

TRADE ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

KNYSNA HEADS ADVENTURE



VESSEL TYPE	Butt Cat 9 meter
VESSEL NAME	Odysseus (25 pax) Oyster Catcher (12 pax)
MAXIMUM PAX	37 pax (combined capacity)
MINIMUM PAX	6 pax
SEASONALITY	All Year
DURATION	45 minutes
DEPARTURE TIMES	Available on Request

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

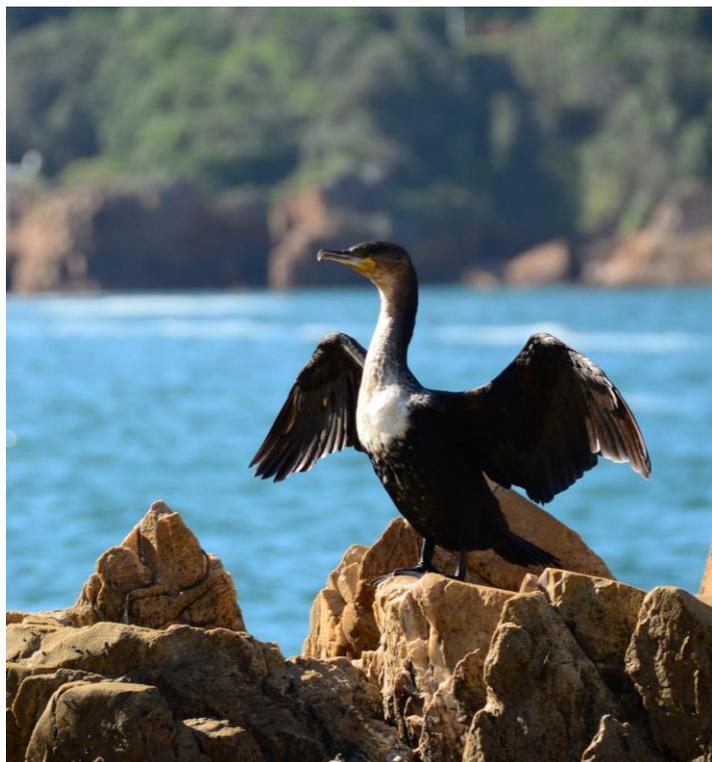
The **Knysna Heads Adventure** is an **estuary-based, interpretive tour** that takes guests to the **foot of the iconic sandstone cliffs** of the Knysna Heads. This experience is primarily **informative**, with the crew sharing the fascinating **history of Knysna**, how it developed, and the story of the **beautiful Knysna Estuary**—the most **diverse and highly graded estuary in South Africa**.

Guests learn about the estuary's **unique features**, including its **permanent open mouth, the freshwater river flowing into it**, and the **rare and unique species** that live in, around, and near this remarkable ecosystem. While the focus is educational, guests may also spot **Cape fur seals, a variety of pelagic and coastal birds**, and, on rare occasions, **dolphins that venture into the estuary**. **If conditions allow, the tour may venture out past the Knysna Heads**, offering stunning views of the cliffs and coastline on the opposite side.

This tour provides a **scenic, immersive, and educational adventure**, perfect for families, photographers, and anyone with a curiosity for **nature, history, and ecology**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small, intimate groups for a personalised experience
- Explore the foot of the iconic Knysna Heads cliffs
- Scenic estuary cruise with views of the dramatic coastline
- Informative guides share Knysna's history and geology
- Learn about the Knysna Estuary, the most diverse and highly graded in South Africa
- Spot Cape fur seals along the cliffs and rocks
- Excellent birding opportunities, especially in summer, with a variety of pelagic and coastal birds
- Optional venture past the Heads to view the opposite coastline (weather permitting) Least affected by sea and weather conditions – operates all year round, making it a perfect Plan B for groups unable to go on ocean tours
- Budget-friendly and immersive, ideal for families, young children, and those wanting to fully experience the estuary and all it has to offer



WHAT CAN BE SEEN

Explore the **foot of the Knysna Heads cliffs**, spotting **Cape fur seals** and a wide variety of **pelagic and coastal birds**, especially in summer. Discover **hidden caves, secluded coves, and dramatic cliffs**, while learning about the **unique ecology of the Knysna Estuary**, its permanent open mouth, and the species that call it home. **From time to time, dolphins make their way into the estuary**, adding an exciting surprise to the journey.

INCLUDES

- Expert-guided Knysna Heads Adventure with informative commentary on the history, geology, and ecology of the area
- Scenic estuary cruise with views of cliffs, coves, and the Knysna Heads
- Life jackets and all necessary safety equipment
- Conservation-focused commentary highlighting the estuary's unique ecosystem
- Bottled water for guests

EXCLUDES

- Transport to/from Thesen Harbour Town
- Meals beyond bottled water
- Personal items (cameras, binoculars)
- Gratuities/tips for crew
- Travel insurance/medical coverage

WHAT TO BRING

- Waterproof jacket or windbreaker
- Hat & sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable, non-slip shoes
- Camera or smartphone
- Binoculars (optional)

SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

- Safety First: All guests complete an indemnity form before departure, and life jackets are provided for everyone.
- Pre-departure briefing at the shop covers safety guidelines and boarding procedures.
- The tour is primarily estuary-based on calm waters, making it safe and enjoyable for families and most guests.
- On rare occasions, if conditions allow, the vessel may venture out past the Heads, with safety fully assessed by the skipper.
- Crew supervision ensures safe movement on the vessel and during estuary exploration.
- Accessibility: The tour is not wheelchair friendly, and guests should be able to step on and off the vessel safely.



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Arrival & Check-In

- Arrive at the Ocean Odyssey shop on Thesen Island – friendly welcome and easy check-in.
- Complete indemnity forms and receive life jackets.
- Pre-departure briefing at the shop covers safety, boarding, and tour highlights.
- Bathroom stop available before departure (no toilets on board).

Boarding & Departure

- Short walk to the vessel – step aboard the purpose-built boat.
- On-board briefing by the skipper and guides on safety and tour overview.
- Smooth departure through the estuary, enjoying scenic views of the Knysna waterfront.

Knysna Heads & Estuary Exploration

- Cruise to the foot of the iconic sandstone cliffs of the Knysna Heads.
- Learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the area from knowledgeable guides.
- Explore hidden caves, secluded coves, and dramatic cliffs along the estuary.
- Spot Cape fur seals, pelagic and coastal birds, and, from time to time, dolphins entering the estuary.
- If conditions allow, the vessel may venture out past the Heads for stunning views of the opposite coastline.

Return & Post-Trip

- Scenic return cruise via the Knysna Heads first, then along the estuary.
- Disembark and walk back to the main office; crew assist with life jackets and provide warm towels to refresh after the tour.
- Friendly chat with crew about highlights experienced on the tour.
- Access to retail shop and coffee shop.

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