

Chapter 1 : The Garden Route - Rough Guides | Rough Guides

Guide to Driving the Garden Route Adam & Meghan January 6, Adventures By Land Destinations Featured South Africa
South Africa is a country blessed with some truly extraordinary landscapes.

By plane[edit] South African Airways has regular flights to George and Port Elizabeth , which is also reachable with budget airlines Kulula and 1Time. The nearest international airport is in Cape Town. The Garden Route is easily reached from Cape Town: The region is also on the Baz Bus route. Get around[edit] The best way to tour the Route is by car. You can hire a car all the cities along the Garden Route, but be aware of one-way fees for rental cars. Sightings of whales throughout the year. Southern Rights and Humpbacks - July to December. Brydes Whales all year round but more prolific during the summer months. Dolphins include Bottlenose, Humpback and Commons. Cape Fur seal colony on Robberg Peninsula. Our waters are rich in life and we are frequented by visitors of all types. A sea kayaking trip not to be missed. Camp under the stars in the wild after a day of winding through dramatic mountain terrain of the Garden Route to the vast open spaces of the Little Karoo. Choose between 4 wheels or 2 and enjoy hours or even days of adventure. Tours range from a 25 minute introductory route through beautiful valleys to overnight all-out action deep in the wild. The adventure is here â€” you decide when. Specialist retail cabins including: Relax in beautiful gardens, see our organic vegetable gardens in action and enjoy the best in local. Enjoy superb fish from the ocean; Knysna is the place to taste some oysters. The studio specializes in creating unique, handcrafted Venetian Carnival masks. This is a treat not to be missed. Studio and shop open to public. Part of the La Carla Mask Atelier complex, the cafe features delectable Belgium chocolate products handmade on premises. Read a book, play a game, or just relax under the big tree. The Garden Route is a popular destination, not only for foreign tourists but also for South Africans. If you are backpacking, the area has numerous hostels. Find a listing of most of them on the Coast to Coast website [8]. Campers will find excellent facilities at sites like the Ebb and Flow campsite in Wilderness, [9]. As always, use your common sense. Driving at night is fine. Go ahead for Cape Town or Port Elizabeth. Jeffreys Bay is a well-known for its surfing grounds.

Chapter 2 : Garden Route - Wikitravel

The Garden Route in South Africa is a road trip of a lifetime. A must do!! Find out important Garden Route facts, recommended itinerary, tips & tricks.

The name derives from the ecologically varied vegetation on the route and numerous lagoons and lakes scattered beside the coast. Hermanus is a popular retirement town, which makes it the best place to relax and unwind. Hermanus is famous for whale watching during the winter and spring. The Old Harbour Museum contains several exhibits that explain the whaling industry and the De Wetshuis Photo Museum houses an exhibition of photos by T D Ravenscroft that depicts the history of Hermanus. The Whale Museum exhibits a skeleton of a whale and shows an audio-visual presentation of dolphins and whales twice daily. Hermanus is km. Caledon is km. Caledon is known for its hot mineral springs. Caledon could be explored in a day by staying in Hermanus. Heidelberg is km. Heidelberg is situated on the banks of the Duivenhoks river, between the stunning Langeberg mountains and warm Indian ocean. Heidelberg lies in one of the most scenically preserved regions of the Western Cape. The traditionally decorated cottage is equipped with a double bed, TV and has a private bathroom with bath and shower. The Langeberg Mountains offers plenty of activities like hiking, fynbos trails, bird watching, horse-back safaris, paragliding and rock climbing. Kweekkraal Guest Farm is located in within 8. An array of activities can be enjoyed on site or in the surroundings, including fishing and hiking. The property also offers free parking Mossel Bay: The calm waters of the bay make this an ideal place to relax and unwind. There are a wealth of activities like Skydiving and Dune Riding. Most of the rooms have a seating area that offers the stunning view of the mountain and sea. Glentana is located halfway between George and Mossel Bay. The shipwreck on the beach is the popular attraction among the visitors. Outeniqua Railway Museum George lies km. Lying in a fertile, rich valley, surrounded by the Outeniqua Mountains, forests, rivers and prosperous farmlands. De Plaashuis is 4. This charming bay of the Southern Cape is snuggled between the towns of George and Wilderness. The waves of the gently sloping beach make it an ideal place for surfing. The Wilderness National Park is a rare ecosystem that includes lakes, estuaries and 18 km. Wilderness is a paradise for bird lovers with more than species of birds who are housed in the park. The guest house has elegant surroundings with a golden sandy beach that beckons from 30 meters away. Ostrich Farm This Ostrich capital of the world is an ideal place to rush your adrenaline by taking a crocodile cage dive. Oudtshoorn is also home to the world-famous Congo Caves the largest cave system in Africa. The Scarab village offers a wide range of arts and crafts. Knysna is one of the best destinations in the Garden Route. Trip Advisor recognized Knysna in as the destination of travellers choice. Indigenous forests, fynbos, mountains and lakes combined with the stunning coastline make Knysna a natural Eden. The hotel offers fantastic facilities like a golf course and water sports. This Jewel of the Garden Route is best known for its tranquil and charming surroundings. Bayview Hotel is a great base to explore the vibrant Plettenberg Bay. Staying in Bayview would give an easy access to all the attractions of the city. Bay view also offers bicycle rental. Tsitsikamma is the paradise for water lovers with sea, rivers and water cascading down towards the Indian Ocean. The city is a home to Route 67 "a collection of 67 art pieces celebrating the years Nelson Mandela devoted to public life. Not to forget the rich forests of the Kragga Kamma Game Reserve, where buffalo, white rhino, giraffe, cheetah, zebra, bontebok, lechwe, nyala and other animals roam freely. Lungile backpackers is one of the most recommended places to stay by the locals in Port Elizabeth. It is nestled at 8 minutes walk away from the beach and has an outdoor pool and a campsite.

