

# Weekend and day trips in South Africa

with Port Elizabeth as base

## Day trips

### **Kragga Kamma Game Park**

In Kragga Kamma Game Park you can see lots of 'bokkies', rhinos, giraffes and cheetahs. You can touch cheetahs here which costs another R100. There is a cheaper alternative. There is also a restaurant where you can have lunch, a drink and buy souvenirs.

Entrance fee: R50.

### **Seaview Lion Park**

Seaview Lion Park is not too far away from Kragga Kamma and both can be done in a day. There are often lion cubs that you can touch. You pay extra for this though.

### **Daniel Cheetah Breeding Farm**

Daniel Cheetah breeding farm is on the way to Graaff Reinet, around 40 km after Uitenhage. They have walking tours along caged animals: it might not sound great but it is a very interesting tour to do. The farm has several cats like caracal, stokstaartjes, cheetahs and lion cubs. Sometimes you can interact with the cheetahs. You could do this tour at the beginning of the day when you are going to Graaff Reinet.

Entrance fee: R50.

### **Sacramento Walking Trail From Schoenmakerskop to Sardinia Beach**

Walking on sand dunes and near the ocean. This hiking trail is good and it takes 1 hour to 1.5 hour to go to and come back to Schoenmakerskop (popular way of saying is: Skoenies). Take water and sun block! Also, never walk alone and ladies should go at least in a group of 4 persons. At Sardinia beach there is some food and water for sale incl. 'kroketten'. They are not like Dutch kroketten though. At Skoenies there is a restaurant where you can eat or have a drink.

### **South African Penguins at Samrec**

Samrec is a rehabilitation centre for hurt animals. Sometimes there are few penguins, sometimes there are a lot. Great place for walking along the sea and enjoying the dunes. One of the best times to visit is at 14h30, when you can watch our dedicated volunteers and staff feed our patients. Watch the feeding from our Flying Penguin coffee shop and enjoy a light meal. If you come with more than 10 persons, please contact them beforehand.

Telephone number: 041-583-1830. Entrance fee: R15 for children + pensioners and R25 for adults. Opening hours: 9.30 - 15.30.

### **City tours in Port Elizabeth**

Start at the King Edward Hotel and see the upgraded Donkin Park with lots of mosaics and art.

**Visit the Atheneum in the centre of town and enjoy local art**

**Visit the Apartheids museum in Red Location**

Wednesdays is for free.

**Sailing**

Go sailing with experienced yachtsmen on Wednesday afternoon from 4.45 hours starting at the small harbor in Port Elizabeth. It is for free and lasts until sunset. Dress warmly!

**Boardwalk, entertainment and a casino in Summerstrand**

If it rains and there is nothing much else to do go here. There is also a big television screen where one can watch soccer matches.

**Sunday mornings souvenir market along the sea in Summerstrand**

Lots to see and do between 11 and 1 at this market in Summerstrand.

**Surfing**

Take surfing lessons and exercise during your weekends. Fun to do with a group!

**Boat Tours**

Go on a boat tour to see whales (September - January), dolphins (all year round) or even orcas. 'Algoa Bay boat trips' have much to offer. It is not surprising that marine wildlife photographers and TV crews come to shoot footage in the Bay.

To accommodate guests and give them a top-notch whale watching adventure two catamarans are used that have been built specially for the sea conditions around the Eastern Cape.

The costs are R800 but most times volunteers and interns get a discount. Make sure to go with a group and then ask for a discount.

**Bungee Jumping**

Bungee jumping from the highest bungee jump in the world in Tsitsikamma. You can do this in a day, but why not make it a weekend trip. Scroll down to see what else is here to do. You will jump 216 meters above the Bloukrans River. Underneath the bridge you will be given final instructions by highly experienced staff, a countdown and off you go!

Address: Bloukrans Bungy, Bloukrans Bridge, Tsitsikamma, Garden Route. Telephone: +27 (0)42 281-1458 Opening hours: Open daily from 09h00 to 17h00.

**Blackwater Tubing**

Address: Tsitsikamma Blackwater Tubing, Corner of Saffron and Darnell Streets, Storms River, Tsitsikamma Telephone: +27 (0)42 281-1757 Opening hours: Every day (water based activities are every day September to April only).

