



WILD WALK 2012

Wild Walk 2012 SUPPORTED BY



“Taking a walk on the Wild Side”

The **Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa** (WESSA), in partnership with **African Heartland Journeys**, a specialist tour company on the Wild Coast, will be hosting Wild Walk 2012. The walk is supported by the **Mazda Wildlife Fund**. The event was first held in 2011 and is planned to be an annual event that celebrates the Wild Coast's successes and highlights the challenges of education and conservation along the Wild Coast.

Stretching from the Mthamvuna River in the north to the Gonubie River in the south is the Wild Coast. A rugged beauty with a history of shipwreck survivors, undeveloped beaches and estuaries, traditional way of life and birthplace to the father of our nation, Nelson Mandela, is in need local and global attention. The walk takes place over the month of March as a 320km hike down the coast from Port Edward to Chintsa and raises awareness around conservation and education.

“The walk is a neutral and un-threatening fun filled and cost effective exposure of a special region needing support, and it is for this reason that we as WESSA are standing behind the initiative,” said Mumsie Gumede CEO of WESSA (2011).

The Wild Coast, long considered as one of the most culturally rich, dramatic and dynamic coastal belts in the country has more recently emerged as a complex and exceedingly rich biosphere. The region, however, is not without its challenges and concerns with radically opposed views on conservation and development. Beyond this, there is the struggle to meet the demands of quality education and appropriate health support while poor infrastructure, poverty and politics complicate service delivery.



Along the route, you are invited to join conservationists, local and foreign tourists, community members and school groups to celebrate our biodiversity and explore our concerns.

Participants are given the opportunity to experience, share and learn about the Wild Coast.

Joining us along the route

Four coastal trail sections have been designed for walkers interested to be part of the event.

1. **PONDOLAND HIGHLIGHTS** - Wild Coast Sun to Port St Johns 6 Day hike (6 nights)
2. **CULTURAL IMMERSION 1** – Port St Johns to Coffee Bay 5 Day hike (5 nights)
3. **CULTURAL IMMERSION 2** – Coffee Bay to Bulungula 2 Day hike (3 nights)
4. **SOUTHERN WILD COAST** – Mazeppa Bay to Chintsa 4 Day hike (4 nights)

Each trail section offers a specific experience for walkers in terms of accommodation, catering and topical aspects to the walk.

Presented below are tables of each section with the relevant details on terrain, distances, topics to be explored and facilities that will be utilised.

Whether you are looking to stay in tented lodge camps, rural Xhosa villages or be pampered in the hotel to hotel section, the walk will provide an appropriate choice.

The entire route will be supported by a Mazda 4x4 backup vehicle which will carry your luggage and extras between the overnight stops.

A professional guide will walk the entire route and will be supported by local guides and area specialists to enhance your walking experience.

Wild Walk 2012 has a number of specific objectives which are presented later in this document. Your participation will contribute to the achievement of these conservation and educational targets.



Hikers, young and old at Manteku overnight camp, Wild Walk 2011

Route map



Pondoland Highlights Cultural Immersion 1 & 2 **Southern Wild Coast**

Wild Walk 2012 – Section 1.1 PONDOLAND Highlights: Wild Coast Sun to Port St Johns (six day hike)

Date	Day	Distance	Departure	Destination	Accommodation	Difficulty	Topical	Highlights	DETAILS TO SECTION 1.1
12/03/01	1	24km (6-7 hours)	Wild Coast Sun	Mthenthu	Community Tented Camp	Long day Medium terrain	N2 Toll Road and Mining debate verse Tourism. Also why tourism not working at full potential	Mnyameni & Mthenthu Rivers	Meeting place: Wild Coast Sun Time: 7:30am for 8:00am departure 1 March 2012 <u>Includes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Walk core team leaders (WESSA and African Heartland Journeys) • Local guide & Pondoland specialist • Accommodation Nights 1 – 6 • Meals as laid out: Breakfast day 2 – 6 Lunch day 1 – 6 Dinner day 1 – 6 • Back-up vehicle (can carry one backpack & drinks per person) • Ferry & other on-route expenses • 24 hour Emergency Response <u>Excludes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to and from hike start and end • Drinks & trail snacks • Activities outside of stated program COST PER PERSON: R 4 200 per person sharing
12/03/02	2	14km	Mthenthu	Msikaba	En-suit tented camp	Easy terrain	Mkambhati Nature Reserve & ECPTA Wild Coast Project	Mkambhati Falls & Msikaba Estuary	
12/03/03	3	13km	Msikaba	Luphuthana	En-suit tented camp	Easy terrain	Pondoland Centre of Endemism	Luphuthana “wall” and gorge	
12/03/04	4	16km	Luphuthana	Mbotyi	Campsite (rondavel dorm or tent)	Medium difficult terrain	Egosa fault, forest complexes and the Cape Parrot	Waterfall Bluff and Cathedral rock	
12/03/05	5	13km	Mbotyi	Manteku	En-suit tented camp	Short day Easy terrain	Nsubane Forest complex and deforestation ; Wild Coast Project	Enjoy one of the coast's most beautiful estuaries and beach camps	
12/03/06	6	22km (6 hours)	Manteku	Port St Johns	Backpackers (twin room)	Long day Medium difficulty	Rocky shore harvesting pressures	A tale of shipwrecks; Mt Thesiger views	

What to bring: each participant may bring one backpack, one day pack and a supply of drinks.

