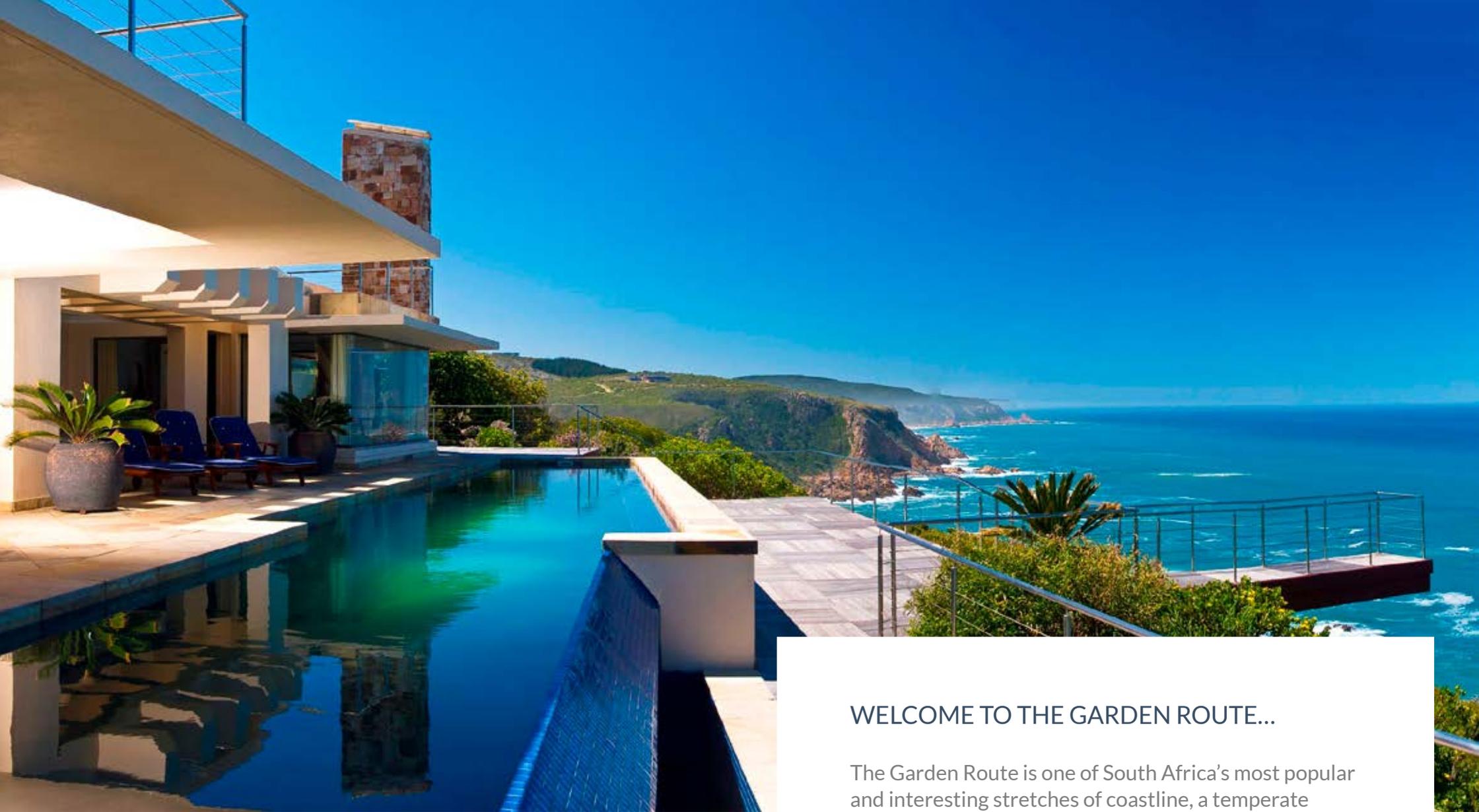


OUR INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE
GARDEN ROUTE

We'll show you Africa, better than anyone else.



WELCOME TO THE GARDEN ROUTE...

The Garden Route is one of South Africa's most popular and interesting stretches of coastline, a temperate landscape of sandy beaches, indigenous forests, rocky shores and quaint towns where you can do everything from savour fresh oysters to watch southern right whales at play.



HOW TO DO IT

Although it technically starts in Mossel Bay and ends at the Storms River Mouth, for our purposes the Garden Route starts outside Cape Town and ends in Port Elizabeth, taking in Hermanus, George, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay along the way. Most people drive the N2 national highway out of Cape Town along this route and often end with a safari in the Eastern Cape.

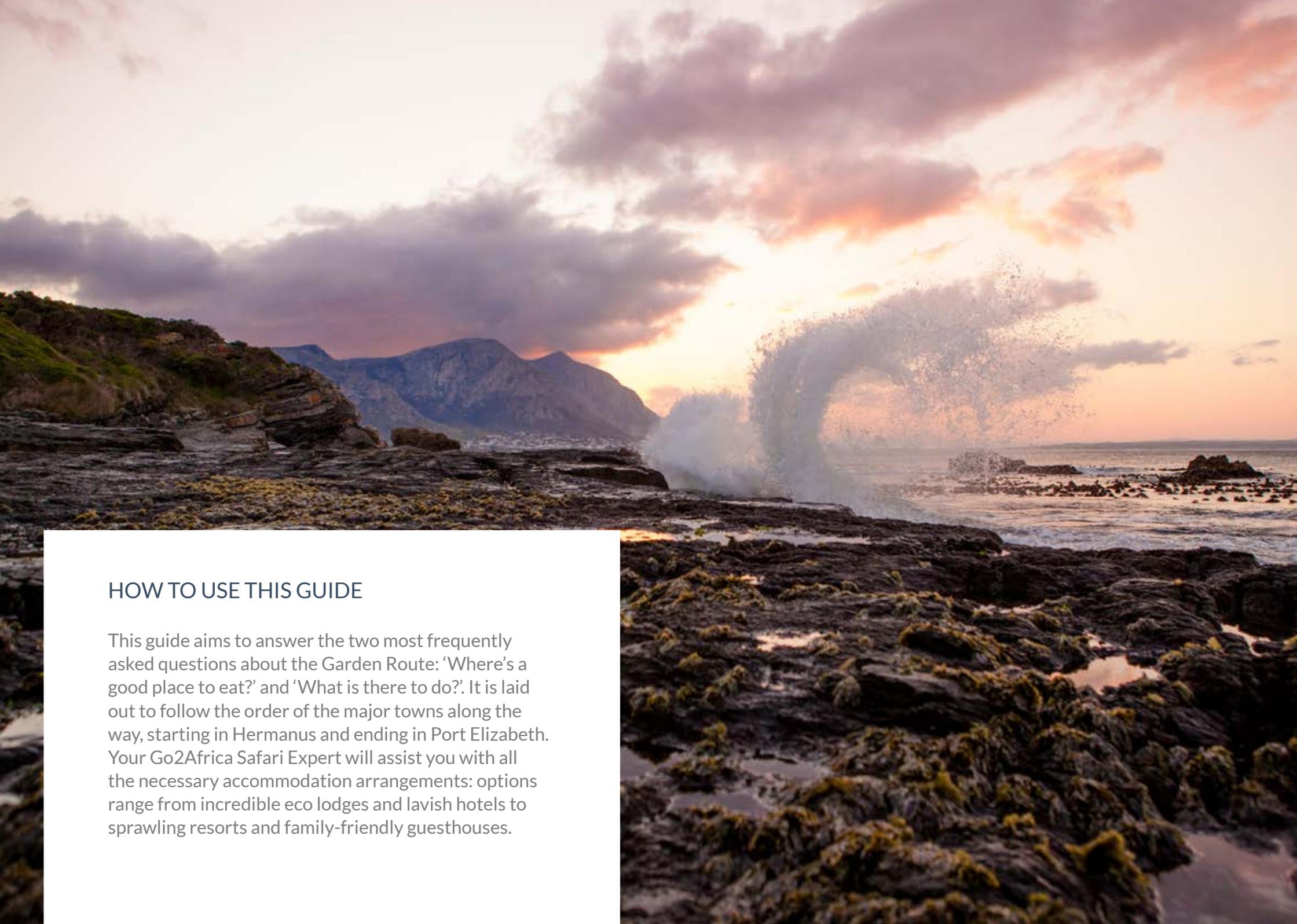
Another way to do it is to take the N1 highway and then meander along Route 62 to small towns like Robertson and Montagu that are packed with history, wine estates,

olive farms and onto to bigger towns like Oudtshoorn, home of the world-famous Cango Caves and the once the centre of the world's ostrich feather industry.

The most thorough way to enjoy the Garden Route – if you have the time – is to combine the small inland towns along Route 62 and the N1 with the coastal beauties along the N2. Renting a car and driving yourself is easy and convenient because the infrastructure is excellent and there are plenty of places to eat and sleep along the way. If you don't fancy driving, you can undertake a private

tour with a driver-guide. The most expensive and logistically complicated way of exploring the Garden Route is to fly: the hops are very short and it is often easier and faster to simply drive.

The Garden Route appeals to every type of traveller: honeymooners will enjoy private suites with ocean or forest views; kids love the animal sanctuaries, beaches and playgrounds; and adventurers will relish throwing themselves off one of the highest bungee jumps in the world, which clocks in at over 700 feet or 200 metres!



