WILDLIFE WONDER







EASTERN CAPE GAME AND NATURE RESERVES

TSITSIKAMMA

GARDEN ROUTE NATIONAL PARK

Along the South Coast of South Africa lies one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the world, home to the Garden Route National Park. A mosaic of ecosystems, it encompasses the world renowned Tsitsikamma and Wilderness sections, the Knysna Lake section, a variety of mountain catchments, Southern Cape indigenous forest and associated Fynbos areas. These areas resemble a montage of landscapes and seascapes, from ocean

to mountain areas, and are renowned for its diverse natural and cultural heritage resources. Managed by South African National Parks, it hosts a variety of accommodation options, activities and places of interest

www.sanparks.co.za/parks/garden_route/ +27 (0) 42 281 1607 grace.valela@sanparks.org

KOUGA

BAVIAANSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE

With its World Heritage Site status, the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve is home to the biggest wilderness area in the country and is also one of the eight protected areas of the Cape Floristic Region. The Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve covers 200km of unspoiled, rugged mountainous terrain with spectacular landscapes hosting more than a thousand different plant species, including the Erica and Protea families and species of ancient cycads. Seven of South Africa's eight biomes are represented within the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve — Fynbos, Forest, Grassland, Succulent Karoo, Nama-Karoo, Subtropical Thicket and Savanna. This reserve is a must-see for all nature and adventure enthusiasts

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/baviaanskloof/ +27 (0) 43 705 4400 info@ecpta.co.za

LOMBARDINI GAME FARM

Situated in the picturesque Seekoei River valley, Lombardini Game Farm is an absolute gem! With daily guided tours around the game park, you are sure to see most of our beautiful animals. Luxurious en-suite in-house accommodation offers peace and tranquillity to guests. The warmth of the thatch roof makes you feel right at home. Semi self-catering poolrooms, with stunning interior, will make you want to stay another day. Self-catering cottages are also available for more personal space. And last but not least, a wedding venue that will take your breath away!

www.booking.com/hotel/za/lombardini-gamefarm-jeffreys-bay.en-gb.html +27 (0) 82 925 7774 +27 (0) 83 227 3165 lombardini.gamefarm@truewan.co.za

SUNSHINE COAST

THUNZI BUSH LODGE

Thunzi Bush Lodge is located in the tranquil sanctuary of coastal forest and African bush and offers country style self-catering accommodation 30km from the centre of Port Elizabeth, at the start of the Garden Route. The lodge caters mainly for the traveller who enjoys a tranquil setting, forest and beach walks, bass fishing or bird watching. Walking trails around the lodge provide access to the dense indigenous coastal forest where many bird species and animals including bushbuck, blue duiker and vervet monkeys can be spotted. Charming wooden chalets with private decks merge luxury, supreme style, spaciousness and comfort for the enthusiastic nature lover. Relax at our lazy-lizard swimming pool, experience our friendly staff, tasty picnic baskets and many interesting activities.

www.thunzibushlodge.co.za +27 (0) 72 597 4810 info@thunzi.co.za

KRAGGA KAMMA GAME PARK NELSON MANDELA BAY

Lush coastal forest and grassland is home to vast herds of African game, including White Rhino, Buffalo, Cheetah, Giraffe, Zebra, Nyala, Bontebok, Lechwe and many more species. All the animals roam freely, unrestricted in natural surroundings. This owner operated animal friendly park, where no hunting or other disturbance of the game is permitted, means that you always get close up views and great photo opportunities. Take a drive in your own vehicle through the park on the wellmaintained roads (no need for 4x4) and enjoy viewing the game in any weather conditions from the comfort of your car. For those really close encounters, choose the 2-hour guided tour in an open Land Rover with a professional guide providing you with interesting information on the animals and the historical background to the area.

