

AUGUST 2022

# travelTradeTalk

EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

## FALL IN *love* with the Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape is looking forward to welcoming tourists to explore the diverse tourism experiences on offer in the Eastern Cape. In this edition we highlight new product offerings ranging from star gazing accommodation to real cultural interactions. The Eastern Cape is Yours to Explore.



Explore the Eastern Cape and feel right at home!  
Click to watch our new video

## Explore the wild side of Mdantsane

Looking for a local tour guide for a unique township tourism experience? Look no further! Uncuthu Tours brings you the Wild Side of Mdantsane with adventure-based activities and a unique 'kasi style' experience that will have you coming back for more. Uncuthu Tours offer tailor made experiences to suit all group sizes and tastes.

Contact: Siseko Yelani +27 (0)73 184 9617 | [s.yelani@yahoo.com](mailto:s.yelani@yahoo.com)



explore  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
WHERE EVER YOU ARE!



## DISCOVER EASTERN CAPE VIRTUAL TOURS

Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) has developed a tool to harness the power of virtual reality technologies and capitalise on digital marketing trends.

The ECPTA has fifteen virtual tours on offer showcasing unique Eastern Cape experiences from a marine safari to a walk through a museum. Watch this space as additional tours will be added to the mix soon.



Click for a line up of  
**VIRTUAL TOURS** giving  
you a birds eye view  
of some of the key  
experiences on offer

#ECYours2Explore





## Misty Mountain Reserve introduces new star gazing accommodation

Perfectly positioned 230m above the rugged Tsitsikamma coastline, Misty Mountain Reserve offers a range of accommodation from Ocean View Lodges, Tented Accommodation and the newest and most unique offering is the Star Gazing Accommodation.

Surrounded by nature the stargazing accommodation offers captivating views of the Indian Ocean. Whether lazing on the chill net with a book or soaking in bubbles in the eco-friendly wood fired hot tub, the domes promise the ultimate relaxation experience. There are 3 different Dome accommodation on offer, the Ocean Dome, Forest Dome or Pyramid.

The Ocean Dome is a solid see-through star gazing experience, the pyramid is a solid see-through pyramid nestled in the forest and the newest offering is the upgraded Forest Dome. The Forest Dome which was previously a covered canvas Dome is in the process of being upgraded by taking away the canvass dome and replacing it with a solid see-through cube – the best thing about the new Forest Dome is that the bed will be mechanism controlled by a remote that will allow the bed to be rolled out onto the deck and then back into the room again – this will truly be the best star gazing experience ever.

Each Dome is completely private, with a doorbell that has to rung before staff step foot onto the walkway leading to your dome. Enjoy a sundowner as the slanting rays of the setting sun, light up the horizon from pink to orange. Turn off the lights and be mesmerized by the African night skies, one would feel that you are engulfed in the galaxy. Explore the milky way with the celestial telescope.

Exclusive and private, a must for honeymoon couples or anyone wishing to catch their shooting star. An early morning speciality coffee and as birds sing in chorus as the sun rises and filters through the treetops, sound the beginning of a new day and a hearty breakfast in the restaurant.

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## The Angler and Antelope Guest House and Fishing Tours

The Angler and Antelope Guest House situated in the small Karoo town of Sommerset East offer more than accommodation, good food and whisky tastings. Under the expert guidance of Alan and Anabel Hobson they offer fishing tours across the Eastern Cape with a specific focus on Wild Fly Fishing. These tours combine exploring rivers and streams teeming with wild trout, carp and yellow fish to exploring all that mother nature has to offer from visits to private and national game reserves, museums and key iconic attractions. [Click here to read more.](#)