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide aims to answer the two most frequently asked questions about the Garden Route: 'Where's a good place to eat?' and 'What is there to do?'. It is laid out to follow the order of the major towns along the way, starting in Hermanus and ending in Port Elizabeth. Your Go2Africa Safari Expert will assist you with all the necessary accommodation arrangements: options range from incredible eco lodges and lavish hotels to sprawling resorts and family-friendly guesthouses.



WHERE TO EAT

Africa's Foodie Route Awaits



HERMANUS



Cape Town

Hermanus

Stoney Point

Stanford

De Hoop Nature Reserve

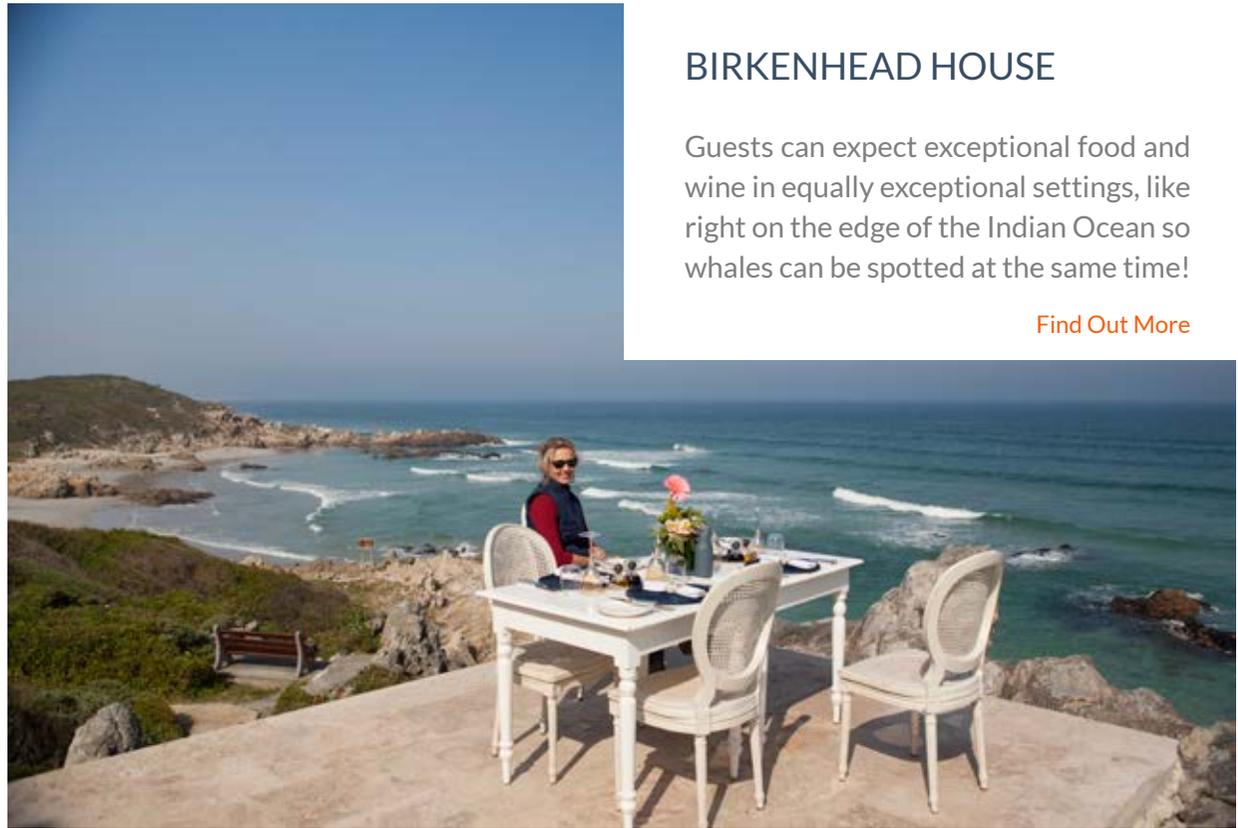
L'Agulhas

Tulbagh

Robertson

Montagu

Swellendam



BIRKENHEAD HOUSE

Guests can expect exceptional food and wine in equally exceptional settings, like right on the edge of the Indian Ocean so whales can be spotted at the same time!

[Find Out More](#)



THE MARINE

A stately hotel with views over Walker Bay, The Marine boasts fine dining for dinner and a more casual atmosphere for lunch and afternoon tea.

[Find Out More](#)



STANFORD



MOSAIC FARM LAGOON LODGE

The 1892 Spookhuis may translate as 'Ghost House' but expect friendly service and good country cooking rather than scary ghouls and ghosts...

[Find Out More](#)



MONTAGU



JAN HARMMSGAT COUNTRY HOUSE

A working dairy farm with fruit, nut and olive orchards is a lovely spot for a picnic with local produce. The restaurant serves up specialities like kudu, rack of lamb and pasta made from scratch.

[Find Out More](#)

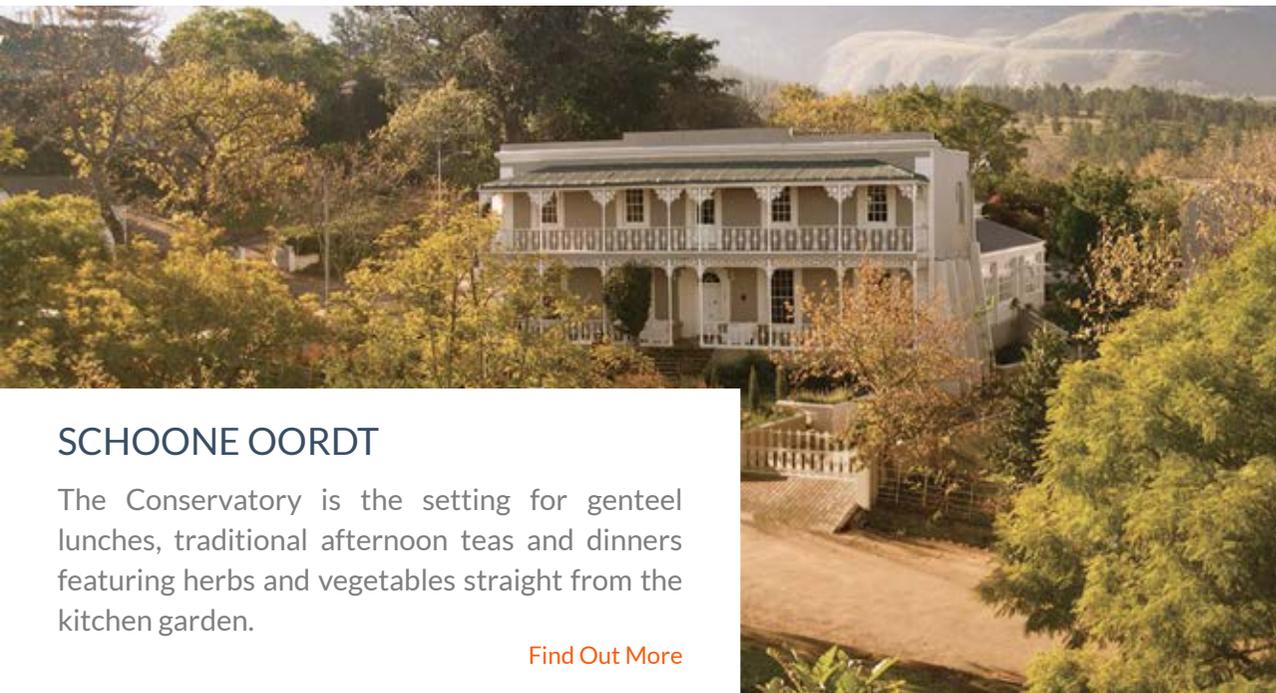
THE ROBERTSON SMALL HOTEL

A Victorian home converted into chic accommodation, The Small Hotel is arguably Robertson's premier spot for fine dining in the evening or relaxed lunches in the garden.

[Find Out More](#)



ROBERTSON



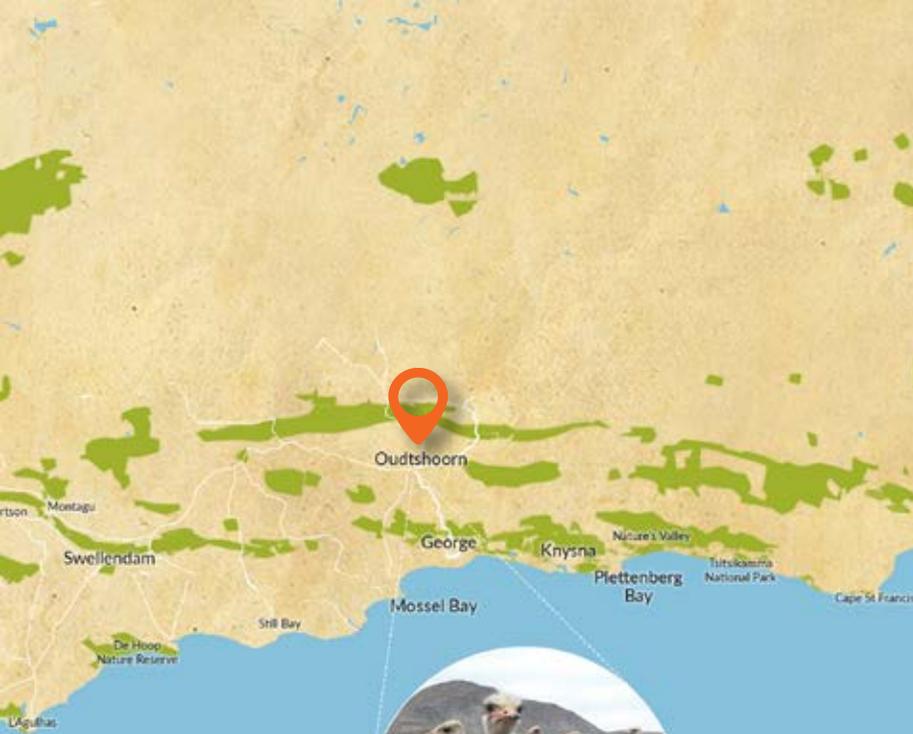
SCHOONE OORDT

The Conservatory is the setting for genteel lunches, traditional afternoon teas and dinners featuring herbs and vegetables straight from the kitchen garden.