www.kraggakamma.co.za kraggakammagamepark@telkomsa.net +27 (0) 41 379 4195

SIBUYA

Sibuya, one of South Africa's most unique Safari destinations, has more navigable river than any other game reserve in South Africa. Consequently, as a birding destination it is hard to beat as there are nearly 400 different species. This breathtakingly beautiful game reserve is sanctuary to an abundance of diverse wildlife from elephants to otters, and almost everything in between, including the Big Five. Sibuya offers accommodation in two private and exclusive luxury tented game lodges and prides itself on superb cuisine. Sibuya's reception is in the holiday village of Kenton-on-Sea in the Eastern Cape Province, about 140kms (80 miles) equidistant from Port Elizabeth and East London. A natural extension to any trip, from Cape Town up the Garden Route, and easily accessible from Port Elizabeth which is a short flip from the major cities of Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. Charter flights to Port Alfred are less than a 20min transfer to the game park. The unique experience starts immediately with a half-hour boat transfer up the Kariega estuary to River Camp or Forest Camp. Leaving the beach, turtles, dolphins and whales might be seen near the river mouth. Both camps nestle in riverine forest and have been constructed in an environmentally conscious manner. Guests are hosted and guided by a team of experienced professionals.

www.sibuya.co.za reservations@sibuya.co.za +27 (0) 46 648 1040

HOPEWELL GAME RESERVE

Redefining the meaning of "private", Hopewell Lodge is an exclusive hideaway where unspoilt nature meets pure African luxury, and guests reconnect with nature at their own pace. This private game reserve in South Africa's beautiful Eastern Cape hosts groups of up to 12 guests in stylish, secluded suites with sweeping views over a reclaimed Eden. Waking up to the sounds and sights of the African bush, sundowners above the elephants' favourite watering hole, relaxing in a secluded private pool overlooking the bush, and sumptuous dinners under the stars provide the memories that linger long after your stay at Hopewell. Whether for 2 or a group up to 12 people, Hopewell is booked exclusively for your party only, offering guests guaranteed privacy and allowing them to set their own schedule for game drives, meals and activities. Passionate and experienced rangers guide our guests through the rolling landscape, ever willing to stop and discuss plants, insects, birds and game spotted along the way. Up close and personal interaction with cheetah is a highlight of this unique wildlife experience. Guests are guaranteed to encounter our herd of elephant, along with hippo, giraffe, zebra, antelope and other indigenous species carefully introduced to maintain a balanced eco-system.

www.hopewell-lodge.com/about-hopewell/ +27 (0) 73 531 4692 info@hopewell-lodge.com

OCEANA BEACH AND WILDLIFE RESERVE

Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve in Port Alfred, Eastern Cape, South Africa offers ultra-luxurious accommodation that includes a select group of unique guest suites in the Ocean Lodge and Private Ocean House as well as spectacular individual private chalets. Our Africa-shaped knife-edge pool has a marked point where you can rest your chin that is the absolute centre of Oceana.

www.oceanareserve.com/ +27 (0) 83 616 0605 reservations@oceanareserve.com

SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY

ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK

Now the third largest national park in South Africa, Addo Elephant National Park has expanded to conserve a wide range of biodiversity, landscapes, fauna and flora. Stretching from the semi-arid karoo area in the north around Darlington Dam, over the rugged Zuurberg Mountains, through the Sundays River Valley and south to the coast between Sundays River mouth and Bushman's river mouth, Addo covers about 180 000 hectares (444 700 acres) and includes the Bird and St Croix Island groups. The original elephant section of the park was proclaimed in 1931, when only eleven elephants remained in the area. Today this finely tuned ecosystem is sanctuary to over 600 elephant, lion, buffalo, black rhino, spotted hyena, leopard, a variety of antelope and zebra species, as well as the unique Addo flightless dung beetle, found almost exclusively in Addo. The park can exclusively claim to be the only national park in the world to conserve the "Big 7" - the Big 5 as well as the southern right whale and great white shark off the Algoa Bay coast.

www.sanparks.co.za/parks/addo/ +27 (0) 42 233 8600 addoenquiries@sanparks.org

ADDO ELEPHANT PARK PRIVATE CONCESSION LODGES

These exclusive private lodges, with their own unique style, forms part of a suite of products known as SANParks "Golden Kudus", where luxury is the order of the day, GORAH ELEPHANT CAMP is situated in the main game area section of the park - a five-star facility with luxury tented camps.

