



GEORGE TRAILS



Garden Route, South Africa

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE



Trails

Paid permits apply on some routes.

Stay Safe:

- Travel in groups or contact us for a list of local guides.
- Ensure you research the route to plan hydration and trail requirements appropriately.
- Take a first aid kit with you.
- Make sure to save local emergency numbers.

George is on the Cross Cape route from Stellenbosch to Plettenberg Bay, a 742km route taking 5 to 20 days depending on your preferred pace, with an 8/10 difficulty. Check out [here](#).



Go to www.georgetrails.org.za for maps, GPX download files and more detailed route, safety and permitting information.

Mountain biking



Trail running



Hiking



Enjoy our natural playground!



Light trails



Arendsrus loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 3 hr
- ➔ 50.3km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 A ride on mountain contours along jeep tracks past Arendsrus and back through farmlands.



Bergplaas – East side cascades

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 4 hr
- ➔ 50km, from the Woodville Trading Store
- 📖 This route travels to the east side of Bergplaas with two crossings over the Diep River where riders can enjoy a swim.



Brown hooded Kingfisher trail

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 1 - 2 hr
- ➔ 4km, from Bo-langvlei Road
- 📖 This trail winds through the forest to the Duiwe River and is popular for bird watching. There is an optional climb to a viewpoint and a stream is crossed via a wooden bridge and stepping stones. The trail ends at a pool and waterfall.



George parkrun

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 30 - 45 min
Hike: 1.30 - 2 hr
- ➔ 5km, from the Garden Route Botanical Gardens
- 📖 A route through the forest, mostly consisting of single track. Online pre-registration is required.

Light trails



George VK

📍 George

🕒 Trail run: 2:30 - 4 hr

Hike: 4 - 6 hr

➔ 12.8km, from the Ground Zero Trail Park

📌 This route climbs up to George Peak in 4km and ascends more than 1,000m vertically. You'll pass a steel cross that lights up at night. Once George Peak is reached, it is suggested that the circular route is used to get back to the start.



Green gate route

📍 George

🕒 12 - 20 min

➔ 20km from the Heatherpark Engen

📌 A short, easy and scenic contour ride looking out over George on the Montagu Pass, then along the bottom contours of Tolberg and down to Fancourt with a few km along the tarred residential area.



GTR 3k time trial

📍 George

🕒 MTB: 12 - 20 min

Trail run: 20 - 30 min

Hike: 30 min

➔ 3km, from the Ground Zero Trail Park

📌 This route consists of mostly single track in the Witfontein forest just above the residential area.



Half Collard Kingfisher and Bosduif loop

📍 Wilderness

🕒 Trail run: 1:30 - 3 hr

Hike: 3 - 4 hr

➔ 7.2km from the Ebb and Flow Rest Camp at the Garden Route National Park,

📌 On this shaded walk through the forest, you are likely to see most of our birds such as the Knysna Loerie, Giant Kingfisher and the Fish Eagle and beautiful Yellowwood trees. It also features a waterfall. The Bosduif Loop extension path winds up the side of the cliff to a breathtaking viewpoint right at the top, overlooking the Touw River and camp site. The river is crossed by means of a pontoon, which is a fun feature.



Hoekwil loop

📍 Wilderness

🕒 2 hr

➔ 25km, from the Wilderness Hotel

📌 This loop travels along the district road next to the Serpentine, a winding section of the Touw River with a climb towards Hoekwil, onto the Seven Passes and back down to Wilderness. The village of Hoekwil used to be a small farming community and there is nothing more than a few little farm shops and cafes, a church, post office and primary school. It is perched above the coastline with spectacular views of sea, lake and mountains.



Plantation link

📍 George

🕒 1 hr

➔ 15km, from the Garden Route Botanical Gardens

📌 A mix of single track and jeep track, this trail links Witfontein to the Saasveld trails to avoid riding through town. It crosses the Swart River at Pepsi Pools, a beautiful waterfall in the indigenous forest, great for picnicking and swimming. The route then contours around the Garden Route Dam with scenic views.



Woodville big tree

📍 Hoekwil

🕒 45 min

➔ 2.6km

📌 Visit the Yellowwood Big Tree, 31 meters tall and believed to be over 800 years old. Enjoy the easy circular route through lush indigenous forest and past a cool stream. There is a picnic area at the beginning of the forest.



Easy trails



Dam dash

📍 George



🕒 MTB: 15 - 30 min

Trail run: 25 - 40 min



Hike: 1 - 1:30 hr

➔ 5.5km, from the Garden Route Dam

📌 An easy looped route which starts at the Garden Route Dam edge and turns into the pine plantations.