[Find Out More](#)



SWELLENDAM



ODTSHOORN



SURVAL BOUTIQUE OLIVE ESTATE

As you would expect from a thriving olive estate, Surval's chefs at the Su Casa restaurant get inspired by tapenades, oils and other food from olives amid a varied and delicious menu.

[Find Out More](#)



ROSENHOF COUNTRY HOUSE

Located in a farmhouse that dates to 1852, Rosenhof emphasizes elegant meals in upscale surroundings with fine wines to match.

[Find Out More](#)



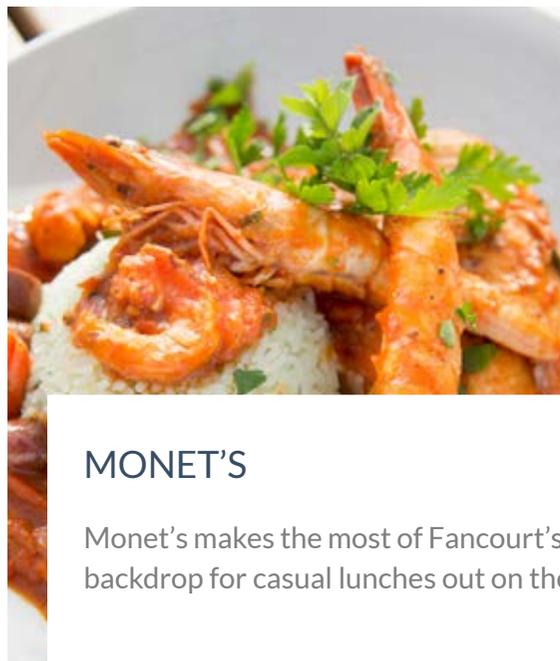
GEORGE



HENRY WHITE'S

Fancourt is a sprawling country resort with plenty to see and do. In the evenings, Henry White's is the place to be seen to enjoy dinner and drinks.

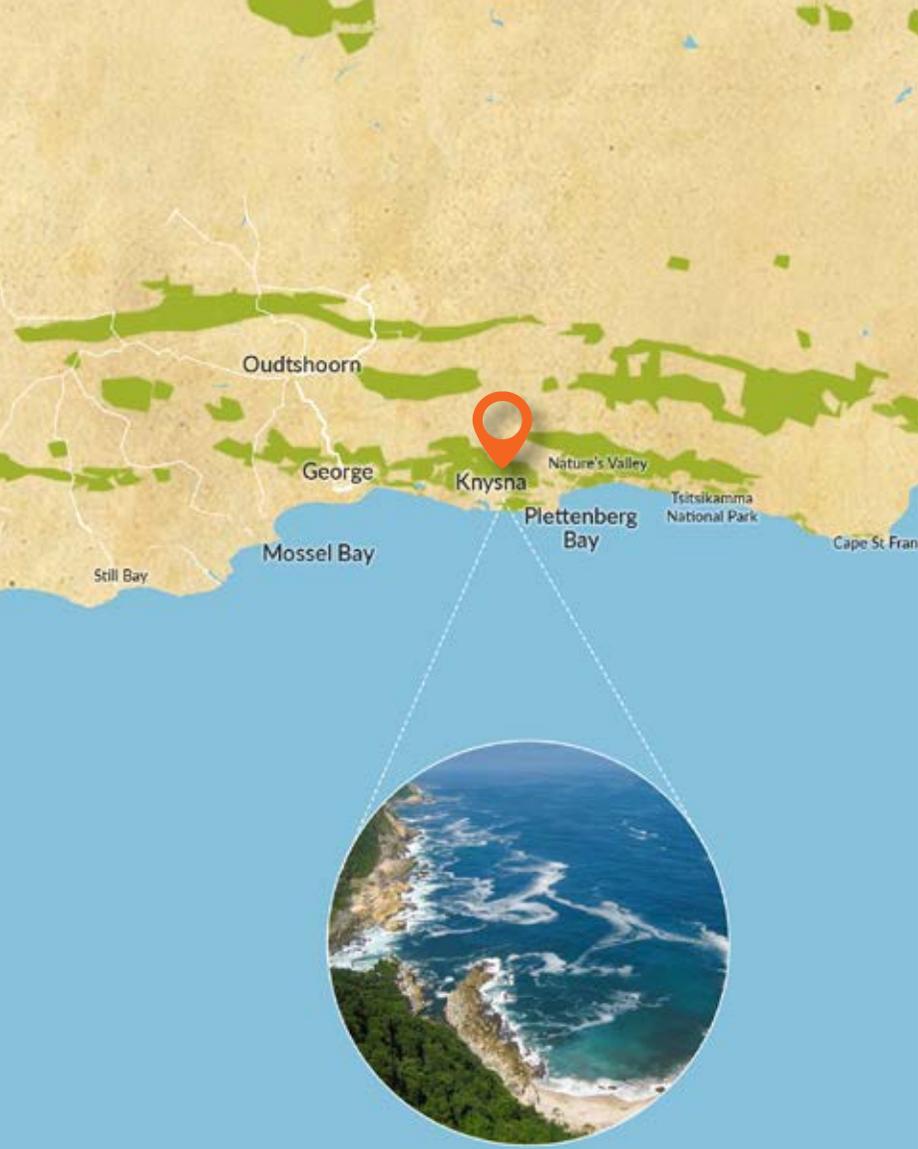
[Find Out More](#)



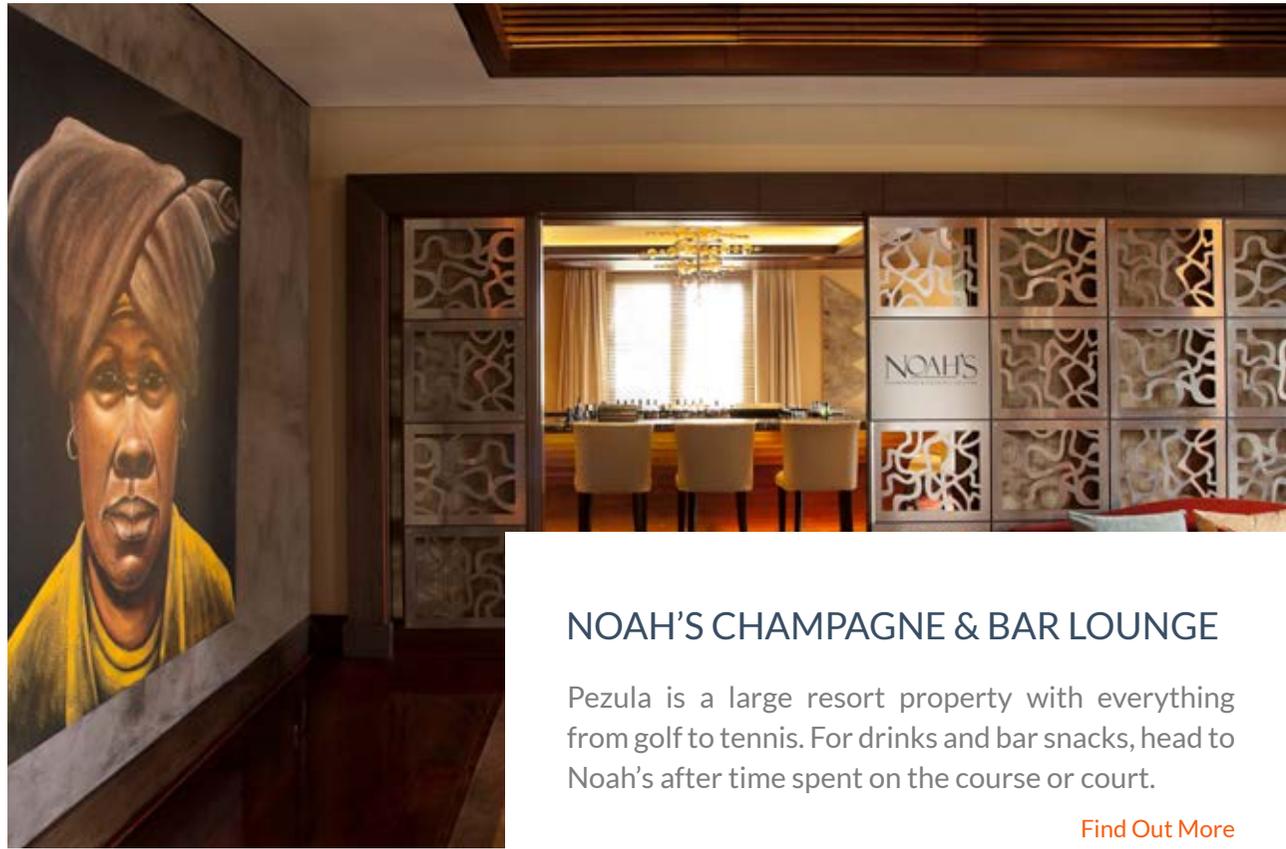
MONET'S

Monet's makes the most of Fancourt's stunning views of the Outeniqua Mountains as a backdrop for casual lunches out on the sunny deck.