RIVERBEND LODGE is situated in the Nyathi area of the park - offering luxury five-star accommodation in eight rooms as well as a Private Safari Villa accommodating six guests. A Wellness Centre is available, and children of all ages are welcome.

KUZUKO LODGE is managed by Legacy Hotels and Resorts International. Opened in 2007, it is situated in a private section of the park, a mere two hours' drive north of Port Elizabeth. The lodge offers 24 chalets (three are wheelchair accessible), conference facilities for up to 30 delegates, spa, restaurant, pub, wine cellar, swimming pool, game drives and nightly cosmic safaris. All facilities in the main lodge and game vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

Gorah Elephant Camp +27 (0) 44 501 1111 https://gorah.hunterhotels.com/

Riverbend Lodge +27 (0) 42 233 8000 www.riverbendlodge.co.za

Kuzuko Lodge +27 (0) 79 521 7490 www.kuzuko.com

SCHOTIA SAFARIS PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Schotia Safaris is the oldest private game viewing reserve in the Eastern Cape, bordering the eastern side of Addo Elephant National Park. This malaria free reserve is probably the most densely stocked reserve in Africa, and with over 40 mammal species and approximately 2000 animals, can offer consistently good game viewing throughout the year. Schotia was the first reserve in the Cape Province to have free roaming lions and we can almost guarantee sightings of these magnificent animals on every Tooth & Claw game drive.

www.schotiasafaris.co.za +27 (0) 42 235 1436 schotia@intekom.co.za

KAROO HEARTLAND

MOUNT CAMDEBOO PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve lies just to the east of Graaff-Reinet in the heart of the malaria free Eastern Cape's Great Karoo. Luxurious beyond expectation. Come and experience a personalised safari in a region that is steeped in history and culture. Guests are accommodated in three Cape Dutch houses that lie cupped in the palm of the Sneeuberg Mountain range. Once homes to generations of settlers, these magnificent homesteads have been sensitively converted into havens of five-star luxury. Mount Camdeboo provides wholesome traditional meals, a team of friendly and professional hosts and superior hospitality in a relaxed homely environment. 14 000 hectares of ancient land is home to cheetah, white rhino, cape buffalo, giraffe, mountain zebra, wild cats, sable, a host of antelope, birds of prey and a unique collection of fauna and flora. An ideal wedding, honeymoon, anniversary, family holiday or team-building destination, Mount Camdeboo invites you to share its people's love for this sometimes harsh, yet always breathtakingly beautiful, land of contrasts.

www.mountcamdeboo.com/ +27 (0) 49 891 0570 reservations@mountcamdeboo.com

KOFFYLAAGTE GAME LODGE

Situated in the Karoo Heartland, Koffylaagte Game Lodge offers premium 4-Star accommodation in the lodge, farmhouse, or in our luxury safari tented camp. Guided game walks, drives, quadbike adventures and horse-back trails are just a few of the exciting activities to make your stay unforgettable. Our heart-warming Karoo cuisine is just the cherry on top!

SAMARA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

"Heart-stoppingly beautiful" is how award-winning Samara Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape is best described. Elegant lodges provide luxury accommodation nestled between an amphitheatre of mountains on 70,000 acres, where wildlife roams again. An amazing life-changing and wonderfully relaxing experience awaits, so come and walk with the cheetah as you celebrate the rebirth of a unique piece of Africa and experience a luxury safari.

http://www.samara.co.za/ reservations@samara.co.za +27 (0) 31 262 0324

CAMDEBOO NATIONAL PARK

Formed hundreds of millions of years ago, the Karoo of South Africa is one of the great natural wonders of the world. Camdeboo National Park provides the visitor with insights into the unique landscape and ecosystem of the Karoo, not to mention awesome scenic beauty. A unique feature of the 19 405-hectare park is its location, practically surrounding the town of Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape. The greater portion of the park is situated between 740 and 1480 metres above sea level on the foothills of the Sneeuberg range, while a small section of the low lying-plains is included. The Naweba Dam lies within the park and covers about 1000 hectares when full. At some places, dolerites form jointed pillars - the best examples of which are found in the Valley of Desolation where erosion of the softer sedimentary beds has left dolerite pillars which rise to heights of 90 - 120 metres.

