Visit South African National Parks

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South African National Parks: Addo Elephant, Agulhas, Augrabies Falls, Bontebok, Camdeboo, Golden Gate Highlands, Kgalagadi Transfrontier, Garden Route (an amalgamation of Tsitsikamma, Knysna Lagoon and Indigenous Forests and the Wilderness Lake System), Karoo, Kruger, Mapungubwe, Marakele, Mokala, Mountain Zebra, Namaqua, |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier, Table Mountain, Tankwa Karoo, West Coast.

This edition’s featured park is the Wilderness Section of Garden Route National Park:
- The Wilderness Section of the Southern Cape’s Garden Route National Park stretches from the Touw River mouth in the town of Wilderness to the Swartvlei estuary in the town of Sedgefield, all threaded together and easily accessed off the N2.
- The Wilderness Lakes Section protects 4 lakes: (Eiland/Island, Langvlei, Rondevlei and Swartvlei), and the Touw River plus the Serpentine, a winding strip of water joining Island Lake to the Touw. The Touw Estuary that empties into the Indian Ocean, and the sandy beaches that flank it are also part of the section.
- The first 3 lakes and interconnected channels and floodplain are an internationally proclaimed RAMSAR wetland of global importance to birds.
- The park is intertwined with several urban settlements where facilities like shops and restaurants are available, many of which are accessible to people with mobility impairment.
- The section’s accommodation and activity hub is found at the Ebb & Flow Rest Camp, where 2 of the 34 permanent units are constructed to be accessible or partially accessible to guests in wheelchairs (one 4 bed family cottage and one 2-bed forest cabin), and there are 2 accessible unisex ablutions in the camping area.
- The camp’s layout is spread over a considerable area which is mostly very flat and the network of roads allows for ease of movement for visitors in wheelchairs.
- At the camp’s reception complex, the reception, information centres, and a small conference facility are all equipped with ramped access and easy to negotiate.
- Several outdoor activities like canoeing, fishing and swimming are partially accessible, while more extreme ones like abseiling and mountain biking are not considered accessible.
- There are several boardwalks and hides in the section that provide potential access to wheelchair users and other mobility impaired visitors, but many of these boardwalks also have sections that are inaccessible or only accessible with assistance. There is a great opportunity for the park to improve these and create facilities that are entirely accessible.

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