[Find Out More](#)



KNYSNA



NOAH'S CHAMPAGNE & BAR LOUNGE

Pezula is a large resort property with everything from golf to tennis. For drinks and bar snacks, head to Noah's after time spent on the course or court.

[Find Out More](#)



TURBINE WATER CLUB DELI & OYSTER BAR

Whether you prefer tapas to snack or want a light meal, The Turbine offers an eclectic look and feel that belies its original function as an old power station on Knysna's harbour.

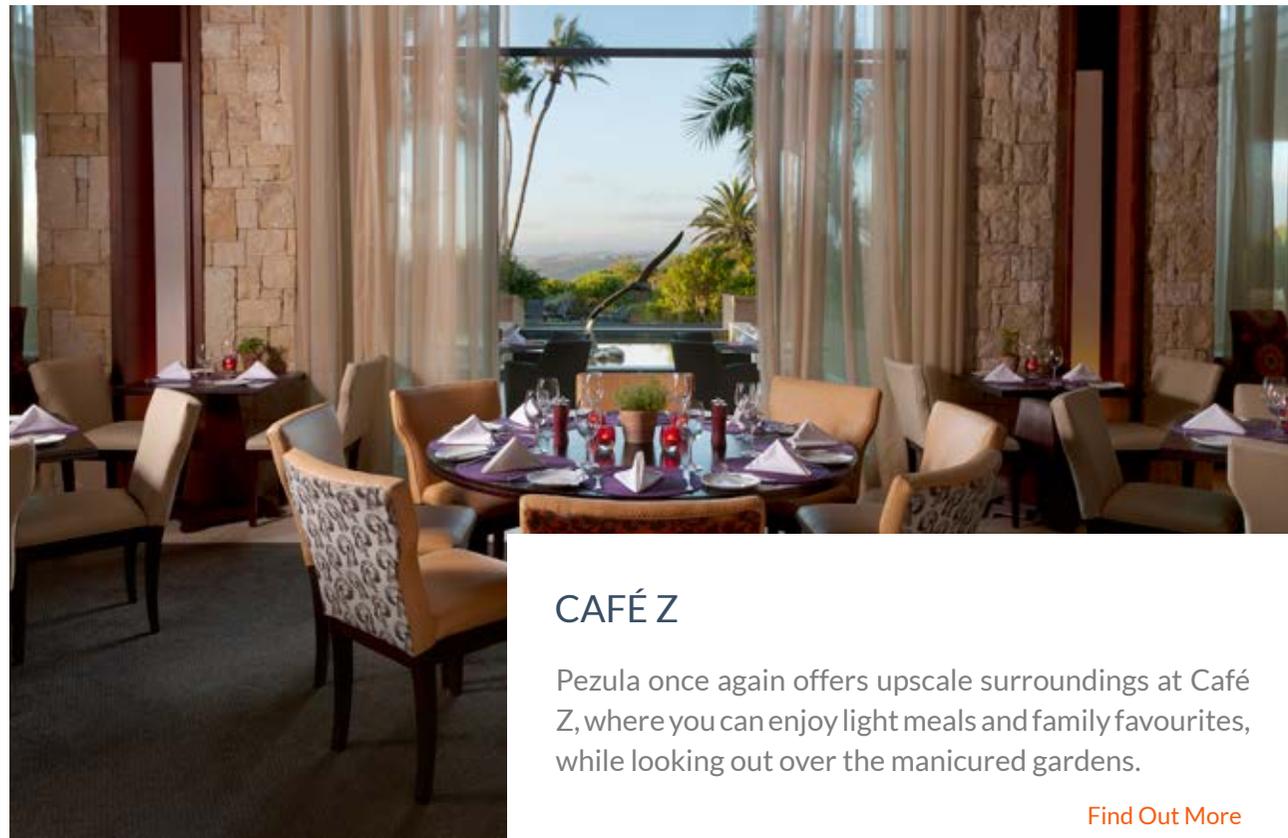
[Find Out More](#)



LAIRD'S LODGE COUNTRY ESTATE

Venison and seafood are regular components of Laird's lavish 4-course dinner, which are a wonderful way to end a guided gin tasting in the bar.

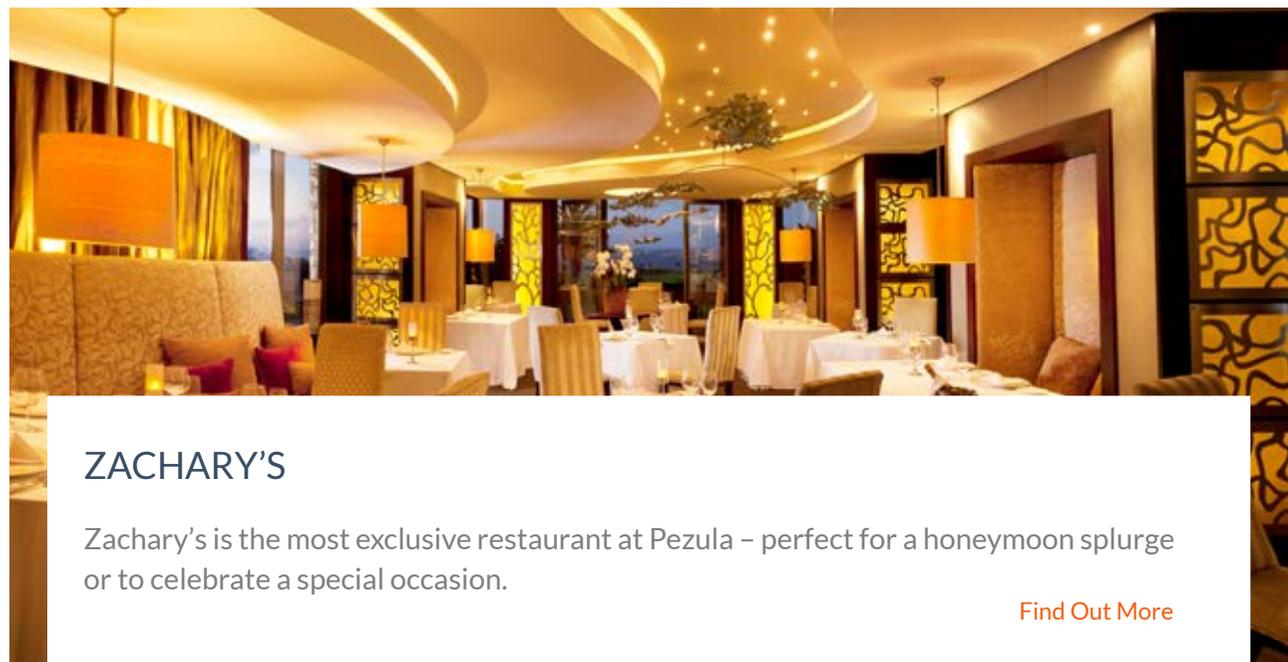
[Find Out More](#)



CAFÉ Z

Pezula once again offers upscale surroundings at Café Z, where you can enjoy light meals and family favourites, while looking out over the manicured gardens.

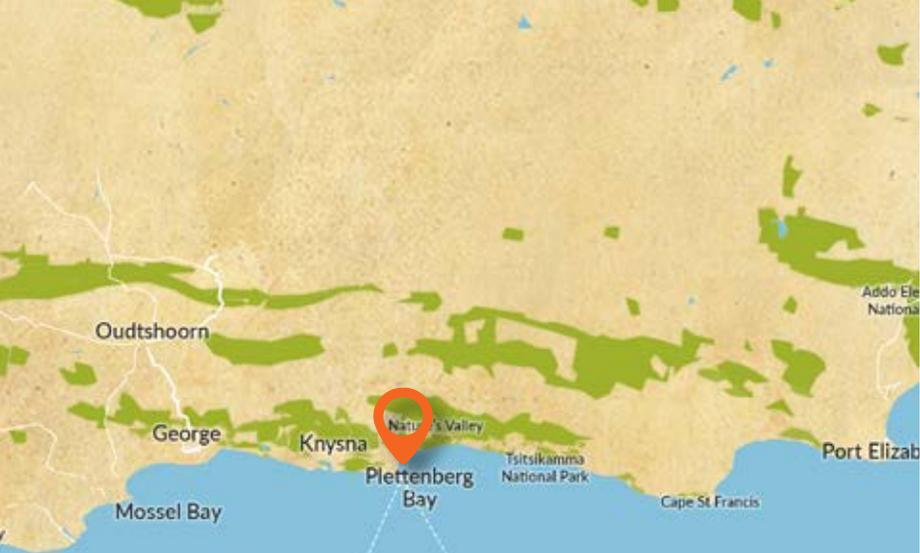
[Find Out More](#)



