

# ROUTE 62



**G**o on, get off the N2 and take the alternative route. Route 62. Revel in empty rolling roads with shaded picnic spots, mysterious kloofs, pools hidden in mountain crags and wine farms basking in the sun. En route you'll discover a land scattered with farmhouses and small villages drowning in roses, forgotten by time, fine wines, delicious

preserves, hot springs, rock climbing routes and hikes through fynbos and down rugged kloofs.

Ostrich and sheep think it's nirvana. They roast in the sun and graze happily on the spiky bushes. Talking about sheep, Karoo lamb is something every unrepentant meat eater should try.



This narrow plain lies between the Swartberg and Outeniqua Mountains which separate it from both the arid Karoo and the coastline.

## ROBERTSON



Situated in the Breede River Valley where wine, roses and racehorses flourish, the little town of Robertson lies on Route 62. Outdoor enthusiasts will find mountains to bike, climb and hike; rivers to canoe and horses to ride - not to mention bird-filled nature reserves and 4x4 routes to explore. Famed for its stately stud farms, this "valley of wine and roses" is responsible for 10% of South Africa's vineyards, so hunt down some great wines at groovy prices.

Somewhere on this globe every 10 seconds there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be found and stopped.



## ROBERTSON BACKPACKERS

4 Dordrecht Avenue, Robertson, 6705

Tel: 023 626 1280

Cell: 072 447 5991

info@robertsonbackpackers.co.za

www.robertsonbackpackers.co.za

R60 to Kentucky Fried Chicken. Take Paul Kruger Road for 1.6km. Right into Waterkant. 1st left into Dordrecht.

Situated in the heart of Route 62, Robertson Backpackers makes a fantastic base from which to explore the area. The spacious old Victorian house is welcoming, with large rooms, an immaculate garden and plenty of communal areas, so it never feels crowded. After the day's activities, grabba glass of wine, grabba pew alongside the fire and watch the sun sink behind the mountains. When it gets chilly retreat into the cosy fire and lamp-lit warmth of the Moroccan room, and puff a shisha pipe while relaxing to cool sounds.

### COUNTRY LIFE.

- Horse ride and swim - R100.
- Two hour riverboat cruise from R80 (meal included).
- Mountain hikes.



Dorms R80; Doubles R220;

En suite R280; Cottage (sleeps 4) R360; Camping R50.

Meals on request. Laundry. Internet. Free tea and coffee.



Time may be a great healer but it's a lousy beautician.

### WACKY WINE TOURS

Climb aboard the purple party landy, then, with the wind in your hair and wine in your veins, watch the beautiful scenery get blurrier (...and blurrier). Visit 4 winning cellars and see how much wine you can, hee, handle! R150.



### RAFTING ROUTE 62

Paddle down the Breede River. It's great outdoor fun, with swimming, scenery, and bird life thrown in. R300pp incl. lunch

▶ Book ahead for tours ◀

## MONTAGU

Lying deep in the Breede River Valley, the special little town of Montagu will seep into your heart, and if you give it enough time, soul. The Langeberg Mountains offer serious climbers challenging cliff faces as well as pleasant, rambling hikes.

Refresh body, mind and spirit in the therapeutic mineral springs. Then put the full stop on your recuperation by quaffing some of the local honey-flavoured Muscadel wine. Psst. Don't forget to track down some of Route 62's fine wine.



I was sleeping the other night, alone, thanks to the exterminator.



### BLUE MOUNTAIN

48 Long Street Montagu, Western Cape, 6720

Tel/Fax: 023 614 3291

Cell: 076 178 9304

sue@suespencer.fsnet.co.uk

www.blue-mountain.co.za

On right hand side as you enter Montagu from Cape Town. On left hand side from Oudshoorn.



This is a good place to set down your wine glass and take in some fresh Montagu air before heading off on your Route 62 viticultural adventure again.

Located in the heart of town overlooking the mountains, it has a large swimming pool (thank heavens!) and an orchard-fringed garden with a lapa and braai facilities.