www.sanparks.co.za/parks/camdeboocamdeboo@sanparks.org +27 (0) 49 892 3453

MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK

Invigorating crystal-clear air, beautiful scenery, tranquil ambience and an abundance of wildlife offer you a special and personal African wilderness experience at Mountain Zebra National Park. Situated near Cradock in the malaria-free Eastern Cape, this national park was originally proclaimed in 1937 to save the dwindling Cape mountain zebra population. Now, at over 28 000 hectares, the park boasts a conservation success story, protecting over 700 zebra as well as wildlife such as endangered black rhino and cheetah.

www.sanparks.co.za/parks/mountain_zebra reservations@sanparks.org +27 (0) 12 428 9111

FRIENDLY N6

MPONGO PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Situated 35km from East London, along the tarred and well signposted Friendly N6 National road and 40 km from East London Airport. An easy drive into town for shopping, entertainment or to take in the area's spectacular coastline and endless sandy beaches. Home to elephant, lion, buffalo, hippo, giraffe, numerous antelope and bird species, Mpongo Private Game Reserve offers a unique blend of luxury and gaming experiences on more than 3 500 hectares of conservation land.

www.premierhotels.co.za/locations/mpongoprivate-game-reserve/ +27 (0) 43 705 5000 crs@premierhotels.co.za

FRONTIER COUNTRY

KWANTU PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Welcome to Kwantu Private Game Reserve, the place of gathering. Here, a mystical blend of nature and history awaits you. Situated in the heart a malaria free Eastern Cape on the legendary Sidbury Plains, a Big 5 African Adventure begins where you can experience five-star hospitality and enjoy the pure tranquillity that the reserve has to offer. Home to 5 of the 7 biomes, this untouched wilderness boasts a past as rich as its abundant wildlife population. On the reserve you can relax in the Day Centre overlooking a watering hole and enjoy traditional African mouth-watering cuisine with a touch of spice. Luxury accommodation to suit your style is available which caters for all budgets and experiences. Kwantu Game Reserve will capture your imagination during your stay and leave you physically and mentally rejuvenated, soulfully inspired and in awe of our magnificent slice of Africa.

www.kwantu.co.za/ reservations@kwantu.co.za +27 (0) 42 203 1400

SHAMWARI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

A mere 75 km from Port Elizabeth towards Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Shamwari is the crown jewel of private game reserves situated in the malaria free Eastern Cape, the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.

This privately owned 25 000 hectares of prime natural terrain has received numerous international awards. Shamwari is an exploration of nature with close encounters of free roaming wildlife and the coveted big five with a choice of unique lodges, an exclusive private villa and the adventurous Explorer Camp.

www.shamwari.com/
reservations@shamwari.com
+27 (0) 42 203 1111

KWANDWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Nestled in the heart of South Africa's unspoilt Eastern Cape province lies Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, a world-class Big Five safari destination in 22 000 hectares of pristine private wilderness. Renowned for understated luxury, exquisite scenery and the thousands of animals and wildlife that call the Reserve home, our four award-winning Lodges offer a range of accommodation options and activities to make every African Dream come true.

www.kwandwe.com/ +27 (0) 46 603 3400 reservations@kwande.co.za

LALIBELA BIG 5 GAME RESERVE & SAFARI LODGE

Lalibela Game Reserve and Safari Lodge is located in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, close to Port Elizabeth and Addo, which means it is not only malaria free, but spans 5 ecosystems, resulting in a breath-taking diversity of flora and fauna. Lalibela consists of 7 500 hectares (approximately 18 500 acres) and is home to the Big 5 (lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard) as well as other predators like cheetah, hyena, jackal and lynx. We are blessed with vast African plains and this is why we have multitudes of zebra, giraffe, warthog, impala, wildebeest, blesbok and various other antelope species. Only an hour away from Port Elizabeth and Addo. All of the animals at Lalibela, including the predators, are free roaming throughout the entire game reserve. Lalibela brings you the charm of authentic Africa and is a perfect blend of the formal and informal. The 3 main aspects of any African safari are the game-viewing, the accommodation and the food - at Lalibela we take special care to ensure that heartfelt service combines with these three "ingredients" to make your Big 5 African safari experience a memorable one.

