

Luxury with an Industrial Difference

Text: Julie Graham
Images © Turbine Hotel



TURBINE HOTEL

Knysna, a forested town situated on the picturesque Garden Route, has been attracting visitors for years. Situated within the scenic Knysna estuary on Thesen Island is the Turbine Boutique Hotel and Spa.

Before its ambitious transformation, Turbine Hotel, as the name suggests, was one of the original power stations built in Knysna in the 1930s. Today, it stands as a luxury five-star boutique hotel, while maintaining its strong heritage and

industrial aesthetic, making it a distinctive place to stay.

Using old materials from its former occupation as a power station, the hotel offers guests the opportunity to soak up history and marvel at the incredible industrial backdrop, which has been lovingly restored to create something quite extraordinary. Massive turbines, steel pillars, and pipes have been merged with funky décor and exceptional artwork to create a unique

aesthetic. The machinery and pipes are painted in vibrant colours, matched by the dining chairs. All sorts of unusual instruments and contraptions are dotted around the hotel, and will keep curious visitors fascinated for hours.

Turbine Hotel consists of 17 rooms, six luxury rooms, the Honeymoon Suite, and a self-catering apartment called the Lagoon Suite. Each room has a distinctive look and feel - this has a lot to do with the fact that

they were built within the shell of the old power station, which means that most of the rooms are not even a uniform shape.

Architects and interior designers designed the rooms to be just as quirky as the building itself. One thing all of the rooms have in common, however, is that they all boast beautiful artworks and décor, luxuriously comfortable beds, air conditioning, and a well-appointed en suite bathroom.

The fine dining, onsite restaurant, Island Café, is a must-visit. Recently appointed Executive Chef Nellis van Heerden is adding his flair to continue the renowned reputation of the 90-seater restaurant. Diners can be prepared to be taken on a culinary adventure from their imaginative breakfasts and light lunches, to the mouth-watering gourmet dinners.

If you are more in the mood for finger food, the Gastro Pub is ideal. It has an outdoor seating area and a snug indoor area with a full range of craft beer, wines, and cocktails, accompanied by an imaginative pub-style menu.

There are a range of activities on offer for guests to enjoy during their stay at Turbine Hotel. Some of the most beautiful beaches in South Africa are just a short drive away, and the hotel also has two of its very own motorised pontoon barges, seating up to 10 people, where guests can enjoy a champagne and canapé sunset cruise, while marvelling at the incredible views of the Knysna Heads

- a magnificent rock formation guarding the lagoon where it joins the ocean. Boating, kayaking, swimming, and kitesurfing can be experienced in the sheltered lagoon, and, if you are wanting to get out into the deeper sea, why not charter a fishing boat or yacht for the day?

Rent a bike from the hotel and enjoy the boarded walkways and relaxed roadside cycle paths that allow you to explore at your own pace. For those who want to explore the coastal forests, there are the options of three kilometre and nine kilometre hikes in the beautiful Knysna Forest, bursting with incredible indigenous flora and age-old yellowwood trees.

Offering a wide variety of body, facial, and beauty treatments, a session at the Turbine Spa is the perfect way to relax. The two signature treatments of the spa are the glorious Kurhula Ritual, a 90-minute pampering with a full body massage and facial to restore balance, and invigorate your body, mind, and soul; and the Jewel of Africa, a 90-minute treatment using warm rose and clear crystals to balance your energies.

The next time you consider taking a scenic trip along the magnificent Garden Route, make sure you stop off and spend a few nights experiencing all the beauty Knysna has to offer with a stay at the Turbine Boutique Hotel and Spa.

For more information, please visit www.turbinehotel.co.za

A Winter Treat

The Winter special at the Turbine Hotel includes the Romantic Thesen Island Getaway from R1,275 per person sharing per night, with breakfast, bubbly on arrival, a romantic bath, and two-course dinner at the Island Café. The Thesen Island Spa Retreat includes breakfast, a 90-minute spa experience, and two-course dinner at the Island Café from R1,685 per person sharing per night. These special offers are only available for clients who book directly with the hotel, for a minimum of a two-night stay, and are subject to availability. Rates valid until 30 September 2017.

How to Get There

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Route Specific Information: Direct scheduled flights between Cape Town and Durban to George are available.

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