

SOUTHERN SAUNTER

A multi-day trail exploring the Garden Route wilderness area



To saunter (v) from 'A la Sainte Terre' to the Holy Land

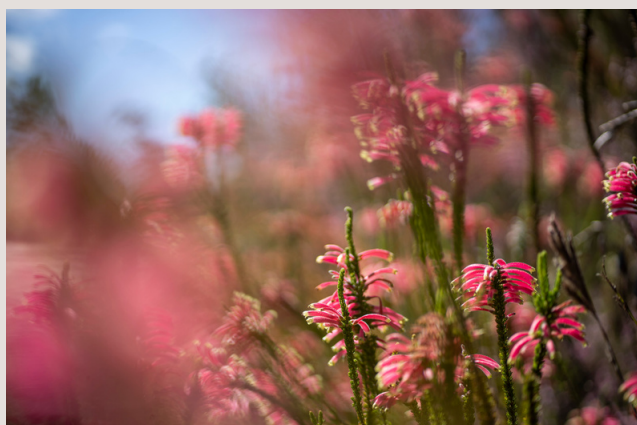
*"These mountains are our holy land and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them,"
John Muir*

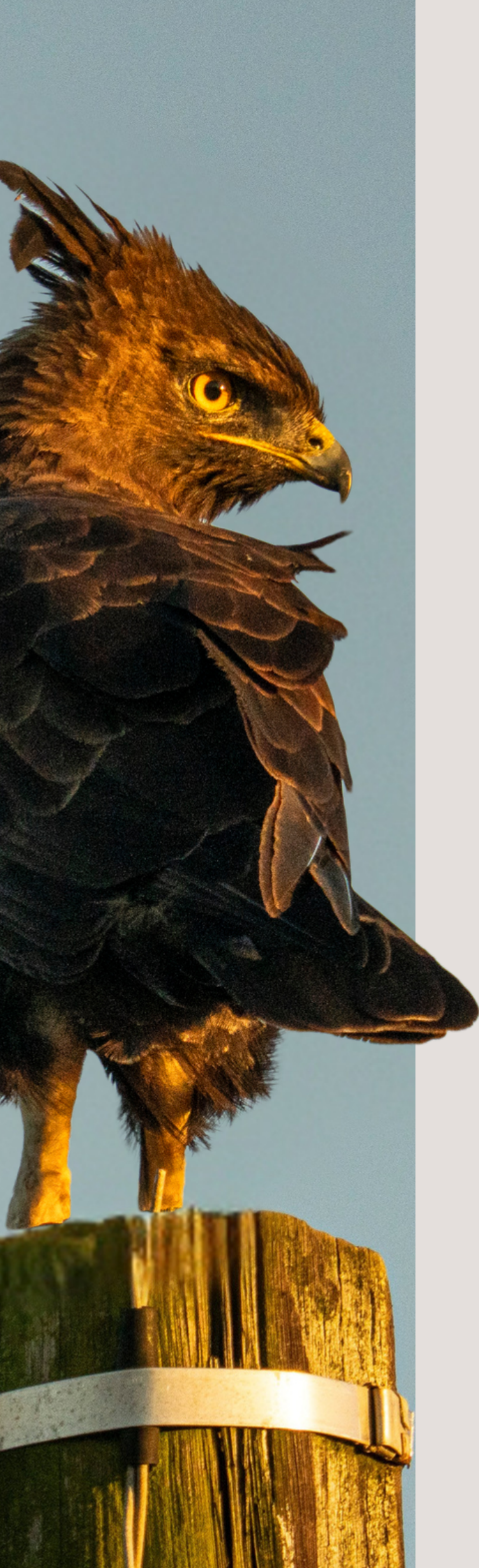
ABOUT THE SAUNTER

We fully subscribe to the wild idea that wilderness, mountains, and forests are to be approached with reverence and respect, not conquered in a challenge of speed.

Along the Garden Route, from the Outeniqua Mountains to the high tide of the Indian Ocean, a novel conservation corridor is beginning. A collaborative approach to land ownership, with a focus on innovative, imaginative conservation strategies that allow wildlife to move freely.

A guided experience through these spaces was a practical way to showcase these innovative properties, so began the idea for a Southern Saunter.