- Appropriate hiking clothes, shoes & hat; sleeping bag; toiletries; 1st Aid Kit (for your daypack); Sunblock; water bottle (to carry 2 litres/day minimum); small denomination money for extras you may want; camera & spare batteries.

Limited availability: maximum number of walkers 16.

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Wild Walk 2012 Section 2.1 Cultural Immersion 1: Port St Johns to Coffee Bay (5 day hike)

Date	Day	Distance	Departure	Destination	Accommodation	Difficulty	Topical	Highlights	DETAILS TO SECTION 2.1
12/03/07	1	16km	Port St Johns	Madakeni	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Wild Coast Sustainable Villages	Wild Coast largest mangrove swamp. Traditional, cultural cave	<p>Meeting place: Second Beach Time: 9:00 am walk departs 7 March 2012</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Walk core team leaders (WESSA and African Heartland Journeys) • Local guide & trail specialist • Accommodation Nights 1 – 5 • Meals as laid out: Breakfast day 2 – 6 Lunch day 1 – 5 Dinner day 1 – 5 • Back-up vehicle (can carry one backpack & drinks per person) • Ferry & other on-route expenses • 24 hour Emergency Response <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to and from hike start and end • Drinks & trail snacks • Activities outside of stated program <p>COST PER PERSON: R 1 965 per person sharing</p>
12/03/08	2	11km	Madakeni	Mpande	Rural village home stay	Short day Medium terrain	Tourism & coastal harvesting	Cultural immersion	
12/03/09	3	12km	Mpande	Hluhleka	Rural village home stay	Short day Medium terrain	Wild Coast Project; ECPTA	Cultural immersion	
12/03/10	4	22km (6 hours)	Hluhleka	Mdumbi	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Grassroots development	Cultural immersion Mdumbi village life	
12/03/11	5	13km	Mdumbi	Coffee Bay	Backpacker Lodge (twin room)	Medium to easy day	Motor bike impact on lives	Mpusi cliffs; Mthatha River Mouth	

What to bring: each participant may bring one backpack, one day pack and a supply of drinks.

- Appropriate hiking clothes, shoes & hat; sleeping bag; toiletries; 1st Aid Kit (for your daypack); Sunblock; water bottle (to carry 2 litres/day minimum); small denomination money for extras you may want; camera & spare batteries.

Limited availability: maximum number of walkers 10.

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Wild Walk 2012 - Section 2.2 Cultural Immersion 2: Coffee Bay to Bulungula (3 night, 2 day hike)

Date	Day	Distance	Departure	Destination	Accommodation	Difficulty	Topical	Highlights	DETAILS TO SECTION 2.2
12/03/12	1	-	-	Coffee Bay	Backpacker Lodge (Twin room)	Arrival day	Arrival Day	Arrival day	<p>Meeting place: Sugar Loaf 12/03/11 18:00 Time: 10:00 am walk departs 13 March 2012</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Walk core team leaders (WESSA and African Heartland Journeys) • Local guide & trail specialist • Accommodation Nights 1 – 3 • Meals as laid out: Breakfast day 2 – 3 Lunch day 2 – 3 Dinner day 1 – 3 • Back-up vehicle (can carry one backpack & drinks per person) • On-route expenses • 24 hour Emergency Response <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to and from hike start and end • Drinks & trail snacks • Activities outside of stated program <p>COST PER PERSON: R 1 135 per person sharing</p>
12/03/13	2	14km	Coffee Bay	Lubanzi	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Sustainable livelihoods	Hole in the Wall	
12/03/14	3	14km	Lubanzi	Bulungula	Backpackers (Shared accommodation)	Medium difficulty	Grassroots development	Bulungula Incubator	

What to bring: each participant may bring one backpack, one day pack and a supply of drinks.

- Appropriate hiking clothes, shoes & hat; sleeping bag; toiletries; 1st Aid Kit (for your daypack); Sunblock; water bottle (to carry 2 litres/day minimum); small denomination money for extras you may want; camera & spare batteries.

Limited availability: maximum number of walkers 10.

