

HESSEQUA TOURISM

Tourism Update: 05 November 2026

www.explorersgardenroute.co.za

VLAKTE MARATHON - ENTER NOW AND BE PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING

The excitement is building for the 24th Vlakte Marathon, one of the Garden Route's most popular road-running events, which returns on Friday, 20 November 2026 and Saturday, 21 November 2026. Organised by Langeberg Athletics Club, the event promises another memorable weekend of running, community spirit and country hospitality, bringing athletes together for a unique journey from Heidelberg to the coastal town of Witsand.

The 2026 programme kicks off on Friday, 20 November, with the popular Blou Blasie 5km Fun Run. Starting at 18h30 near Witsand Beach, the fun run provides an opportunity for families, recreational runners and those wanting to enjoy the event atmosphere without taking on the longer distances.

With distances catering for competitive marathon runners, half-marathon athletes, shorter-distance runners and families, the Vlakte Marathon has something to offer participants of different ages and abilities.

The event is particularly special because of its point-to-point route, taking runners through the beautiful countryside of the Hessequa region before finishing at Witsand Beach. For marathon runners preparing for some of South Africa's major road-running challenges, the 42.2km race also offers an important opportunity to qualify for both the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon.

As of earlier today, the event has limited antries available. **Enter now to avoid disappointment!**

- 42.2 km – 90% SOLD OUT
- 21.1 km – 95% SOLD OUT
- 10.4 km – 80% SOLD OUT

Entries: **https://www.entryninja.com/events/84059-24th-vlakte-marathon**

PHOTO CREDIT: THYS SUTHERLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



GARDEN ROUTE TRAVEL EXPO

End the year on a high note by showcasing your tourism business at the inaugural Garden Route Travel Expo, taking place this December in Knysna.

This exciting trade event provides a unique opportunity for tourism establishments, attractions, activity providers, restaurants, and accommodation establishments from across Hessequa to connect directly with leading South African tour operators, travel agents, and tour consultants who can help bring more visitors to your business.

The expo will be conducted in a Speed Marketing format, similar to speed dating, but designed specifically for the tourism industry. Exhibitors will have focused 8-minute sessions with groups of four tour operators and consultants at a time, allowing you to:

- Showcase your tourism product
- Highlight what makes your offering unique
- Build valuable industry relationships
- Increase your exposure within the travel trade sector
- Create opportunities for future bookings and partnerships

Event Details

- Villa Castollini, Knysna
- Thursday, 10 December 2026
- 08h00 – 09h00 (Registration)

Exhibitor Cost

- R4,950 per table

The exhibitor package includes refreshments and lunch, ensuring you stay energized while making meaningful industry connections throughout the day.

Should you be interested in attending, contact the event organiser at: **danielle@africacomplete.co.za**



GRABOUW OUTDOOR EXPO

Hessequa Tourism will depart Riversdale at 11h30 today, to set-up stall and attending the Grabouw Outdoor & Adventure Expo from 6-8 November 2026!

This exciting event brings together outdoor enthusiasts, adventure seekers and tourism lovers, creating a wonderful opportunity for Hessequa Tourism to showcase the region's diverse tourism offerings, outdoor activities and unforgettable experiences.

From beautiful coastal villages and scenic mountain routes to nature-based adventures, charming accommodation establishments and unique local attractions, Hessequa has something to offer every traveller. The expo provides an opportunity to connect with visitors, build new partnerships and inspire more people to explore the beauty of our region.

FIND US AT STALL: 23 - VIP HALL PATIO!

We look forward to engaging with fellow exhibitors, meeting adventure enthusiasts and sharing the many reasons why Hessequa is a destination worth discovering. Whether you are looking for your next outdoor adventure, a relaxing coastal escape or an authentic countryside experience, Hessequa welcomes everyone to explore, experience and enjoy all that our beautiful region has to offer.

- **Date:** 6-8 November 2026
- **Venue**: Elgin Grabouw Country/Sport Club

Hessequa Tourism would like to thank the businesses who generously sponsored goodies which will be used to promote Hessequa in its entirety:

Alikreukel Trail

Eureka Mills

Inverroche



EVENTS INFORMATION SESSION

Hessequa Tourism hosted an events information session on 28 October 2026 to capacitate events on the event application process and requirements when planning and hosting an event.

