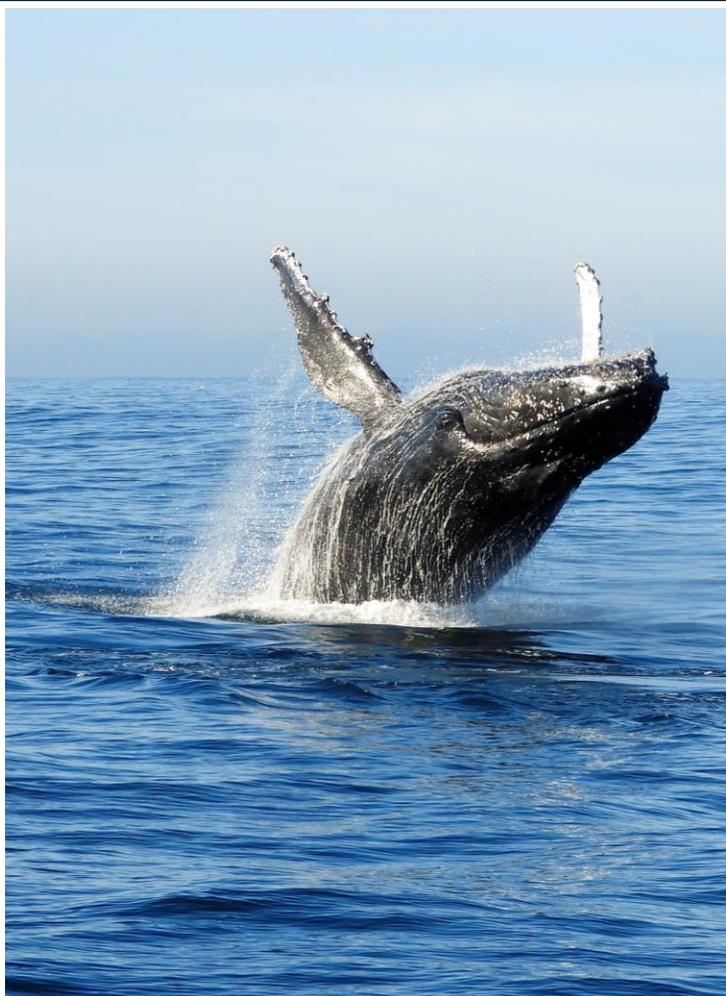


COMPANY OVERVIEW

Ocean Odyssey is a premier marine eco-tourism operator based in Knysna on South Africa's Garden Route, specialising in close-encounter whale watching and marine wildlife experiences.

Founded in 1996 by marine biologist Professor Vic Cockcroft, the company pioneered responsible whale watching in the region. In 2012, ownership passed to **Evelyn Pepler**, making Ocean Odyssey a **woman-led, family-run business** dedicated to safe, educational, and conservation-focused ocean adventures.

Operating from Thesen Harbour Town Marina, Ocean Odyssey offers year-round marine eco-tours and seasonal whale watching, providing guests with unforgettable encounters with whales, dolphins, seals, and seabirds against the dramatic backdrop of the Knysna Heads. With nearly 30 years of experience, Ocean Odyssey is recognised as one of the Garden Route's most trusted and respected marine tourism operators.



EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Woman-led and family-run marine tourism business
- Operating in Knysna since 1996
- Owned and operated by Evelyn Pepler since 2012
- Only permitted close-encounter whale watching operator in the greater Knysna area
- Small group ocean experiences for optimal wildlife viewing
- Experienced marine guides and skippers
- Responsible wildlife encounters and conservation awareness
- Easy integration into Garden Route itineraries

FLEET

Odysseus

- Capacity: 25 passengers
- Purpose-built whale watching vessel
- Cinema-style seating
- Excellent viewing platforms

Oyster Catcher

- Capacity: 12 passengers
- Smaller vessel for more intimate experiences
- Agile coastal touring vessel

Both vessels are operated by qualified skippers and equipped with full safety equipment.



EXPERIENCES

Close Encounter Whale Watching

Guests may observe Southern Right and Humpback whales up close during their annual migration along the Garden Route coastline. Tours provide educational commentary on whale behaviour, migration, and conservation.

Season: June – November

Duration: 1.5 – 2 hours

Marine Eco Tours

Year-round tours exploring the coastline beyond the Knysna Heads, offering sightings of dolphins, Cape fur seals, seabirds, and other marine life in their natural habitat.

Season: December - May

Duration: 1.5 hours

Knysna Heads Adventure

A signature Ocean Odyssey experience, guests navigate the dramatic Knysna Heads and surrounding coastline, combining marine wildlife viewing with spectacular scenery. This tour highlights the region's unique topography and biodiversity, perfect for photography and adventure-focused travellers.

Season: Year-round

Duration: 45 minutes

FACILITIES

Ocean Odyssey's **onsite retail space and coffee shop** offer guests a complete and convenient stop before or after their marine experiences.

Retail Space

- Curated selection of marine-themed souvenirs, educational books, apparel, and locally made crafts.
- Perfect for travellers to take home a memorable keepsake from Knysna.
- Supports local artisans and conservation initiatives, reinforcing Ocean Odyssey's commitment to sustainability.
- Easy access for guests arriving or departing tours, enhancing convenience and overall visitor satisfaction.

Coffee Shop

- Casual café offering freshly brewed coffee, teas, pastries, and light meals.
- Provides a welcoming spot for guests to refuel or relax before or after whale watching, Knysna Heads Adventure, or marine eco-tours.
- Outdoor-only seating encourages a laid-back, informal atmosphere that complements the Garden Route coastal vibe.
- Ideal for operators to bundle tours with a café stop, creating a more complete, flexible itinerary for FIT and group travellers.

Together, the retail space and coffee shop **add value to the overall visitor experience**, making Ocean Odyssey not just a marine tour, but a **full-day destination along the Garden Route**.

