



*Spirit of Knysna*

*Guidebook*

[www.theterraverde.co.za](http://www.theterraverde.co.za)

# Hiking Trails

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## HARKERVILLE FOREST

Get in touch with nature on this easy, moderate trail!

Starting from the Harkerville Forest Station is the circular 9,5km Perdekop Nature Trail.

Yellow horse's heads engraved into cherry wood blocks lead you through a leafy green indigenous forest.

Along the way there are lovely spots to stop and take a break. Surrounded by nature, with a dam and waterfall en route this trail is not difficult and very relaxing.

Keep a lookout for 4 legged inhabitants, they are very shy and a spotting is really special, and note the interesting vegetation and fungi on this trail through the forest.

### To know:

- The dam is not for swimming - it is the water supply for Harkerville (don't be tempted)
- You can take a dip in the pool by the waterfall which is also a good resting spot
- The water in the streams is drinkable, the brown colour is from the tannins from leaves on the forest floor
- The trail is shared with the Harkerville Coastal Hiking and the Cycling trails
- From The Terra Verde: 19,6km



# Hiking Trails



## DIEPWALLE FOREST

The Diepwalle Forest offers you 3 x Elephant Trails of varying difficulty.

- Black Route: 9km; circular (Easy: 3-4 hours)
- White Route: 8km; circular (Moderate: 3-4 hours)
- Red Route: 7km; circular (Moderate – difficult: 3-4 hours)

Extract from the Garden Route Adventure Guide:

When the bush beckons, it is a wonderful idea to hike one of the three Elephant Hiking Trails. All three routes are a scenic delight with clear streams enticing you to stop, rest and explore. It is so invigorating to just let the mysterious beauty of the forest seep into your soul.

The White Elephant Trail has the most enticing rock pool where you can stop for a picnic and even have a dip in summer.

The Black Elephant Trail pass through both the Ysterhoutrug and King Edward VII picnic sites.

The Red Elephant Trail crosses a little stream exactly halfway ideal for a lunch stop.

If you feel really energetic you can link the routes into one long route of 18.2km which takes approximately 6-7 hours to walk. This includes rests, a slow pace and lots of time to look around.

Apart from just walking, give attention to the huge yellow-woods, the stinkwood trees that topple over and just keep on growing. There is a vast variety of fungi and fynbos and do look out for vervet monkeys and the elusive Knysna Loerie.

Note: With all picnic stops and dips in the rock pool please be respectful of the environment.

### To know:

- The water in the streams is drinkable and the brown colour is because of the tannins from the leaves on the forest floor
- From The Terra Verde: 24km



# Hiking Trails



## KRANSHOEK

Starting from the Kranshoek Picnic Site begins this coastal walk.

Extract from the Garden Route Adventure Guide:

The trail starts at the top of a tall waterfall, then winds its way through the forest down into the gorge through which the waterfall's stream flows. It follows this stream towards the coast and then leads along the coast before going up the slopes to the plateau and back to the picnic site via the Kranshoek viewpoint.

On this trail you'll get to see a bit of everything our beautiful area has to offer, from indigenous forests to fynbos to breathtaking coastal views, the Kranshoek Trail has it all.

For those who find the full trail a bit strenuous there is an optional shortcut up to the Kranshoek viewpoint and back to the picnic spot (about 4km) shortly after reaching the coast.

### To know:

- Start early, take a hat, sunblock and drinking water
- You can take a dip in the pools along the route
- From The Terra Verde: 26,5km



# Hiking Trails



## GARDEN OF EDEN

Take the gentle Garden of Eden forest walk.

A must for all Dalene Matthee and Fiela se Kind lovers.

Extract for the Garden Route Adventure Guide:

The Garden of Eden does not really qualify as a hiking trail but because it is situated next to the N2 it is a great place to stretch your legs or to take a drive there for a relaxing stroll.

