

TRADE ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

MARINE ECO TOUR



VESSEL TYPE	Butt Cat 9 meter
VESSEL NAME	Odysseus (25 pax) Oyster Catcher (12 pax)
MAXIMUM PAX	37 pax (combined capacity)
MINIMUM PAX	4 pax
SEASONALITY	1 st December – 31 st May
DURATION	1.5 hours
DEPARTURE TIMES	09h30, 12h00 & 15h00

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Discover Knysna's marine environment on a **holistic Eco-Tour**, the perfect **summer-time adventure** for families, nature lovers, and photographers. Cruise along the estuary and out toward **Buffalo Bay and Brenton Beach**, a favourite playground for playful dolphins who often surf the waves and delight guests with their antics.

Explore the **hidden caves and coves** along the breathtaking Garden Route coastline, taking in dramatic rock formations, pristine beaches, and secluded bays. Along the way, **spot seals, seabirds, estuarine fish**, and, in summer, you may even encounter **our local Bryde's whales**, adding a rare and exciting highlight to the journey.

Expert guides provide fascinating insights into marine life, coastal geology, and conservation efforts, making the tour both **educational and immersive**. This experience combines adventure, wildlife observation, and environmental appreciation, making it **a must-do summer activity** along one of South Africa's most iconic coastlines.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small group sizes for a personalised, intimate experience
- Cruise the stunning Knysna Estuary and iconic Heads
- Explore the dramatic coastline of cliffs, beaches, and fynbos
- Frequent sightings of bottlenose, common, and humpback dolphins
- Observe Cape fur seals along the coastline
- Spot coastal seabirds such as cormorants, terns, gulls, and herons
- Discover hidden caves and secluded coves along the Garden Route
- Learn about local ecosystems and conservation efforts from expert guides
- Perfect summer-time activity for families, photographers, and nature lovers
- An unforgettable, immersive wildlife and coastal adventure



WHAT CAN BE SEEN

See **bottlenose, common, and humpback dolphins** surfing near Buffalo Bay and Brenton Beach, and spot **Cape fur seals** lounging on rocks or swimming along the coast. Look out for **seabirds** such as cormorants, terns, gulls, and herons, and, depending on water clarity, there are chances of glimpsing **sunfish, sharks, and other fish**. Explore **hidden caves, secluded coves, dramatic cliffs, and pristine beaches**, with summer offering occasional sightings of the local **Bryde's whale**—an unforgettable, immersive marine adventure.

Last updated : January 2026

Managing Director: Evelyn Pepler

Company Registration: 200610476723 | VAT Number: 4400234318

INCLUDES

- Expert-guided Marine Eco-Tour with commentary on marine life, ecosystems, and conservation
- Scenic Knysna estuary, Heads & coastline
- Frequent sightings of dolphins, Cape fur seals, and seabirds
- Purpose-built vessels with safety equipment
- Conservation-focused commentary
- Bottled water

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

- Layers & weather-appropriate clothing
- Waterproof jacket or windbreaker
- Hat & sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable, non-slip shoes
- Camera or smartphone
- Binoculars (optional)
- Seasickness medication (if needed)

SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

- All guests complete indemnity forms and are fitted with life jackets; pre-departure and on-board briefings are conducted.
- Skippers fully trained, certified, and trips covered by marine liability insurance.
- Ocean trips subject to tide, wind, swell, and skipper discretion; Knysna Heads passage not guaranteed.
- Operates under DEA permit with strict marine-approach and conservation guidelines.
- Not suitable for guests with recent back, neck, or shoulder surgery, or related issues.
- Vessels and jetties are not wheelchair friendly; limited mobility guests should contact operator.



ITINERARY SNAPSHOT

Arrival & Check-In

- Arrive at Ocean Odyssey Shop on Thesen Island – friendly welcome and easy check-in.
- Complete indemnity forms and get ready for the adventure.
- Put on jackets and life jackets (automatic inflatable, super comfortable).
- Pre-departure briefing ensures safety and confidence before leaving the shore.
- Bathroom stop available – no toilets on board.

Boarding & Departure

- Short 100m walk to the vessel – step aboard the purpose-built vessel.
- On-board skipper briefing introduces the journey and safety guidelines.
- Smooth no-wake departure through Thesen Harbour Marina for a gentle start.
- Pick up speed once in the estuary as you head toward the Knysna Heads.

Knysna Heads & Passage

- Pause at the Knysna Heads – skipper assesses conditions before entering the ocean.
- Brief introduction to the Heads – learn about their history, geology, and marine significance.
- Skilled passage into the Indian Ocean for the open water adventure.

Marine Eco-Tour Experience

- Frequent sightings of bottlenose, common, and humpback dolphins, Cape fur seals, and coastal seabirds
- Depending on water clarity, chance to see sunfish, sharks, and other fish
- Explore hidden caves and secluded coves
- Conservation-focused commentary throughout
- Photography and wildlife observation opportunities (no professional photos provided).

Return & Post-Trip

- Scenic cruise back via Knysna Heads and estuary
- Disembark and walk to the main office; crew assist with life jackets and provide warm towels to refresh after the tour
- Friendly chat with crew about the tour experience
- Access to retail shop and coffee shop

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