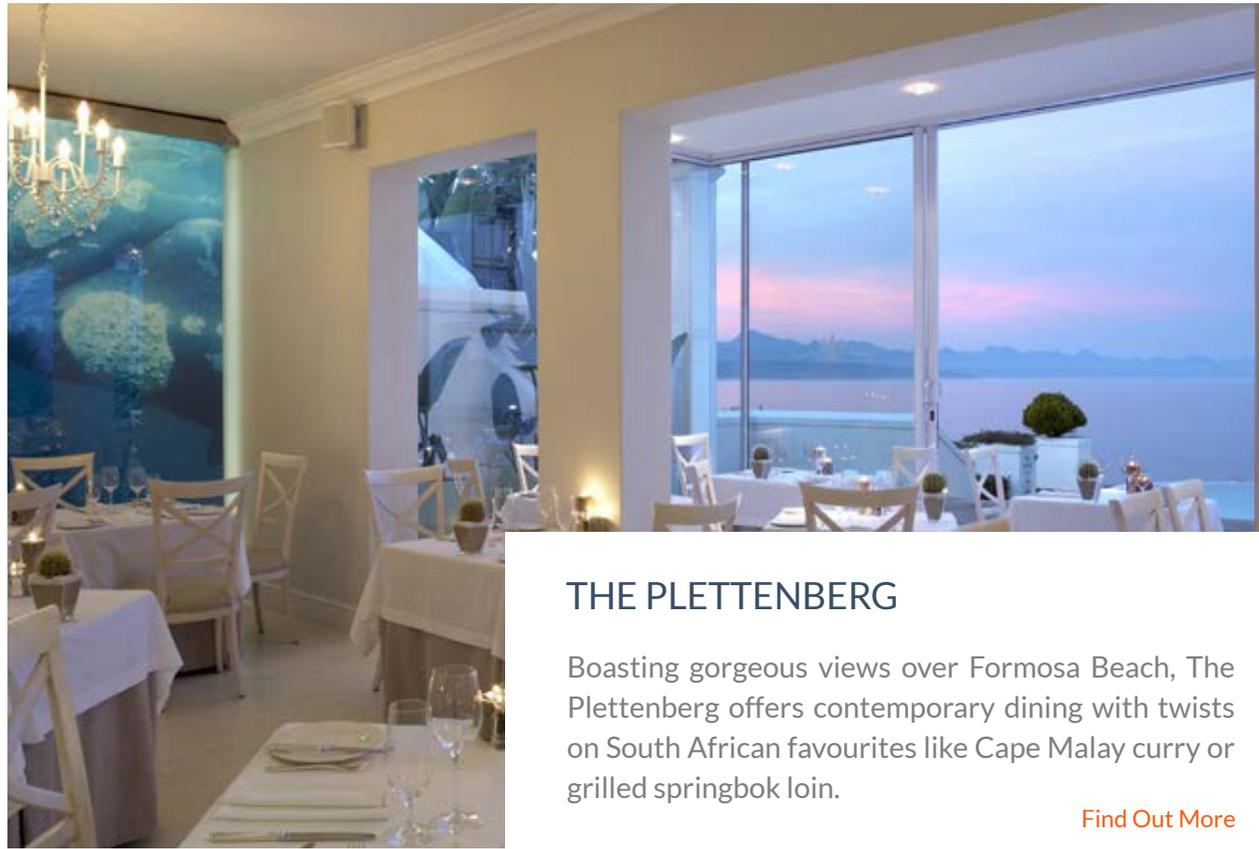
ZACHARY'S

Zachary's is the most exclusive restaurant at Pezula - perfect for a honeymoon splurge or to celebrate a special occasion.

[Find Out More](#)



PLETTENBERG BAY



THE PLETTENBERG

Boasting gorgeous views over Formosa Beach, The Plettenberg offers contemporary dining with twists on South African favourites like Cape Malay curry or grilled springbok loin.

[Find Out More](#)



EMILY MOON RIVER LODGE

Lying on the Bitou River, Emily Moon incorporates water in the form of a pond in its Bohemian restaurant, which is filled with quirky pieces and has a Thai-inspired menu.

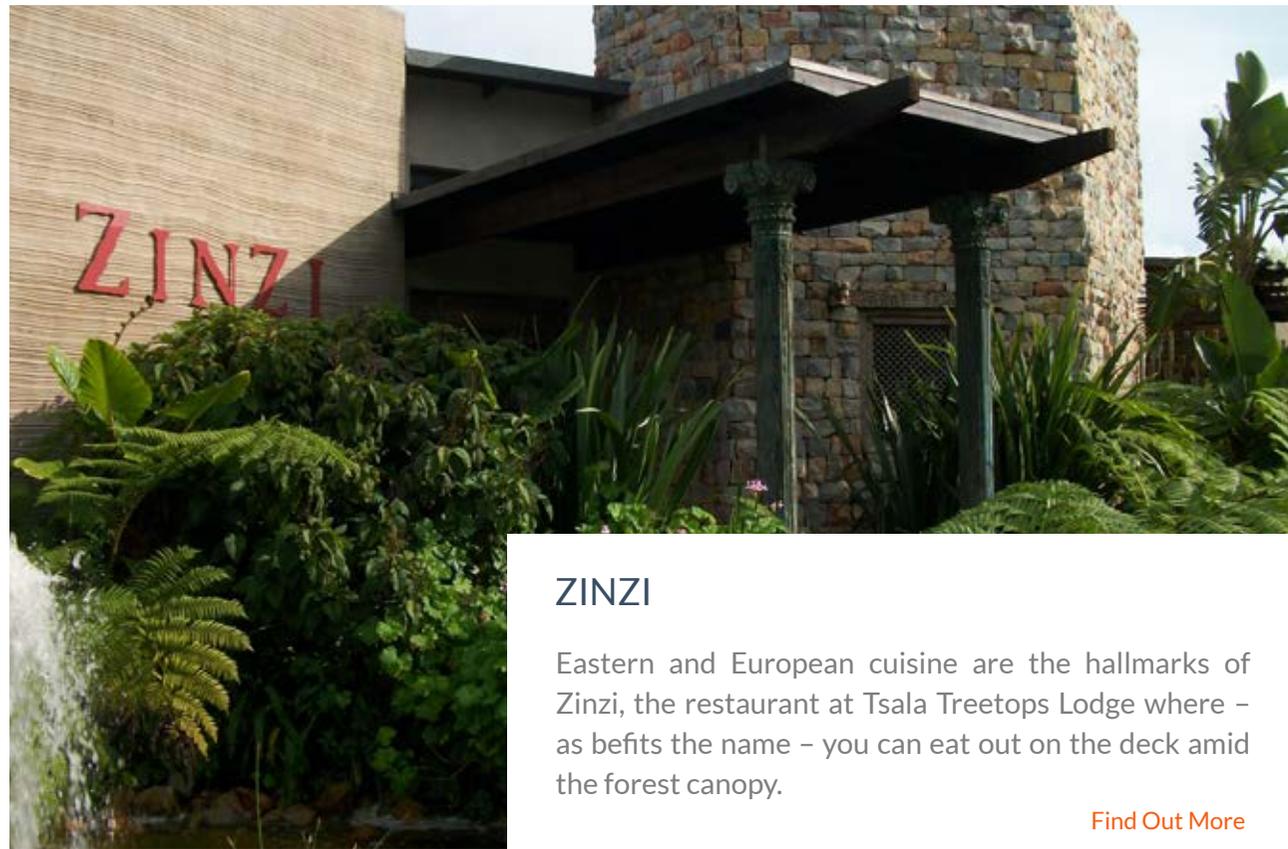
[Find Out More](#)



BRAMON WINES RESTAURANT

South Africa is not only home to fine wines but also to its own style of champagne, known as Methode Cap Classique or MCC. Enjoy a glass while nibbling on a meze platter at Bramon.

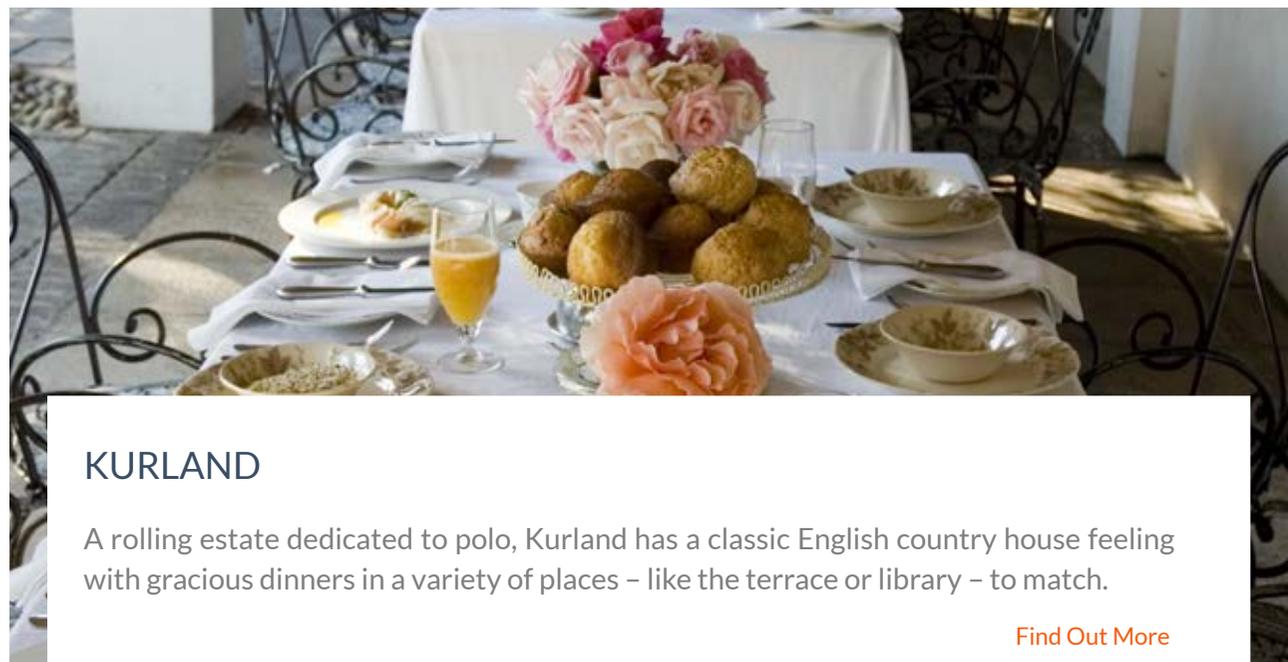
[Find Out More](#)