It is a 50 km, five-day trail through some of the Garden Route's most iconic areas. Each night, you return to Reflections Eco-Reserve, a privately owned eco-friendly reserve surrounded by the Garden Route National Park.

Doing this ensures a hassle-free, no constant repacking of bags, true luxury slack pack trail. Three dinners, all lunches, and breakfasts are included.

Colin and Tim, your guides, each have in excess of 30 years of experience as Nature Guides across Southern Africa. This wealth of experience contributes to what promises to be a spectacular experience.

Trails range between 8 and 12 kilometers each day through completely different aspects of our Conservation Corridor.

Breakfast is included each day.

Maximum number of guests: 10

Minimum number of guests: 4

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Arrive at Reflections Eco-Reserve:

The reserve is our base for the next six days. Arrival between 2 pm and 5 pm for check-in. This evening, a braai allows everyone to meet your guides and for discussions on the upcoming walk.

*Dinner included.

Day 1: Distance - 11 kms | Highest point - 998m

We transfer to the opposite side of the Outeniqua Mountains, where the walk starts on the more arid, north-facing slopes of the Outeniqua Mountains. It roughly follows the meanderings of an old wagon trail that links the interior to the coast. Incredible views with spectacular mountain fynbos await on a route seldom walked. From the highest point, the entirety of the corridor stretches away below.

A transfer will be done once the Outeniqua mountains are crossed, to return us to Reflections Eco-Reserve

*Dinner at the lodge (not included)

Day 2: Distance - 10 kms | Highest point - 70 m

A key component of our corridor is the collaboration and connection of different landowners.

Our day starts with a ten-minute transfer to our start point. The walk traverses a forest and fynbos dunefield, while offering spectacular views of Swartvlei and Rondevlei, both key aspects of the Garden Route's famed beauty. It also traverses properties in transition to a conservation corridor, allowing us an understanding of how the rehabilitation occurs. The day finishes at Reflections Eco-Reserve.

*Dinner at the lodge (not included)

Day 3: Distance - 7 kms | Highest point - 108 m

The day traverses Reflections Eco-Reserve, under rehabilitation from a pine plantation for approximately 20 years. The owner, Tim, will guide you, allowing for a rewarding opportunity to understand the processes he and his family have followed. A valuable aspect of the Reserve is its Middle Stone Age site that offers tantalising glimpses into the Wilderness Lakes' past. From there, we traverse the southern side of Rondevlei with magnificent views over the Lakes. A transfer back to Reflections Eco-Reserve

Back at the Lodge, an optional Sunset walk with sundowners is available.

*Dinner at the lodge (included)





Day 4: Distance - 13 kms | Highest Point: 13 m

The start time is entirely dictated by tide times! To show the full story, we felt it necessary to include the beach. The original conversation regarding a wildlife corridor asked the question, "How do we get leopard back onto our beaches?" The walk is from Kleinkrantz to Swartvlei and is a walk of connection, reflecting the resilience of early coastal communities. This type of walk is what kept so many early families alive.

A honey tasting today from the reserve, as well as an opportunity to put a bee suit on and learn a little about the incredible Cape Honey Bee.

*Dinner at the lodge (not included)

Day 5: Distance - 10 kms | Highest Point - 170 m

The final day!

We road transfer 15 minutes to the magnificent Drie Valleyen. Meticulously preserved by its owner, with an innovative approach to using Nguni cattle as large herbivore proxies, this reserve is a Garden Route jewel. Explore the role cattle and dung beetles play in regenerating depleted ecosystems. Nguni cattle are an ancient indigenous cattle breed and serve as incredible ambassadors for our corridor. The walk finishes with a stunning viewpoint overlooking the Indian Ocean. A road transfer back to Reflections Eco-Reserve with an included dinner braai and a chance to meaningfully reflect on the Garden Route and how each of us can protect and preserve its character for future generations.

*Dinner at the lodge (included)

Tours run on fixed scheduled dates, or can be privately arranged for groups. Small groups of 4–9 require at least a month's notice, and larger groups are welcome to enquire about custom departure dates.

To book the Southern Saunter, send an inquiry to:

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Email: reflectionsreserve@gmail.com