

## Introduction to the Garden Route Botanical Garden

Duration : 2 Hours

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: Jan – Dec.

What to bring : Water, Hat , sunblock, camera, notebook

*The Garden Route Botanical Garden is a locally indigenous botanical garden nestled at the foothills of the Outeniqua mountains. Our vision is conserving, displaying, researching and educating on the rich yet threatened floral diversity of the Garden Route for the benefit of all. We achieve this mainly through creating and maintaining a collection of different thematic garden beds, each dedicated to a specific plant group or biome found in the Garden Route.*

*Learn more about the deeper meanings behind each of these displays and the integral importance of the indigenous ecosystems of the Garden Route in the form of a two hour guided tour through the Garden Route Botanical Garden.*

## Water Heritage Tour

Duration : 3 Hours

Difficulty: 2/5

Age: all ages

Dates: Jan – Dec.

What to bring : water, hat, sunblock, camera, notebook

*Discover the secrets of the water heritage of George hidden in the Outeniqua Mountains and the Garden Route Botanical Garden (GRBG). The tour will start at the heart of the GRBG, the Van Kervel Dam, where you will learn about the origins of the town of George. After this, you will get a chance to explore through a labyrinth of trails on the foothills of George Peak meandering through indigenous afro-montane riverine forest. These trails will reveal ancient forgotten gems of the history of George.*

## Medicinal and Edible Plants of the Garden Route

Duration : 2 Hours

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: Jan – Dec.

What to bring : Water, Hat , sunblock, camera, notebook

*Research is currently underway with regards to the rich cultural heritage of the Southern Cape of South Africa. It is hypothesised that this heritage is of integral importance in the evolution of man kind and the birth of cognitive thinking. The important steps in human life that are being discovered along this coastline would not have been possible without the availability of a diverse diet of medicinal and edible plants.*

*On this guided tour, expect to be introduced to the rich collection of locally indigenous plant species that can be used as a food source or as a medicine.*

## Mushrooms of the Mushroom meander

Duration : 1 Hour 30 mins

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: After a rainy period.

What to bring : Water, Hat , sunblock, camera, notebook

*Nine years ago, the Garden Route Botanical Garden took over management of a two hectare piece of land infested with alien vegetation with the purpose of rehabilitating back to indigenous afro-montane forest. The alien vegetation was cut and the dead material was left to decompose between the newly planted indigenous forest tree species. After nine years of growth, this area has now become a young forest teeming with life. This indigenous ecosystem has been dubbed the 'Mushroom Meander' due to its huge diversity of different fungi that live off the decaying wood tissue of the invasive trees that were cut out and left to decompose.*

*On this tour, expect to learn more about the typical fungi living in the under-canopy of afro-montane forests. The tour is weather dependant and can*

*only be done after a significant period of rain in order to ensure the highest diversity of mushrooms.*

### Frogging evenings

Duration : 3 hours

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: After a rainy period in summer.

What to bring : Gumboots, fish net, notepad, camera

*The unique location of the Garden Route Botanical Garden (GRBG), coupled with our efforts to reintroduce indigenous plants back into the area has resulted in an astounding increase in the faunal diversity found in the area. Of the most impressive in terms of number and diversity in the GRBG is our frog diversity. To date, 10 different species of frogs have been identified within the garden.*

*This exciting outing is best done during the spring and summer months at the GRBG after a rainy period. If you are lucky, you could stand a chance to spot the elusive Knysna Dwarf Chameleon.*

### Interesting insects of the GRBG

Duration : 2 hours

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: All year.

What to bring : Water, Hat , sunblock, camera, notebook

*The unique location of the Garden Route Botanical Garden, coupled with our efforts to reintroduce indigenous plants back into the area has resulted in an astounding increase in the faunal diversity found in the area. Of the most prolific is our insect life, boasting 26 species of damsel fly and 52 species of butterfly to mention a few!*

*Explore the secret life in the undergrowth with our citizen scientist entomologist.*

Birds of the GRBG

Duration : 2 hours

Difficulty: 1/5

Age: all ages

Dates: All year.

What to bring : Water, Hat , sunblock, camera, binoculars, notebook

*Due to the diversity of micro-habitats in the Garden Route Botanical Garden, there are sufficient habitats to harbour a great diversity of bird species. Explore the GRBG, learning more about the 146 different bird species found in our garden along with our birding expert.*

*These tours can be done throughout the year, though different bird species will be found different times of the year.*

Tours can also be tailored to meet the needs of your group. Tours cost R50.00 per person. If you are planning a tour kindly drop us an email or call us at least 2 days in advance of each scheduled tour.

Call our offices at 044 874 1558 or email us at [info@botanicalgarden.org.za](mailto:info@botanicalgarden.org.za)

**(Environmental Education Related Tours for school groups are charged R5.00 per scholar. School teachers are encouraged to join the tour free of charge.)**