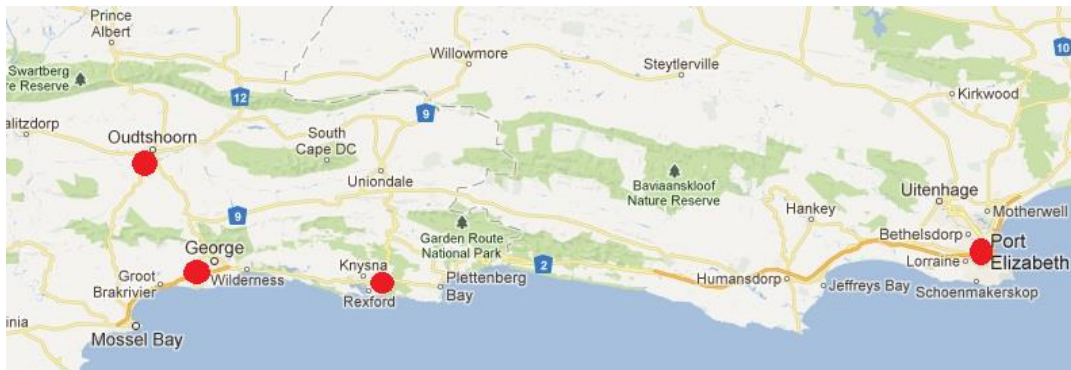




## TOPICS

### EASTERN CAPE AND GARDEN ROUTE



The area east of greater Cape Town (as well as Cape Winelands and Hermanus) is known as the Garden Route. The area stretches all the way to Port Elizabeth. The Garden Route is a mix of modern golf courses, ancient forests, secluded artists' communities, retirement estates, modern malls, craft centers, mountain hideaways and beach holidays. Its pristine coastline, virgin bush and sub-tropical forests exist as though untouched by time. It's the home of Africa's Big Five and South African surfing, and the birthplace of Nelson Mandela (Port Elizabeth). It boasts many natural, historical and cultural attractions and activities. Its natural diversity is significant: the Eastern Cape incorporates parts of all 7 ecological zones that occur in South Africa and features all 3 of the country's biodiversity regions, which is further enhanced by its 820 kilometers of untamed, if not wild, coastline. This heralds a colourful assortment of fauna and flora, an abundance of birdlife and a rich and varied marine life, including 27 species of whales and dolphins. Main towns to visit are Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and Port Elizabeth.

#### ACCESS

The main points of access to the Eastern Cape and Garden Route are through George and Port Elizabeth. The bulk of tourist would drive the section between Cape Town and the Garden Route.

#### Travel times by Air

	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Port Elizabeth	George
Cape Town	-	2 hours	1.5 hours	50 min
Johannesburg	2 hours	-	1 hour 40 min	1 hour 50 min
Port Elizabeth	1.5 hours	1 hour 40 min	-	-
George	1 hour	1 hour 50 min	-	-

### Distance Chart in kilometers

	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Port Elizabeth	Knysna
Cape Town		1393	765	491
George	436	1163	323	70
Johannesburg	1393	-	1048	1223
Oudtshoorn	422	1113	374	326
Port Elizabeth	765	1048	-	257
Plettenberg Bay	557	1130	223	40

Please note that although the speed limit on South African roads is 120km/h, there are many places where the speed limit is reduced to 60km/h. The driving time therefore between Cape Town and for instance George is approx 5 hours.

Port Elizabeth Airport is the **main access point** for the following destinations

- Port Elizabeth City Centre (approx.. 15 minutes)
- Addo National Park and surrounding game reserves, i.e. Shamwari, Kariega (approx.. 1.5 to 2 hours)
- Knysna (approx.. 4 hours)

George Airport is the **main access point** for the following destinations;

- George City Centre (approx.. 10 minutes)
- Knysna (approx.. 1 hour)
- Oudtshoorn (approx.. 1 hour)
- Plettenberg Bay (approx.. 1.5 to 2 hours)

### PLACES OF INTEREST

The inclusion of the main Garden Route sightseeing areas (Oudtshoorn / George / Knysna) requires a minimum 2 night stay.

#### Suggested Sightseeing in the Garden Route and Southern Cape region:

- Knysna town and a cruise on the Knysna Lagoon to the Heads
- Visit Oudtshoorn including the Cango Caves, Cango Wildlife Ranch and an Ostrich Farm
- Tsitsikamma National Park and adventure activities in the area (Tree Top Canopy Tours, Monkeyland, Tenikwa Wildlife Awareness Centre, Elephant Sanctuary Plettenberg Bay, Bungee Jumping.)
- Route 62
- World renowned Golf Courses like Pezula, Fancourt and Simola.
- Plettenberg Bay "Millionaires Playground"
- Mossel Bay with the Diaz Museum
- New safari options like Gondwana Game Reserve & Sanbona Game Reserve

#### Suggested Sightseeing in the Eastern Cape and Port Elizabeth region:

- Eastern Cape Safari Lodges ranging from 4-star to 5-star deluxe.
- Greater Addo National Elephant Park that incorporates a 120 000ha marine reserve to form the world's first Big Seven Reserve (Southern Right Whales and Great White Sharks have been added to lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant).
- Port Elizabeth – The Friendly City
- Cultural attractions. Birthplace of Nelson Mandela
- The Wild Coast. Unexplored natural beauty