Tsitsikamma Blackwater Tubing offers an adventure of tubing, swimming, rock jumping and hiking through the Storms River Gorge. Tubing takes place in Tsitsikamma National Park - an area of pristine beauty, sea views, rare birds and forested river banks. The day of tubing kicks off with a 7am orientation and finishes at approximately 12pm - lunch is served at 1pm. Depending on the water level of the river your tubing adventure will

range from a kloofing experience to white water tubing so be prepared.

### **Canopy Tours in Tsitsikamma**

Address: Tsitsikamma National Park, Storms River, Garden Route. Telephone: +27 (0)42 281-1836 Opening hours: Summer (1 September to 31 May) from 07h00 to 16h00 on every 30 minutes. Winter (1 June to 31 August) 08h00 to 14h40 on every 45 minutes.

'Me Tarzan, you Jane.' Swing from the treetops across the forest canopy of the place named by the ancient San, Tsitsikamma (place of abundant water). Your guide will educate you on the ecosystem and its rare ecology from 30 meters above the forest floor. This fantasy forest flight fills three hours with magnificent swinging scenery and will be one of the most memorable experiences in a year that contributes another ring to your tree of life.

## **Weekends away**

### **Jeffreys Bay**

Jeffreys Bay has beaches and lots to do. It is surfers paradise. There is also a shop in 'Jaybay' with lots of Dutch goodies: hagelslag, stroopwafels, drop, etc.

- Jaybay Sandboarding has skilled instructors to help you master sand boarding. The sand boarding takes place on the Marina Beach. You can hire all the needed equipment from Jaybay Sandboarding and the wax are supplied for free.

- The waterfall is located on a private farm just outside Jeffreys Bay. The farm owners ask a small fee to people who wants to visit the farm/waterfall. There is a zip line that goes over the water, from which you can jump into the water. You can also jump from a 6m and 12m cliff into the 28meter deep pool. It is fun on a hot day to enjoy with friends and maybe have a "picnic". Please just keep the area clean.

- Just want to have fun on a hot summers day or frankly any day that suites you? Something to do besides swimming in the sea is the Supertubes right in front of the main beach and surrounded by small shops and the local Chip-'n-Dip. Play Putt-Putt and slide down the supertube. If you still feel like swimming in the sea or surfing on main beach, you can just walk down there.

### **Graaff Reinet and Nieu Bethesda**

Graaff Reinet is 2.5 hours driving from PE; take the road to Uitenhage and once you pass by Uitenhage, Graaff Reinet is indicated.

- The scenery is spectacular; on the way you are able to see animals along the fences at the road.

- You pass by Daniels Cheetah Breeding Farm; a must to see and to possibly touch the cheetahs.

- Have a break in Jansenville as you are leaving this village, on your right hand side there is a restaurant with good coffee and souvenirs.

- Arriving in Graaff Reinet: make sure you go to the top of the Valley of Desolation. You can make it is sundowner. Costs: R70.
- Camdeboo National Game Park: you are driving through this park to get to the top of Valley of Desolation.
- See the beautiful restored houses of Graaff Reinet.
- Get all your food, drinks and petrol and money here in Graaff Reinet.
- The drive from Graaff Reinet to Nieu Bethesda: follow the road to Middelburg, then turn left after approx. 40 kilometers.

To see in Nieu Bethesda:

Galleries with nationally and internationally renowned artists

Owl House

Kitching Museum about the age of the earth is and fossils that are found in Nieu Bethesda

Check out the Community Centre where they are producing beautiful artifacts

Lots of cafes where you can sit and enjoy the peacefulness of Nieu Bethesda

Do not forget lunch at Andre's 'Two Goats Deli' where almost everything is homemade

Take the hanging bridge and walk through Nieu Bethesda

Go to the pub and share some news with the inhabitants

- Accomodation: Peet and Hannah van Heerden at the Doornberg Farm. They live on a farm and can tell you all about this part of the world. They are very hospitable and enjoy sharing time with you. Accommodation: R200. Peet and Hannah can provide breakfast and supper, just make sure you book in advance. You can also do self catering. A kitchen is available. Telephone: 0498411401 / 0825791039 (cell)

### **Weekend to Tsitsikamma, The Crag, Wilderness and Nature's Valley**

You can combine all these areas because they are close together. Tsitsikamma: see above at 'day trips'



#### **1. The Crag**

- Bramon restaurant: If you enjoy French cheese, 'snoek pate', wild figs, good wine and a beautiful setting, this is where you should have lunch. You pick and choose what you want to eat with the warm homemade bread, so you are in charge of your costs!

