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GEORGE GENERAL INFORMATION



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George Background

George is the second largest city in the Western Cape province of South Africa. The city is a popular holiday and conference center and the administrative, commercial hub and the capital city of the Garden Route.

The city is situated halfway between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth on the Garden Route on a 10-kilometre plateau between the Outeniqua Mountains to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south.

The town of George was established on 23 April 1811, largely because of the availability of water and the growing demand for timber. It was named after the reigning British monarch, King George III. The George Local Municipality is a Category B municipality located within the Garden Route District in the Western Cape Province. It is bordered by the Eastern Cape in the north and east, Knysna and the Indian Ocean in the south, and Oudtshoorn in the west. It is one of seven municipalities in the district.

This district is informally known as the Garden Route, with George, its hub, nestled among the slopes of the majestic Outeniqua Mountains. George also enjoys the strategic advantage of being situated on the major transport routes between Cape Town in the south and Port Elizabeth in the east.

Area: 5 191km

Cities/Towns: George, Haarlem, Herolds Bay, Uniondale, Victoria Bay, Wilderness

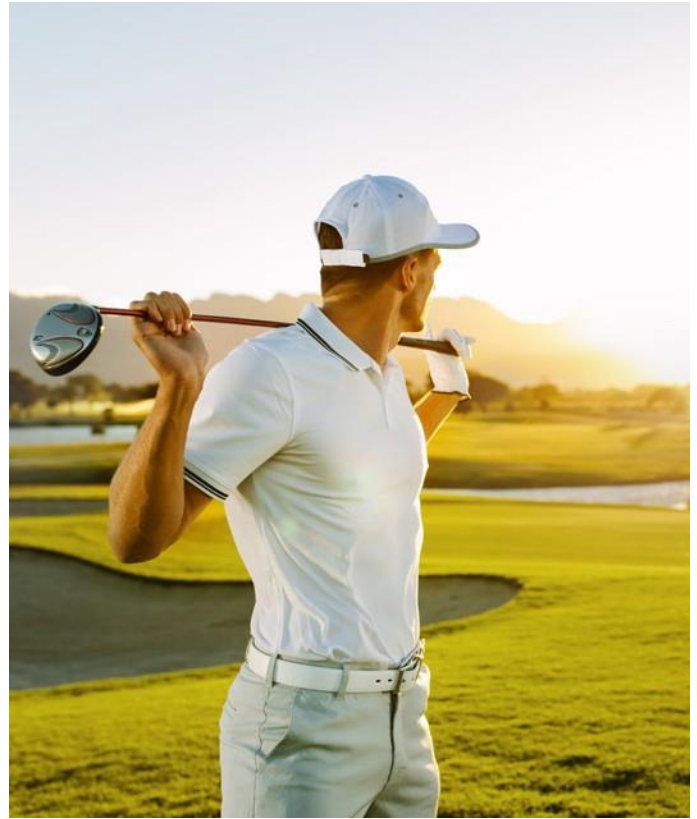
Main Economic Sectors: Finance, insurance, real estate and business services (26.4%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (18.5%), manufacturing (14.7%), transport, storage and communication (11.9%), general government (8.9%), community, social and personal services (6.3%), construction (6.0%), agriculture, forestry and fishing (3.7%)

Attractions

George has a sophisticated infrastructure with banks, conference facilities, businesses and shopping centers including the Garden Route Mall and Eden Meander, transport and sporting facilities, yet retains its small town atmosphere. The town is also a major accommodation center.

George has numerous world-class golf courses, some designed by famous golfers and beautiful beaches.

Some of the many attractions include the beautiful beaches of Victoria Bay, Herolds Bay and Wilderness; Redberry Farm, Harold Wine Estate, Outeniqua and Sedgefield Markets; Montagu/Outeniqua and Seven Passes; Outeniqua Transport Museum, Quad biking, Dolphin Paragliding and much more.