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Wild Walk 2012 – Section 3.1 Southern Wild Coast - Hotel to Hotel Hiking trail (4 night, 4 day hike)

Date	Day	Distance	Departure	Destination	Accommodation	Difficulty	Topical	Highlights	DETAILS TO SECTION 3.1
12/03/17	1	-	-	Mazeppa Bay	Hotel	Arrival day	Arrival day	Arriving on the Wild Coast	<p>Meeting place: Mazeppa Bay – in the bar the evening before the hike @ 18:00 Time: 9:00 am walk departs 17 March 2012</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Walk core team leaders (WESSA and African Heartland Journeys) • Local guide & trail specialist • Accommodation Nights 1 – 4 • Meals as laid out: Breakfast day 2 – 5 Lunch day 2 – 5 Dinner day 1 – 4 • Back-up vehicle (can carry one backpack & drinks per person) • Ferry & other on-route expenses • 24 hour Emergency Response <p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to and from hike start and end • Drinks & trail snacks • Activities outside of stated program <p>COST PER PERSON: R 4 055 per person sharing</p>
12/03/18	2	19km	Mazeppa Bay	Wavecrest	Hotel	Long day Medium difficulty	Crowned Crane breeding grounds	Meteor site, Mermaid Pool, Nxaxo River Mangroves	
12/03/19	3	24km (6-7 hours)	Wavecrest	Morgan Bay	Hotel	Long day Medium difficulty	Vehicle Impact & legislation	Great Kei River, Jacaranda Shipwreck	
12/03/20	4	10km	Morgan Bay	Haga Haga	Hotel	Short and easy	Coastal environments	Morgan Bay cliffs	
12/03/21	5	16km	Haga Haga	Chintsa	Please note accommodation in Chintsa is not included	Easy to medium terrain	Celebration with Eco-Schools	Kids, kids, kids	

What to bring: each participant may bring one backpack, one day pack and a supply of trail drinks.

- Appropriate hiking clothes, shoes & hat; sleeping bag; toiletries; 1st Aid Kit (for your daypack); Sunblock; water bottle (to carry 2 litres/day minimum); small denomination money for extras you may want; camera & spare batteries.

Limited availability: maximum number of walkers 12.

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OBJECTIVES OF WILD WALK 2012

- Enjoy one of Africa's most beautiful coastal environments
- Launch the **Ride for Respect Campaign** and **The Seafood Consumer Guide for the Wild Coast**
- Highlight conservation and education challenges on the Wild Coast
- Highlight conservation and education successes on the Wild Coast
- Engage relevant role players in education and conservation on the Wild Coast to develop strategies for improved conservation and education
- Realise the potential of the Wild Walk as an annual Wild Coast event
- Provide an opportunity for positive exposure of the Wild Coast
- Provide an opportunity for multiple stakeholders and role players on the Wild Coast to contribute to a learning experience
- Increase national awareness of the beauty, biodiversity and cultural richness of the Wild Coast

REFLECTIONS ON WILD WALK 2011

2011 was the inaugural Wild Walk and served as a pilot for the concept of an annual event. It is without doubt that the organisers of the 2011 event, including WESSA and African Heartland Journeys, believe the walk has the potential to become the Wild Coast's premier annual event.

Driven by broad objectives of conservation and education, the walk further serves the tourism objectives of the region. The diversity of experience is unparalleled in any existing hike in Southern Africa and has the potential to rival any existing hiking trail in Southern Africa.

Two educational conservation campaigns were identified during the walk of 2011:

1. WESSA, through meetings with local communities, established that motorbike riders and quad bike riders pose an enormous concern to people living along the coast. There is a physical threat and an environmental concern caused by irresponsible riding on the Wild Coast. **Ride for Respect** emerged as a means by which hotels, lodges and cottage owners along the coast can play an improved role in promoting responsible and respectful motorbike and quad bike usage along the coast.
2. In Port St Johns, WESSA met with a representative from the crayfish divers in the area. The divers identified over harvesting as a concern to their livelihoods and have requested an educational campaign, **The Seafood Consumer Guide for the Wild Coast**, as a means to inform buyers of the legalities around purchasing crayfish and other rocky shore foods, establish minimum rates and fair purchase prices for crayfish caught by divers and harvesters of other rocky shore foods.

Wild Walk 2012 will implement the launch of these two educational campaigns along the coast by engaging with hotels, lodges, backpacker establishments, schools, community seafood harvesters and tourism associations. The campaign will be visual information posters that will be displayed in prominent places all the way along the Wild Coast so as to reach their target audience, consumers visiting this beautiful, yet vulnerable coastline.

2011 served a further purpose by being a celebratory event to honour WESSA's 85 year contribution to conservation in South Africa. Mumsie Gumede (CEO) and Mike Ward (COO), amongst other WESSA staff, were active participants on some of the route. Other walkers who joined for sections of the trail to show support to the two core walkers were foreign and domestic tourists, representatives from civic associations and school groups.

