross and superbikes. Every bike has a story if you are eager to listen. This museum is a working museum with restoration and rebuilding bays where visitors can watch old bikes being transformed to their former glory. Location: Top Floor, The Parking Shed Thesen Harbour Town, Long St, Knysna Information: www.knysnamuseums.co.za/pages/the-motorcycle-room/ Price: fee



medieval castles. This was not planned but, after building in local stone, a friend of the owner mischievously suggested adding turrets to his 'castle' and so he did. This cove has been visited or inhabited for over 3500 years by indigenous people and was mentioned by early European explorers in 1786. Noetzie became the holiday spot for some families from Knysna and Oudtshoorn who came via ox wagons. The first castle to be built was in the 1930s by Herbert Henderson. Location: At the top of the hill overlooking Knysna on the N2 (Khavalethu Township), take the Hornlee Road which becomes the Noetzie Road, which will end above the Noetzie Beach (steep walkway down to beach) Information:



walks such as the Kranshoek Coastal Day Walk to overnight hikes such as the Harkerville Coastal Hiking Trail which a lot of hikers rank up there as being as good as the Otter Trail. There are trails for mountain bikers and horse trails. For those who do not want to break out into a sweat, there are scenic picnic spots to relax and take in nature at its





it is as close as you going to get to the original forest. This area can be visited on a day trip or an overnight stay at one of the SANParks camping decks. The attractions are walking through ancient forests, swimming in streams, mountain biking and visiting the Forest Legends Museum. Location: Just east of Knysna on the N2, turn into the R339 oc Alfred Pass) follow the road till you see the sign on the right to Diepwa Information: www.wildcard.co.za/diepwalle-forest/ Price: fee



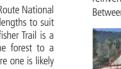




The Motorcycle Room 30

kids had growing up in South Africa at the time. The collection also showcases old





the Dutch. Its big attraction today is a breathtaking hike around the peninsula, swimming and relaxing on the beach and fishing at the point. Location: 8km south of Plettenberg Bay Information: https://

oceanadventures.co.za/history-of-the-robberg-peninsula/ Price: fee

Keurboom's River



River Nature Reserve managed by Cape Nature. The best way to see this river, which twists its way up a magnificent gorge, is by cance which can be rented at the main office next to the Keurboom bridge (east side). Location: Keurboom's river between Plettenberg Bay and the Crags, N2 Information: https://www.capenature.co.za/

reserves/keurbooms-river-nature-reserve/ Price: free/fee



Also known as Cathedral Rock, this magnificent hole right through a massive outcrop of sandstone at the mouth of the Matjiesriver, is worth a short walk (2.7 km) from Keurbooms main beach and can be achieved with children. Above the river on the west side just up the hill, is the famous Matjes River Rock Shelter. The shelter contains artifacts from the San dating back to the

Neolithic period 11,000 years ago and is a National Monument. Location: Keurboomstand - start your walk from the Ristorante Enrico Information: https://www.cape-hike.co.za/ cathedral-rock-walk/ Price: free

The Crags 46



The first non-indigenous people to set up home in this area were a few poor woodcutter families in the late 1700s. Later, some families made money out of the endless timber such as the Newdigates who built Forest Hall (today a heritage home). The great fire of 1869 opened up this impenetrable forest to the outside world. Within a month, Thomas Bain had started surveying a road through to Port Elizabeth which opened up this area. Today, it has become

part of the Plettenberg Bay holiday attractions with one of the youngest wine routes in the country, wildlife sanctuaries and the world's largest free-flight aviary bird sanctuary. Ziplining, kloofing, horse riding, hiking and polo are also on offer here. Location: Between Keurbooms River and Natures Valley Information: www.showme.co.za/plett/lifestyle/ history-of-the-crags/ Price: free

Nature's Valley 🐠



Nature's Valley, which offers the only beach and lagoon in the area, started out as a farm owned by Hendrik Barnardo who was the foreman of the road-building team for this section of Thomas Bain's 1879 route over the Groot River. From 1941-3, he sold land to a syndicate of 10 families and to Baron Ulrich Behr, who officially named the place Nature's Valley when a township was

declared in 1953. Today, it is a sought-after holiday destination with a limited number of houses and the only township surrounded by a National Park in SA. Location: R102, Between The Crags and Bloukrans Bridge Information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Nature's_Valley Price: free



This bridge is well known for the world's highest commercial bridge bungy but few know it is the highest arch bridge in Africa after its construction in 1984 and, for nine years, it held the title of the highest concrete arch bridge in the world until the Jiangjiehe Bridge in China was built. Standing at 216 metres and

section of the Garden Route. This bridge was designed by the South African engineering Liebenberg and Stander. Visitors can try the bungy jump, zipline or a walking tour. Location: N2, between the Crags and Tsitsikamma Village Information: http:// www.highestbridges.com/wiki/index.php?title=Bloukrans_Bridge Price: free viewing