- Wild Spirit: a backpackers with a special star: it is 250 km from PE. The prizes are very reasonable. They have dorms, bedrooms for 4 persons and 2 persons. The food is great, don't forget to order before 5pm. They have log fires outside and inside. Great atmosphere. Once you are there, you definitely want to stay longer. There are hikes to a waterfall, a cheese farm nearby, Bramon is nearby and Nature's Valley is nearby. Lots to explore. Telephone 1: +27(0)44 534 8888. Telephone 2: +27(0)44 534 8751. Cell: +27(0)82 828 8008. Address: Wild Spirit Lodge, Khoiania, The Crags 6602, South Africa.

2. Nature's Valley: beautiful lake ending up in the sea with great beaches. The village itself has big houses, it is all about the sea and the beaches.

3. The Old Nick is a great place to stop over and have a coffee or lunch. The patisserie is fantastic! Also, lovely shops with gifts to die for. The Old Nick is just before you enter Plettenberg Bay on the N2 on your right hand side.

#### 4. Plettenberg Bay

- Robberg is a peninsula which has various hiking trails. The Robberg Peninsula is a nature reserve and national monument that lies about 8km south of Plettenberg Bay, a prestigious coastal resort on South Africa's famous Garden Route. It presents a fine example of how plants and animals adapt to the interacting influences of land and sea. Robberg offers a choice of three circular routes of increasing difficulty and distance. The round trip via the Point takes about four hours. It is dangerous at high tide and not recommended for young children. Water, hiking shoes and hats are essential. Be prepared for sudden changes in weather.

#### 5. Knysna

- A lovely little town at the sea and a lake. Well known for its oysters, great shopping and trip on the water. There are various backpackers which are all okay.

- Located on Leisure Island, Island Lodge Backpackers is within 2 km from the Knysna Heads and a 5-minute walk to the beach. It offers a garden, terrace and free WiFi. Accommodation consists of dormitory and double rooms and it has shared bathroom facilities. Island Lodge offers a continental breakfast and dinner is available upon request. Guests can make use of the barbecue facilities and a number of restaurants serving a variety of cuisines can be found within 5 km. Nearby activities include fishing, diving, canoeing and golf. Address: 11 Horne Drive, Leisure Isle, Knysna. Telephone number: +27 825589104/ +27 829250 716. Email: info@islandlodge-backpacker.co.za / ecoafrika@gmail.com

- Knysna backpackers: Imagine a beautiful Victorian house, perfectly situated on a slope, overlooking the Knysna Lagoon. A place where you can put your feet up and admire the view or take a two minute stroll to town and explore the hot-spots of Knysna Village. This century old Victorian House (a listed monument) is the oldest existing Backpackers Lodge in Knysna. They offer peace and tranquillity in this beautiful town on the Garden Route. 42 Queen Street, Knysna Central, 6571, Garden Route, South Africa. Tel: +27 (0) 44 382 2554/Fax: +27 (0) 86 516 1295 E-mail: info@knysnabackpackers.co.za

- Island Vibe Backpackers Hostel Knysna, is in the thick of things, ideally located in the

centre of Knysna. There are shops, bars, restaurants and the vibrant night clubs within walking distance. A warm and friendly welcome awaits backpackers and travelers at Island Vibe. Choose between cosy dorms or en suite doubles. The best way to end your day is to join in our “social BBQ” - fires are lit every evening and coals ready for you to personally cook the authentic SA way.