www.lalibela.net/ stay@lalibela.co.za +27 (0) 41 581 8170

PUMBA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE KARIEGA PRIVATE GAME

Experience an Eastern Cape safari in 5-star luxury at Pumba Private Game Reserve & Spa situated in the malaria-free, Eastern Cape of South Africa. Our exclusive, Big 5 game reserve has achieved a gold status for its environmental responsibility, through The Green Leaf Initiative and a 5-star rating for its luxury accommodation facilities. Together with unrivalled beauty and an abundance of wildlife, Pumba Private Game Reserve & Spa provides a premium game viewing and safari experience in a renowned game park. View the famous Big 5 (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant) and a vast array of more than 250 species of bird. Search for over 60 different species of mammals and have the rare opportunity of seeing the magnificent White Lion stalking prey or lazing around in its natural environment.

www.pumbagamereserve.co.za/ +27 (0) 41 502 3050 respumba@pehotels.co.za

AMAKHALA PRIVATE GAME

Amakhala Game Reserve is located in the malaria free Eastern Cape of South Africa. The private Game Researve offers guests accommodation in a selection of 11 Luxury star rated establishments made up of restored Country houses, Safari Lodges and Tented camps located in different areas of the large 18 000 acres Safari park. Some dwellings are owned and managed by fifth generation Frontier Settler families. Day and night game viewing trips under guidance of professional game rangers are available. Wildlife likely to be encountered during the game drives in the Game Reserve are the "Big Five", lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard as well as cheetah, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and plenty of antelope species.

Kariega Game Reserve is a family-owned and operated private game reserve in South Africa stretching across 10 000 hectares of pristine wilderness in the Eastern Cape. Incorporating luxury safari lodge accommodation, magnificent Big 5 and other game viewing as well as breathtaking vistas over the hills, valleys and rivers below; Kariega Game Reserve offers the ultimate in authentic South African safari holidays. Experience close up viewing of the Big 5 - lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo – as well as multitudes of other South African safari wildlife from the comfort of an open game drive vehicle. Two beautiful rivers make this game reserve in South Africa completely unique. Guests can complement their safari experience with a boat cruise down the Kariega River sighting abundant river birdlife or take a kayak onto the river for a quiet paddle. In the evenings, relax and sit back with a sundowner to simply enjoy the tranquil sights and sounds of river life within this unique game park in South Africa. Kariega Game Reserve in South Africa is a 10-minute drive from the sleepy coastal village of Kenton-on-Sea, and a mere 140km outside of Port Elizabeth, making it a perfectly accessible game park in South Africa and ideally situated near the coast.

www.kariega.co.za/ reservations@kariega.net +27 (0) 46 636 7904

BUCKLANDS PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Bucklands Private Game Reserve consists of five thousand five hundred hectares, and includes the properties known as Bucklands, Lower Bucklands and Schrikwaters Poort. The Bucklands Private Game Reserve is situated adjacent to The Great Fish River Nature Reserve (comprised of the Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve, the Double Drift Nature Reserve and the Sam Knott Nature Reserve, totalling approximately 45,000 hectares in extent) and the Great Fish River bordering Bucklands Private Game Reserve. The climate is hot in summer and mild in winter, the hilly topography and dense thickets, interspersed with mosaics of grass, bush and abundant wildlife is very diverse with stunning nature scenes from the many vantage points whilst encompassing both Closed and Open Great Fish Thicket, Grassy Bontveld, Karroid Scrub, Disturbed Savanna and Riverine Thicket's which support the tremendously rich array of plant and animal life, many endemic to the area. Accommodation at **Bucklands Private Game Reserve incorporates two** private establishments; Bucklands Luxury Tented Camp and Bucklands Lodge; both establishments offer accommodation to a maximum of 8 guests, with a variety of activities and experiences available both within Bucklands Private Game Reserve and in the surrounding area. Bucklands is truly the Game Reserve for all seasons in the Eastern Cape, providing accommodation and activities for all.

