



King's Beach, Port Elizabeth

Helen Martins, the eccentric loner created dozens of extraordinary cement statues, studded with brightly coloured crushed glass, in the backyard of her home in the dusty little town of Nieu Bethesda, in the Karoo region of the Eastern Cape. She covered almost every interior surface of her home with the sharp stuff as well, and it was within those strange walls that she took her life in 1976. The Owl House - so named for Martin's favourite subject - is typical of the Karoo's offbeat gems. A great attraction is the Karoo town of Cradock, which boasts the restored cottage of noted author and feminist Olive Schreiner.

On a hill above Graaff-Reinet, you'll encounter masses of soaring dolerite columns rising out of the Valley of Desolation, having been unveiled by millions of years of erosion.

A similar remoteness exists along this region's coastline in the former Transkei, known as the Wild Coast for its spectacular, untamed coastline and perilous seas. Former president Nelson Mandela was born in a small village here, and tourists are profoundly moved by a visit to his humble childhood home.

The two major cities of this region are Port Elizabeth, the 'Friendly City', which has wide-open beaches and an impressive promenade, wonderful

examples of early Victorian architecture as well as huge nature reserve with riverside walks within shouting distance of the city centre, and East London. The museum in the latter houses the coelacanth which was caught nearby in 1938 when the strange fish was thought to have been extinct for about 80 million years.

Nearby is the quaint university town of Grahamstown which hosts the country's biggest arts festival every July. And there's natural drama aplenty at the exclusive, award winning Shamwari Private Reserve, which provides a truly magnificent, malaria-free safari experience.

Near Coffee Bay is a prominent rock formation with a big hole in the middle, which has become a symbol of the Xhosa of a great historical tragedy, the "Great Cattle Killing".

It is a unique structure with a huge detached cliff that has a giant opening carved through its centre by the waves. The local Xhosa call this place "izi Khaleni", which means "place of thunder".



★★★ Tsitsikamma Lodge - Near Storms River

150 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 32 Bedrooms

A warm welcome, friendly service and personal attention awaits you at this privately owned and managed lodge. All cabins feature their own spa-bath, a private deck and own barbecue facility, television, telephone and coffee/tea facilities. Enjoy excellent home-cooked meals in our timber log restaurant with welcoming fireplace. Facilities include a large swimming pool, game room, sun deck, lounge, fascinating forest walks and the very popular Strip-Tease River Trail.... affiliated to Eco-experience.



★★★ Protea Hotel Tsitsikamma Village - Tsitsikamma

110 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 49 Bedrooms

Close to the Tsitsikamma National Park at Storms River Mouth, the hotel consists of village-style rooms, where each cottage is individually decorated and has its own garden matching the specific colonial building style found in the Garden Route. The main building, which traces its roots back to 1845, has a spacious dining room, incorporating the De Oude Martha Restaurant, the Hunters Inn Pub and guest lounge. Situated just 5kms from Storms River Bridge, the hotel offers a fun-filled adventure option for the more active guests and is popular both with the incentive and conference groups.

Eastern Cape



★★★★ Sibuya Game Reserve - Near Kenton-on-Sea 90 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 9 Tents

Spanning the magnificent Kariega Estuary on its course to meet the warm Indian Ocean, malaria-free Sibuya is South Africa's only game reserve accessed solely by boat. After arriving at reception near the river mouth in Kenton-on-Sea, guests embark on a meandering 40-minute boat cruise to the Reserve. On arrival at either of the camps, guests settle into their accommodation – luxury en-suite tents on raised wooden decks. Professional guides are able to offer personalised game drives, rewarding walks and exclusive boat trips. This lodge offers one of the best game-viewing experiences with nearly 400 bird and 45 species of game including 4 of the Big 5.



★★★★ Kariega Game Reserve - Near Kenton-on-Sea 90 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 4 Luxury Lodges

This luxury Big-5 malaria-free private reserve is set in pristine wilderness. Kariega offers a combination of Big-5 game viewing and an expansive variety of fauna, flora and birdlife in a landscape that spans across 5 different eco systems. In addition to unforgettable game viewing, the Kariega experience is unique in its offering of a diverse range of activities, which include; safe walking close to abundant game and birdlife, river cruises, canoeing, mountain biking, fishing and visits to the nearby golden beaches of Kenton-on-Sea. Enjoy the mystery and magic of Africa in one of their 4 superb luxury lodges .