ZINZI

Eastern and European cuisine are the hallmarks of Zinzi, the restaurant at Tsala Treetops Lodge where – as befits the name – you can eat out on the deck amid the forest canopy.

[Find Out More](#)



KURLAND

A rolling estate dedicated to polo, Kurland has a classic English country house feeling with gracious dinners in a variety of places – like the terrace or library – to match.

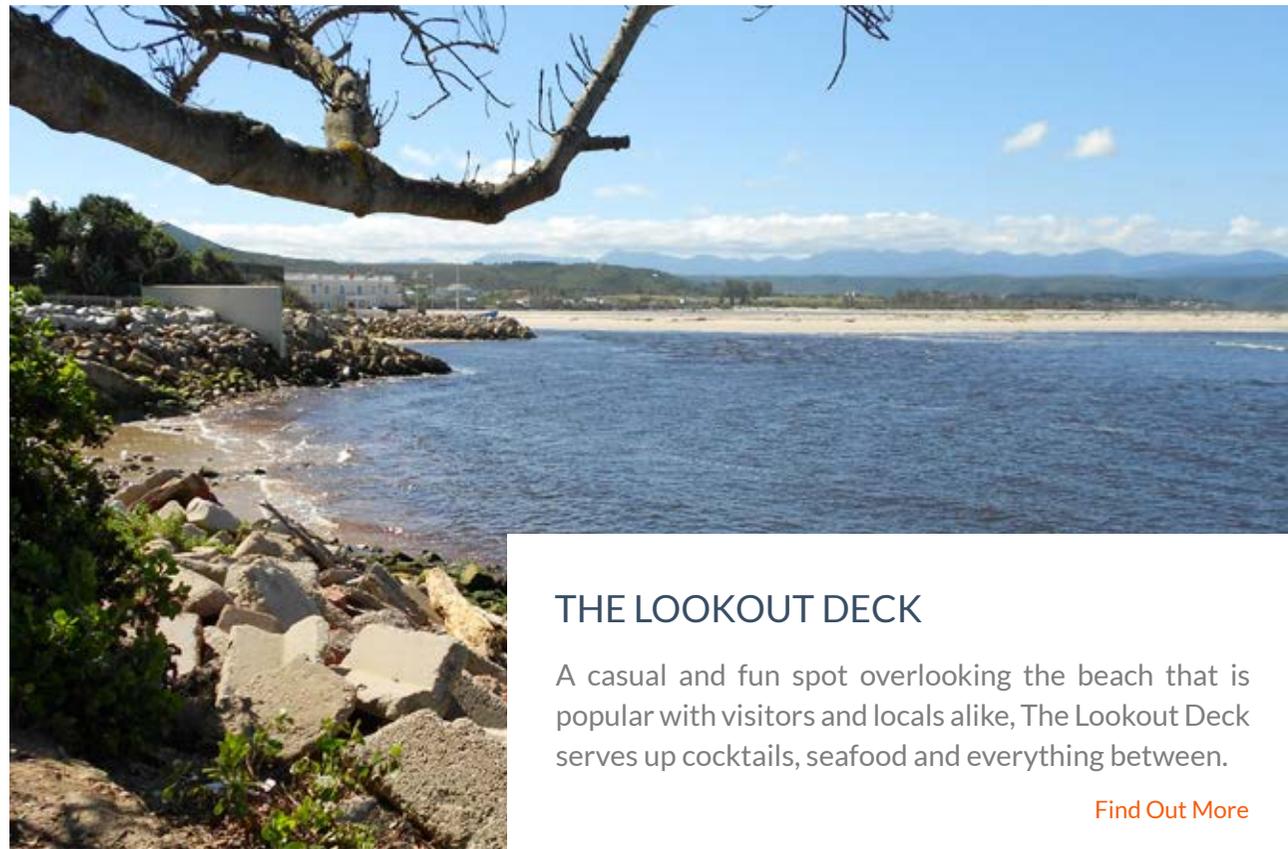
[Find Out More](#)



LILLY POND COUNTRY LODGE

Surrounded by 12 hectares of indigenous forest, dinner at Lily Pond means listening to the sounds of the night as you enjoy items from their fusion menu.

[Find Out More](#)



THE LOOKOUT DECK

A casual and fun spot overlooking the beach that is popular with visitors and locals alike, The Lookout Deck serves up cocktails, seafood and everything between.

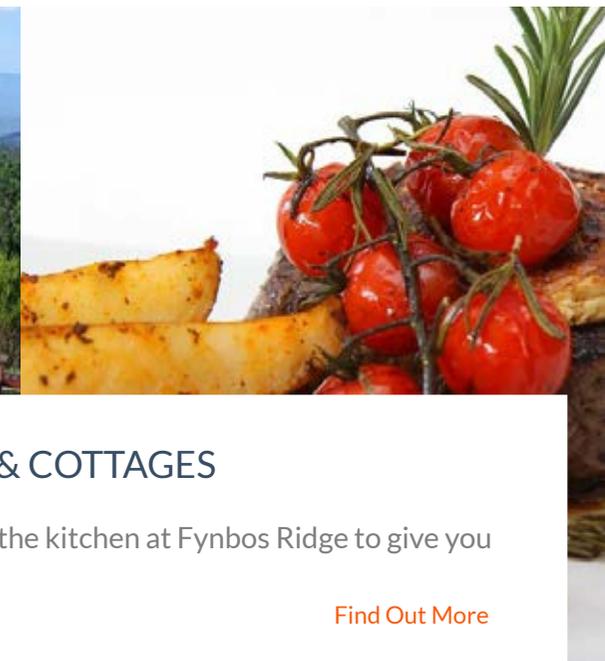
[Find Out More](#)



FYNBOS RIDGE COUNTRY HOUSE & COTTAGES

An organic herb and vegetable garden supplies the kitchen at Fynbos Ridge to give you fresh flavours right from nature.

[Find Out More](#)





WHAT TO DO

Walks, Whales, Wine & More



SIR LOWRY'S PASS



Enjoy the view from the lookout point

As you drive out from Cape Town on the N2, you will pass the town of Somerset West and start climbing Sir Lowry's Pass. On your right will be a scenic lookout point that is well worth a stop – the view to the ocean and far-off mountains is beautiful and a fitting 'farewell' to Cape Town.

STONY POINT



See a colony of African penguins

Boulders Beach and Robben Island aren't the only places where endangered African penguins live – Stony Point is also home to a thriving colony of these adorable waddlers. You will have to take slight detour: turn off the N2 after Somerset West onto the very scenic R44 route.

HERMANUS

The world's best whale watching

Hermanus is considered to have the best whale watching in the world. Landlubbers line the shore to watch southern right whales come into Walker Bay from about August while more intrepid adventurers head out on specialist boats to see these astonishing mammals up close. Water-based whale watching is carefully controlled to ensure the whales and their calves are never stressed or disturbed.

[Find Out More](#)





Laugh at the antics of dassies

There is a large community of rock hyraxes – known locally as ‘dassies’ (rhymes with ‘fussies’) – that live around the whale lookout points. They are great fun to watch as they hop around and laze about in the sun but don’t approach them as they’re still wild animals, after all!



Wine tasting along the Hermanus Wine Route

Although not as extensive as the Cape Winelands or as old as the Constantia Wine Route, the Hermanus Wine Route has a unique terrior and vineyards affected by the coastal weather. Expect boutique wineries, small-scale vineyards and an off-the-beaten track atmosphere.

[Find Out More](#)



Walk the Cliff Path

The Cliff Path is exactly that: a scenic seaside walk that follows the cliffs at Hermanus. The section in the town centre is often dotted with a revolving sculpture gallery of work by famous South African artists. Be sure to keep an eye out for passing pods of dolphins.



Shop in the market

The craft market at Hermanus is treasure trove of all sorts of goodies and a great place to buy gifts for the folks back at home. Look out for beaded jewellery and décor, wooden toys and African art.

[Find Out More](#)

MONTAGU



Wine tasting at Jan Harmsgat House

A charming but laidback country house on a working farm that dates to 1723, Jan Harmsgat's wines benefit from the extreme climate of the Little Karoo semi-desert and the more temperate coastline. Try the Pinotage, a unique South African cultivar that was bred in 1925.