## 6. Sedgefield

- Sedgefield has five stunning beaches:

River Mouth - Upper Kingfisher Drive

Myoli Beach - Lower Galjoen Road

Cola Beach - Claude Urban Drive

Swartvlei Beach & Gericke`s Point

Platbank - Groenvlei (bordering the Goukamma Nature Reserve)

- Based in the paragliding coastal town Sedgefield, situated between Wilderness and Knysna, the heart of the Garden Route. This area offers numerous paragliding sites from Mossel Bay up to Plettenberg Bay and Oudtshoorn. We offers also Powered Paragliding Trike (PPT) tandem flights. Experience the marine wildlife with a flight along the coast. FlyTime offers different tandem options, the most popular flight with 20min duration for R550 or our 30-35min adventure flight for R750. Telephone: 072 612 8168  
[www.flytimeparagliding](http://www.flytimeparagliding)

- Scarab market is open every day but on Saturday morning there is also a farmers market and additional craft stalls. This opens at 7.30 AM and it sells genuine home cooked/made goodies. There are make-shift table and stools made from tree stumps, an ideal picnic ground to have breakfast of local sausages, bread, cakes, fruit, chutneys etc. or take some home for your BBQ.

- Goukama. Day picnicking, swimming, sailing and canoeing on the river are permitted. Canoes are available for hire. Angling licenses and boat licenses for Groenvlei are available at the reserve office. Horse-riding is also available. The reserve is open from 8am to 6pm daily and gate times are strictly maintained. An entrance fee is payable on arrival. No pets or firearms are allowed on the reserve.

- If fairies are your thing go and track them down in the Indigenous Knysna Forests. Pack a picnic basket and make a day of it. There are plenty of Forest Walks for every age, shape and size.

- Cloud Nine: Drive up to Cloud 9 for a spectacular view. See how the Paragliders take off and enjoy the breeze in your hair.

## 7. Wilderness

- Wilderness is surrounded by many rivers, natural lakes and lagoons making it an Aqua Adventure paradise and a great spot for water sport enthusiasts. After a morning of bird and animal watching from a canoe in the Wilderness National Park, you can enjoy horse riding, abseiling, kloofing or take a tandem paragliding flight in one of the best locations in South Africa.

- The Knysna hiking trail which ends (after 1.5 hour) at waterfalls. Ideal for a picnic.
- Enjoy the lake with a canoe or by foot
- Go bird watching in a bird hide
- Enjoy the sea and its great beaches
- Have great food at Pomodoro, right in the heart of Wilderness
- Fairy Knowe Backpackers Lodge is well positioned, with Wilderness being at the pivot of all that can be enjoyed on the Garden Route. The many adventure attractions of Wilderness are on the doorstep: The Wild Farm Backpackers offers a relaxed atmosphere and value for money in the Garden Route. It is aimed at the young at heart who enjoy the outdoors and life! Free veggies and fire-wood for your braai. +27 (0) 44 877 0700 [info@wildfarm.co.za](mailto:info@wildfarm.co.za) / 044 87707700

### **Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp**

- To travel to Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp via Knysna and Wilderness. Take the road that leads to Oudtshoorn. Enjoy the Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn and visit an ostrich farm. You get to ride an ostrich if you are not more than 70 kilos.
- Drive in the direction of Calitzdorp, until you see 'Smitswinkel' on your left side. If you want to see stars within hand reach, you should stay over at Bella de Karoo. Experience a sub desert climate, do star gazing with the telescope available and listen to the ear deafening silence.
- Bella de Karoo. They have the key to the beautiful B&B 'Bella de Karoo'. A spot where you can see the stars very clearly. That is why they have star gazing with a proper Nestled in a late 1800's built farm. Bella de Karoo offers country-style accommodation featuring a private furnished patio and a private barbecue. There is an outdoor pool, garden and a 24-hour front desk. The rooms feature a separate seating and dining area with a fireplace, kitchenware, a microwave and a fridge. Each room has a private bathroom with a victorian bath and a shower.
- Homemade breakfasts and lunches at the Smitswinkel restaurant which is an 8-minute drive away by car. An in-room breakfast is available upon request. Guests can sunbathe at the poolside, relax on the sun terrace or take a nap in the natural surroundings in the garden. Bella de Karoo has a tour desk which can organize day tours and local activities such as hiking, fishing and cycling. Free bicycle rental is available.
- Greylands Private Nature Reserve and Hoopval Railway Station are within a 10-minute drive away. The Bella de Karoo has an airport shuttle upon request and free private parking on site.
- Calitzdorp. The next day you travel to Calitzdorp and enjoy the quiet rural village. Have a drink on the terrace of the superb shop on the corner from die Dorpshuis. Go for port tasting and listen in the evening at 6pm to the free Organ recital by Jean Marie Kriel. A true Karoo village with lovely little shops and a great place to stay.

