



The Garden Route

High on the must-see list of most visitors to Cape Town is the Garden Route, named for the year-round greenery of its forests and lagoons along the coast. It stretches some 200km from Mossel Bay to just beyond Plettenberg Bay.

Mossel Bay p184

Beyond the gas-to-oil refinery you'll find beaches, gnarly surfing spots and a host of activities including shark-cage diving and coastal hikes.

George p187

The largest town along the Garden Route boasts attractive old buildings, world-class golf courses and superb mountain drives.

Wilderness p189

Living up to its name, Wilderness is blessed with gorgeous beaches, bird-rich estuaries and sheltered lagoons backed by densely forested hills.

Knysna p190

Embracing an exquisitely beautiful lagoon and surrounded by ancient forests, Knysna is a place for hiking, sailing, mountain biking or sampling the home-grown oysters and local beer.

Plettenberg Bay p194

The verdant mountains, white sand and crystal-blue waters make 'Plett' one of the country's top tourist spots, loved by locals and foreign visitors alike.

Garden Route



Mossel Bay

Explore

Start your explorations at the excellent Dias Museum Complex to gain insight into Mossel Bay's role in South African history. From here it's a short hop to the harbour to take a dolphin-watching boat trip or enjoy a seafood braai (barbecue) at the water's edge. Head to Santos Beach to swim or relax, or peruse the restaurants and bars of Marsh St, slowly ambling to the Point. Here you'll find a laid-back vibe and restaurants overlooking the ocean, as well as the Cape St Blaize caves and lighthouse. Spend a second day shark-cage diving, surfing, skydiving or hiking along the coast.

The Best...

- **Sight** Dias Museum Complex
- **Place to Eat** Kaai 4
- **Place to Drink** Blue Shed Coffee Roastery

Top Tip

Send a postcard home from South Africa's oldest 'postbox' – a tree inside the Dias Museum Complex where sailors left messages

from as early as the 16th century. All letters get a special postmark.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Regular **Translux** (www.translux.co.za), **Greyhound** (www.greyhound.co.za) and **Intercape** (www.intercape.co.za) services are operated from Cape Town (R380, six hours, twice daily).

Need to Know

- **Area Code** ☎ 044
- **Location** Mossel Bay is 390km east of Cape Town along the N2.
- **Tourist Office** (☎044-691 2202; www.visitmosselbay.co.za; Market St; ☀8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun)

🗨️ SIGHTS

★ **DIAS MUSEUM COMPLEX** MUSEUM
 (www.diasmuseum.co.za; Market St; adult/child R20/5; ☀9am-4.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3.45pm Sat & Sun; 📍) This excellent museum includes the spring from which Bartholomeus Dias watered the postal tree, the 1786 Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie; VOC) granary, a shell museum (with some interesting aquarium