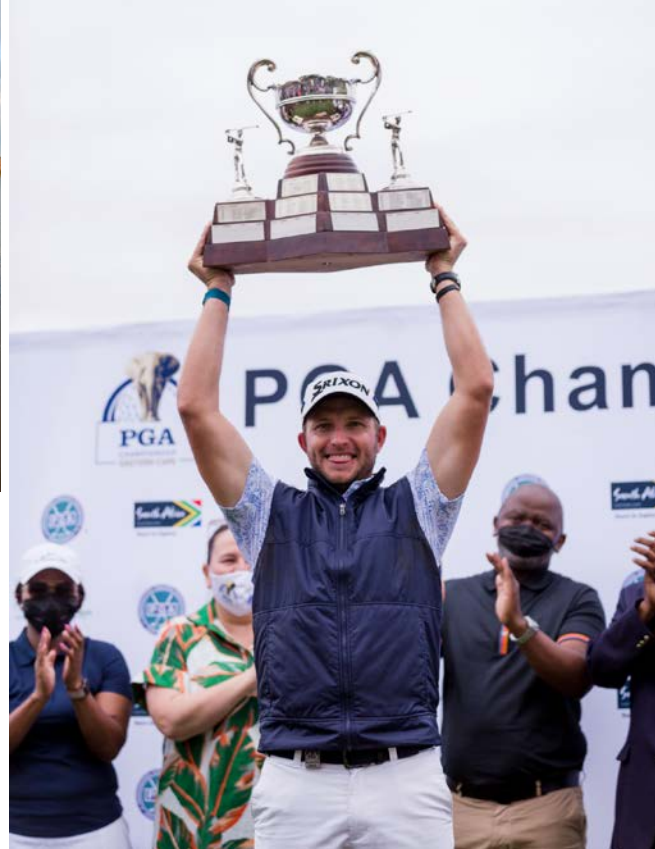


## Voluntourism a much-appreciated fresh ray of hope in tourism

Kwanda Voluntourism is an Eastern Cape based social enterprise, volunteering is moulded on the concept of sharing rather than giving, a unilateral act of giving can so easily compromise the goodwill of initial intentions but not for Kwanda volunteers.

Zoliswa Mtinini is the founder and owner of Kwanda Voluntourism situated in Kwetyana village just outside East London. The enterprise business' programme is fixated on voluntourism as a means of raising funds and providing other forms of assistance to expand the delivery of community development projects in the rural Eastern Cape through arts, music and village tours. Kwanda was created from the discomfort experienced by Mtinini while employed as a tour guide in the townships of Cape Town. Mtinini describes that the discomfort came directly from witnessing that the only options available for tourists, over the years, visiting townships in Cape Town were through quick tours and brief views. Her innovative take on Voluntourism gives a positive and much-appreciated fresh ray of hope in humanity, giving is very much the essence of what Voluntourism affords at the beginning of every visit at Kwanda Voluntourism in Kwetyana.

Go and explore the essence of selfless sharing, which, particularly in this case, takes the form of both hard and soft skills, as well as broad multidisciplinary knowledge. [Click here to read more.](#)



## ECPTA to host PGA Championship in St Francis Link

The 87th PGA Championship hosted by the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) returns to St Francis Links from 3-6 November 2022, and with the championship's legacy project in full swing as it continues to touch lives through the game of golf. PGA is the most reputable and recognised golf brand in the world that is synonymous with excellence and professionalism. Established in 1923, the PGA Championship is well entrenched as South Africa's iconic tournament full of history and tradition. International home-grown golfing greats have lifted the PGA Championship trophy, include among others; Gary Player, Ernie Els, Louis Oosthuizen and Dale Hayes. It has become one of the most sort after titles for any professional golfer. The PGA Championship continues to provide top quality entertainment for golf enthusiasts, spectators and hospitality guests. Eastern Province, the new home of the PGA Championship, has proven to be a perfect stage, providing magnificent backdrop with pristine coastlines, incredible outdoor adventures, cultural heritage, and hospitable citizens.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## White whale calf spotted in Algoa Bay

The Gqeberha local bay was blessed with marine richness as a white whale calf was spotted between the inshore of Hougham Park and St Croix Island.

Algoa Bay's Raggy Charters was founded twenty-five years ago and is the oldest Marine Eco Tour company combined with a conservation project in Africa. The sighting is believed to be a rare sighting as this is the fifth white calf recorded since the Raggy Charter was started. According to experts, 3.5% of all Southern right calves born are white, except for a black collar and black patterns just behind the head.