Breakfast and other meals are available on request.

- Deluxe dorms R100; En suite doubles R280;
- Deluxe doubles R380; Self-catering flat (sleeps 6) R500.
- Off-street parking. Internet. Laundry service.

Always ignore your enemies - nothing annoys them more.

## DE BOS GUEST FARM

8 Brown Street, POBox 103, Montagu, 6720

Tel/Fax: 023 614 2532      [sdbrown@mweb.co.za](mailto:sdbrown@mweb.co.za)

[www.debos.co.za](http://www.debos.co.za)

From Cape Town: Left into Barry Street.


Left into Bath. Cross bridge. Left.



This peaceful working farm is guarded by towering mountains (read wicked daytime adventure playground).

Take a walk on the wild side with rock climbing, challenge your calves in this hiking wonderland, or simply dream away lazy days in the long green grass where the horses play, listening to the wind whisper your name.

At night, doss down in a cosy self-catering room or bungalow or try something different and curl up in the stable dorm.

 Dorms R60; Doubles R240 - R270; Camping R30. Pool.



## HEALING HOLIDAYS

R318, Keisie Valley, POBox 589, Montagu, 6720

Tel: 023 614 2901      [philipeeanddeb@hotmail.com](mailto:philipeeanddeb@hotmail.com)

[www.healingholidays.co.za](http://www.healingholidays.co.za)

Follow signs to Montagu Springs, then go on a further 12km.



It's all about healing. Both the planet, and yourself.

The showers are solar and they make compost from your pooh 'cos, yup, everything here is biodegradable, organic, or both.

This soul-refreshing, carbon neutral experience will leave you feeling good on all levels. But if it doesn't, try a massage, crystal healing, a sweat lodge or some reiki. Then get back to earth at The Little Buddha Café with some fresh organic veggie nosh.

 Teepee R140pp and bedding R30pp.  
20% discount for Coast to Coast.

Do unto others,  
then run.



## OUTDSHOORN

Oudtshoorn is the capital of the Klein Karoo and home to the ostrich breeding business in South Africa. The mysterious and world famous Cango Caves also chose to dig their hole here. Sculpted by the great gods over a million years ago, this natural subterranean wonder comprises of five limestone caves, one of which is 18km long and was declared a national monument in 1938. With stalactites, stalagmites and helictites over 9m big, it's a definite must. Also topping the "must" list is traversing the Swartberg Pass - one of the most spectacular passes in Africa which offers magnificent views over the Matjies River Valley.

### APRIL FOOLS

The Karoo Arts and Culture Festival is held every April. This celebration of Afrikaans culture rivals the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown.



## adventure



Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?

### CANGO WILDLIFE RANCH AND VALLEY OF ANCIENTS

2 Baron van Reede St, POBox 559, Oudtshoorn, 6620

Tel: 044 272 5593

Fax: 044 272 4167

marketing@cango.co.za

www.cango.co.za

Fancy yourself as a bit of a Crocodile Dundee? Well, step on up Paul 'cos this place offers croc cage diving with 4 meter long Nile Crocodiles. Eeek. What *would* they say back home? With its flying foxes, rare blue duikers, endangered Cape Vultures and other birds of paradise, the Valley of Ancients is worth a gander too. But perhaps you'd prefer something a little cuddlier? In that case, try the tigers. Then when your legs turn to jelly, head off to the Reptile Park and slither about with other yellow-bellied beasts.



## AMBER LAGOON

R62, Langverwacht, Calitzdorp  
POBox 1562, Oudtshoorn, 6620

Tel: 044 213 3022

[amberlagoon@telkomsa.net](mailto:amberlagoon@telkomsa.net)

On R62: 27km from Calitzdorp/32km from Oudtshoorn.

