



20 REASONS WE LOVE....



Garden Route, South Africa

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE

GEORGE
naturally



20 Reasons We love summer in Wilderness

There are few places on the planet that match Wilderness for its natural beauty. Kilometres of golden sand meet the cool blue ocean waves of the Indian Ocean. Our breath-taking National Park is set amidst lush indigenous forest and spectacular winding waterways. Wilderness is the perfect place to lose yourself in nature. Here is our ultimate summer-time checklist.

1. Watch the dolphins play. Every day in Wilderness should start with a refreshing stroll on the pristine golden sand. The shoreline is the best place to watch the pods of bottlenose dolphin, sometimes as many as 100, splash, surf and frolic in the waves. Dolphin's Point, on the N2, provides a higher vantage point to view the beach.



2. Glide into the blue. A number of reputable operators offer tandem paragliding flights and tours over Wilderness. Soar over Wilderness National Park, sparkling lakes and 18 kilometres of golden beach. Keep an eye out for game fish, whales and even Great White Sharks in the surf below. Check out Cloudbase Paragliding, Dolphin Paragliding, Flytime Paragliding, Paraglide Africa and Wild2Fly.

3. Enjoy a long lazy picnic and river day by the water's edge at Kaaimans. Watch the kids kayak, swing, splash and swim in the river. Snap pictures of ducks, put your feet up and enjoy a walk to the river mouth where you can see the iconic Kaaimans Bridge up close. Kayaks can be hired through Kaaimans Adventures.



4. Enjoy sundowners while cruising the Touw River. Encounter magnificent bird life and breath-taking scenery on this eco-boat tour with shallow draft safari-style boat at Wilderness River Safaris. There are several tours daily in the Wilderness Section of the Garden Route National Park.

5. Find a plethora of fun outdoor activities in the forest at Wild X Adventures just past Timberlake Village. Segway rides, quad biking, paintball games, and more!

6. Adventurous eaters will love the rustic menu at Oysters R Us. The freshest wild oysters are plucked from saltwater tanks, shucked and served with a tray of condiments. Knowledgeable staff dish out facts and fun tasting suggestions. Sample oysters with fresh lemon, black pepper and lashings of chilled bubbly.





7. Cruise the Seven Passes Road, a winding gravel and tar backroad that connects Wilderness and Knysna.

8. Take a trot with Perdepoort Horse Trails. Ride through indigenous forest on a beautiful 65-hectare private farm just outside Wilderness, passing an Yellowwood and enjoying a relaxed, guided outing that's great for families and first-timers. Other nearby options include Garden Route Horse Trails, which runs forest rides (with some routes offering a mid-ride swim).

9. Experience the charm of a local market. There is a vibrant atmosphere at the Milkwood Village Market . On a Sunday, local crafters gather to sell their wares. Find handmade wooden bowls, batik art, clothing, leatherworks, cheeses, artisanal breads, cured meats, pancakes and live music.

10. Take a moment to appreciate the 'Map of Africa'.

This popular lookout point offers panoramic views of the coastline and forested hillside. Accessed via a well signed gravel road, the extraordinary vantage point is marked by a simple sign board which has quickly become an Instagram sensation. View the pristine white sands of Wilderness beach and the calm turquoise ocean. A grassy field offers a popular picnic site and paragliding launch spot. To the north, the Kaaimans river canyon cuts an unmistakable shape through the forested hillside.

11. A visit to Wilderness would not be complete without a stop at Timberlake Village.

This delightful, outdoor experience has artisanal food, unique shops, local galleries, and thrilling Acrobranch adventures. Nestled in nature, it's the perfect spot to enjoy fresh, local flavors, explore creative spaces, and embrace outdoor fun.





12. Experience the captivating waterways of Wilderness by canoe. Eden Adventures has large stable canoes with splash-proof buckets ideal for cameras and picnics. An additional wooden seat can accommodate a toddler between the benches. Eden Adventures is based at the Fairy Knowe Hotel.

13. Plunge into paradise! Extreme canyoning or 'kloofing' as it is locally known, involves floating, scrambling, swimming, abseiling and cliff jumping down a steep river ravine. Paradise Adventures and Eden Adventures are well-known for their amazing, guided tours. This is a rite of passage when visiting George.

14. Cast a line at Freesia Rock. This local fishing hotspot is tucked away on Freesia Avenue, a cul-de-sac on the tranquil Touws River, in Wilderness. Soak in the peace and pace of nature.

15. Picnic in nature. The Wilderness Picnic Company take the hassle out of the preparation, by delivering pre-packaged, eco-friendly picnics right to your door. Order online and wile away a day at one of the magnificent local beaches or forest picnic spots.

16. Feel the sun on your skin with a spot of sandcastle building, swimming and sunbathing. **There are a number of safe bathing areas on the Wilderness 'Blue Flag' beach**, including Leentjiesklip, 'Steps' and the Touws River Mouth. Lifeguards are on duty from 7am to 7pm, in season. Showers and secure parking are available. Swim between the flags and don't forget the sunscreen.

17. Conquer your fear with Paradise Adventures. Adrenaline-fuelled fun awaits in **tailor-made rock-climbing tours**. Guide Marthinus Esmeyer is a professional adventure sports athlete with a degree in Conservation and has a true passion for the outdoors, offering a range of thrilling trips.

18. Discover a hidden waterfall deep in the national park. The Half Collared Kingfisher Trail begins next to the railway bridge near the Ebb and Flow North Restcamp, on the Touw River. A fee is payable to SAN Parks. An easy circular 7km hike winds through indigenous forest and colourful fynbos. Kids love the pontoon river crossing. A refreshing dip in the glorious rock pools await. Find directions and tariffs at the Garden Route National Park.

19. Feel the vibe of the ocean with a surf lesson at Wilderness Beach. Brothers Klaus and Heinrich Schröder, of Vibe Surf School offer surf lessons and tours on a daily basis. Other surf schools include Surfends and Wild and Loose.

20. Check out the rock pools at 'Flat Rock'. This popular rock angling site is accessed via steep wooden stairs at the Views Boutique Hotel & Spa. Flat rock, as the name suggests, is a rocky reef which creates beautiful warm shallow tidal pools at low tide, revealing an array of marine biodiversity including octopus, starfish and fan worms. Bring your snorkel and mask and remember not to touch or remove the sea life.



Rockpools
Flat Rock Wilderness