## Hogsback

- From PE this is 263 km. This drive takes you through the university town Grahamstown. Have a look around and discover the many old Victorian buildings of the university.

- You are driving on the N2 until Grahamstown; after the city you follow Fort Beaufort on the R67. In Fort Beaufort you take the R63 to Alice (amongst others). In Alice you take the R45; follow the R45 even when it makes a 90% turn. Do not go to Dimbaza or King Williams Town! The last few kilometers you make a steep climb up to Hogsback.

- Amathole Horse Trails. Take a ride on the paths that are less travelled, through the beautiful Amathole mountains and Hogsback forests. We practise natural horsemanship and believe in forming trusting partnerships and with our friendly well-trained, easy to ride horses. For 5 hours it is R250. (R200.00 for guests of Terra-Khaya) After this it is R100 per hour. Overnight trails from 1-3 nights for experienced riders (POA). Contact details: 27 82 897 7503 / +27 72 615 7899.

- Attic Art Gallery: Original work by Carol Nieth and Terry Anderson

-The Labyrinth. Come and experience walking our acclaimed Chartres design Labyrinth, one of the largest in the world. With a very nice view point in the area as well. Enjoy nature's glory at the view point on The Bluff, which offers a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains, a deep gorge with pristine indigenous forests, the Thuyne valley and villages below.

- Garden Amble. Enjoy the beauty of our 15-acre garden. Tel/Fax: 045 962 1159 Mobile: 082 603 5246

- Starways Pottery: This house is worth a visit. Anton van der Merwe, award winning potter. You know that you have arrived at the studio of Starways Pottery when you are welcomed by an antique doorway encased in textured rock walls and pillars of local timber. You walk up the quaint hill in the secluded pine forest to get there. Master potter Anton van der Merwe chose this environment because it embodies all the elements that combine to make up the craft of pottery - the natural beauty and tranquility of Hogsback, the potter's clay nearby, and the forest that provides both shelter and firewood. Contact details: Starways Pottery, P O Box 43, Hogsback 5721, South Africa: Tel/Fax: 045 962 1174 or 045 962 1344; Mobile: 082 953 7840 or 082 928 5770

- Some of the hiking trails of Hogsback

\*One of the best ways to experience the beauty, the silence and the restfulness of Hogsback is by foot. There are numbers of hiking routes and walks that will take you through the forests, up the mountains, past the waterfalls, and to the spectacular views.

\*Hiking always involves some degree of risk. Hikers should obtain local information at the time of the walk, and should always leave information on their planned walks with a responsible person.

\*Steps Falls and Arboretum (15 mins). This easy stroll starts in Oak Avenue (opposite the



Village Green) and takes you through the arboretum and on to the 39 Steps waterfall. The arboretum is a garden of trees from all over the world, and includes several Californian Redwood trees, now well over 100 years old. All the trees have markers showing their botanical and common names.

\*Military Path (40 mins). Another easy walk. It takes you from Red Coat Lane (at the Village Green), into the indigenous forest, and links up with the Alice - Hogsback road some 2 km from the Village Green. British soldiers used this century-old path on their way between Fort Hare (in Alice) and Fort Michel (near Tor Doonee). Look out for "Hangman's Tree" in Redcoat Lane - according to legend it was used for executing deserters in those days.

\*The Bluff (45 mins). This comfortable circular stroll along the Bluff offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and valley. Enjoy the Watsonias and Proteas in spring, and other wild flowers including the yellow iris (*Moraea spathulata*) and the unusual yellow *Crassula* as well as *Satyrium* orchids in summer.

\*Madonna and Child Falls. With a little bit of imagination, an outcrop of rock on the face of the falls helps to form the shape of the "Mother and Child" - hence the name of the falls. Madonna and Child falls can be reached via a moderately steep downhill walk from Wolf Ridge Road (4 km from Village Green) - or by a longer route from Main Road, via the Big Tree. Both routes take you through the indigenous forest.