Follow signs. 7km good dirt road.




places to stay

Cell: 082 755 1039

[www.amberlagoon.co.za](http://www.amberlagoon.co.za)

Amber Lagoon is buried in the heart of the Little Karoo, bordered by the Swartberg Mountains and the Gamka Nature Reserve. Sleep in a self-catering reed and stone chalet, splash in the big pool, and enjoy home-cooked meals in the open-air bar. Head out in the farmer's 4x4 to search for ostrich eggs, seeing springbok and other wild creatures en route. Discover why your German hosts fell in love with this land...



 Dorms R70; Singles R200+; Doubles R220+; En suite R260+; Safari tent R90; Camping R50.

## ATTAKWAS

192 Jan van Riebeeck Road, Oudtshoorn, 6620

Tel/Fax: 044 272 5114

[info@burchell4x4.co.za](mailto:info@burchell4x4.co.za)

From George: At 1st traffic light turn left into Voortrekker Road.

At 2nd traffic light turn right into Jan van Riebeeck.

Cell: 072 199 1919


[www.atakwas.co.za](http://www.atakwas.co.za)



This owner-run lodge is brilliant value for money with its self-catering cottages and peaceful B&B-style en suite doubles.

Their king-size garden houses a separate campsite with its own facilities. They know more about the Little Karoo than most people so let them feed you with fascinating facts, take you on 4x4 trails, send you on botanical excursions or on a giddy trip over the Swartberg Mountains.



 En suite doubles R270; Singles R180; Camping R50.  
Towels supplied. Optional breakfast. Self-catering.

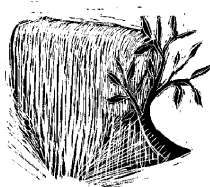
## BACKPACKERS OASIS SHANTI

3 Church St (Kerkstr.), Oudtshoorn, 6620

Tel: 044 279 1163 oasis@mailbox.co.za

www.oasisshanti.com

From Baron van Reede turn into Church Street (right from George/Mossel Bay side, left from Cango Caves side). 900m on right.



This small and friendly backpackers is located in a cheerful old house with a big shady garden, a large swimming pool (totally essential in summer), a lazy lounging terrace for scrumptious ostrich egg breakfasts and a starlit braai that grills delicious ostrich steaks and vegetarian delights. A roaring fire warms the lounge on cold nights.



The lodge offers comfortable single, double, triple and family rooms (some with en suite facilities), a spacious

dorm, a self-catering cottage and shady camping spots. Set in a leafy and historic neighbourhood, it's a peaceful place that's just a short walk away from the town centre. They provide maps, discounted entry to local attractions and excellent advice on self-guided routes that take in the local sights, the surrounding farmlands, beautiful waterfalls and the spectacular mountain passes (which are high on the list of What To Do priorities).

Rates include linen, duvets, towels on request and free tea and coffee.



 Dorms R70; Doubles R180 - R240; Camping R40.

Great low season deals. Baz Bus pick up/drop off in George. DSTV. Internet. Off-street parking. Recycling. Laundry.

Q: Why did Tigger stick his head down the toilet?

A: He was looking for Pooh.



## BACKPACKERS PARADISE AND JOYRIDES

148 Baron van Reede St, POBox 381, Oudtshoorn, 6625

Tel: 044 272 3436

Fax: 086 633 7487

backpackers@isat.co.za [www.backpackersparadise.net](http://www.backpackersparadise.net)

On the right hand side of the main road to the Cango Caves.

Owner run, this friendly hostel offers divinely wide beds and excellent service from staff who will happily share the secrets of the little Karoo and arrange a wide variety of activities from their adventure and travel centre. Thanks to loads of space indoors and out, nothing will cramp your style during your stay. In fact, the relaxed atmosphere is a little addictive, so don't be surprised if you end up staying longer than planned. Once you've settled in, check e-mails in their internet café, grabba beer from the pub (which is far from any sleep-desiring bodies), plonk your hot bod into the cool pool, sloth out in front of the telly or claim the balcony and watch the sun blaze its way to bed.



