

A mile outside Sedgfield we pass Lake Pleasant with its hotel and spa and after a further 7 miles we turn off to the right to visit Buffels Baai (Buffalo Bay), a small seaside village comprising mainly holiday houses. We haven't made any detours in the past but Speedy Springbok has many happy memories of summer days spent at the beach swimming and body surfing and he wanted to tell you about this delightful spot tucked away out of sight from the main road. The beach is magnificent with 3 miles of golden sand stretching to Brenton-on-Sea. The walk is well worth the effort (but make sure you have someone who can collect you at Brenton in case you don't have the energy for the walk back!)



Lake Pleasant Hotel and Spa



The beach at Buffels Baai looking towards Brenton

Returning to the main road, we grind up a long incline before descending at speed towards the bridge crossing Knysna Lagoon. Just before the bridge there is a turnoff to Belvidere and Brenton-on-Sea but, with Knysna beckoning, there is no time for another detour. We cross the bridge and follow the national road, which hugs the lagoon for the final mile or two into the town. WE HAVE MADE IT – 2,300 miles around South Africa!



Knysna has a fascinating history with its links to Britain through George Rex (the supposedly illegitimate son of King George III!) and its timber industry. Today it is a very popular holiday destination and in the summer it buzzes with activity. There is lots to do – from every type of watersport to swimming, golf, beach and forest walks and birdwatching; or simply browsing around the waterfront and relaxing. Although one can't do Knysna justice in a short blog, I thought a mention of some of the highlights with pictures would be of interest.

1. Visit The Heads and have breakfast or lunch at one of the cafes overlooking the lagoon.



2. Take a boat trip across the lagoon and explore Featherbed Nature Reserve.



3. Take a forest walk and see if you can spot a Knysna Loerie.



4. Kayak across the lagoon and abseil down The Heads – not for the faint-hearted!



5. Visit the Waterfront and sample the local cuisine overlooking the harbour. The fresh fish is delicious and Knysna is famous for its oysters – try the restaurant 34 South for the catch of the day!



6. Visit Belvidere, find out about George Rex and finish with lunch at Belvidere Manor overlooking the jetty.



7. Stroll around Leisure Isle and feel the golden sand on your feet. Leisure Isle is the birthplace of the e'Pap Children's Feeding Project which inspired Penny Fleming to start the GRCT in 2006.



For more information go to www.visitknysna.co.za – a good place to start.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about different parts of South Africa, some well off the usual tourist route. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR TREK ADVENTURE!