

Welcome to our Home, the wait is finally over!

Herewith a list on to do's in and around George,

George

The Power Van departs daily from the Transport Museum at 10h00 and 14h00. Bookings are essential. The museum itself is interesting with old trains and cars. Try to sit on the front 3 seats of the biggest van, or the backseats of the last van (you will be in front when the train turns back!). This is by far the best seats. These old maintenance vans of the railroad take you up the Outeniqua Mountains with absolutely amazing scenery. It will give you an excellent overview and experience of the Garden Route and George - breathtaking views, interesting history and facts. You may also see baboons, "klipspringers" – an antelope that can jump horizontally from stone to stone - birds, etc... After this journey you will understand why this area is called the Garden Route – one does not see all the flowers from your car on the road, they are too small, but throughout the year, thousands of "Fynbos" are flowering and they only exist in the Western Cape... You will also see the old **Montagu Pass**. Come back, get in your car and go drive it! Make a roundtrip via Herold and back to George over **the Outeniqua Pass**. Just before you hit the pass, marked by white flags, is **Rosenhof** – a coffee house in the mountains. Great burgers and the best carrot cake ever, while enjoying the rural landscape, awesome views and good hospitality!! Back in George, another old or "other" world experience is the "**7 Passes**" to Hoekwil. You will drive over old moss-covered bridges while in the indigenous rain-forest. Enjoy a cup a tea and cake on the Hoekwil Country Café with its old-world charm. Drive back to the **Map of Africa**, back to Wilderness, do some hiking on the beach (you often see dolphins) or go to the best beach in the Southern Cape - **Victoria Bay**. It is out of the wind, with green grass to sit on and a hotspot for surfers, go early in the morning, lots of people in the afternoon. One often sees dolphins, even whales during the later part of the year. We have umbrella's and beach towels, please ask our staff. Want to hike on the beach? Go to **Glentana**, at the first parking lot, hike towards your left, about 1.5 km to an old ship wreck – stunning! Close to the airport is the **Strawberry Farm**, where you can pick to your hearts delight and play run the biggest maze in the Southern Hemisphere. There's also a restaurant that sells everything related to a strawberries, train rides and a petting zoo for children! **Restaurants** in George we recommend are: **Old Town House** for South African food and exceptional ice cream , **101onMeade** for "fine dining" **The Fat Fish and Pure Craft & Food** for sushi & seafood, For the best Thai visit Colin and George at **Krua Thai**, **Cattle Baron** for everything else, the **Bayleaf Café & Ninas** for lunches and during the holidays **De Vette Mossel**. **George's golf courses** are world renown: **George Golf club**, **Kingswood Golf Estate**, **Oubaai Golf Estate**, and do not forget that you can now play at **Fancourt** while staying with us! 5 years now in George our very own **Farmers market** Saturday mornings - it starts at 09:00 – drive east on the N2 and take first exit at Engen Garage just out of town or ask at reception for directions.

Gardenroutetrail.co.za for any coastal hiking, day walks, birding, photography, a nature experience to remember for the rest of your life. With full and new moon, when low tide is in the evenings they also offer Moonlight Meander tours. You'll see octopuses, turtles, starfish – a child's dream world come true – bookings essential. And new year's eve celebrations on the beach.

Wilderness

A scenic drive to Wilderness through Kaaimans pass is another option. If the wind does not blow, visit **Eden Adventures** at The Fairy Knowe Hotel; rent a canoe in the National Park, paddle and hike to the waterfall – lots of bird life and an easy walk on a boardwalk , 3 hour roundtrip – stunning. **Wilderness beach** is wonderful for hiking - please do not swim in the sea, dangerous with strong currents. **Friday evenings and Saturdays always have a festive vibe**. **Cocomos** for cocktails and an eccentric vibe, **Pomodoro** for pizza and **Royal Siam** for Thai. For craft beer lovers do stop and try out **The Blind Pig and Bootlegger Brewery**.

Mossel Bay

Take a trip on the **Romanza** boat that sails around Seal Island. There is also the '**Post Office Tree**' and the **Diaz Museum** that can be visited. A replica of his boat is in this museum and it is just amazing how brave these discoverers/founders were. Have lunch in the harbour at **Sea Gypsy**, where the locals gather. If you like something more trendy and modern, **Café Gannet** is an excellent choice. At The Point you'll find restaurants like **King Fisher** (sea food) and **Delfino's** just below. Be blown away with the spectacular sea views!

Knysna

Every Saturday **Sedgefields** farmers market '**Wild Oats**' is a must – wonderful home-made foods, combined with arts and crafts. Just after Sedgefield take the exit right to **Buffelsbaai**, 50m after the small bridge is **Riverdeck** – an excellent restaurant on the river – the kids will love playing with canoes in the water while you enjoy proper "slow food"! Visit the **Elephant Park** 10 km's outside of Knysna on the Plettenberg Bay road. Tours start every half hour. You can touch and feed the elephants. Worthwhile visiting this Park because elephants are indigenous to SA and particular to the Garden Route. On the way back to Knysna - drive to the **Knysna Heads**. Turn right into George Rex Drive, and then follow a 5km drive to the Heads where you can have lunch at **East Head Cafe** and admire the beautiful view. Or you can go to the other side of „The Heads“ to the **Featherbed Nature Reserve** via the Featherbed Company. This is a very popular tourist attraction in Knysna and has often been advertised on TV. Directions: Second traffic light upon entering Knysna from George, turn right and then right again, this is also the road to the Knysna Waterfront. Boat leaves just after 14:00 and returns at 17h00. It will take you down the lagoon to the Heads where everyone gets onto wagons. A tractor pulls the wagons up the mountain, from where you hike down next to the lagoon and sea (or you may stay on the wagon). Beautiful! The boat takes you back at 16h30.

Oudtshoorn

We believe that if you visit Oudtshoorn, the **SWARTBERG MOUNTAIN RANGE** is a must! No one markets it, because it does not make money! One can only see and experience this scenery there, nowhere else, and from here you are only 1,5 hour away! It is also a National Monument and according to our outdoor magazines, it's the **Nr 1 Pass** to drive in this country!! Travel from George to Oudtshoorn and follow directions through the town to the **Cango Caves**; 28km outside Oudtshoorn. On route-, **The Cango Wild life Ranch** is also worthwhile. It started as a crocodile farm, has now also a breeding program for endangered cat species and takes care of all kinds of animals. From here, proceed to the caves. Standard Tours are every hour on the hour and Adventure tours on the half hour.) Then turn back to Oudtshoorn, take the turn of to **Prince Albert via Swartberg Mountain pass**, built by Thomas Bain, 150 years ago. It is a narrow, dirt road that snakes through the valleys and ranges - it will be the highlight of you trip! Go to Prince Albert and walk the town. Don't want to go to Prince Albert? - make a right at the T junction, and then right again later to De Rust. This road will take you through **MEIRINGSPOORT** - also an amazing, spectacular drive! Here you drive in the valley, cross the river about 25 times with the majestic mountains looking down from both sides of the road. Stop at the Information Centre, the best kept public toilets in the world with a short hike - 200m - to a waterfall – you can even take your swim suit with. Back in Oudtshoorn take the Calitzdorp turn-off and find the **Safari or Highgate Ostrich Farms**. The ostriches are also indigenous to this area and the tours last an hour.

Hope you enjoy your stay and do not hesitate to ask us to help with anything!

