



TOP 15 ATTRACTIONS



Garden Route, South Africa

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE





Top 15 attractions



National Park

Wilderness SANPark

Dumbleton Road, Hoekwil, George



The **Garden Route National Park** is a fascinating combination of rivers, lakes, estuaries and beaches, unfolding against the backdrop of lush forests and imposing mountains. During spring, the area is beautifully blanketed by a kaleidoscope of colourful blossoms, further enhancing its profound beauty. The beautiful and popular Wilderness section of the park, known as Ebb and Flow, has an amazing hiking trail to a secluded waterfall under tree-lined canopies, with a rockpool for swimming below. At the day visitor picnic area, canoe hire and boat cruises offer the perfect way to explore the stunning river waterways and to birdwatch. The comfortable picnic area has built-in tables and a jungle gym. Boat rides should be booked with **Wilderness River Safaris**, and picnics can be arranged with **Wilderness Picnic Company**.



Features

- Hiking
- Birdwatching
- Canoeing
- Picnic Area
- Boat Rides
- Waterfall



sanparks.org | +27 44 877 1197 | enquiries.wilderness@sanparks.org



Viewing Point

Map of Africa

Remskoek Lane, Wilderness Heights, Wilderness



This vantage point (**Map of Africa**) offers unrivalled views of the hillside and coast. The simple sign board has even become an Instagram sensation. To the south is a view of the peaceful village, the pristine white sands of Wilderness beach and the blue ocean. A sloping grassy field over the road is a popular paragliding launch site. To the north, spectators see the Kaaiman's River wind its way through the hills. The deep canyon takes on the unmistakable shape of the African continent as it cuts through the forest.



Features

- Scenic Drive
- Gravel Road
- Wilderness viewing point



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Trails

Woodville Big Tree

Wilderness National Park, Hoekwil, Wilderness



Witness the wonder of the **Woodville Big Tree**! This 800-year-old forest giant is an ancient Outeniqua Yellowwood. What could be more idyllic than a forest picnic at the foot of a mighty ancient tree? The iconic Woodville Big Tree has been a silent witness to the area's history for more than 800 years. Take your picnic basket and have a restful respite among ferns and other forest giants. Try to spot the shy Knysna Loerie and inhale the earthy forest smells. Linger longer with a walk on the short circular hiking trail. Hikers can stretch their legs further on the Wandelpad Forest Walk. This 2km circular trail follows a path through the forest, crossing streams and passing gnarled trees, curtains of ferns and wild mushrooms, and a 7km route has recently been added. A permit is purchased from SAN Parks office at the trailhead.



Features

- 800 year old Outeniqua Yellowwood
- Circular walking trail
- Picnic area





Nature Reserve

Outeniqua Reserve

Montagu Pass, George, 6529



The **Outeniqua Nature Reserve**, spanning 38,000 hectares, has several challenging and beginner routes suited to mountain biking, hiking and trail running. The trails meander through the Witfontein pine plantation with sections of indigenous forest and fynbos. There are many single-track sections to be found between the contour roads, such as the Tower Loop and Sidewinder Loop. Some of the best views in George can be accessed from the summit of George and Craddock Peaks. While these are favourite weekend destinations for local hikers and trail runners, these trails are challenging and require a good deal of fitness. Hiking trails to both peaks pass through beautiful fynbos and cross the iconic Powervan Railway line. These trails can be accessed via the Witfontein Route System. See **George Trails** for more info.



Features

- Hiking
- Cityscapes
- Mountain Biking
- Trail Running
- Mountain and Forested Areas





Outdoor Lifestyle Centre

Timberlake Village

N2 between Wilderness and Sedgefield, 6560



Timberlake Village is home to small local businesses, mixing retail cabins and studios such as mohair, gemstones, wine, fine art, leather, resin art, pottery and driftwood sculpture, with a bakery, coffee shop and deli. You can also get active and take to the trees with **Acrobranch** aerial adventures. Venture into the forest canopy to slide, balance, jump, crawl or swing through four action-packed courses. Expect exciting zip-lines, suspended walkways and high wires. Ladders ascend over six metres into the pine forest canopy with beams, tubes and cargo nets to scramble and climb. Acrobranch is a daring and fun adventure for the fit or fearless from age 3 to adult. Explore the art galleries and restaurants such as **Naughty Monkey Cafe, Figtree Bakehouse, Ingrid Nuss Art Studio** and more for a fun outing.