However, white calves will darken with age and eventually become grey or brindled. While their backs are black, most animals have a white blaze on their belly around the navel. According to Dr Simon Elwin, "That rough skin on the baby is thought to play a role in initial thermoregulation (it's a little thicker than normal skin) and appears to be shed within about a week of birth through a process known as 'post-natal ecdysis'.

These markings are almost white at birth and difficult to distinguish from blazes, except that, unlike blazes, they darken with age. Some whale species display grey markings on their backs which are irregular and chevron-shaped, pointing towards the head. These marks are only present in females in about 10% of the population.

This is the best time to visit the Raggy Charter's wildlife and whale-watching boat cruises covering the longest distance of any ocean safari along the South African coast, lasting for 3-4 hours and covering 50km of the marine safari experience. [Click to read more.](#)

## Relive San people culture in Dinorben

Dinorben is a farm located in the Eastern Cape Highlands region. Dinorben offers one of the most easily accessible rock art sites in the Eastern Cape. The estimate terrain elevation above sea level is 1942 metres. The 38m-long site is easy to access from the road that runs between Barkly East and Elliot. It is just above the notorious Barkly Pass, which is often covered in ice or snow in winter and susceptible to rain and mist in summer. Usually, one would have to hike across steep and rough terrain for some hours before getting to see a site of this size and quality. Paintings that are mostly very clear are distributed through a good part of this shelter. In particular, the shelter wall is covered with innumerable tiny white flecks. At other sites such flecks are often painted around fight scenes. They are thought to be a depiction of the supernatural potency that San people believe can be used in fighting. Visiting this historic site is sure to not disappoint. Dinorben offers the following:

- Guided tour of the paintings and the area where the last San in the area lived.
- Guided "Walking with the San" 5km or 10km hike.
- Event space for weddings and other events

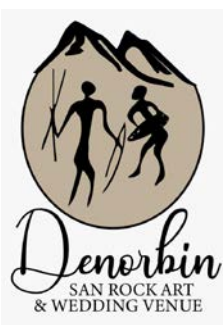
It is essential to book in advance to visit the site.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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Denorbin San Rock Art & Wedding Venue





## A virtual rediscovery of Nelson Mandela Bay

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has developed a new trade guide and e-learning module to assist trade representatives keeping up with new and exciting developments in and around Nelson Mandela Bay.

Click on the links below for more information:

-  [Trade Guide](#)
-  [Destination e-Learning Module](#)



## A guided experience of Buffalo City's diverse wildlife

The Buffalo City Municipality Metro (BCMM) and its abundance of wildlife is fully open for exploration for unique experiences with the Game reserves in and around the East London, Eastern Cape. Areena Riverside, Kiwane Resort, The Inkwekwezi, and Mpongo Park Game Reserves, all situated in the province, offer a unique blend of nature experiences with a diverse range of activities. Some a home to the big five, and some a home to antelopes and different bird species. These Reserves are situated in prime locations with a rich diversity of landscapes which tourists can experience through open vehicle game drives, guided tours and many more adventurous outdoor activities.



## EXPLORE OUR FANTASTIC PACKAGES

The Eastern Cape is an incredibly diverse destination offering unique experience across nine tourism regions. To assist you in planning your itinerary the ECPTA in partnership with local tour operators have some suggested and bookable options available. Please view our packages and more by clicking on the links below:

### Eastern Cape Micro Trips

Take a short overnight or day trip


 [Click here to find out more](#)

### Experience the Sardine Run "The Greatest Shoal on Earth"

 [Click here to find out more](#)

 Watch an amazing sardine run video

### 100 Reasons to visit Eastern Cape

 [Click here to download the brochure, see itineraries and tours on pages 34 - 39](#)



### Get in touch with nature Visit our beautiful Eastern Cape Provincial Nature Reserves

 [Click here to view our visitors guide](#)

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