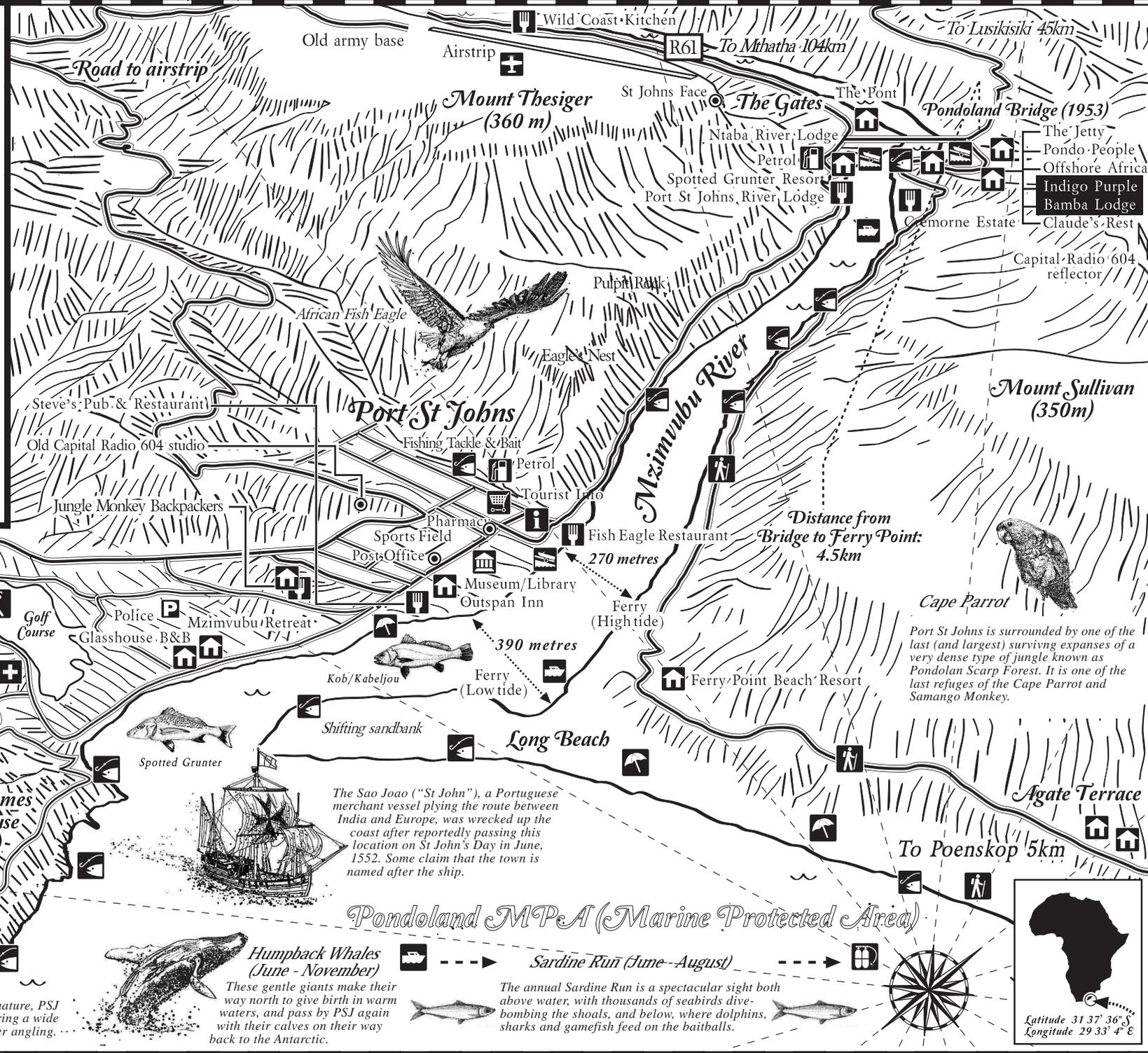


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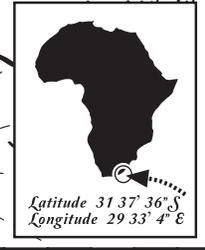
Port St Johns

"The Emerald Gem Of The Wild Coast"
Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

The face of a bearded old man can be clearly distinguished in the 350 metre-high cliffs known as "The Gates" which flank the approach to Port St Johns. It is fancied by some to be a likeness of St John, and may be the origin of the town's name.