CONCLUSION

WESSA Border Kei and Wild Walk partners will devote March 2012 to the Wild Walk. We will raise awareness and provide suitable platforms for willing role players and stakeholders of this exceptional coastal belt to voice their concerns, share their successes and work towards effective socio-ecological strategies through conservation and education.

Schools, communities and government stakeholders will be invited to be active participants in the event. Whether it be an Eco-Schools celebration, participatory walk day, focus on unsustainable seafood harvests or learn about the conservation expansion plans of the Wild Coast Project and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency parks expansion programme schools project.

The walk will further serve to launch two WESSA campaigns developed out of Wild Walk 2011 which focus on tourism and conservation awareness through the ***Ride for Respect*** and ***Seafood Consumer Guide for the Wild Coast*** campaigns.


Wild Walk encourages you to be an active participant to this event and welcome the opportunity to walk alongside you in striving for a better Wild Coast.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information on the Walk and its objectives contact:


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Full Itinerary for Wild Walk 2012

Date	Day	Distance	Departure	Destination	Accommodation	Difficulty	Topical	Highlights
12/03/01	1	24km (6-7 hours)	Wild Coast Sun	Mthenthu	Community Tented Camp	Long day Medium terrain	N2 Toll Road, Mining & Tourism debate.	Mnyameni & Mthenthu Rivers
12/03/02	2	14km	Mthenthu	Msikaba	En-suit tented camp	Easy terrain	Mkambhati Nature Reserve & ECPTA Wild Coast Project	Mkambhati Falls & Msikaba Estuary
12/03/03	3	13km	Msikaba	Luphuthana	En-suit tented camp	Easy terrain	Pondoland Centre of Endemism	Luphuthana "wall" and gorge
12/03/04	4	16km	Luphuthana	Mbotyi	Campsite (rondavel dorm or tent)	Medium difficult terrain	Egosa fault, forest complexes and the Cape Parrot	Waterfall Bluff and Cathedral rock
12/03/05	5	13km	Mbotyi	Manteku	En-suit tented camp	Short day Easy terrain	Nsubane Forest complex and deforestation ; Wild Coast Project	Enjoy one of the coast's most beautiful estuaries and beach camps
12/03/06	6	22km (6 hours)	Manteku	Port St Johns	Backpackers	Long day Medium difficulty	Rocky shore harvesting pressures	A tale of shipwrecks; Mt Thesiger views
12/03/07	7	16km	Port St Johns	Madakeni	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Wild Coast Sustainable Villages	Wild Coast largest mangrove swamp. Traditional, cultural cave
12/03/08	8	11km	Madakeni	Mpande	Rural village home stay	Short day Medium terrain	Tourism & coastal harvesting	Cultural immersion
12/03/09	9	12km	Mpande	Hluhleka	Rural village home stay	Short day Medium terrain	Wild Coast Project; ECPTA	Cultural immersion
12/03/10	10	22km (6 hours)	Hluhleka	Mdumbi	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Grassroots development	Cultural immersion Mdumbi village life
12/03/11	11	13km	Mdumbi	Coffee Bay	Backpackers	Short day Easy day	Motor bike impact on lives	Mpusi cliffs; Mthatha River Mouth
12/03/12	12	REST	Coffee Bay	Coffee Bay	Backpackers	REST	REST	REST
12/03/13	13	14km	Coffee Bay	Lubanzi	Rural village home stay	Medium difficulty	Sustainable livelihoods	Hole in the Wall
12/03/14	14	14km	Lubanzi	Bulungula	Backpackers	Medium difficulty	Grassroots development	Bulungula Incubator
12/03/15	15	12km	Bulungula	Cwebe	Haven Hotel	Easy to medium terrain	Community joint ventures	The Cwebe and Dwesa game reserves
12/03/16	16	12km	Cwebe	Dwesa	ECPTA Cottages	Easy to medium terrain	Conservation challenges; Rhino Poaching	Inland hike through the reserve
12/03/17	17	19km	Dwesa	Kob Inn	Hotel	Long day, medium terrain	Rocky shore poaching, sand mining	Nqabara River, French sailor grave site
12/03/18	18	24km	Kob Inn	Wavecrest	Hotel	Long day Medium difficulty	Crowned Crane breeding grounds	Meteor site, Mermaid Pool, Nxaxo River Mangroves
12/03/19	19	24km (6-7 hours)	Wavecrest	Morgan Bay	Hotel	Long day Medium difficulty	Vehicle Impact & legislation	Great Kei River, Jacaranda Shipwreck
12/03/20	20	10km	Morgan Bay	Haga Haga	Rural home stay	Short and easy	Coastal environments	Morgan Bay cliffs and Mama Tofu
12/03/21	21	16km	Haga Haga	Chintsa	X	medium terrain	Celebration with Eco-Schools	Kids, kids, kids
Total distance		321km						