The walk follows over 1km of wooden board walks and bridges across streams and is entirely wheelchair friendly and ideal for the elderly wanting to visit the forest. There is a number of wooden benches and tables along the trail to sit, snack, picnic or enjoy your 'padkos'. There is water and ablution facilities.

To know:

■ From The Terra Verde 17,6km



# Beaches

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## BUFFELSBAAI

The area offers a variety of activities which include fishing, boating, surfing or just relaxing in the shallow waters and sunbathing on the beach. A favorite beach for holiday makers, both local and international visitors. There is a beach restaurant if you have not packed a picnic basket and a shop with basic provisions.

To know:

- You can arrange horse rides along the shoreline at low tide.
- The firm sand allows for cycle along the shoreline
- From The Terra Verde: 21km



## BRENTON-ON-SEA

A beautiful beach where you can enjoy a walk along the white sand, explore "castle rock" at low tide, sunbathe and have a sundowner. This area is also loved by the paragliding community.

To know:

- The surf is rough, and there are rip-currents, if you are looking for a swim, Buffelsbaai is your spot!
- From The Terra Verde: 15,3km



## COLA BEACH

Usually a quite beach, even in the busy holiday season, where you can catch some sun and relax.

To know:

- From The Terra Verde: 24km



## MYOLI BEACH

Great views, clear water and soft sand. A gem!

To know:

- There is a restaurant and beach bar at this beach site
- From The Terra Verde: 26,4km



# Beaches

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## SEDFIELD LAGOON

The Sedgefield Lagoon Mouth is great to explore and a spot for canoeing and swimming.

To know:

- Low tide offers calm water
- From VIRIDIS: 26km



## SWARTVLEI BEACH

A beautiful sandy beach for walking, fishing and horseriding.

To know:

- Head to Gericke's Point for more sightseeing
- From The Terra Verde: 32km



# Places to Visit

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## GERICKE'S POINT

A best kept secret of the Garden Route. You can spend an entire day in this beautiful place. You are in an area of rocky landmarks, fossilised dunes looking like sandstone cliffs - some of the highest dunes in South Africa. At this point you can watch Southern Right Whales during their calving season and may even see a pod of Humpback dolphins. An impressive visit.

To know:

- From VIRIDIS: 32km



## THE HEADS

The stunning beauty of Knysna heads is one of our favorite places with panoramic views. There is easy access to rock pools and beaches from the Eastern Head.

To know:

- You can reach the Western Head by ferry only. Excursions depart from the Knysna Waterfront. Inquire at the Featherbed Nature Reserve Info Office.
- From The Terra Verde: 8,3km



## KNYSNA QUAYS

At the Knysna Waterfront you can enjoy a meal overlooking the Quays and browse the interesting shops

To know:

- From The Terra Verde: 1,7km



# Places to Visit

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## THESEN ISLAND

This is another interesting shopping and munching area. Thesen Island is an incredible successful marina development that attracts local and international investors.

To know:

- There is a 'no wake' policy on the waterways, as there are some endangered marine species (such as the Knysna seahorse and pipefish) living in these waters.
- From The Terra Verde: 3,1km



## PEZULA PRIVATE CASTLE

Another breathtaking spot is NOETZIE. Magical and off the beaten track. Noetzie has half a dozen stone castles dating to the 1930's situated on a beautiful unspoiled beach. The walk down is worth the effort.

To know:

- The water is pristine and ok for paddling, swimming and kayaking
- From The Terra Verde: 12km



# Sports

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## PEZULA GOLF COURSE

Pezula Championship Course is located in the Western Cape of South Africa in the picturesque town of Knysna, the jewel of the world famous Garden Route. This stunningly beautiful golf course is a sweeping spectacle of fairways and greens rolling through the pristine Southern Cape landscape.