Ferndale

📍 George



🕒 MTB: 30 - 50 min

Trail run: 40 min - 1:10 hr



Hike: 1:30 - 2:30 hr

➔ 10km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve

📌 A relaxed loop for those wanting to take it easy or families with young children, with lovely views of the various fern species in the area.



Forest Buzzard Trail

📍 George



🕒 Trail run: 15 - 30 min

Hike: 45 min - 1:30 hr

➔ 2.7km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve

📌 An easy circular route winding through the Witfontein pine plantation and into indigenous forest, past a small dam. There are steep climbs at the start.



Groeneweide

📍 George



🕒 Trail run: 11:30 - 2 hr

Hike: 3 - 4 hr

➔ 12.1km, from the Saasveld Campus of the Nelson Mandela University

📌 Trails meander through pristine indigenous forest and cross the Kaaimans River with an area to swim. Perfect for bird watching, it also offers shortcut options to skip doing the full distance.



Redberry

📍 George

🕒 30 - 50 min

➔ 13km, from Redberry Farm

📌 Great for novices, this is the shortest and easiest route in the Geelhoutboom system, with little climbing, smooth gravel and some tar surfaces.



Wilderness to Swartvlei

📍 Wilderness



🕒 MTB: 1 - 2 hr

Trail run: 1:30 - 2:30 hr

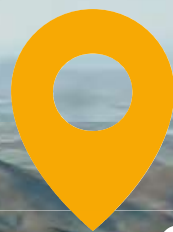


Hike: 3 - 5 hr

➔ 19km, from the Wilderness main beach

📌 The route passes Kleinkranz Beach and Gericke's Point and finishes at the Swartvlei parking area. It traverses sandy and rocky sections and is best accessed during low tide.





Spectacular Trails

100+ routes • 2,000km



Moderate trails



Bergplaas – West side glory

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 2:50 hr
- ➡ 35km, from the Woodville trading store
- i Travel to the west corner of Bergplaas where you will discover the source of the Touw River and pass the beginning of the old Voortrekker Pass.



Bushbuck Loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 25 - 45 min
Hike: 45 min - 1:20 hr
- ➡ 7.5km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- i This trail winds through the pine plantation as well as indigenous forest and fynbos sections.



Cape Dune Molerat trail

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 2 - 3 hr
- ➡ 6km, from the Garden Route National Park
- i This loop trail near to the Wilderness lake area offers Fynbos and beautiful Proteas close at hand, and features a lake. It is a circular route with no shade and popular for birdwatching.



FM Tower loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 MTB: 45 min - 1:30 hr
Trail run: 1 - 2 hr
Hike: 2:30 - 3:30 hr
- ➡ 14km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- i The route starts with a 3km climb up to the FM Tower and offers excellent views over George. From there on it follows the top and bottom contours of the Witfontein Plantation.



Forest Station loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 4 hr
- ➡ 61.5km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- i An extended scenic mountain contour ride through small pockets of indigenous forest and between pine plantations, fynbos and streams.



Giant Kingfisher trail

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 3 - 4 hr
- ➡ 7km, from the Ebb and Flow Rest Camp in the Garden Route National Park
- i This famous trail leads to a waterfall where hikers can enjoy a swim and picnic on the rock face of the gorgeous pools. A very popular alternative is to canoe a portion and then walk the rest of the way to the waterfall.



GTR 5k time trial

- 📍 George
- 🕒 MTB: 20 - 30 min
Trail run: 30 - 40 min
Hike: 1 hr
- ➡ 5km, from the Ground Zero Trail Park
- i This route consists of mostly single track in the Witfontein forest just above the residential area.



Herold

- 📍 George
- 🕒 1:30 - 2:20 hr
- ➡ 33km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- i This route takes riders out to Herold and back again, with some effort up the Montagu Pass. Herold is a hamlet north of George, named after TJ Herold, a Dutch Reformed Minister of George from 1812-1823.



Herolds Bay loop

- 📍 Herolds Bay
- 🕒 Trail run: 30 min - 1 hr
Hike: 1:15 - 2 hr
- ➡ 6km, from Herolds Bay Café
- i A looped route, it follows a tar road before turning left onto a gravel road atop the cliff side with amazing views of the ocean below. The gravel road leads to a wooden cross and then again becomes a tar road that leads back to the starting point.



Moderate trails



Map of Africa

- 📍 George / Wilderness
- 🕒 1:10 - 2 hr
- ➔ 27.8km, from the Garden Route Dam entrance
- 📖 This route follows the magnificent Seven Passes road between George and Knysna and turns to Wilderness Heights with a detour to the iconic Map of Africa lookout point. The point has panoramic views over the river and valley, which naturally form the shape of the African continent.



