



AN EXCITING PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN KNYSNA THIS SUMMER

The annual summer holiday in South Africa is finally here, and the Greater Knysna area is ready to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world.

Ms Lungiswa Goya, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism at Knysna Municipality, says the area is the perfect backdrop for relaxation and quality time with loved ones. “Visitors are spoilt for choice with six beautiful beaches in the area: Swartvlei and Myoli in Sedgefield, Brenton-on-Sea, Buffalo Bay, Bollard Bay on Leisure Island, and Noetzie Beach.”

The Knysna Estuary is a favourite among boating enthusiasts and a haven for anglers and water sport lovers alike. “Every year, the estuary is jam-packed with boaters and water sports enthusiasts, and this year will be no exception. The Featherbed Beach Bar will also be open again - a fantastic ‘feet-in-the-sand’ lunch option.”

As the most important estuary in South Africa for conservation and the only natural estuarine bay on the subcontinent, it must be enjoyed responsibly by visitors. Goya reminds visitors to stay within the main waterways. “Please keep to the areas marked by channel markers and remember that the shallow grassy areas are home to many estuarine animals, including the endangered Knysna seahorse.”

BLUE AND GREEN FLAG STATUS

Goya said Thesen Island once again received a Blue Flag for the Marina this year. “It was officially awarded Blue Flag Marina status on 8 October 2013 for the first time, and every year subsequently. The voluntary application for Blue Flag status must be renewed annually to ensure that all strict environmental criteria are met. Thesen Island falls within the Greater Garden Route National Park and work closely with SANParks, WESSA, Working for the Coast, NSRI and the Knysna Municipality to ensure they meet, and keep, the vigorous requirements required for Blue Flag Status.”

Goya said Swartvlei Beach in Sedgefield was once again recognised as a standout eco-tourism destination, securing the esteemed Green Coast status from the Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (Wessa) for the second consecutive year.

Knysna’s events calendar is also bursting with activity. Goya says the season kicks off with the annual Mayoral Friendly Roadblock on 12 December. “Visitors are spoilt for choice this year. Blackwater River Lodge has a fantastic family-friendly programme, and the Carols by Candlelight events at Leisure Isle and the Knysna Mall - both in aid of local charities - will remind you of the special meaning of Christmas.”

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Live music lovers also have plenty to look forward to, with some of South Africa's top performers heading to Knysna. "Look out for the Better Live events at Blend, the Knysna Summer Festival at the High School grounds on Waterfront Drive, and the Get Lucky Summer event at Loerie Park. There are also several New Year's Eve celebrations to choose from. Visit our website for a full programme."

Goya said the Greater Knysna area has been experiencing extremely dry conditions in recent months. "We are currently under Level 4 water restrictions. Please enjoy the area responsibly and remain mindful of your water use. Lastly, but certainly not least, we hope you have a wonderful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you."

ENDS

For more information, recommendations and local insights, contact Visit Knysna, the official tourism office for the Greater Knysna area.

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