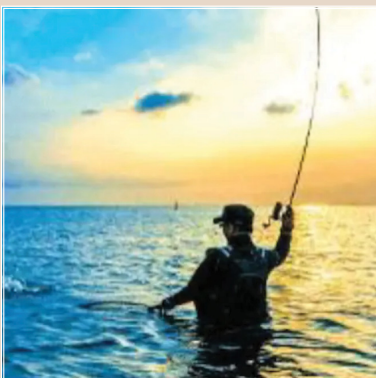
## SIMOLA GOLF AND COUNTRY ESTATE

The Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course was designed by the legend himself and, as the first on the continent and still only one of three in Africa, remains a favourite amongst professionals, seasoned players and those who enjoy a challenging yet fun game now and then.



## SEDGE LINKS GOLF COURSE

The rolling fairways and testing greens boast a natural setting nestled next to the Swartvlei lake and the Outeniqua mountains in the distance. This short course is the perfect place to feel at peace to concentrate on your drives, short game or putting skills.



## BREEZERS FISHING

Knysna offers excellent fishing spots and opportunities, from deep sea fishing to fishing in the lagoon or rock or surf fishing. Breezers Fishing, our well stocked local fishing shop, can give you the local tips. They are located in Grey Street, Knysna Central.



# Food Scene



## FRESHLINE FISHERIES

Fondly called "the sandpit" by the locals.

A rustic, charming outdoor beach experience with sand on the floor and umbrellas. They have no liquor license so BYOB (bring your own bottle) to this awesome eatery - no corkage charge!

- Diverse seafood menu
- Fish Monger
- Kiddies play area
- Take-aways



## 34 DEGREES SOUTH

If you are at the Waterfront and want a bite head to 34 Degrees South.

An all round restaurant including seafood and sushi and also houses a gift shop, clothing emporium, food store, fish monger, bakery and fine wine outlet.



## EAST HEAD CAFÉ

A local landmark for family and friends to have a good time with good food.

A superb breakfast and lunch menu and a sublime view.



# Food Scene

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## BELVIDERE MANOR

Great outdoor spot. Colonial elegance at it's best, here you can experience a traditional braai at The Barbeque or visit The Bell Tavern for a delish pub menu or go to Caroline's Bistro for an a la carte menu.



## ÎLE DE PAÏN - LUNCH & BREAKFAST RESTAURANT & ARTISAN BAKERY

The best baked goods. The best breakfasts, breads and pastries in town and have a fresh lunch menu. Pretty packed most days, expect for Mondays - they are closed.



## CHATTERS BISTRO

A great wine selection. Relaxed and friendly, with great wine as well as a good pizza. Lovely rustic decor.



# Food Scene

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## CAFFE MARIO

Love Pizza? You will find the best here. Sit down or takeaway you will be coming back for their divine pizza's and pastas.



## ROYAL SIAM THAI KNYSNA

Authenticity prepared Thai cuisine. You can sit down but rather small. A better suggestion is to have take a takeaway.

Their green curry, Penang and Massaman are yummy, the soups will also tickle your taste-buds.



## MONTECELLO SEAFOOD PUB & GRILL

Head to Montecello for diner, fabulous meaty menu and having my favorite, Espetada, on the list.



# City & Town Info

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## KNYSNA

Make memories, find adventure and discover the sandy beaches and forest trails in Knysna. Explore the area and rich cultural heritage, and experience what makes Knysna one of the not-to-be-missed locations in the Western Cape.

Famous for its oysters, and seahorses, Knysna is a hive of activity throughout the year. Positioned on the banks of a shimmering lagoon between the Outeniqua Mountains and the Indian Ocean, the town has much to offer.

The Knysna Tourism Office is located on Main Rd, number 40, Knysna Central.  
[www.visitknysna.co.za](http://www.visitknysna.co.za)



## SEDFIELD

Sedgefield is a seaside village that is surrounded by lakes and sand dunes covered in pretty fynbos. It lies in the heart of what is known as South Africa's Lake District and is well known for its beaches, water sports and paragliding. Situated between Knysna and George, Sedgefield provides both peace and quiet.

On Saturday's don't miss the town's Farmer's Market, Wild Oats, with plenty of organic fare to buy. On the same property visit the Scarab Village for their interesting goodies.

