



ABOUT THE CITY OF GEORGE



Garden Route, South Africa

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE

GEORGE
naturally



About the City of George

George, one of South Africa's oldest towns, has a rich history dating back to the early 19th century. Established in 1811, George was initially founded as a timbering outpost for the Dutch East India Company, which needed a steady supply of wood for construction and ship repairs. The area's lush forests made it ideal for this purpose, and the town was named in honour of King George III of the United Kingdom.

In the early years, George grew as a hub for the timber industry, attracting settlers and tradesmen. The construction of the Montagu Pass in 1847 significantly improved access to the town, facilitating trade and travel in the region. The arrival of the railway in the late 19th century further accelerated George's development, linking it with other major towns and making it an important stop on the railway line between Cape Town and Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth).

Throughout the 20th century, George transitioned from a timbering town to a flourishing agricultural and tourist centre, known for its idyllic setting near the Indian Ocean and the Outeniqua Mountains. Today, George is the commercial and administrative hub of the Garden Route, home to around 295,000 people and is celebrated for its scenic beauty, golf courses, and as a gateway to outdoor activities in the surrounding natural reserves.



Key attributes



Premier **golf courses** and offerings



Easy **road** and **air** connectivity



Plentiful **restaurant**, **accommodation**, and **activity** options



Clean, healthy and hospitable area



Rich, vibrant South African **culture**, **arts**, and **history**



Incredible **natural diversity** and beauty



Location

George is a city located in the Western Cape province of South Africa. It is situated in the Garden Route region, approximately halfway between Cape Town and Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth). George is accessible through various modes of transportation:



By air

George Airport (IATA: GRJ) is approximately 7 km from the city centre. It offers scheduled flights to major South African cities, including Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, and Bloemfontein. Airlines such as Airlink, CemAir and FlySafair operate from this airport. With quick, direct flights, reaching George is easy.

Johannesburg - George:	Approximately 2 hours
Cape Town - George:	Approximately 1 hour
Durban - George:	Approximately 1 hour 45 minutes
Bloemfontein to George:	Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes



**George is Africa's
first airport to be
solar powered.**

In February 2016, a 200m² solar plant was launched.



By road

National Routes: The N2 national route runs east–west along the coast, connecting George to Cape Town (approximately 420 km west) and Gqeberha (approximately 330 km east). The N9 and N12 national routes start in George and run concurrently north over the Outeniqua Pass; on the other side of the pass they divide, with the N12 continuing north to Oudtshoorn and then through Meiringspoort to Beaufort West, while the N9 runs northeast to Graaff-Reinet and Colesberg.

Bus Services: Several bus companies operate routes to and from George, connecting it with major cities and towns across South Africa.

By Rail: There is no scheduled passenger train services to George. However, luxury train operators like Rovos Rail offer vintage train trips to the Garden Route, including stops in George.

Travel matrix

Distance in km:

Mossel Bay	•	25	108	54	72	95	115	162	147
Great Brak River	25	•	80	29	47	70	90	138	122
Oudtshoorn	108	80	•	51	69	92	112	119	144
George	54	29	51	•	18	41	59	111	93
Wilderness	72	47	69	18	•	23	43	124	75
Sedgefield	95	70	92	41	23	•	20	147	52
Knysna	115	90	112	59	43	20	•	84	32
Uniondale	162	138	119	111	124	147	84	•	83
Plettenberg Bay	147	122	144	93	75	52	32	83	•
	Mossel Bay	Great Brak River	Oudtshoorn	George	Wilderness	Sedgefield	Knysna	Uniondale	Plettenberg Bay



‘George’ is set in the very centre of the spectacular Garden Route, surrounded by oceans, mountains, waterways, forests and farmlands - making it a sought-after holiday and lifestyle destination.

Weather

George is characterized by moderate temperatures with warm summers and mild winters, making it a popular location for Capetonians to visit in the Winter to escape the cold. Visitors from extreme heat and cold enjoy the “four-season paradise” suited to enjoying the outdoors at any time of year.



Summer

December to February

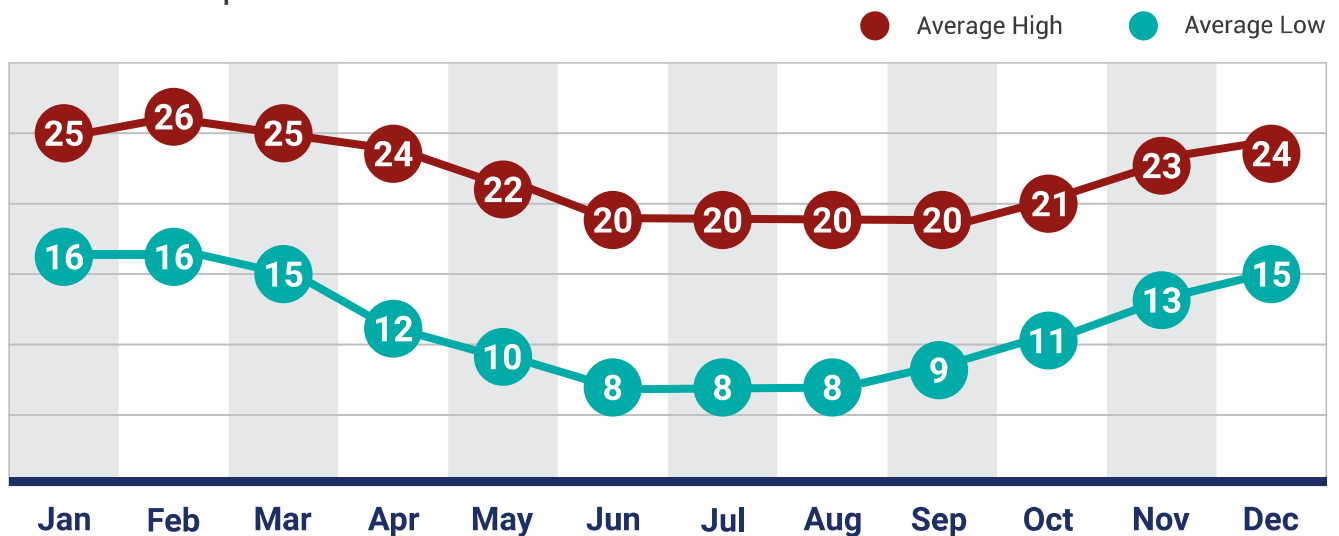
Summers in George are warm but not overly hot, with average temperatures ranging from 20°C to 26°C (68°F to 79°F). The cooling effect of the Indian Ocean keeps summer temperatures comfortable.



Winter

June to August

Winters are mild, with temperatures typically ranging from 8°C to 20°C (46°F to 68°F). While frost is rare, cooler temperatures and rainfall occur more frequently in winter.



This mild, moderate climate is ideal for outdoor activities year-round, making George a popular destination in every season.