The following information is of great importance:

HESSEQUA MUNICIPAL APPLICATION FORM

- If your recreational event makes provision for 60 and more attendees (including staff) you must apply for a **Municipal Events Permit.**
- All event applications must be submitted 30 days in advance of the event, to ensure comments and approval by various Municipal Departments and external entities.
- The contact is psreception@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 7817

POLICE RISK CATEGORIZATION

- If you are considering hosting an event, you must ensure that the event receive a **Risk Categorization** from the local South African Police Station, aligned with the Safety at Sport and Recreational Events Act (2 of 2010).

HEALTH PROTOCOL

- Events must make provision for compliance with local food health and safety protocol by ensuring the food venue and vendor has a Garden Route District Municipality issued **Certificate of Acceptability** (CoA).
- If you are considering hosting an event, you must ensure that the event has a **Health Plan**, indicating protocol for waste management, ablution facilities, food handling and preparation and food storage.
- The contact is Haemish@edendm.co.za and 028 713 2438

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- If you are considering hosting an event, you must ensure that the event has a **Traffic Management Plan**, detailing traffic control and flow, Hessequa Traffic Services assistance, availability of parking and pedestrian safety.
- The contact is morne@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 7818

SAFETY PLAN

- If you are considering hosting an event, you must ensure that the event has a **Safety Plan**, indicating protocol to ensure the safety of all attendees. This could include the appointment of private security services and protocol for fire safety.
- The contact is psreception@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 7817

BUSINESS LICENSES

- If your event consist of food vendors, you must apply for a once-off Business License.
- The contact is wade@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 7829

ZONING AND LAND USE

- If your event includes alcohol sales or on-site consumption or live performances at eateries, you must ensure compliance with local Land-use and Zoning regulations.
- The contact is wessel@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 7853

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL & SUPPORT

- If your event takes place along or within an estuary, river, sea or nature reserve, you must ensure compliance with Environmental Services conditions and pre-approvals.
- The contact at Hessequa Municipality is shagon@hessequa.gov.za and 028 713 8071
- The contact at CapeNature is absaptou@capenature.co.za and 082 496 2522

MEDICAL SERVICES & PROTOCOL

- If you are considering hosting an event, you must ensure that the event has a **Medical Plan,** indicating protocol for medical emergencies and on-site medical services available.
- The Provincial e-mail adress is EMS.SpecialEvents@westerncape.gov.za

These guidelines are presented to asssit all event organisers and ensure that the relavent local services are involved to support you.



Invitation to

NOMINATE WOMEN MANAGERS

TO ENROL FOR THE

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Tourism hereby invites nominations of suitably qualified and experienced individuals in the Tourism Value Chain to enroll for the Executive Development Programme course targeted at advancing and empowering women managers in the tourism sector.



The programme will run for a period of 12 months based on the model that Regenesys Education use to train working students, to allow them time to continue with their work while studying. Tuition fees and other study materials for the programme will be covered 100% by the National Department of Tourism.

Upon successful completion of this programme, graduates will be conferred with a certificate in the Executive Development Programme- Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management at NQF level 8.

Candidates will be required to attend 9-day classes in person at Regenesys campus in Sandton **(COMPULSORY)** and the rest online. Transport and accommodation will be provided.

Candidates will be required to have access to laptops and unrestricted internet connectivity for the duration of the programme.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A 3-year degree (NQF level 7)
- Minimum 3 years managerial experience (Middle to Senior Management level)
- Must be employed within Tourism value chain
- Candidates must be South African citizens and women.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- Nomination letter from the employer (signed and dated)
- Motivation letter from the nominee
- A detailed CV of the nominee;
- Certified copies of ID and qualifications of the nominee.
- All qualifications must be CHE-accredited and SAQA-registered qualifications.
- Transcripts in case of incomplete qualifications.

All applications must be submitted through the APPLICATION LINK by the closing date of 16 November 2026.

ENQUIRIES: Ms Thanda Madlala
E: tmadlala@tourism.gov.za or T: 012 444 6416.

tourism
Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

A NATION THAT WORKS FOR ALL

REGENESYS EDUCATION



SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER | 18H30

An elegant evening of flavour, music and celebration.

YOUR EVENING INCLUDES

Canapes and Welcome Drinks on Arrival
Enchanting melodies performed on Crystal Wine Glasses by The Wine Glass Guy
Welcome Address by Inverroche Founder, Lorna Scott
A Bespoke Two-Course Dinner curated by Dave's Kitchen
Nightcap and Artisanal Chocolates

R990 per person

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
Email: tamerin.bushby@pernod-ricard.com
Tel: 028 754 2442