Chapter 3 : A local's guide to driving the Garden Route | Cheapflights

This guide will provide you with an in-depth look at the journey from Cape Town to Stormsrivier and beyond. It includes a multitude of different routes and landmarks in the Garden Route, as well as some travel tips when driving the Garden Route on this beautiful scenic journey.

Source George is the birthplace of the currently developed Garden Route, thanks to the timber industry. It boasts the largest mall on the Garden Route, and is the most developed town with its own airport. It also plays host to the George Old Car Show held annually in February where car enthusiasts come together to celebrate their vintage motors. Things to do in George, Garden Route While George is the most developed town on the Garden Route, it is also beautiful and filled with green nature. These are the best places to see in George. Vic bay is a popular spot for locals and holiday makers. It has a caravan park, braai areas and a world-class right break off the pier. Herolds has a great break too, but to the beginner, the current is quite strong, so swim with caution. Both breaks are not for beginners, yet when the lifeguards are on duty, the water is warm and inviting for swimmers. The views are spectacular as both are located in coves after driving down winding hills. Tip Watch out for jellyfish when swimming. If you get stuck and there is no life guard, the best way to counteract the sting is to pour vinegar or baking soda on the wound according to the American Heart Association after scraping the tentacles off with a stick. Do not urinate on the wound, that is just an urban legend. As George is a popular destination for business conferences, there is no shortage of golf courses. There are three main clubs in the area. The major club that also boasts a great MTB trail is family-friendly Fancourt. Source Families seeking a day out will absolutely love Redberry Farm. There are so many activities to do on the farm from bumper boats to bubble ball, pony rides to strawberry picking. If you want to keep the kids occupied at length there is also a large maze. The Outeniqua Farmers Market just off York street is also a treat where you can sample some local, fresh, organic goodness. North of central George are some scenic hiking trails: A post shared by Janik Alheit janikalheit on Dec 22, at Other popular things to do near George include: There is also the George Museum that is mostly dedicated to the Timber industry of the past and showcases all the timber tools of yesteryear with a display of indigenous trees. Source There is no shortage of places to eat in George from local padstals see the end of the article for an explanation to more established eateries.

Chapter 4 : Garden Route Travel Guide | My Guide Garden Route

The Garden Route, South Africa's most famous stretch of lush coastline, is a compilation of the Western Cape's greatest hits: the region's best beaches, mountains and forests neatly packaged together.