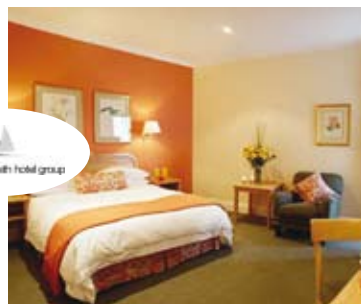
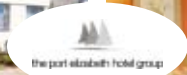
★★★ Garden Court Kings Beach - Port Elizabeth 10 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 280 Bedrooms

The hotel provides business and leisure guests with unbeatable value and access to essential services and facilities. Wonderful Algoa bay beaches, offering an abundance of bathing areas and sand to relax and enjoy the warm and inviting climate surround the hotel. The beachfront has a weekly flea market offering local art and crafts. The "Bay World Oceanarium" is on the doorstep, and one can enjoy a day filled with dolphin shows. Snake handling demonstrations, a leisurely walk through the tropical House or a stroll through PE's Museum are all nearby. The hotel has a Steakhouse as well as a Pizza Restaurant for Italian cuisine.



★★★★ Protea Hotel Marine - Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth 12 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 73 Bedrooms

Situated on the beachfront within walking distance of the City Centre, Opera House, Campile, Fort Frederick and much of the city's Settler Heritage. Overlooking the sun-drenched sands of Pollack Beach, with sweeping views of Algoa Bay, this hotel is renowned for its quality facilities, personal service and luxurious atmosphere. Ideal for holidaymakers and executives, rooms offers air-conditioning, radio, telephone, satellite TV, room service (6am-22h00) and hairdryer.



★★★★ The Beach Hotel - Port Elizabeth 10 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 58 Bedrooms

A popular landmark in the Eastern Cape, the stunning hotel offers homely comfort in its spacious, en-suite bedrooms. There is a superb choice of dining venues to suit everyone's palate. On the Veranda, a Mediterranean style patio, you can savour the marvellous beachfront atmosphere while enjoying an al fresco breakfast, light lunch or exquisite snacks. Alternatively, The Crest Restaurant offers a sumptuous full English breakfast and a delectable evening buffet with an accent on seafood. Bell Restaurant, offers fine cuisine and personalised service. The Heritage Bar for a congenial after-hours rendezvous.



★★★★ The Paxton Hotel - Humewood, Port Elizabeth 10 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 80 Bedrooms

Situated on prime coastline with spectacular views of Algoa Bay harbour. From the moment you step into the foyer, your comfort is highest priority. Multi-lingual staff caters for your every need as you enjoy the communal swimming pool, residents' bar and boardroom areas. Air-conditioned rooms and suites offer stunning harbour views with in-room Internet facilities, tea and coffee making facilities, DSTV, and en-suite bathrooms. The hotel is in close proximity of beautiful beaches as well as its bustling city centre.



★★★★ Courtyard Port Elizabeth - Humewood, Port Elizabeth
5 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 64 Bedrooms

Situated in the Boardwalk Casino and Resort complex, directly opposite the Humewood Beach of the Eastern Cape. Port Elizabeth is situated approximately 265km from Knysna and +800km from Cape Town. Port Elizabeth is known as the "friendly city" and is the second largest city in terms of area. Tourists can enjoy Port Elizabeth's sunshine and secure sandy beaches. As with other South African cities, Port Elizabeth is vibrant with a hearty mix of culture, business and entertainment. Whether you visit Port Elizabeth as a businessman or tourist, complement your stay at one of the Group's Hotels.



★★★★ Hacklewood Hill Country House - Walmer, Port Elizabeth

15 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 8 Bedrooms

A Victorian Country House in the suburb of Walmer, set in a lush country garden abundant with birdlife. Offering stylish dining with fine cordon bleu cuisine, vintage wine and an authentic wine cellar. A sparkling pool with secluded lounging areas and a tennis court add to the relaxed atmosphere and friendly staff are on hand to cater for your every need. Superbly decorated and furnished with antiques, fine fabrics and beautiful paintings for the discerning guest. Air-conditioned bedrooms offer comfort in the classic country house tradition, each with own private balcony overlooking the garden.



★★★★ Pumba Private Game Reserve and Safari Lodge - between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown

75 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 12 Chalets

Home to Africa's BIG 5, as well as pride of white lions, the reserve is Malaria-free and offers visitors the chance to experience African wildlife and birds in their natural environment. The Lodge is set amongst dense bushveld, overlooking Lake Kariega. The Bush Bar is the perfect setting to enjoy a sundowner before dinner - a cordon bleu delight. Each air-conditioned chalet has a unique view of the lake and opens onto a private deck with outside shower and plunge pool. Game drives offer the perfect way to unwind in the bush.



★★★★ Shamwari - Near Port Elizabeth

60 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 58 Chalets

This award winning 25000-hectare malaria free reserve offers five Eco-systems, thus supporting many forms of plant, animal and bird life. A combination of luxurious accommodation, personalized service and exceptional game viewing will ensure a memorable stay. A choice of six 5 star lodges are available offering a unique range from the colonial style of Long Lee Manor, the tented luxury of Bayethe and the premier African elegance of Eagles Crag and Lobengula lodges, Shamwari Game Reserve has 3 fully equipped Spas for pampering treatments.