Paardepoort

- 📍 George
- 🕒 1:50 - 3hr
- ➔ 55km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 Just north of the Montagu Pass the road follows the Doring River through Herold and towards the Paardepoort Pass. The road is mostly smooth gravel making for an easy traverse.



Pepsi Pools

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 1:50 - 3hr
Hike: 3 - 5 hr
- ➔ 11.5km, from the George Botanical Gardens
- 📖 A very popular local hike, the Pepsi Pools is a rock pool swimming area with waterfall. The Swart River water of the pools is black or "pepsi coloured". The trail starts along the railway lines and takes one through indigenous forest.



Pied Kingfisher trail

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 Trail run: 1 - 3 hr
Hike: 3 - 4 hr
- ➔ 10km, from the Ebb and Flow Rest Camp at the Garden Route National Park
- 📖 This trail is mainly used for bird watching and is an open trail with no shade. It is a flat circular route which takes you through the Serpentine, which mainly consists of Fynbos. There is a section of the trail which combines with the beach. You'll be able to walk along the beach to Wilderness Village and back to the national park camp.



Pine time

- 📍 George
- 🕒 MTB: 30 - 60 min
Trail run: 50 min - 1:10 hr
Hike: 1:45 - 3 hr
- ➔ 11km, from the Garden Route Dam
- 📖 An 11km looped route starting alongside the Garden Route Dam's edge, winding deeper into the pine plantation before returning to the dam wall.



Root 'n Roll

- 📍 George
- 🕒 MTB: 1 - 1:30 hr
Trail run: 1:30 - 2:20 hr
Hike: 3 - 4:30 hr
- ➔ 18km, from the Garden Route Dam
- 📖 Root n Roll is the longest route around the Saasveld plantation, offering a combination of jeep tracks, plantation roads and some single tracks with a short extension to the famous Pepsi Pools.



Sedgefield Farmers Market loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 5 hr
- ➔ 91km, from the Garden Route Dam wall
- 📖 Travel along the Seven Passes and down to Sedgefield and return via Wilderness Lakes. Particularly recommended on a Saturday morning, where riders can stop and enjoy the market.



Sidewinder

- 📍 Herolds Bay
- 🕒 MTB: 1 - 2 hr
Trail run: 1:20 - 2 hr
Hike: 3 - 4 hr
- ➔ 16km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- 📖 This route offers non-technical single-track and offers great views of the city and Outeniqua Mountains



Tierkop MTB

- 📍 George
- 🕒 1 - 2 hr
- ➔ 22km, from the Garden Route Dam wall
- 📖 Travel along the edge of the dam before turning into the pine plantations.



Moderate trails



Vensterberg

📍 George

🕒 Trail run: 1 - 2 hr

Hike: 2:30 - 4 hr

➔ 5km, from Sputnik at the top of the Outeniqua Pass

📌 Famous for spectacular sunrise views from the top of the summit, Vensterberg is also close to a rock formation which creates a window through which you can see a part of George.



Whites road

📍 George / Wilderness

🕒 1:20 - 2:10 hr

➔ 31km, from the entrance of the Garden Route Dam

📌 Taking the Seven Passes towards Wilderness, this route turns off at Wilderness Heights with a very steep downhill into Wilderness and back via Whites Road, offering beautiful views of the Wilderness area.



Wilderness Lakes loop

📍 Wilderness

🕒 1 hr

➔ 37km, from the Wilderness Hotel

📌 The district road takes riders along the Wilderness lakes system and onto the Seven Passes back to Wilderness. The wetlands include the Serpentine, Island Lake, Langvlei and Rondevlei. These lakes, each a wetland by itself, form a link in the chain of the Touw River that meets the sea at Wilderness. These wetlands support 285 endemic plants, 32 fish species, up to 300 bird species and a variety of invertebrate. Wilderness Lakes is protected by the Ramsar Convention as 'Wetlands of International Importance'.



Click to watch



play



Hard trails



Bergplaas – Diep River

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 3 hr
- ➔ 44km, from the Woodville trading store
- 📖 Ideal on a hot day, this route offers several great swimming stops. The route cover a contour road climb into the mountain and later a return to the upper reaches of the Diep River



Cradock Pass

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 2:30 - 4 hr
- 📏 Hike: 6 - 9 hr
- ➔ 25km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- 📖 A historical journey across the slopes of George Peak, Cradock Pass is described as "only fit for baboons". However, this strenuous experience is rewarded with impressive scenery of the Outeniqua Mountains and a route steeped in history. The trail follows the tracks that the settler ox-wagons forged from the coast to the little Karoo from days of a by-gone era. Get picked up from the north side of the Montagu Pass or complete a circular route past the Old Toll House and down the Montagu Pass.