Paul Sauer Bridge 49



This bridge, was the first of 5 arch bridges to be built on the Garden Route to straighten out Thomas Bain's 1879 route through this area. The bridge was designed by Ricardo Morandi in 1956. The bridge is 120 metres high off the valley floor and its span is 100 metres. Visitors have access to great viewing platforms, restaurants, take aways and shops. Location: N2, Garden Route, between Tsitsikamma Village and Thornham Information:

www.highestbridges.com/wiki/index.php?title=Paul Sauer Bridge Price: free

Tsitsikamma National Park 🚳 This area was proclaimed in 1964 to protect a wonderland of



intertidal and marine life, the first in Africa and the largest single unit Marine Protected Areas in the world. The park's drawcards are breathtaking rugged coastline, ancient forests, waterfalls and gorges, turaco, Cape clawless otter, blue duiker and rich unspoilt marine life; for the adventurous, hiking trails, mountain

biking, swimming, diving, kayaking and kloofing. The famous Otter Trail starts from here where day trippers can walk the first section on the Waterfall Trail. The biggest attraction is the Suspension Bridge and Lookout Trail which takes you over the Storm's River with magnificent views up the gorge. Accommodation and amenities include huts, chalets, cottages, a camp site and a restaurant and gift shop. Location: Between Bloukrans Bridge and Storm's River village Information: www.sanparks.org/parks/garden_route/ Price: fee

• © Richard Smith • 2nd edition, 2022 • Thanks to Shelley Woode-Smith for editorial input.



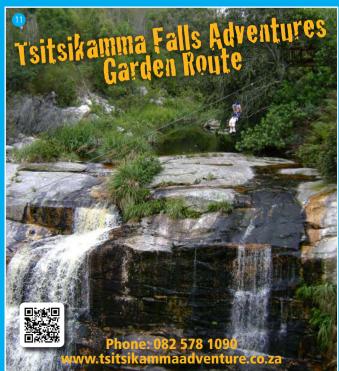
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www.noetziecastles.co.za/ Price: free

finest. Location: Half way between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay Information www.sanparks.org/parks/garden_route/tourism/activities/harkerville.php Price: fee 🌌 Garden of Eden Big Tree 🚳

Noetzie Beach 3

Harkerville 3

here are not many beaches to visit in this part of the world as

he coastline is dominated by rugged sea cliffs all the way to

Plettenberg Bay. Noetzie beach originally known as

Noetziekamma, a Khoisan phrase for 'dark water' is a gem found

in this wild landscape with a pristine beach and estuary. The main

attraction is some of the holiday homes built here resemble

Besides the many holiday-orientated businesses such as crafts

shops, markets, Adventure Land and animal sanctuaries like the

Elephant Park, Wolf Sanctuary and Radical Raptors, Harkerville

orest and the rugged coastline are the magic in this area. Most

of it falls under SANParks and is managed as a conservation

area. This area can be explored from short walks, day-long

This small natural forest run by SANParks and part of the greater

Harkerville nature conservation area, gives us a glimpse of what

some of the forest were like a few hundred years ago before they

vere ruthlessly cut down by woodcutters to keep the fires burning

and for building in the early Cape Colony. The great fire of 1869

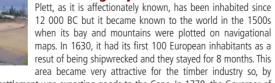
added to the destruction of these great ancient trees. This little

stop on the side of the N2 offers the visitor some of the original Wet High forest, with many examples of tall stinkwood, kalander, wit-els and other tree species of the moister forest types Short, circular walks traverse the area and an 800 metre trail for those in wheelchairs is route marked. Location: Half way between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. Information: www.sanparks.org/parks/garden_route/tourism/activities/harkerville.php Price: fee

Diepwalle Forest 40

This is a magical place of ancient forests, gorges and rivers hidden from the modern world. It was only in the early 1800s that Europeans started penetrating into its thickets that were once the haunt of large herds of elephant and reclusive Khoi. Years of destruction to the forest by woodcutters could not destroy all the vast trees of the Outeniqua and Diepwalle and

Plettenberg Bay 4



maps. In 1630, it had its first 100 European inhabitants as a resut of being shipwrecked and they stayed for 8 months. This area became very attractive for the timber industry so, by 1763, the small settlement was exporting goods to the Cape. In 1778, the Governor of the Cape visited the area and renamed the settlement after himself. The town added whaling to there list of income generators in 1910 but, over time, the 'Bay of Lagoons' or

'Beautiful Bay' as it was first named, found its true calling and is now one of the top tourist and holiday destinations on the South African coastline. Location: Between Knysna and Port Elizabeth Information: www.plett-tourism.co.za Price: free

Old Nick Village 🚇

This Homestead was built after 1880 by Aaron Toplis an English migrant who was brought out to work on William Newdigate's country estate as a young boy. Aaron acquired the Gansevallei farm were he built the core buildings and in 1900 the trading store which is now the Mungo Shop. The Village got its name from Spike Devine who set up shop in Plett selling second hand furniture most of which was not in good ' nick'. His shop was in the old Plett

gaol or 'the old nick' which is slang for gaol in his home country. Today the village is a mix of carefully selected shops, art galleries, textile mill and places to eat. Dogs on leads welcome. Location: N2, Plettenberg Bay Information: www.oldnickvillage.co.za



Bloukrans Bridge 4



with a 272 metre span, it is the biggest of the five bridges on this