\*Big Tree (1 to 5 hours). Walk from Main Road to the Big Tree, an 800-year old Yellowwood in the indigenous forest. The Narina Trogon, Orange Thrush, Bush Cap and other bird species have been spotted around here. From the Big tree you can return to Main Road, or walk on to the Swallow Tail Falls, the Bridal Veil Falls, and Madonna and Child Falls.

\*Kettlespot. Falls can be reached via several alternative starting points and routes, depending how long you want the walk to be. Under the right conditions - good flow of water, with the wind blowing strongly in the right direction - the water is blown as much as 5 meters upwards before coming down in a spray of mist. A spectacular sight.

- Away with the Fairies Backpackers. Telephone: 045 9621031

- Terra Khaya backpackers. Backpacker rooms with single and bunk beds, private cabins that sleep two or three and camping spots scattered across the farm. A communal kitchen and lounge area bring visitors together in an inviting and laid-back setting. If you don't want to cook your own meals, R60 will get you a delicious meat or vegetarian dish prepared each night. Breakfast is included in the rate. Dorm beds are R110 a person a night and cabins are from R265 a unit a night. Camping is R60 a person a night. Tel 082-897-750, [info@terrakhaya.co.za](mailto:info@terrakhaya.co.za), [www.terrakhaya.co.za](http://www.terrakhaya.co.za)

- Do not drive at night or in the dark: you might encounter a kudu who thinks he can jump over the car; meanwhile he will jump through your window on your lap. You do not survive such an encounter.

**C(h)intsa**

- This is 327 km away from PE and mostly on the N2. This place is about sea, sun and beach, lots of other foreigners, bars, and relaxing. This is also a full on Xhosa country: a traditional way of living for many still in mud huts. More information available with Ready 4 Life.

- Beach

- Elephant ride. Address: Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve, Schafli Road, Cintsas, Wild Coast, Eastern Cape Telephone: +27 (0)43 734-3234. Opening hours: By arrangement.

- Accommodation: Buccaneers. Nestled in the lush green bush of Buccaneers are divine beach style cottages with stunning sea, river or garden views. Bright, colorful and simple, each with a character of its own. This is the perfect choice for families or groups of friends who want their own, private, self-contained space. Each cottage sleeps 4 guests as standard and has its own private sun deck or patio area with braai and basic kitchen facilities. A great option for a weekend at the beach. A cottage with Buccaneers costs R695.

## A long weekend away

### Cape Town

- What to do? Too much! You have to make choices.

- When driving to Cape Town, you take the N2. When returning you could take the N1 until you get to the R62. Both routes are beautiful.

- Cable car up Table Mountain: cheapest is to book by internet.

- District 6 Museum and let one of the guides explain things to you. People who are working here, were living in District 6.

- Since you are at District 6 museum; go and see Charlies Bakery (almost opposite)

- Walk around in BoKaap; this is a very special area

- Go to Greenmarket. This is a good place for shopping, 4 Shortmarket Street, Cape Town, 8000, (+27 21) 426-1052 083 692 2864 083 247 4190

- Visit Mandela's prison on Robben Island (not everybody is impressed by this tour)

- Go and see the South African penguins in Simons Town when you are on the way to Kaap de Goede Hoop, Cape Point.

- Drive or cycle the Chapmans' Peak

- Visit the Kirstenbosch Gardens, especially in the weekends there are open air concerts where you bring your own picnic basket; see what herbs have healing properties.

- Do a wine tasting tour

- Enjoy Stellenbosch, a small authentic town with a university

- Great white shark cage diving: you can do this in Hermanus (where it is supposed to be the cheapest). Try Great White Shark Tours (028 384 1418/083 300 2138/[www.sharkcagediving.net](http://www.sharkcagediving.net)) or Marine Dynamics (028 384 1005/082 380 3405/[www.sharkwatchesouthafrica.com](http://www.sharkwatchesouthafrica.com)).

**Tip!**

From Cape Town to PE you can take another route: follow N1 drive until Laingsburg and take the R323 to Calitzdorp. Before Calitzdorp the road becomes the R 62. You will end close to Port Elizabeth when you end the road on the N2.