★★★ Protea Hotel Addo - Zuurberg

60 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 36 Bedrooms

Situated in the Addo Elephant Park this gracious 150-year old hotel is a peaceful and truly unique mountain top retreat. Equipped to international standards, accommodation ensures high levels of comfort, whilst a restaurant and bar offer gourmet food. A myriad of outdoor activities offer something for everyone from relaxing in a swimming pool to viewing the wild with a personal game drive offered by the hotel. Experience the ultimate flight of fantasy by taking a helicopter transfer to one of the nearby game farms or into Port Elizabeth. Families with children are welcome and the hotel also offers a babysitting service.



★★★★ Kuzuko Lodge - Addo Elephant National Park

52 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 24 Chalets

Hidden within the cavernous bushveld of the Greater Addo Elephant National Park in a private section is where you will find Kuzuko Lodge. Other attractions which will enhance your nature experience are star-gazing telescope, waterhole hides, day and night game drives and bird-watching. All chalets have deck areas with spectacular views of the dense valley below and en-suite bathrooms with separate bath and shower. Recreation facilities include a restaurant, bar and lounge, swimming pool, spa, guided game walks and access to Addo Elephant National Park.

Eastern Cape



★★★★★ Nguni River Lodge - Addo Elephant Park 52 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 10 Chalets

An exclusive lodge offering an overall African safari experience in an earthy, traditional Xhosa style combined with modern living interiors. Suites, each furnished with modern interiors and décor that is based on the different breeds of the Nguni cattle. The suites each offer air-conditioners, en-suite bathrooms with a stone bath, tea and coffee making facilities, while spacious decks with private outside shower and plunge pool offer views of the private lodge waterhole.



★★★ Katberg Hotel - Near Fort Beaufort 175 Minutes from East London Airport - 58 Bedrooms

Charming and sophisticated but comfortable and simple, the hotel caters for family holidays as well as for serious business people who need the quiet seclusion of the mountains in which to concentrate their minds. Relax, rejuvenate and be pampered in the tranquil surroundings of the Mountain Spa. All bedrooms (both luxury and family rooms) are separate from the hotel's public areas and all have television, kettles, ceiling fans and heaters. The region is a haven of tranquillity, and offers activities that refresh mind and soul, with forest walks, horse riding, game viewing, fly-fishing and golfing. Choose to relax in the hotel or enjoy the rejuvenating mountain air.



★★★★ Bushman Sands Hotel and Golf Course - Alicedale 60 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 39 Bedrooms

Set in the Bushman's River Gorge Bushman Sands is widely acclaimed as a forerunner of sustainable ecological and community tourism. The hotel offers a four thousand hectare game reserve, 18-hole golf Gary Player-designed golf course, spa, conference facilities, cigar lounge and sun downer cruises on the nearby New Years Dam. Rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, safe and en-suite bathrooms. A joint initiative between Mantis Collection and the EC Government established to redevelop the town of Alicedale, and create job opportunities for the local community.



★★★★★ Sands @ St. Francis - St Francis Bay 70 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 5 Bedrooms

An impressive white walled thatched roof homestead with sweeping views of the sun-drenched beach and glistening sea. Relaxed and informal atmosphere is reflected in the African beach style decor. Spacious bedrooms offer luxury style, each opening onto a private deck offering breathtaking views of the magnificent, unspoilt sand below. Enjoy the comforts of air-conditioning, mini bar fridge, tea and coffee tray, hairdryer, television and safe. The Octagonal glass fronted restaurant, with its thatched roof, central fireplace and cocktail bar, invites you to delight in the panoramic views from its 300 degree vantage point.



★★★ Wild Coast Sun - Near Port Edward 110 Minutes from Durban Airport - 86 Bedrooms

Set on one of the most unspoiled beaches in Southern Africa, within 750 hectares of natural bush between the Umtamvuna and Mzamba rivers, overlooking the Indian Ocean. A secluded wilderness that takes care of the whole family. Offering entertainment, wonderful water-sports, one of the best championship golf courses in South Africa, a glittering casino and hotel accommodation. The resort offers a variety of dining options sure to satisfy.



★★★ Garden Court East London - East London 70 Minutes from Port Elizabeth Airport - 173 Bedrooms

An interrupted view of the Indian Ocean welcomes guests to this beachfront hotel. The hotel's convenient position makes it popular with both families on holiday and business travelers. There are 173 comfortable rooms which overlook the sea and offer a range of amenities which include, TV with Mnet and enhanced DSTV channels. Other facilities include a gym, swimming pool wireless internet access.