Features

- Art and Galleries
- Unique Shopping
- Bakery
- Coffee Shop
- Childrens Playground
- Acrobranch
- Deli



timberlakeorganic.co.za | +27 44 882 1240 | info@timberlakeorganic.co.za



Coastline

Wilderness Beach

Sands Road, Wilderness



One of the most breathtakingly beautiful coastlines in South Africa, **Wilderness** is home to a swathe of unspoilt, golden sand. The 18km beach boasts a blue flag, life guards (in season), fresh water showers, ablutions and parking. It is a sun worshippers heaven, as dozens of colourful paragliders hang in the vast expanse of blue sky overhead. The first section of the beach is called **Leentjiesklip**. Visitors will find limited parking, clean ablutions, a cold-water shower and a braai area. Leentjiesklip is popular for sunbathing, fishing and whale watching. Further along Wilderness Beach, the local NSRI Station is situated next to **Salina's restaurant**. Parking and ablutions are available and there is access to a large sandy beach at the mouth of the **Touw River**. Small children enjoy the calm and shallow water in the mouth.



Features

- Parking
- Clean ablutions
- Beach showers
- Fishing
- Whale/ dolphin watching



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Market

Outeniqua Market

N2, George, 6530



Without any doubt the best brunch in George can be found on Saturday mornings at the **Outeniqua Family Market**. Showcasing the best mouth-watering local produce, as well as a large variety of craft stalls, this market is popular with locals as a weekend hang out. Live music, acres of parking, a huge kiddies play area and plentiful shaded seating make this a weekend winner. Kids love the bumpy Boere 'train' ride, sand art and board games dotted on the picnic tables throughout the seating areas.



Features

- Food and Craft Stalls
- Live Entertainment
- Secure Parking
- Boere Train Ride





Museum

George Museum

9 Courtenay Street, Bodorp, George



George Museum traces the history of the town to its origins as a Dutch East Indian Company outpost established in 1777 and has a special focus on the timber industry. The museum displays old tools and implements used in the timber trade of long ago, as well as a yellowwood remake of the woodcutter's cottage and old, majestic wooden wagons. The Sayers Hall features an art gallery, and upstairs, an exhibition is dedicated to the forced removals that marked the Apartheid regime.



Features

- Inhouse Tours
- Collection and Exhibitions
- Cultural and Social Heritage of the Region



+27 44 873 5343 | Lorrinda.Hakim@westerncape.gov.za



Attraction

Redberry Farm

Geelhoutboom Road, Blanco, George



A true taste of George involves picking juicy strawberries year round at **Redberry Farm**, an agri-tourism attraction. Navigate the largest permanent hedge maze in the Southern Hemisphere where 10km of winding track leads to seven secret stations hidden within the labyrinth of passageways. The Giant Strawberry educates visitors with interesting strawberry information as one ascends the winding staircase, leading to a breathtaking 360 degree view from the very top. Kids can also enjoy bumper boats, bubble ball, pony rides, go carts, feeding the bunnies, mini train and the playgrounds. Redberry Farm's range of eateries, **Boplaas, Redberry Farm Tea Garden, the Red Shed Coffee and Berry Bar, the Noshery, Framboos** and **Bounty**, will satisfy all palates with woodfired pizza, wine, handcrafted ice-cream and strawberry inspired meals.



Features

- Largest permanent hedge maze in Southern Hemisphere
- Giant strawberry 14.5m tall and 8.5m wide



redberryfarm.co.za | +27 44 870 7123 | info@redberryfarm.co.za



Museum

Transport Museum

Transnet Transport Museum, 2 Mission Road, George



The **Transnet Transport Museum** holds an epic collection of trains, ox-wagons, vintage fire engines and even a funeral hearse from the last century. The enormous museum also houses a fantastic array of private collectors' vintage cars, all in beautiful condition. Energetic children can climb aboard some of the superbly preserved locomotives and use the coin slot machine to get the trains moving in the large miniature train display. The popular **Outeniqua Powervan** departs from the museum and is ideal for train lovers of all ages. It offers an unbeatable insight into the region's fascinating rail heritage as it sways and winds up the Outeniqua Mountains, offering panoramic views of sheer mountain slopes, dripping forests, cascading waterfalls and colourful fynbos.



Features

- Railway experience
- Scenic views
- Museum
- Rail history



powervan.co.za | +27 44 801 8289 | samkelisiwe.kunene@transnet.net



Botanical Garden

GR Botanical Garden

49 Caledon Street, Camphersdrift, George, 6529



The sprawling botanical garden is a brilliant showcase of locally indigenous flora. As a result, animals such as butterflies, frogs and birds made it their home. The **Garden Route Botanical Garden** is a mesmerising walk through various points of interest. Make sure to do the Mushroom Meander - a stunning forested trail along a shallow river, and visit the **Garden Route Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Centre**, as well as the on-site restaurant, **Il Giardino**, and nursery. The rehabilitation centre has a separate entry fee. It serves as a refuge for a diverse array of majestic birds of prey, offering visitors a unique opportunity to witness these magnificent creatures up close. They offer owl handlings and education on these spectacular creatures.



