

## GARDEN ROUTE

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL GARDEN ROUTE

Private check-in and welcome drink upon arrival at the hotel. Guests will be shown to their rooms where they have the opportunity to freshen up and unpack.

Relax at the hotel this afternoon. This beautiful area has so much to offer, as does the hotel itself. Some of the best golf courses in the country, and award winning spas.



Dinner in the Pezula Club room, or in one of the restaurants at Fancourt hotel. Fancourt has six fabulous restaurants offering a variety of excellent dining experiences in authentic settings. The restaurants bear testimony to Fancourt's reputation as purveyors of fine cuisine.

### Overnight: GARDEN ROUTE

### DAY 2: GARDEN ROUTE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day at leisure to relax at the hotel, or explore this magnificent region of the country. There are many things to do in this area, options are listed under enhancements.

Transfer by luxury coach to Bygracealone, a 26 ha estate, with the most beautiful views. Exclusivity is a specific aim of *Bygracealone* - the whole estate is set apart for one function at a time.

Pre dinner drinks and canapés on the lawns before proceeding to the elegantly set dining area.



African harmonisers entertain.

### **Overnight: GARDEN ROUTE**

#### **DAY3: GARDEN ROUTE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Afternoon transfer to the town of Knysna. Knysna is one of the Garden Route's best known travel destinations. Situated between lush forests and the shores of the peaceful estuary it offers many activities and attractions and is one of the most scenic in the world.

It has now received international recognition for the gem it is - it was named as one of the Top 100 Destinations in the World and one of the Top 25 in Africa . With a rich history, gourmet restaurants and a variety of art & craft rambles to add, this is a beautiful town to explore.

After some leisure time, guests are transferred to the jetty where they board The Paddle Cruiser, the only paddle-driven vessel in South Africa and a unique and unconventional venue. The Paddle Cruiser has 360 degree views and is fully enclosed, thus unaffected by weather conditions, and she has a bar on each deck.



Oysters and sundowners onboard as you cruise around the Knysna lagoon. The Lagoon, more accurately defined as an estuary, has five fresh water rivers flowing in from the surrounding Outeniqua Mountains meeting with the surge of sea water from the Indian Ocean through the mighty headlands – known as the 'Knysna Heads' - the grand sandstone cliffs towering above the entrance to the Lagoon.



At sunset, the Paddle Cruiser moors and guests disembark for a fairytale dinner in the Food Forest restaurant set beneath a canopy of milkwood trees.

Return to Knysna under the stars and twinkling lights of the town.

## Overnight: GARDEN ROUTE

### DAY 4: DEPART GARDEN ROUTE

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to George Airport for the onward scheduled flight **OR** coach transfer to the next destination.

## ENHANCEMENTS

### **MONKEYLAND**

Monkeyland is the worlds first free roaming multi-species primate sanctuary. Monkeyland is unique in that the sanctuary caters for several species of **primate**, and **they are not caged, they are free** to move about the forest, and do so in harmony. The primates are therefore not found on predetermined points displayed on a map, the emphasis is to search for them, and the reward is to see them as they should be: free and in the wild. **Lunch in the lively Monkeyland forest** is a unique experience. It is the only eating spot in the world where you can actually sip your coffee while you watch a large variety of primates, from all over the world, playing - enjoying their newfound freedom . Visitors to Monkeyland are taken on monkey safaris in the indigenous forest by experienced game rangers. On these safaris you can expect to see many species of primates ranging from the Gibbons of Asia and Howlers from South America to the Lemurs of Madagascar.

Part of the safari, for those who wish, includes walking across a rope bridge which spans a canyon above the forest canopy giving you a rare birds eye view of a section of the forest and its inhabitants otherwise seldom seen.

Guests can get involved in the Touch a Monkey's Heart Foundation, whose goal is: to encourage understanding and commitment to the conservation of the World's wildlife.