www.bucklandsreserve.co.za/info@bucklandsreserve.co.za +27 (0) 72 736 3681

GREAT FISH RIVER

The Great Fish River has a rich and varied history, from the earliest movements of San huntergatherers in 300 A.D. to the Frontier Wars between white settlers and Xhosas in the 19th century. This once was a place of conflict, the Great Fish River forming a boundary between settler and Xhosa territories, with a number of forts, signal towers, fortified farmsteads, barracks and graves - Fort Double Drift, Fort Wilshire and Knott Memorial Church. Memories of turmoil have been replaced by tranquillity in this vast and spectacular reserve that stretches as far as the eye can see.

The 45 000ha reserve, including the Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve, Double Drift Nature Reserve and Sam Knott Nature Reserve, is defined by significant plant biodiversity, ranging from subtropical thicket to savannah and grassland. It's a birder's paradise with 245 bird sightings. The Adam's Krantz viewpoint over the twisting Fish River canyon is one of the most iconic Eastern Cape vistas. Magnificent sunsets can be celebrated from a wooden deck perched on the cliff while the Double Drift picnic site alongside the river is the perfect spot for braais.

Main Office (Senior Reserve Manager):

- +27 (0) 87 286 6545
- +27 (0) 79 496 7883
- +27 (0) 71 442 0776

Conservation Manager:

+27 (0) 66 484 8364

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/great-fish-river/

WILD COAST

INKWENKWEZI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE JIKILEZA ROUTE

Nestled along the South African breath-taking Wild Coast, Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve is one of its own class big five private game reserves with an emphasis on luxury and thoughtful detail. Inkwenkwezi, which translates from Xhosa to mean "under the stars", grew out of a dream of the Mthatha born Stanton brothers, Graham and Keith. Graham and Keith hail from farming stock from the Mthatha area and, after completing their schooling at Mthatha High School, started a dairy business - distributing milk and supplying vegetables and produce to local traders. The reserve offers many unique opportunities as it encompasses five different regional eco-systems (biomes) and a tidal estuary. Inkwenkwezi's rich diversity of landscapes offers you an unparallel wildlife viewing experience. Inkwenkwezi Private Game is a short distance away from magnificent beaches and a short convenient drive to and from the East London Airport. Over the years, stocking of the game park has resulted in there being over 40 species of game, such as buffalo, rhino, lion and evidence and sightings (by adjacent farmers) of leopard which have been encouraged by the buck/ game to return to the area. This reserve boasts the big five but in fact if one considers the uniqueness of the reserve being adjacent to the coast and the possibility of spotting the Southern Right Whale, it would be the big six!

www.inkwenkwezi.com/ pgr@inkwenkwezi.co.za +27 (0) 43 734 3234

DOUBLE MOUTH

Nestled alongside the popular holiday town of Morgan Bay, just 50 minutes' drive from East London, Double Mouth Nature Reserve is one of the Eastern Cape's premier coastal camping destinations. Thirty beautiful camp and caravan sites enjoy spectacular sea views and easy access to both the beach and the Quko River Mouth, making this the ideal camp for fishing, diving and water sport enthusiasts. The adjacent estuary and lush forested dunes are home to a large number of bird species, while small game such as bushbuck, blue duiker, mongoose and vervet monkeys are frequent campsite visitors.

Remnants from the shipwreck - Santo Espiritu that ran aground in 1608 just off Black Rock between Haga-Haga - 'money cowries' (cowrie shells used as money to buy goods), carnelian beads (red in colour and were mined in India over a century ago) and Chinese blue and white Ming porcelain shards can be found in the shingle and sand at what has become known as 'Bead Beach', between Black Rock and the Quko River at Double Mouth.

Reserve Manager: +27 (0) 71 476 4418

Double Mouth: +27 (0) 87 285 7385

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/double-mouth/

DWESA-CWEBE

Straddling the impressive, 140km Mbhashe River on the Transkei Wild Coast, the Dwesa and Cwebe Nature Reserves are situated in one of the Eastern Cape's most unspoilt coastal conservation areas. Birdlife at these reserves is truly incredible. More than 200 terrestrial and coastal species have been recorded including the globally threatened spotted ground thrush, which breeds here. The coastal mangroves hold the only protected breeding population of mangrove kingfisher in South Africa. Featuring a range of low-, medium and high-impact hiking trails through thick coastal forest, this is the ideal setting for visitors wanting to get back to nature.