Education

Primary and Secondary Education

Schools include the Afrikaans-medium George High School established in 1947 and Outeniqua High School established in 1923. The English medium school is York High School and there is also a double medium technical school HTS Eden. Several independent schools have been established such as Glenwood House, an English medium co-ed school from Grade 000 to Grade 12.

Tertiary Education

George is the tertiary hub of the Southern Cape, with some public and private institutions providing education at various campuses.

- South Cape College is a public further education and training college. It has six campuses, one being in George.
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Saasveld, offers two centers of excellence – the Centre for Resource Management and the Centre for Business and Information Technology studies.



Transport

Go George Bus Service

The George Integrated Public Transport Network (GIPTN) is a project aimed at launching a new and improved public transport system for George and surrounding areas.

GO GEORGE is operated by the public transport operators with existing services in the George area. The aim is to provide a quality public transport service that is reliable, affordable, safe, convenient and accessible, and contributes to a better quality of life for all.

At the heart of the project is an empowerment model that sees public transport operators who were operating minibus taxi or bus services in George forming a company to deliver the new scheduled bus service in terms of a contract.

The Municipality is responsible for the service, ensuring that safety, quality and customer service standards are maintained. Buses comply with the Road Traffic Act and the more specific requirements of the operator contract. Operators are penalized if buses travel too fast, do not adhere to routes and timetables, are not clean or do not comply with several other contracted obligations. Drivers are expected to drive considerately and within the law. Speed of the vehicles is limited and the buses are being monitored by tracking devices.



Air

George Airport (IATA code GRJ), situated approximately 7 km from the city center, has scheduled flights to Cape Town International Airport, King Shaka International Airport (Durban), Bram Fischer International Airport (Bloemfontein) and OR Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg).



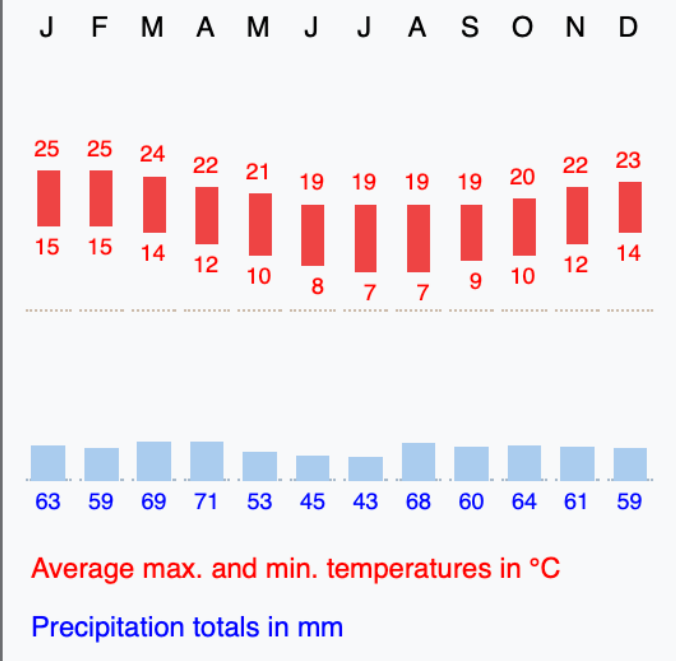
Climate

George has an oceanic climate, with warm summers, and mild to cold winters. It is one of the highest rainfall regions in South Africa. Most rain falls in the winter and spring months, brought by the humid sea winds from the Indian Ocean.

George normally receives about 662mm of rain per year, with rainfall occurring throughout the year. The chart below (lower left) shows the average rainfall values for George per month. It receives the lowest rainfall (36mm) in June and the highest (78mm) in March. The monthly distribution of average daily maximum temperatures (center chart below) shows that the average midday temperatures for George range from 18.2°C in July to 27.6°C in February. The region is the coldest during July when the mercury drops to 6.2°C on average during the night. Consult the chart below (lower right) for an indication of the monthly variation of average minimum daily temperatures.

George

Climate chart (explanation)



Compiled by: Jannie Engelbrecht
 Information: Courtesy of Wikipedia
 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George,_Western_Cape)