Head to Addo Elephant National Park to see rhino, lion, buffalo, zebra and, leopard. Other wildlife spots on the Garden Route include African penguins at Boulders Beach, whales and dolphins around Hermanus, primates in Tsitsikamma Forest, and magnificent birdlife just about everywhere. So bring binoculars to keep an eye out for everything from kingfishers to cuckoos, just a couple of the species here. The Garden Route is one big adventure playground, making it a wonderful family holiday destination, especially if you have older children. Go surfing or sea kayaking in Plettenberg Bay, hiking and camping in Tsitsikamma, on a walking safari in Klein Karoo, horse riding in Hermanus or cycle out to a meerkat community in Oudtshoorn. Plus it is malaria free, and great for school holidays in terms of timing. Township tours can be controversial, because some of them are handled insensitively. However, we do recommend including one or two into your itinerary, with responsible operators. Ask if the guides are from the township, if a percentage of the fee goes to community projects and spend money in a shebeen or art shop while you are there. It seems almost unfair that a world famous driving route is peppered with wineries, so if you are hiring a car, have more than one designated driver if you enjoy a tippie. The Winelands are a full bodied place and although it is hard to choose a favourite, Pinotage is unique to South Africa, and a fine signature grape it makes too. Things not to do on the Garden Route Ride the elephants, or cuddle them. Most captive elephants in this region are only there for the pleasure of tourists, and are often beaten or maltreated into submission. Knysna has a ghastly example of this. The best way to see elephants is in Addo Elephant National Park, where protection and care of the animals, and keeping them wild, is paramount. Recent and not so recent. And local people talk openly about issues and politics too, with varying opinions of course. These terms are used freely and without prejudice here. Dive with sharks that are attracted by chum dead fish and blood. Shark cage diving is big along the Garden Route, especially in Mossel Bay. Some experts believe that it has been the reason why there have been more great white shark attacks in general, because they are coming in search of the chum that is thrown in to attract them for caged divers. Responsible Travel does not condone attracting wild animals in this way, so find a company which does not use this practice and read more about our views on the practice here. You then have an action packed two week trip, with plenty of activities and sights to keep you busy. As the country gets drier there are fewer leaves on the trees and less grass available so the animals are concentrated at waterholes. The days are warm and sunny and perfect for discovering this lovely part of South Africa. Get children out into the pristine areas. To township or not to township? Amanda Marks, co-director of responsible tourism award-winning Tribes Travel: Go with a guide who still lives there, and visit projects, shops or restaurants run by local residents so a range of people get a chance at earning something from your presence in their community. For example, Neighbourhood Old Age Homes is the only organisation catering for the needs of the elderly in a township of a million people in Khayelitsha, and Learn to Earn gives unemployed people the opportunity to learn skills. It is about giving a hand up not a hand out - and it is imperative that they acquire funding. They always return from our tours with packing tips, weather reports, ideas about what to do - and opinions about what not to. The whale trip can be bumpy so be ready for that Be sure to see the Meerkat in Oudtshoorn, it is a beautiful experience. The most memorable part? This is difficult because the holiday was an incredible journey of different experiences. Did not get chance to do the walk to the waterfall, as we spent too long around the suspension bridges. We assumed a 3km walk could not take too long, but when we got to the start we had not allowed enough time. Robberg peninsula was also a great walk, but not a gentle stroll. When it says 4 hours, it is pretty accurate we managed 3 hours 50 mins, partly because we kept stopping to look, and partly that there was a lot of clambering over rocks. It can be very wet and very windy at times. Everyone is very casual even in expensive restaurants. Definitely no need to go out in a boat to see them! It was difficult deciding just what we wanted to see and do so research beforehand is very helpful. It was well thought through, beginning in Cape Town with wine tasting and a Township Tour and ending 16 days later with a full

day in Kruger Park The middle of summer could possibly be too hot for some people. We bought some internet access time for our computer which also gave us GPS. On a few occasions the GPS was very helpful although not necessarily essential.

Chapter 5 : Best time to visit the Garden Route, South Africa. Helping Dreamers Do

Guide To The Garden Route in South Africa The garden route in South Africa links the Western and Eastern Cape, it extends to the Storms River in the Eastern Cape from Mossel Bay in the Western Cape. The name derives from the ecologically varied vegetation on the route and numerous lagoons and lakes scattered beside the coast.

