



Breaching Whale



Cape Agulhas



Farmland



Arniston



Horse riding

Region Overberg

The **Overberg**, meaning ‘over the mountain’, is the most southerly region of Africa, an ideal stop when travelling from the Cape to the Garden Route. The landscape is dominated by **rolling wheat fields** backed by **rugged mountains** but the area is most famous for its **stunning coastline**, offering some of the best land-based whale watching in the world.

Land & boat based Whale Watching - Hiking - Horse riding - Wine tasting - Kayaking - Nature Reserves

Activities and Attractions

The region commences at Sir Lowry’s Pass and is encompassed by Gansbaai and Hermanus in the south, the Breede River in the east and extends north to Swellendam.

The coast, during the whale season (June to November), offers some of the best land based whale watching in the world. Visit Hermanus, with its own ‘whale crier’ and September whale

festival or take a stunning cliff-top walk and watch the Southern Rights and Humpbacks at play. At all times of year, however, the wide expanses of beaches and sand dunes, edged with ancient caves, provide wonderful walking and hiking opportunities with added interest.

There are many protected areas in the region to explore, including De Hoop Nature Reserve, committed to the

conservation of low land fynbos and home to a variety of mammal species including the rare Cape Mountain Zebra as well as more than 260 species of resident and migratory birds. The adjacent De Hoop Marine Protected Area, which extends three nautical miles out to sea, is also one of the largest marine protected areas in Africa and provides a sanctuary for a vast and fascinating array of marine life including dolphins and seals.

Bontebok National Park, dedicated to protecting the Bontebok that once roamed in the Cape in large herds is bordered by the Breede River which offers the opportunity for swimming and fishing, whereas Cape Agulhas National Park, the point where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, shelters the second largest marshland in Southern Africa. The Park also features archaeological middens reminding modern man of a time when the Khoi-khoi people trapped fish using ingeniously constructed tidal traps. This windswept and ruggedly beautiful coastal plain can even be explored by ecologically sensitive quad bikes when accompanied by a guide.

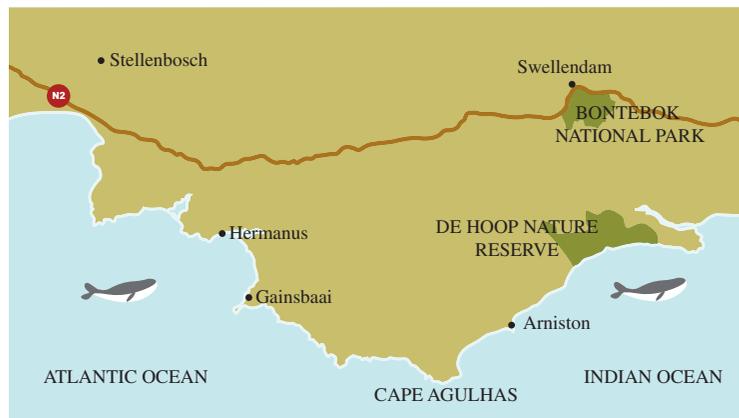
Other adventurous activities include sand skiing, kite surfing, paragliding and coastal kayaking. For a less adrenaline fuelled option, take a cruise on the Stanford River or explore the region on horse back. Visitors can also sample vintages from the many local Wine Estates and visit historic towns such as Swellendam, also home to a special Faerie Sanctuary!

Accommodation

Boutique hotels and lodges in the region vary from those with stunning ocean views to others with a mountain or vineyard outlook. We also include a Farm stay option, ideal for those looking to experience another side of South Africa.

Whichever option you choose, expect a warm welcome from owner-managers as you venture off the well beaten tourist track into this beautiful region, rich in natural resources. Your stay will also assist with much needed social upliftment in the area.

Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min temp °C	16	16	14	12	9	8	7	8	9	11	13	15
Max temp °C	25	26	24	22	20	19	19	19	19	20	23	24
Rainfall (mm)	14	16	19	40	70	92	81	76	39	29	13	16



Overberg Accommodation



Forest Lodge

Grootbos Nature Reserve ★★★★★ 🏠

South Africa's premier marine and flora destination, Grootbos, is set amongst fynbos and ancient forests with breathtaking views of Walker Bay below, a favourite playground of the Southern Right and Humpback whales during Migration Season.



