

Garden Route Events Guide



2009

SEPTEMBER

19th - 28th

Whisky, Whales & Jazz Festival

20th

Talisman 100km Mountain Bike Challenge

24th - 29th

Gastronomica

25th - 26th

Strawberry Festival

OCTOBER

30-31st

Eden Challenge

NOVEMBER

5th-8th

Animal to Hell & Back Mountain Bike

26th-29th

Gary Player Invitational

DECEMBER

8th dec - 8th jan

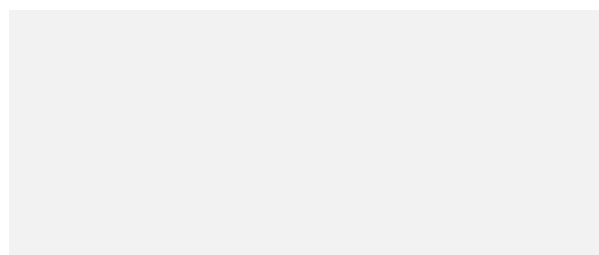
Summer Sun Festival

8th-9th

Great Outeniqua Mountain Bike Tour

22nd-24th

Herolds Bay Beach Festival



september 2009

19 Whisky, Whales and Jazz Festival

Location: Plettenberg Bay

Duration: 9 days

True jazz lovers will have the opportunity to see some of the country's greatest jazz talents in action during the annual Whiskey, Whales & Jazz Festival in Plettenberg Bay from 19-28 September. The festival has been expanded this year to a week-long celebration featuring whiskey tastings, superb jazz performances and spectacular whale safaris as well as loads of sporting opportunities. Well-known performers such as Xolani Faku and friends, Sangam, Tucan Tucan, Offshore, Ben Badenhorst and Haydn Gardner will entertain the crowds. The festival draws to a close with a spectacular street party on Saturday.

Contact: Bitou Tourism offices on 044-533 4065.

20 Talisman Herald Karoo to Coast 100km Mountain Bike Challenge

Location: Knysna

Voted by *Bicycling Magazine* Readers as one of the top ten mountain bike races in South Africa. *April 2007 edition*

Organised by the Lions Clubs of Knysna and Uniondale. In aid of Lions "SightFirst" for sight restoration operations for the poor.

Route

Uniondale to Knysna via the Prince Alfred's Pass 100 km off-road Race - Not for the faint-hearted, this is a great competitive race.



24 Gastronomica

Location: Knysna

Duration: 5 days

At Gastronomica 2009 you can expect special food, music, dance and heaps of fun for the children, demonstrations, workshops and talks by people who are celebrated for their success, knowledge and contribution to the food and hospitality industry. Gastronomica is a food enthusiast's paradise.

25 Outeniqua Country Hop Strawberry Festival 2009

Location: George

Duration: 2 days

Come and experience a day out in the fresh air in a safe, farm environment picking your own strawberries or taking part in the eating competitions. Enjoy local wines, cheese and food fare and live entertainment with plenty of fun activities to keep the kids busy.

Venue: Redberry Farm in Geelhoutboom, George

Contact: Nadine Bolttler on +27 (0)82 926-5928

october 2009

30 Eden Challenge

Location: George

Duration: 2 days

The 2008 Eden Challenge (200-260km's) is the ultimate 30 hour event for the top teams. The teams can expect classic adventure racing terrain. Real Southern Cape splendor! Expect an 'Amazing Race' experience with great mountain biking, awesome scenic hikes and brilliant paddling. Navigational skills will dictate your time spent out there. The event starts off with a hiking section and race packs must be prepared for the first night hike. Expect a hike of 70k's, bike 150k's and paddle 40k's.

EVENTS IN THE GARDEN ROUTE 2009

november 2009

5 Animal To Hell and Back MTB

Location: Oudtshoorn

Duration: 4 days

Animal To Hell and Back MTB event has been running every year since 1995 and takes place during the month of November each year. During the past years it proved to be a very popular event with the mountain bike fraternity and is now firmly established as an annual cycling event.

Distance: 60km

Venue: De Hoek holiday resort

Contact: Telephone: 044 871-4455

26 The Gary Player Invitational

Location: George

Duration: 4 days

In honour of the 25th anniversary of The Player Foundation a select gathering of golf professionals, celebrities and executives will gather at Fancourt, The GPI is South Africa's premier pro-celebrity charity golf event, attracting 32 top participants who will combine their skills to test the demanding Links golf course.

december 2009

8 Summer Sun Festival '09

Location: Mossel Bay

Duration: 32 days

Taking place in Mossel Bay from 8 December 2009 to 8 January 2010, the festival hosts more than 1 million patrons every year. No matter where your interest lies - wine, beauties and music - this festival has it all.

The celebration kicks off this year on 12 December with Laurika Rauch, who is one of Afrikaans music's celebrated stars. At the same time, be sure not to miss the first Diaz Decadence Festival, featuring an Amsterdam-esque street festival with a feast of fine wine. Cellars across the country will be partaking in this event which will take place from 12 - 14 December 2008.

Contact: Mimi Finestone

Telephone: +27 (0)44 873 4393

8 Great Outeniqua MTB Tour

Location: George

Duration: 2 days

The event always starts in the traditional way, with a whip. At the crack of the whip they brave the Montagu Pass and the 55km that lies ahead of them. As the day continues and the cyclists enter the Little Karoo the temperature rises, the conditions become harsh and difficult. After 52km and only 3km remaining the sight of the Daskop turn off is a welcome one and the Louvain sign post is even more welcome.

Distance: 113km

Venue: George Riding club in Glenwood

Contact: Telephone 044 871 4455



22 Herolds Bay Beach Festival

Location: Herolds Bay

Duration: 3 days

The Herolds Bay Festival is an annual event which includes beach soccer, touch rugby tournaments, family activities, volley ball games and many activities for the kids. It takes place on Herolds Bay Beach and promises to keep the whole family entertained!