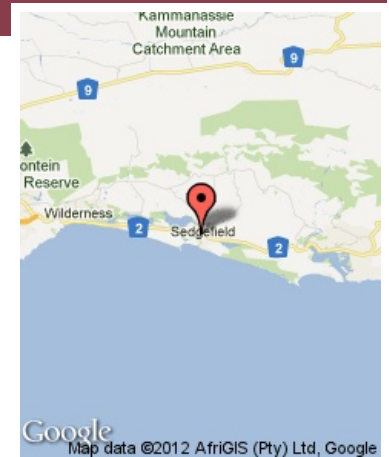


Treetop Lodges on the Garden Route



Highlights

Along the Garden Route of South Africa's Western Cape stretches miles of indigenous rainforest. This is the ancient Outeniqua mountain range, situated between the rainy coastal region and the more arid veld of the Little Karoo. Deep within the forest you will find 8 luxurious treehouses, high in the canopies. These hand-crafted treetop lodges are every inch the perfect hideaway. Your only neighbour is the wildlife.

Snuggle up beneath the stars, shower out in the open – with no one to see - and cook up feasts on your own barbecue, all above ground, surrounded by wildlife and nature. This magical place is home to birds, butterflies, and a myriad of other species. Forests, mountains and river walkways are your playground. Equally you can curl up in your treetop lodge with a good book and spend your time simply doing nothing. The only real distraction is the chirruping of birds, the flutter of butterfly wings and the croak of tiny tree frogs.

Getting away from it all is exactly what you'll be doing on holiday here. Each eco-friendly treehouse comes with plenty of personal space and in the leafy rainforest canopies of the Garden Route. The Outeniqua Mountains are close by, as is the Goukamma Nature Reserve – where you'll find a beach, a lake and a marine conservation area where dolphins and whales can be spotted. Inland monkeys, bushpigs and otters call this place home. Closer to home, there's Sedgfield village where the Saturday morning craft and farmers' market proves a real hit with the locals.

Is it for me?

This holiday is for people who care about the environment and enjoy camping. Although the treehouses are fully equipped with bathrooms and kitchens the water used in the systems is collected rainwater. River water is used for washing and is brown in colour. All the water is safe and potable, but to remove the brown colour would involve the use of harsh chemicals and this is not in keeping with the ethos of the resort. This holiday is for ecologically minded people.

Be aware also that the rainforest - and hence the resort - is the home of insects, wild animals, tame animals, plants and reptiles. You are more than likely to come across this rainforest life, and if you are squeamish at this idea this is not the trip for you. The resort operates in harmony with nature: this also means that the bathrooms are open to the forest where all the birds and animals can see you.

As there are only 8 treehouses there are never many people at the resort. Please do not come with the expectation of crowds of new people to meet.

Accommodation

Treehouses are the stuff of childhood fantasies. Here you can forget makeshift planks of wood teetering precariously between branches in a back garden in the middle of suburbia – this place is in a league of its own. The 8 treehouses are individually made and designed so as to least impact the environment. In terms of treehouses they are luxurious, with fully-equipped kitchens and bathrooms overlooking a canopy of green. Bedrooms are tented, fully-sealable spaces with everything provided - no need to bring a sleeping bag.

Prices from

94 GBP (1 night) per person

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Food is not included, although you can email a list at least a week in advance and it'll be there for you on arrival, or you can stock up in Sedgefield. There is a very basic shop onsite, but you won't want to be living off toothpaste, so it's best to plan ahead.

Itinerary

What you choose to do with your time here is completely up to you. On site there is a family braai area for barbecues, indoor games room with exercise equipment, games and so forth. There are intelligently designed ecoswimming-pools to splash and swim in.

In the surrounding area there is the Karatara gorge with its rock pools and abundant flora and fauna. Other places to explore include the fynbos-covered Outeniqua Mountains; the Goukamma Nature Reserve, which offers canoeing, hiking and swimming; and the coastal village of Sedgefield, which has a beach, lagoon and on Saturday mornings a craft and farmers' market.

Details

Getting there

Fly to Cape Town and then get an internal flight to George. From here, you'll need to hire a car for a 50-minute drive. Alternatively, fly to Cape Town and then get a coach to Sedgefield with Intercape – this takes about eight hours.

Price includes

Accommodation. Food not included.

There are 8 self-catering tree houses. Prices range from 1045 ZAR for 2 people in low season to 1570 ZAR for 4 people in high season.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 days - 6 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

Not relevant

Reviews (1)

Reviews of this experience

“ Teniqua Treetops is magical. We stayed a couple of nights in Dec 07 and absolutely loved it. We overlooked a stunning pristine forested valley (even the bath overlooked the view!). So peaceful - birds and wildlife everywhere. Did some great hikes around the valley - we have some great photos of us looking very sweaty, lugging the little-uns up a steep path. tree-house was very well equipped, and the owners were really friendly. Couldn't recommend highly enough. ”

ben reviewing Treetop Lodges on the Garden Route