While similar in vegetation, the two reserves nonetheless have individual identities. Dwesa, the larger of the two, features a bigger variety of game, while Cwebe boasts a more diverse habitat, from forest and grassland to lush mangroves. Situated on the edge of a tranquil lagoon, seven exquisite timber chalets are hidden deep in the trees. A short walk through the dune forest reveals a perfect, unspoiled shelly beach with fascinating rock pools. The campsite is sheltered by the forest and bluff. Spectacular views from Kobole Point and of the nearby waterfall are definite highlights.

During office hours: +27 (0) 87 286 6537

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/dwesa/

HLULEKA

Hluleka is a 772ha coastal paradise. From the top of the grassy hill at the entrance to Hluleka, an incredible panoramic view along the coastline sets the scene for a perfect getaway with coves, white sandy beaches lined with palms, and magnificent indigenous coastal forest. Hluleka is an excellent birding destination and sightings of dolphins and whales add to the joy of the wildlife wonder that Hluleka offers.

The accommodation at Hluleka is superb - seven chalets with exquisite views situated on a small hilltop covered in old indigenous trees, striking orange strelitzias and grassy areas.

Reserve:

+27 (0) 87 285 7784

Reserve Manager:

+27 (0) 79 493 3566

Admin/Hospitality Supervisor:

+27 (0) 78 608 3044

+27 (0) 78 797 2886

+27 (0) 82 056 2637

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/hluleka/

MKHAMBATHI

The reserve, comprising 7 720ha including coastal land, is situated on the coast of northeastern Pondoland, between Port Edward and Port St Johns. The Mkhambathi River makes its way through the reserve, over a series of cliffs forming breath-taking waterfalls (Horseshoe Falls, Strandloper Falls and Mkhambathi Falls) and a series of pools, before tumbling into the Indian Ocean. Other attractions include a secluded cave in the forest, +/-100m upriver from the coast, the spectacular Misty Falls, Four Falls and the Mtentu and Msikaba

River gorges where endangered Cape vultures can often be seen circling high above. Mkhambathi has a diverse natural habitat—ranging from grasslands and wetlands, dune forests and swamps to indigenous forests. It is part of the Pondoland Centre of Endemism—one of 235 sites identified worldwide as having important biodiversity and ecology. Mkhambathi is an International Bird Area and also offers great game viewing opportunities. The accommodation is rustic, offering visitors a real chance to experience true African wilderness. The Gwe Gwe River and lagoon nearby is ideal for fishing and swimming. Mkhambathi is the perfect place for adventurous travellers.

Reserve Office:

+27 (0) 39 306 9000

+27 (0) 87 285 7752

Reserve Manager:

+27 (0) 63 698 1558

Hospitality Supervisor:

+27 (0) 79 496 7924

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/mkhambathi/

SILAKA

400ha of unspoiled wilderness, Silaka is an idyllic coastal reserve, seven kilometres south of Port St Johns. Silaka stretches from Second Beach to Sugarloaf Rock and up the valley where lush green indigenous forests cover the hills.

The pristine beach is perfect for fishing and swimming. Hiking trails lead up onto the bluff, affording incredible views of the coastline. The Gxwaleni River flows through the valley, trickling through a wetland and forming a small lagoon before entering the sea. Bird Rock stands like a sentinel in the middle of the bay. This rocky outcrop is the perfect perch for white-breasted cormorant and other sea birds. Silaka is a haven for many species of wildlife and is an excellent birding destination.

Reserve Office:

+27 (0) 39 306 9000

+27 (0) 87 285 7752

+27 (0) 79 496 7850

Reserve Manager:

+27 (0) 78 638 5666

Nature Conservator (MPA):

+27 (0) 79 496 7850

Senior Field Ranger:

+27 (0) 73 537 2351

https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/silaka/