Doring Wilderness trail

- 📍 Waboomskraal
- 🕒 6 - 7 hr
- ➔ 15km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- 📖 This remote circular route through the unspoilt wilderness of the Doring River Valley offers majestic scenery of the Outeniqua Mountains and fynbos, Waboomskraal apple orchards and swimming hole. Game such as klipspringer, grey rhebuck and leopard can sometimes be seen. There is also a 7-day Doring Wilderness Trail for serious hikers.



Ernest Robertson Dam

- 📍 George
- 🕒 8 hr
- ➔ 88km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 Travel to the Ernst Robertson dam, high up in the mountains. Encounter indigenous forest, pine forest and fynbos vegetation and streams with drinking water.



George to Knysna

- 📍 George
- 🕒 8 - 9 hr
- ➔ 158km, entrance to the Garden Route Dam
- 📖 Travel from George to Knysna and back via the Seven Passes and past Thesen Island.



George Peak

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 2:30 - 4 hr
- 📏 Hike: 5 - 8 hr
- ➔ 17km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- 📖 The iconic George Peak (1,337m) overlooks the city with incredible views. The trail is strenuous and goes through pine plantation, across a stream and railway line and up the mountain



Kam Dam

- 📍 George
- 🕒 4 - 6 hr
- ➔ 86km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 A steep climb over the Outeniqua Mountains via Montagu Pass with gradual descent over district farm roads via Herold, through Paardepoort, towards the Kammanassie Dam and back. The dam, on the Kammanassie River, was built in 1923 to store water for irrigation.



Mountain Ultra Trail

- 📍 Herolds Bay
- 🕒 Trail run: 2:50 - 4 hr
- 📏 Hike: 4 - 8 hr
- ➔ 25km, from Sputnik on top of Outeniqua Pass
- 📖 Used for the annual MUT trail run, one of the biggest trail races in George, this route starts at the top of the Outeniqua Pass and goes through the Campers Kloof valley towards Herold. The last 10km descent is on the famous Cradock Pass trail.



Hard trails



N9 loop

- 📍 George
- 🕒 3:30 - 5 hr
- ➔ 72km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 Riders are kicked off with the strenuous Montagu Pass climb before the descent into Herold. The trail winds through Paardepoort and heads towards the Kamanassie dam through ostrich territory.



Pass to Pass

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 1:30 - 3 hr
Hike: 3 - 5 hr
- ➔ 9km, from Sputnik at the top of the Outeniqua Pass
- 📖 This challenging trail links the Outeniqua and Montagu Passes and travels through a few river crossings. The Losberg Peak is an optional add-on, which add 3km to your distance.

Very hard trails



Bergplaas Mega

- 📍 Wilderness
- 🕒 4 hr
- ➔ 50km, from the Woodville trading store
- 📖 Discover the little known Ernst Robertson Dam high up in the mountains while encounter indigenous and pine forest and fynbos vegetation enroute.



Cradock Peak

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 3:30 - 5 hr
Hike: 6 - 9 hr
- ➔ 18km, from the Outeniqua Nature Reserve
- 📖 Cradock Peak is 1,578m above sea level and the highest peak in the Outeniqua Mountain range. It boasts incredible views of the Garden Route landscape and Swartberg Mountains. The route goes through pine plantations, across a stream and railway line and up the mountain.



George to Oudtshoorn

- 📍 George
- 🕒 6 - 8 hr
- ➔ 118km, from the Heatherpark Engen
- 📖 This route takes you along the back roads all the way to Smitswinkel in Oudtshoorn, the ostrich capital of the world. It travels over the Montagu Pass, and thereafter mostly follows a gradual descent.



Louvain loop (aka Voortrekker Pass)

- 📍 George
- 🕒 6 - 8 hr
- ➔ 120km, from the Heatherpark Engen,
- 📖 Traversing over the Montagu Pass into the Karoo through Perdepoort to Louvain Guest Farm, riders will enter the Voortekker Pass, now a 4x4 route. The route goes over the mountain into Bergplaas, a forestry area and then towards the ocean, along the lakes of the Garden Route National Park. From Wilderness the route takes the Seven Passes back to George.



Tierkop Trail Run via Old George Dam

- 📍 George
- 🕒 Trail run: 3 - 5 hr
Hike: 5 - 7 hr
- ➔ 25km, from the Garden Route Botanical Gardens
- 📖 The trail follows the railway line onto jeep track and crosses the old George dam and Swart River to the Tierkop hut.