[Find Out More](#)

DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE



Go on a nature walk

Day visitors are welcome at De Hoop, a coastal nature reserve that is home to smaller game like springbok, grey rhebok and Cape mountain zebra. The marine reserve protects whales and dolphins. You are welcome to go hiking and swimming in this pristine environment.

[Find Out More](#)

STILL BAY



Taste local gin at Inverroche

Try classic, amber and verdant gin made with 9 000 fynbos botanicals at this prestigious distillery. Gin fans can book the Sensorium and lessons at the Gin School to learn the art of alcoholic alchemy.

[Find Out More](#)

MOSSEL BAY



Ride the Dragon Dune

The Dragon Dune is the longest and fastest sandboard ride in South Africa. Beginners needn't fear – sandboarding is easier than surfing, and falling onto the soft sand is a lot more comfortable than dropping off into cold water!

[Find Out More](#)

OUTDSHOORN

See the ostriches at Mooiplaas

Ostriches are the biggest birds in the world and are the key to Oudtshoorn's wealth, thanks to the craze for ostrich feathers in the 19th century. If your luck is really in, you could watch a chick hatch from its enormous egg.

[Find Out More](#)





Head out on the Swartberg Pass

Adventurous and skilled drivers will enjoy taking on the beautiful Swartberg (Black Mountain) Pass. Built in the late 1800s, it is a masterpiece of Victorian engineering and links the Little Karoo to the coastal section of the Garden Route.

[Find Out More](#)



Marvel at the Cango Caves

The Cango Caves are Africa's most-visited cave system, and the sights range from the impressive and massive Botha's Hall to narrow inlets known as the Devil's Chimney and the Letter Box that you can shimmy your way through.

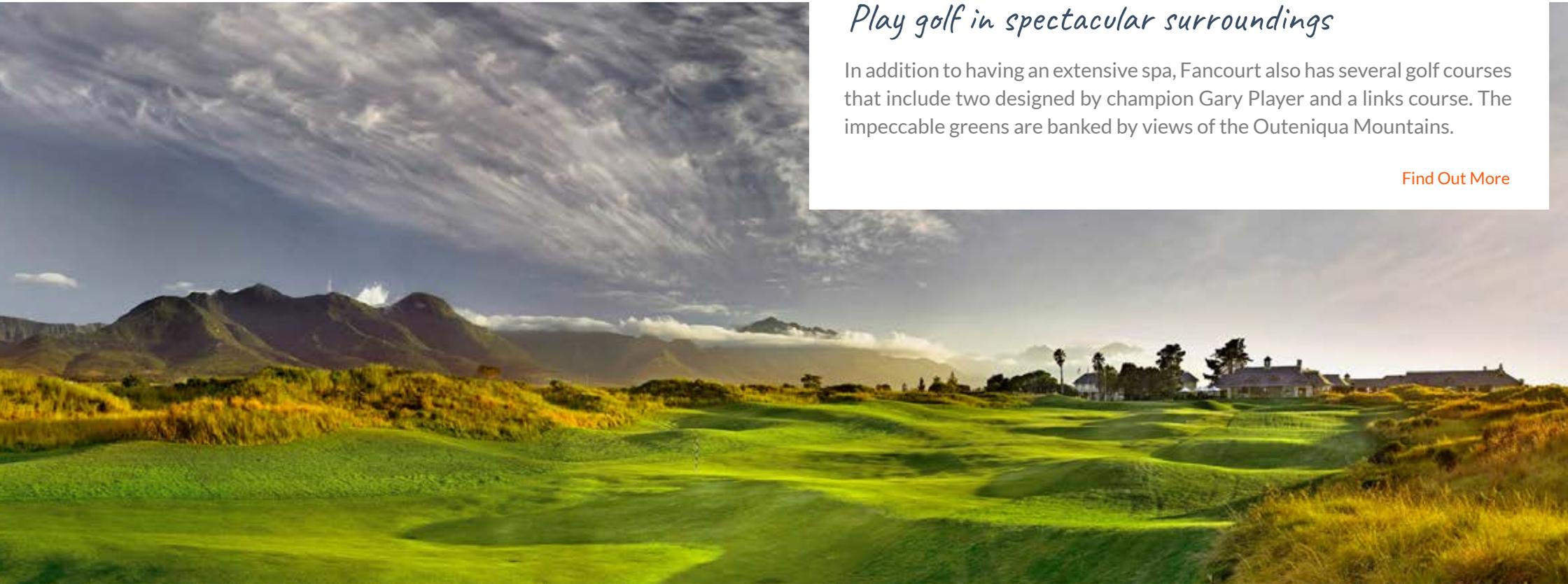
[Find Out More](#)

GEORGE

Play golf in spectacular surroundings

In addition to having an extensive spa, Fancourt also has several golf courses that include two designed by champion Gary Player and a links course. The impeccable greens are banked by views of the Outeniqua Mountains.

[Find Out More](#)





Sensational spa treatments

Fancourt has arguably the most extensive spa on the Garden Route, including an adults-only heated Roman bath, tepidarium, couple's room and a hydrotherapy room. After a few days on the road, a soothing back and neck massage may be just the ticket.

[Find Out More](#)



Pick strawberries at Redberry Farm

Kids will love picking their own strawberries at Redberry. After getting your fill of berries, head over to feed the rabbits, ride on the bumper boats or tumble around in the bubble balls. If that's still not enough, you can test yourself by solving the largest permanent maze in the southern hemisphere.

[Find Out More](#)



Laze on a secluded beach

Noetzie is one of the most beautiful beaches and, on weekdays out of season, you may have it all to yourself. There are stone 'castles' built into the forested cliffs above the beach that are holiday homes and vacation accommodation.

[Find Out More](#)



Horse trails through indigenous forest

Pezula is a large upscale resort that is packed with things to do. Youngsters and inexperienced riders will love the guided horse trails through the forest. Afterwards, pop into the petting zoo to learn more about farmyard animals.

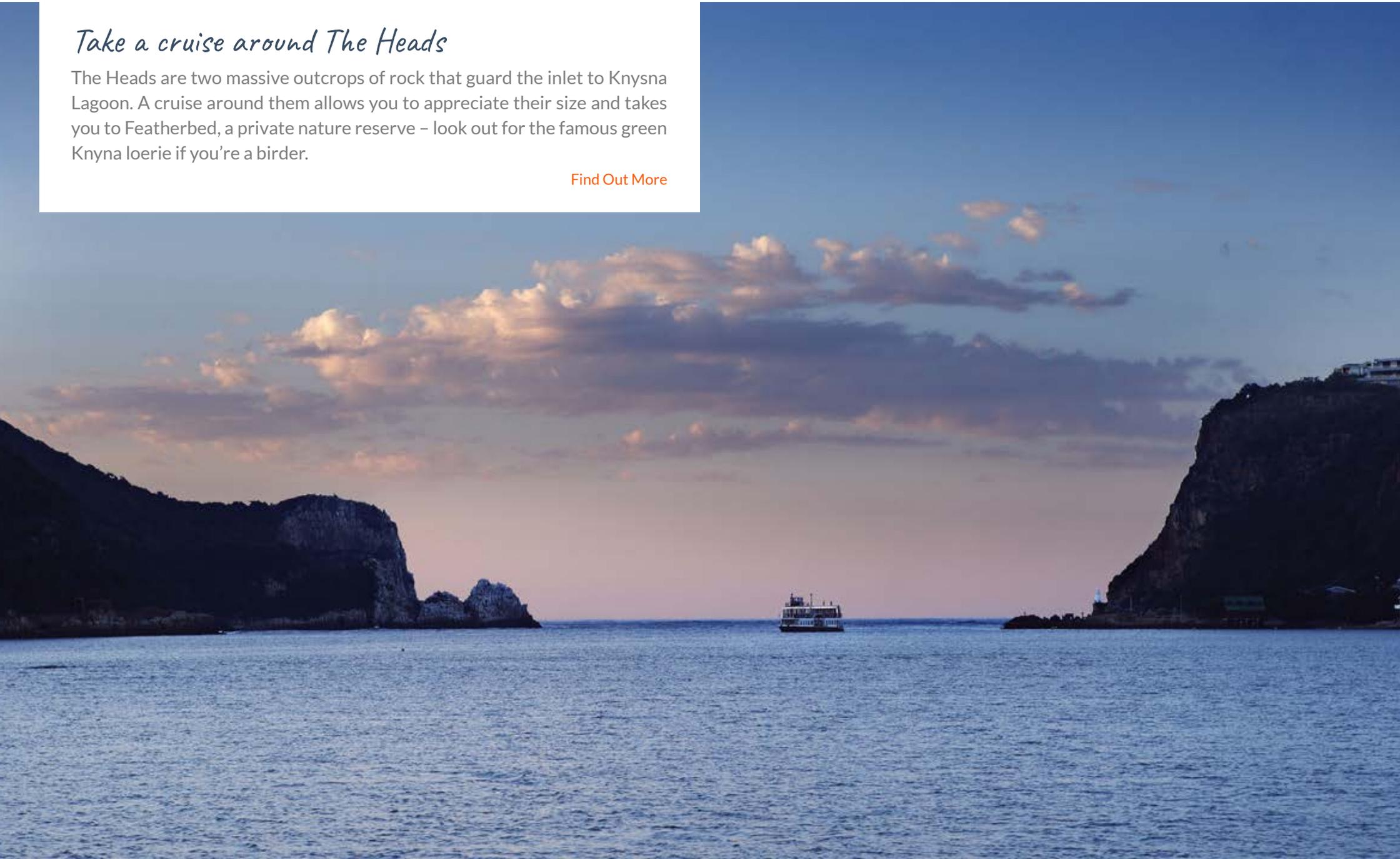
[Find Out More](#)

KNYSNA

Take a cruise around The Heads

The Heads are two massive outcrops of rock that guard the inlet to Knysna Lagoon. A cruise around them allows you to appreciate their size and takes you to Featherbed, a private nature reserve – look out for the famous green Knyna loerie if you're a birder.