Accommodation

Classic Garden Lodge (11 rooms) is set in lush indigenous gardens whilst Forest Lodge (16 rooms), with its contemporary and modern style, appeals to the cosmopolitan traveller. Each spacious, free-standing Luxury Suite, decorated in natural textures and colours and equipped with tea & coffee facilities and mini-bar, has its own secluded balcony from which you can admire sunsets over the Ocean. Each Lodge features the following facilities:

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge Bar



Activities

Beach: Accompany specialist guides to explore tidal rock pools and stone-age coastal caves or just enjoy a picnic on a deserted beach.

Marine: If your cliff-top vantage point isn't close enough, take a boat trip to see 40-ton whales or sea bird and seal colonies on their island refuge. If you are not faint-hearted, experience a close encounter with an awesome great white shark!

Flora & Fauna: Discover the fascinating relationships between insects, birds, mammals and plants of this diverse ecosystem including Fynbos, unique to South Africa. Explore the Milkwood or Afro-Montane Forests by foot, 4 wheel drive or horse back from the on-site stables

Family

Grootbos offers an exceptional tailor-made children's programme aimed to inspire, educate and enthuse. From a beach excursion filled with fun and games to an exciting boat trip to visit seals, penguins and whales, there is plenty of adventure to be experienced. Younger guests can also help feed the animals at the stables and enjoy riding lessons in the paddock.

Families are comfortably accommodated in one and two bedroomed suites at Garden Lodge, where special children's meals, snacks and turndown are also provided.



Garden Lodge

“Terrific accommodation and food. Our guide was great, especially with our son.”
Grootbos Nature Reserve



Blue Gum Country Estate

★★★★ 🏠

In a tranquil setting near the village of Stanford, encompassing 130 acres of vineyards, pastures and river frontage, Blue Gum provides a beautiful and welcoming base from which to explore the region and see the whales in Season. 10 suites with mini-bar, satellite TV, fireplaces and patios with direct access to the shaded gardens, include country style rooms facing the mountains and more contemporary African themed accommodation offering views over the pretty valley.

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge Bar



Schulphoek Guest House ★★★★★ 🏠

A short drive from Hermanus, this award-winning guest house benefits from spectacular sea views. The welcoming hosts serve delicious evening fare before guests retire to one of 6 rooms with DVD and private patio, most with spa-bath.

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge Bar



Family

Mountain Facing Family Suites include a second children’s bedroom charged at 50%. Children’s bikes and fishing nets ensure the most is made of the countryside!



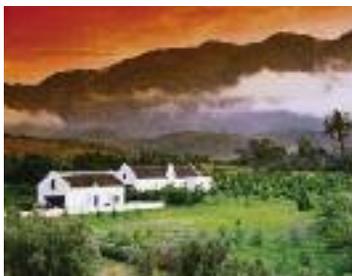
Family

Cots can be provided or families are accommodated in a Suite with additional single bedroom or several rooms in close proximity.

Jan Harmsgat ★★★★★ 🏠

This charming guest house with only 4 bedrooms is situated on a historic, working farm in the Robertson Winelands, in the beautiful Little Karoo. An authentic country style, incorporating 1-metre thick walls and yellowwood details, creates a unique but relaxed setting from which the lovely mountain and farm views can be enjoyed, or guests can venture to see heritage sights in nearby Swellendam.

Pool - Restaurant - Lounge Bar



Family

Families with young children can be accommodated in a stand-alone cottage with lobby area for additional cot or bed. Alternatively adjacent rooms in the main building can be booked.



Mosaic Farm ★★★★★ 🏠

Mosaic Farm is located in an idyllic location overlooking the Hermanus Lagoon and a short 4 x 4 drive from Walker Bay. The suites of Lagoon Lodge nestle amongst the Milkwood Trees whilst several self catering cottages are also available. All guests can enjoy activities such as kayaking and quad biking.

Pool - Restaurant - Bar



Family

The extensive space to explore will be welcomed by all ages. 2 children can share a 2-Bedroom Suite (or 1 child a Standard Room) whilst the cottages accommodate up to 8.