



July 2015

Did you know that South Africa is rated as one of the top hiking destinations in the world? Hiking trails are the best way to experience South Africa's scenery, sunny climate and outdoor culture. Whether you like to hike up mountains, along rivers or through valleys, you are certain to find a perfect route. Hiking trails are found across South Africa and offer hikers over 1 000 registered hiking routes to choose from, with options in all nine provinces. Hiking trails range in length from an hour or two, right up to a couple of weeks or more. Officially registered hiking trails are all signposted (usually with painted icons on rocks) and most hiking authorities will supply maps and all the information you need. No matter your experience or fitness levels, South Africa has a hiking trail for you. Take a look!

### **HIKING THE GARDEN ROUTE**

Walking a Garden Route Trail is the best way to see this beautiful region of South Africa, with spectacular scenery ranging from ancient forests to memorable seascapes. Most people drive it, but to get up close and personal with the ecology, rather take one of the many guided walks on offer.

The Garden Route Trail is the most ecologically diverse walking trail in South Africa.

More information: <http://www.gardenroutetrail.co.za/>







### HIKING THE LITTLE BERG, KWAZULU-NATAL

Although the glorious Drakensberg Mountains provide loads of opportunities for super-fit hikers and climbers, if you prefer something less strenuous then hike the Little Berg. Choose easy-to-moderate day hikes in the gentle foothills of the range the Zulus call uKhahlamba – the Barrier of Spears. The Little Berg lays at the foothills of the mighty Drakensberg – South Africa's highest and most spectacular mountain range. Although the peaks offer the best views, when you hike the Little Berg you'll still experience awesome scenery and, on some walks, San rock paintings. One lovely walk is the Rainbow Gorge hiking trail. It's 5.5km and will take you approximately two hours.

More information: [www.southafrica.net/za/de/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-hiking-the-little-berg](http://www.southafrica.net/za/de/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-hiking-the-little-berg)

### HIKING IN MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE

No matter if you prefer luxury or roughing it, and whether you have a week or only a day, there's a walk for you in Mossel Bay. You have a choice of going on guided excursions or just making your own way.

The five-day *Oystercatcher Trail* is very famous and bookings have to be made far in advance. Comfort is a priority on this guided, 'slackpacking' trek. There are three versions of the trail. Gold and silver versions are fully catered, while the green version is self-catered. You do have to carry a day pack, but that's about it: the rest is taken care of for you. *The Oystercatcher Trail* is one of the BBC's 'Unforgettable Walks to Take Before You Die'

More information: [www.visitmosselbay.co.za](http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za)



### THE MPHONGOLO TRAIL, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

South Africa boasts a number of memorable hiking trails, but only a few allow you the opportunity to make up the route along the way, awake to the sound of birds and be faced with leopard tracks outside your tent. Some may call the four-day Mphongolo Trail in the Kruger National Park primitive, but others will relish the opportunity to get back to the basics of nature, carrying their own camping equipment and food, drinking river water and being completely free from the trappings of modern living. The hike is led by two experienced and armed rangers who guide hikers through the terrain and remove all traces that the group had ever set up camp in the area

More information: [www.krugerpark.co.za](http://www.krugerpark.co.za)



## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA – JULY 2015



### RASTAFARIAN EARTH FESTIVAL

**When:** 22 - 28 July 2015

**Where:** Knysna

**More information:** [www.visitknysna.co.za](http://www.visitknysna.co.za)

This vibrant Rastafarian community invites Rastas and visitors from South Africa and abroad. This colourful, rich festival celebrates the Rastafarian way of life - their food and music, as well as the philosophy behind this sometimes misunderstood faith.



### DURBAN JULY

**When:** 4 July 2015

**Where:** Durban

**More information:** [www.vodacomdurbanjuly.co.za](http://www.vodacomdurbanjuly.co.za)

Africa's greatest horse racing event takes place on the 4th July 2015. The excitement of Vodacom Durban July Day surpasses that of any other event on the African continent.



### GRAHAMSTOWN NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

**When:** 2 - 12 July 2015

**Where:** Grahamstown

**More information:** [www.nationalartsfestival.co.za](http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za)

The Grahamstown National Arts Festival: Africa's largest and most colourful cultural event offers a choice of the very best of both indigenous and imported talent. This festival offers more than 500 shows.



### MORE EVENTS

- ☑ Franschhoek Bastille Festival (11-12 July) [www.franschhoekbastille.co.za](http://www.franschhoekbastille.co.za)
- ☑ Knysna Oyster Festival (3 – 12 July) [www.oysterfestival.co.za](http://www.oysterfestival.co.za)
- ☑ South African National Quilts Festival (3-7 July) [www.quiltssouthafrica.co.za](http://www.quiltssouthafrica.co.za)
- ☑ InniBos Kunstfees (1-4 July) [www.innibos.co.za](http://www.innibos.co.za)
- ☑ Dullstroom Winter Festival (3-5 July) [www.dullstroomwinterfestival.com](http://www.dullstroomwinterfestival.com)
- ☑ Mabalingwe Lion Man (11 July) [www.advendurance.com](http://www.advendurance.com)
- ☑ Vryfees (13-18 July) [www.vryfees.co.za](http://www.vryfees.co.za)
- ☑ Free State Wine Show (30-31 July) [www.outsorceress.co.za](http://www.outsorceress.co.za)

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**South African Embassy Tourism Newsletter**

**Address:** Av Luís Bívar, 10 1069-024 Lisboa

**Telephone:** 21 3192200 **E-mail:** [tourism@embaixada-africadosul.pt](mailto:tourism@embaixada-africadosul.pt)

**Website:** [www.embaixada-africadosul.pt](http://www.embaixada-africadosul.pt)

**Facebook:** South African Embassy, Portugal

**South African Tourism:** [www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)