### JOYRIDES

- Cycle down the Swartberg Pass
- Daily shuttle to the caves, ostrich farm and wildlife ranch
- Horse riding
- Croc cage dives
- Quad bike trips to waterfalls
- Game drives
- Meerkat tours



- Safe parking
- DSTV
- Laundry facilities
- Free towel service
- Free tea and coffee
- Discounts to local attractions
- Free ostrich egg (in season)
- Nightly ostrich (or veg-friendly) braai
- Daily shuttle from Baz Bus drop off in George. R30 return, no matter where you stay.

🦋 Dorms R80 (4th night free); Doubles R240+;  
En suite R280+; Camping R50 (4th night free).  
Moola Magic/ISIC/AroundAboutCars discount. Bike hire.

Never hit a man with glasses. Hit him with something bigger and heavier.

## KAROO SOUL

170 Langenhoven Road (or 1 Adderley Street),  
Oudtshoorn, 6620

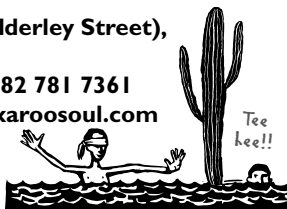
Tel: 044 272 0330

Cell: 082 781 7361

info@karoosoul.com


www.karoosoul.com

Enter from George/Garden Route  
on Langenhoven Road. Directions  
to entrance are on wall of No. 170.



This Tudor-style mansion offers views that even the birds envy. Mountains hover in the distance while spectacular sunsets pour over them. Chic rooms ooze style and unique art pieces imbue a timeless quality.

Bask in the sun on the rolling lawn, then solar powered, hit their on-site adventure centre. Too hot to think? Don't. Flop into pool, then roll into a hammock to drip dry.

 Dorms R80; Doubles/Twins R250; Cottages R300;  
Camping R40. Discounted local attractions.



A seapegoat is almost  
as good as a solution.

## MOT OUDTSHOORN

26 Hugenoet St, Oudtshoorn, 6625

Tel/Fax: 044 272 2901

Cell: 072 983 8750

info@mot-oudtshoorn.com www.mot-oudtshoorn.com

S 33° 35.478' E 022° 12.869'

From Main Road: Turn up Church Street. On right at top.



They are situated at the highest point in Oudtshoorn, which means they can keep an eye out for wandering globetrotters on motorbikes or in 4x4's, who are likely to end up here on their search for inside info on Route 62's adventures. They offer braais\* and breakfasts on request and have a spacious kitchen and lekker\* swimming pool.

 Safari tents R90pp; Double room from R200;  
En suite doubles from R240; Camping R45.

## UNIONDALE

A mere spit off Route 62,

Uniondale lies on the alternative route between the Karoo and the Garden Route and the coastline and Oudtshoorn. It's close to the Prince Alfred Pass and the Baviaanskloof wilderness which offers excellent mountain biking.

I've been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog.



### KAMMANASSIE BACKPACKERS

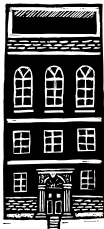
74 Voortrekker Street, Uniondale, 6460

Tel/Fax: 044 752 1135 Cell: 073 260 9195

backpackers@vodamail.co.za

www.tiscover.co.za/kammanassie

They're on the main road.



Backroad junkies looking for roads less travelled might well choose this one and find themselves in Uniondale en route to extraordinary mountain passes and 4x4 territory.

Apples abound, Boer war forts guard hilltops, nature reserves beckon and historic buildings stand braving the blazing sun while mountain bike trails and bushman paintings await discovery.

With just two en suite dorms, this spot offers a personalised experience and the opportunity to experience small town life.

 Dorms R80; Camping R50. Internet.

Pat and Miek landed themselves a job at a sawmill. Just before the morning break, Pat yelled, "Miek, I've lost me finger!" "Have you now," said Miek. "And how did you do it?" Pat replied, "I just touched this big, shiny spinning thing here like thi...damn! There goes another one!"