Features

- Forested pathways
- Bird hide
- Sprawling indigenous garden
- Bird rescue centre
- Restaurant
- Nursery



botanicalgarden.org.za | +27 44 874 1558 | info@botanicalgarden.org.za



Reservoir

Garden Route Dam

113 Stander Street, George



Garden Route Dam, is a key water reservoir located just east of George. It serves both as a crucial municipal water supply and a popular nature-based recreation area, forming part of the scenic Garden Route region. While the dam itself is used primarily for water storage, the area around it is open to the public and popular for hiking and trail running (well-maintained trails with scenic views), mountain biking, picnicking and nature photography. Please note swimming is not permitted due to its function as a drinking water source.

Features

- Walking
- Mountain Biking
- Picnic



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Gastronomy

Herold Wines

Montagu Pass, Herold



Tucked away on the slopes of the Outeniqua Mountains, Herold Wines is a small-scale, family-run estate that embraces the spirit of boutique winemaking, warm hospitality and soulful escapes. It spans 8 hectares under vine - a size that captures the intimacy and attention to detail of a true boutique winery. Sip your way through a wine tasting, take a peek behind the scenes with a guided cellar tour, or settle in at our bistro for a cheese platter or wood-fired pizza. If the outdoors is calling, join our FarmFit crew for a guided hike, trail run, or wellness retreat, or spread out a picnic in the fresh mountain air. Whether you visit for the day or stay a little longer, you'll leave with a full heart, a happy appetite, and the lingering taste of good wine grown in the Herold region.



Features

- Wine Tasting
- Picnics
- Cellar Tour
- Bistro
- Accommodation
- Trail Run & Retreats





Coastline

Victoria Bay

George Road, Victoria Bay, George



This narrow cove between steep tree covered hills forms a natural amphitheatre. The caravan and camping parks on the hillside overlook a narrow stretch of golden sand and a scenic rocky headland. **Vic Bay** is well known among surfers as the best right-hand point break in the Southern Cape. The beach resort is also a magnet for sun seekers and swimmers and becomes crowded on sunny days. Safe bathing is available between the palm trees on the beach or in the placid tidal pool beneath the pier.



Features

- Jetty
- Tidal Pool
- Surfing
- Promenade
- Grassed Area
- Ablutions



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Coastline

Herolds Bay

Beach Road, Herolds Bay



Herolds Bay is a sheltered coastal gem with a long, golden beach that effortlessly ticks all the boxes for fishing, surfing and swimming, while offering sunbathers the ideal stretch of sand to soak up the sunshine. Its impressive tidal pool, alive with tiny fish and fascinating sea creatures, adds a sense of discovery for families and nature lovers who enjoy exploring the shore. The bay's relaxed, holiday atmosphere is complemented by convenient parking, clean ablution facilities, designated braai areas and seasonal snack vans, making it an easy and appealing choice for a full day at the beach. With its natural beauty, calm setting and welcoming amenities, Herolds Bay remains one of the Garden Route's most inviting seaside escapes.



Features

- Tidal Pools
- Grassed Area
- Lifeguards in Season
- Ablutions
- Vendors



FAQ's for international visitors



Currency

We use the South Africa Rand, but visitors with dollars or euros in their bank accounts will benefit from the highly favourable exchange rate, making most experiences exceptional value for money. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, with card payments as the standard.



Tipping

Tipping at restaurants typically starts at 10%. It's customary to leave a tip, and only in rare cases of poor service would one withhold it as a message to the server.



Tap water

It is safe and common to drink the tap water in George.



Healthcare

South Africa has both public and private hospitals, though middle-class South Africans generally prefer private hospitals that are funded by their Medical Insurance plans. Ensure your travel insurance includes coverage for private hospitals to access top-quality medical care. George has several hospitals and healthcare facilities. Doctors are readily available, with the most convenient options for visitors likely being the **Walk in Doctor and Dentist**, where no appointment is needed, or Intercare George, where an appointment can be made online. The average cost for an in-person GP consultation during normal hours is approximately R550 per visit (approx. \$31 or €29), excluding medication. There are also many specialists in the area.



Visas

Please visit the Department of Home Affairs website to see if you need a visa, as well as the process for obtaining one.

Department of Home Affairs