[Find Out More](#)





Walk with elephants at the Knysna Elephant Park

Walking with elephants is an amazing way to appreciate the size, strength, intelligence and emotions of these wonderful animals. Guides are on hand to keep everyone safe and ensure the free-roaming ellies are always relaxed.

[Find Out More](#)



Charter a boat for a 'marine safari'

Half-day or shorter sunset cruises are the best way to see some of South Africa's diverse marine life, like sunfish, dolphins, seals, penguins and whales. Plus, you can see Knysna's spectacular shoreline the way few others have.

[Find Out More](#)

PLETTENBERG BAY



Go stand-up paddle boarding on the Keurbooms River

Spend the morning on your SUP board while absorbing the unspoilt beauty of the Keurbooms River valley. A boat will take you up to Whiskey Creek where you will enter the non-motorised section of the water for a stretch of paddle boarding. Keep an eye out for African fish eagles perched along the riverbank and bright green Knysna loeries darting among the trees of the indigenous coastal forest.





Appreciate predators at Jukani

A free-roam sanctuary for rescued predators, Jukani stresses ethical treatment of the animals at all times (you may not interact with them at all, only observe them). This is a great place to learn more about the big cats.

[Find Out More](#)



Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary

Like their furry friends at Jukani, the rescued primates at Monkeyland can roam freely. Visitors will be enthralled by the many species that have found a haven here.

[Find Out More](#)

NATURE'S VALLEY



Hike the Salt River Trail

Moderately fit hikers will enjoy the scenic Salt River Trail, which can be done in half a day. It is an intriguing taste of the world-famous Otter Trail, a tough 5-day trek through some of the Garden Route's most stunning coastline.

[Find Out More](#)

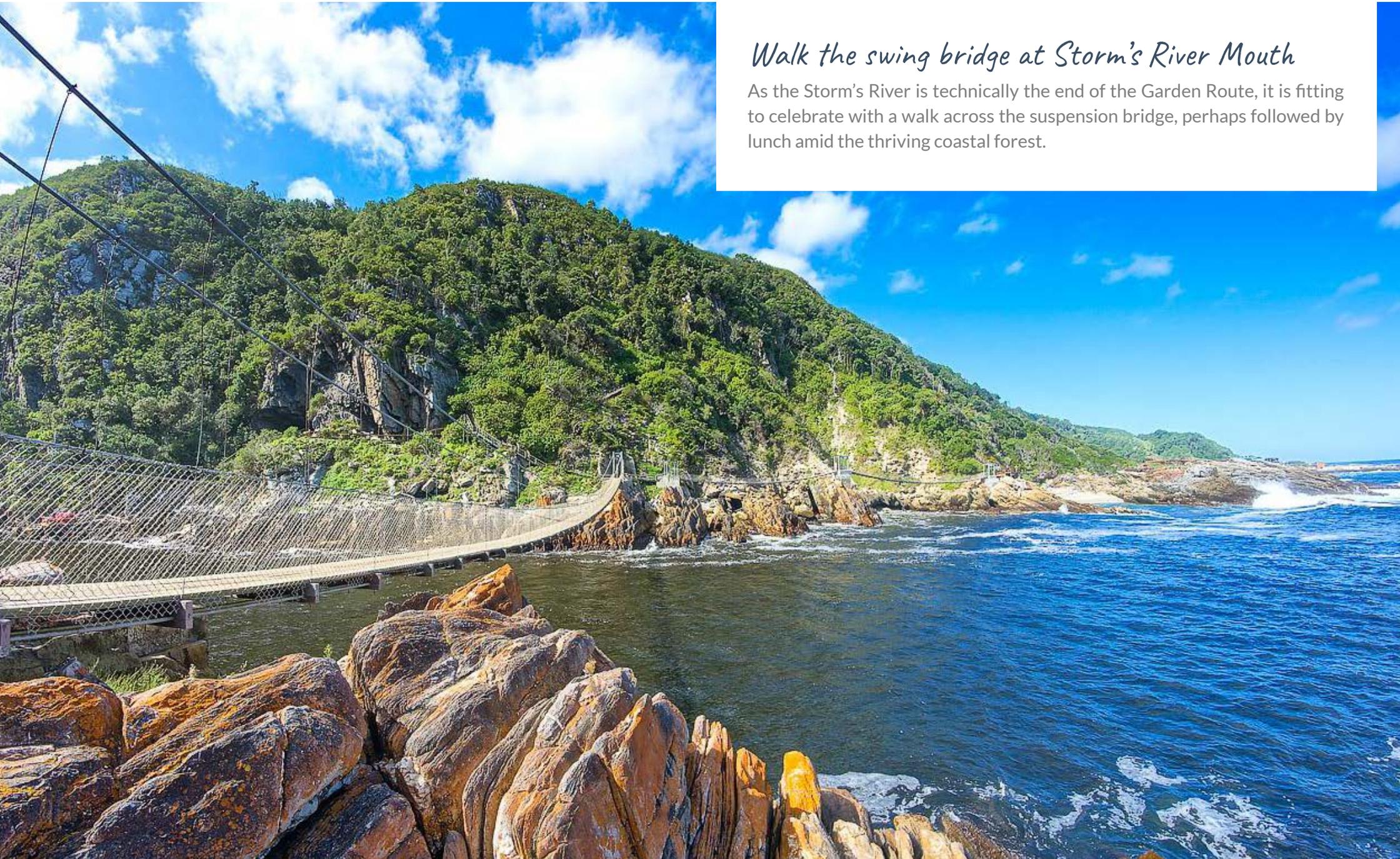


Jump the Bloukrans bungee

One of the highest jumps in the world, Bloukrans clocks in at a literally hair-raising 216 metres or 708 feet! If you prefer not to fly like a bird, then you can also tour the Bloukrans Bridge.

[Find Out More](#)

TSITSIKAMMA



Walk the swing bridge at Storm's River Mouth

As the Storm's River is technically the end of the Garden Route, it is fitting to celebrate with a walk across the suspension bridge, perhaps followed by lunch amid the thriving coastal forest.



Go kloofing

A 'kloof' is a small canyon and 'kloofing' is climbing down a series of canyons, often by abseiling and then swimming to the next one while being led by your guide. Outdoorsy types will love it and, on a hot summer's day, there is nothing more refreshing than plunging into a cool waterfall!

[Find Out More](#)



Treetop Canopy Tour

Ziplines take you from platform to platform in the Tsitsikamma forest, swinging you around Outeniqua yellowwood trees that are 700 years old. This gentle but exhilarating activity puts you in the centre of the forest, amid green Knysna loeries and scarlet trogons.

[Find Out More](#)

PORT ELIZABETH



Learn about penguin rescue at Cape Receife

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds runs a small facility just outside PE to save African penguins, gannets, pelicans, albatrosses and other pelagic birds.

[Find Out More](#)



The Boardwalk for rainy days

The Boardwalk is a casino, shopping and entertainment complex along PE's famous Summerstand beach. It's a good diversion if the weather isn't quite playing along.

[Find Out More](#)



Old-fashioned fun at the PE Museum

The PE Museum is a small institution that covers a lot of history, from the dinosaurs that once roamed the Eastern Cape to the Xhosa tribe and the arrival of European settlers. The full whale skeleton and the cabinet of 'oddities' are perennial favourites with children.

[Find Out More](#)



Donkin Reserve and Lighthouse

Boasting uninterrupted views over Algoa Bay, the Donkin Reserve is the site of an incongruous pyramid with a romantic history: it a memorial to Elizabeth, the late wife of a former colonial leader. The city is also named after her. Next door, the 1861 lighthouse can be climbed right to the top.

[Find Out More](#)



Tour the public sculpture garden

Just a short stroll from the Donkin Reserve are several pieces of public art, one a lifesize queue of people commemorating how South Africans happily lined up for hours to vote in the first democratic election in 1994.



Untouched Victorian and Art Deco architecture

PE was once a boom town based on buying and selling ostrich feathers. Downtown is still lined with old buildings dating to the late 1800s and early 1900s that showcase the eras' distinct architectural styles.

EASTERN CAPE SAFARI

Enjoy a malari-free safari

At the end of your Garden Route trip, enjoy a safari in Addo Elephant National Park or one of the many private reserves in the area like Shamwari, Kwandwe, Pumba, Kariega and Amakhala. The area is covered with thicket, aloes and afro-montane forest, diverse landscapes that support wildlife including all the Big 5.

[Find Out More](#)



ENJOY YOUR TIME IN THE
GARDEN ROUTE!

We'll show you Africa, better than anyone else.

Cape Town
South Africa

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