The Garden Route in South Africa: Known as The Garden Route, the road trip gets its name from the Garden Route National Park that it covers, and the diverse vegetation and wildlife, and abundance of lagoons, lakes, mountains, forests, and beaches along its winding roads. Home to almost a dozen nature and marine reserves, a road trip on the Garden Route offers plenty of opportunities for activities along the way, from hiking to eco and whale watching tours, to exploring caves and deserted sandy beaches. The route meanders between the Indian Ocean and the Tsitsikamma and Outeniqua mountain ranges, creating contrasting, yet equally stunning views on either side. The lush greenery of the indigenous forests meets the jagged cliffs and the sprawling coastal vistas, producing the type of panoramic views only found in magazines. Recommended self-drive tours start at 3 days and range up to 14 days. It all depends on how much time you have and how many stops you want to make. Best time to go: Summer November – March has the warmest weather and is the most popular time to visit. Spring September to October on the other hand offers fantastic opportunities for whale watching. The itinerary really depends on how much time you have and what you want to do. Cape Town is the end point for this tour. Port Elizabeth to Knysna Tucked between green mountains and blue sea, Tsitsikamma makes for a wonderful pitstop in the Garden Route Travel through the Tsitsikamma Forest and along the coast to the seaside town of Knysna. There are plenty of viewpoints and scenic stops to make along the way. Keurboomstrand, a small holiday town with a chilled-out vibe, is perfect for leisurely strolls on the long beach that stretches all the way to Plettenberg Bay. This bay is also worth a stop for the lively beach atmosphere, water sport activities, nature reserves, and hiking trails. Carry on another 30 kilometers and stay the night in Knysna. Visit the Featherbed Nature Reserve, offering nature walks along the coast, through the forests and fynbos shrubs and vegetation native to South Africa , with exploration of ancient sea caves. The next portion of the road takes visitors through the mountainous Outeniqua Pass. The twists and turns keep drivers on their toes and the views over the ocean framed by endless mountains are nothing short of incredible. Take an ostrich farm safari to view these interesting birds and learn about their relevance in South Africa. Stay the night in Oudtshoorn. Oudtshoorn to Struisbaai Congo Caves are the oldest attraction in South Africa offering various activities for the adventure enthusiasts Struisbaai beach is a great place to relax and enjoy a quiet time during the Garden Route trip Tour the Congo Caves, the oldest tourist attraction in the country. The stunning natural wonder is located in the limestone cliffs parallel to the Swartberg Mountains, just outside of Oudtshoorn. These caves are some of the finest examples of dripstone caverns, with spacious rooms and gigantic limestone formations. Tours of varying degrees are available. After the caves, stop in Mossel Bay. This charming port town of , is exactly halfway between Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Enjoy the 60 kilometers of beaches, multiple hiking trails with gorgeous views, whale watching depends on the season , and historical sites like the Post Office Tree or the Diaz Museum. Seeking something more relaxing? Wine tasting, golfing, and shopping are also available here. After a full day of exploring, continue to Struisbaai, where you can spend the night. Here you can visit the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse, the third oldest in South Africa and the second oldest still in use today. You can go to the top of the lighthouse and enjoy some excellent view of the sea and the surrounding coastal area. From here, drive inland to Napier, looping back around to the coastal city of Gansbaai. This is the place to go Great White Shark cage diving, if you dare! Drive along Walker Bay to the town of Hermanus. This town is known as the Whale Capital, as it is a great place to do some whale watching again, your luck of spotting these gentle beasts is greater during winter and spring season. An alternative to whale watching is the Fernkloof Nature Reserve, a beautiful area with plenty of flora, fauna, and walking trails with a stunning view of Walker Bay. Stay the night in Hermanus. Travel through multiple nature reserves and mountain ranges, before coming out to the coastal area of False Bay. Alternate Garden Route Itinerary It makes no difference if you tour the Garden Route from east to west or west to east. This is