## BIRDS OF EDEN

The unique two hectare dome (the World's largest) spans over a gorge of indigenous forest. The sanctuary has its own mysterious ruin, which incorporates a walk-behind waterfall. Another feature is its amphitheatre, which has the ability to seat over 200 visitors, we could do a conference session/guest speaker presentation in this area . The sanctuary's dome incorporates the ability to synthesise thunder and create short spells of rain from an irrigation system in the dome structure. Roofed viewpoints within the gorge have been erected for use during these brief rain storms.



Like Monkeyland, which is situated next-door, Birds of Eden boasts its own canopy walk, while shorter than the 128m bridge at Monkeyland, it hangs above the clouds. The decision to develop Birds of Eden stems from the need to create a safe environment in which to release a large collection of free-flight African birds, miniature monkeys and the sanctuary also enables bird owners to apply to release their pet birds

into the sanctuary, after undergoing rehabilitation.

## KNYSNA ELEPHANT PARK

Get up-close-and-personal with nature at Knysna Elephant Park. With the help of our resident African elephants and our well-informed guides - you will learn about the sad and mystical story of the Knysna Elephants – the world's Southern most elephants. The park offers a rare and exciting opportunity to get close to these gentle giants, who live in a controlled, free range environment in the heart of the famous Garden Route...

Daily tours leave on the half hour every day from 8.30 to 16.30 from the informative visitor's centre and video viewing room to the elephants. Guests are transported to the elephants on a tractor & trailer where they will have the opportunity to touch, feed and photograph these gentle giants.

### **Sundowner option:**

Spend an evening enjoying snack platters and sundowners whilst interacting with the elephants at the 'Elephant Lounge'. With spectacular views of the Knysna forest and Outeniqua mountain range, a once in a lifetime opportunity to get to know these gentle giants awaits. The well-trained guides will unfold the story of the African Elephant and their plight across the continent.



### **ECOLOGICAL MARINE TOUR**

The Premium Cruise is conducted in Whale Season (July to November), guests have the opportunity to get within a couple of feet of some of the largest (and thankfully most docile) creatures on the planet. As such, the main focus will be finding whales, then dolphins, with a visit to the seal colony if time permits.

Plettenberg Bay is blessed to be one of the easiest places in the country to see whales and we are often with whales within minutes of getting onto the water.

The trip is preceded by a briefing by the guide/skipper. Once all have been equipped with lifejackets we take a short walk to the boats. There are no harbour facilities in the bay and as such, we have come up with a unique and exciting method of launching our boats... Dolly-Launching. Essentially this entails a boat being loaded onto a trailer on the beach, facing the sea. The trailer is attached to a powerful four-wheel drive launch vehicle. At the Skippers signal, the launch vehicle pushes the boat rapidly down the beach and into the surf. While there is sometime a bit of spray, this is without a doubt the most exciting way to get to sea.

Each and every trip is different, and as such there is no defined route that we follow in search of cetaceans. This will be decided by the crew in consultation with other vessels in the area, recent sighting and prevailing weather conditions. On one trip we may not venture more than a mile offshore, while the next may see us heading over the horizon in search of passing Humpback Whales.

The trip finale is the exciting beaching of the vessel. This is done by racing in at top speed and sliding up onto the beach, often to the accompaniment of cries of, "More, more, more..."

## TSITSIKAMMA CANOPY TOUR

The Tsitsikamma Canopy Tour is a unique eco-wilderness adventure taking place in the Tsitsikamma indigenous rainforest on the Garden Route in South Africa.

A first in Africa. Enjoy the unequalled beauty of the indigenous forest high up on ten treetop platforms. Gently glide along in a harness along, on steel cables 30 meters above the forest floor. Birdlife is abundant (including Knysna Loeries and the elusive Narina Trojan), and your guides will explain the ecology of the lush primeval forest. Safety is paramount, and the system has been built to the highest civil engineering standards. Guides are fully-trained professionals.

From the start on the launch platform a whole new world unfolds as one gently slides on a steel cable to the first tree platform. All platforms are built up high in giant outeniqua yellowwoods and provide an unbelievable view of this enchanting world.



By participating in this tour you contribute to the forest regeneration project.