recommended because it allows more time to explore Cape Town, which has many famous attractions of its own. One way you can change up the itinerary and if you have the extra time is by including the most famous trek on the Garden Route – The Otter Trail. The total distance is 43 kilometers. The Otter Trail is not allowable for children younger than 12 or adults over 65 to participate in this hike due to its physical demands. Recommended Transportation A couple laying in the car trunk, enjoying the view the road trip has to offer If you want to explore the Garden Route at your own pace and make stops when you want, renting a car or a motorcycle is the way to make a memorable trip. However, if you do not have the time, resources or skill to navigate the long journey, there are many guided Garden Route tours like this one that are very good. When chosen wisely, depending on what places you really want to see, a guided tour can make for a hassle-free, relaxed and enjoyable trip. Buy a South African plug adaptor so you can charge your necessary electronics 3 pin plug anywhere, anytime. The Garden Route has many tourists and therefore is very safe to travel. However, to avoid any potential risk, do avoid walking the back roads at night. Stay clear of street food in South Africa – you could risk illness by eating from one of these stalls. The African sun is hot. Only drink bottled water, unless you can filter or purify the tap water. Check with your doctor regarding any vaccinations before you go! Read the car rental agreement carefully before making any commitments. Be sure to speak to the rental car company about what to do in case of a car breakdown. They can provide you with the numbers to call and how they will assist you. Gas stations are plentiful with developed towns every 45 kilometers or so along the route. The world-class vistas and nature reserves will keep the naturalists happy, while the opportunity for heart pumping scuba diving and water sport activities will keep the adrenaline junkies enthralled.

Chapter 6 : Garden Route Road Trip Itinerary- Ultimate Planning Guide

Start and End Points: The garden route officially stretches for just km, from Stormsrivier in the east to Mossel Bay in the west. But most visitors start or end their journey in Cape Town, which is km west of Mossel Bay.

Swap coast for mountains easily, taking in the coastal resorts of Mossel Bay, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay, and then heading into the more elevated Winelands or Table Mountain itself, from where you can take in the Cape in all its glory. Addo Elephant National Park 2. Knysna and Plettenberg bay 5. Addo Elephant National Park The word elephant, and there are over of them here, is slightly deceptive with this national park, which is actually coastal and is therefore also an important protected area for birdlife, penguins, seals and other marine life, not least whales. Given that this park is home to both the largest land mammals and sea mammals, as well as rhino, buffalo and zebra, Addo is not somewhere to dash through. Addo Elephant National Park Hermanus 2. About marine wildlife, that is. Because this is whale watching capital during these months, particularly for southern right whales. You can also kayak among the greats at this time. For the rest of the year there are wine routes, horse riding and surfing. And a great local produce market every Saturday. In contrast, the bats of the Cango Caves are quite a sight. Klein Karoo Knysna and Plettenberg bay 4. This is also the place to discover Xhosa culture, touring Qolweni Township. Tsitsikamma National Park 5. Hike on the trails along gorges with obligatory waterfalls, take a canopy tour, camp out, go horse riding, visit Monkeyland Primate Rescue Centre or go on an ocean safari. Tsitsikamma National Park Winelands 6. Winelands The grand cru region of the Garden Route, not only in terms of the fine wineries you can visit, but also the landscapes that nurture the grapes. Wineries here date back to the s, with world class Sauvignons and Shiraz emanating from sandstone peaks and sweeping, green valleys. Although traditionally white Afrikaner led, there are now a growing number of black-owned vineyards around Stellenbosch.

Chapter 7 : Garden Route Guide | Tours, Activities, Accommodation & So Much More in

A Guide to the Garden Route, Plettenberg Bay, Western Cape. likes. This book will take you on a magical journey along South Africa's Garden Route.

Chapter 8 : 6-Day Garden Route and Addo Safari | Cape Town, South Africa - GetYourGuide

We include a rough guide of how long it should take to drive between the Garden Route towns, but obviously these Garden Route driving times can vary depending on traffic and weather. The roads along the Garden Route are generally very good and driving is a great way to see this beautiful region of South Africa.

Chapter 9 : The Garden Route in South Africa: The Ultimate Guide | Bookmundi

Explore Garden Route holidays and discover the best time and places to visit. | High on the must-see lists of most visitors to South Africa is the Garden Route, and with good reason: you can't help but be seduced by the glorious natural beauty.