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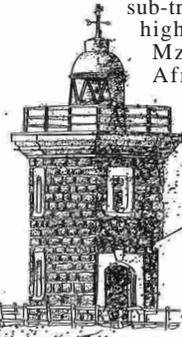
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Port St Johns in a Nutshell

Port St Johns is an idyllic little town in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, set amongst sub-tropical jungle and 350 metre-high cliffs at the mouth of the Mzimvubu ("Hippo"), South Africa's fourth-largest river.



Traditional huts dot the hillsides.



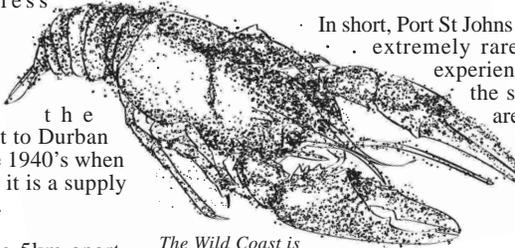
Cape Hermes Lighthouse (1904)

It is the only town on the Wild Coast, which stretches 270km between the Kei (to the south) and Mtamvuma Rivers. The area's inaccessibly rugged landscape, and its political isolation during the Apartheid era, have given it a distinctive ambience, with a sense of having been less affected by outside influences.

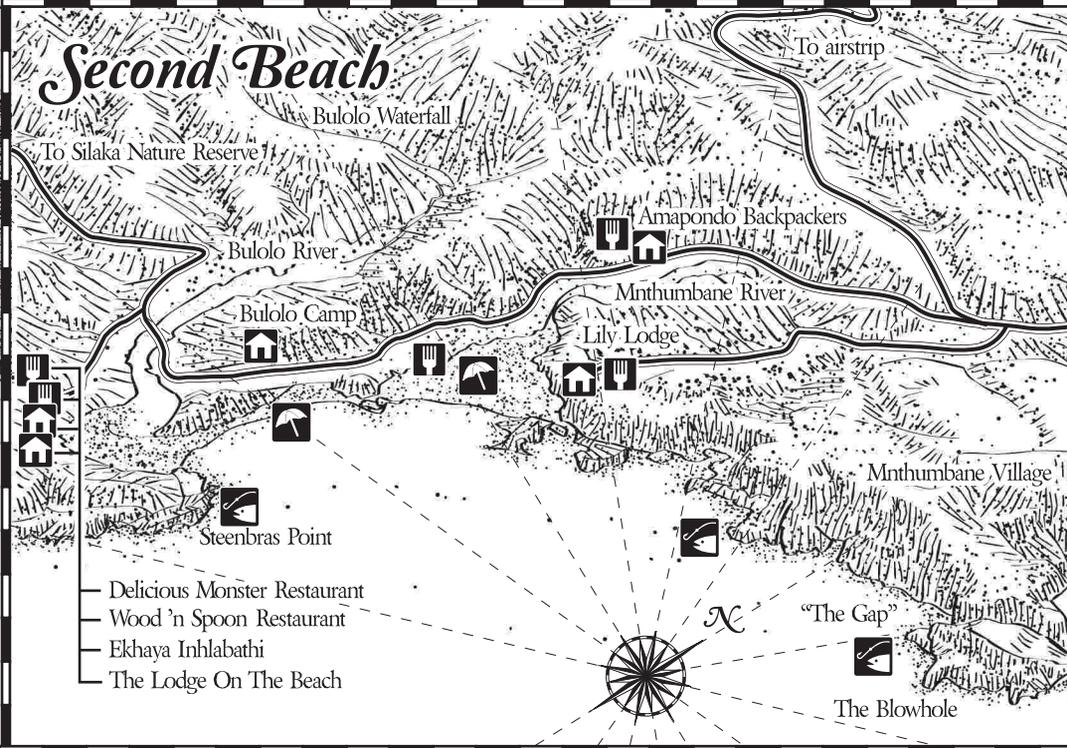
"PSJ", as it is affectionately known, was established as a supply port in the 1840's, when ships sailed up the coast to Durban and beyond. It operated as such into the 1940's when siltation made it unviable. These days, it is a supply centre for the surrounding rural areas.

It consists of two villages, which are 5km apart. First Beach is the bustling shopping centre, with supermarkets and wholesalers, a street market and taxi rank. There are also several restaurants and a coffee shop, as well as a museum and art gallery. Second Beach is smaller and slower-paced. There are one or two restaurants and a few buildings clustered around a beautiful, palm-fringed lagoon.

The Wild Coast is famous for its crayfish.
Season: 1 March - 31 October



Second Beach



- Delicious Monster Restaurant
- Wood 'n Spoon Restaurant
- Ekhaya Inhlabathi
- The Lodge On The Beach

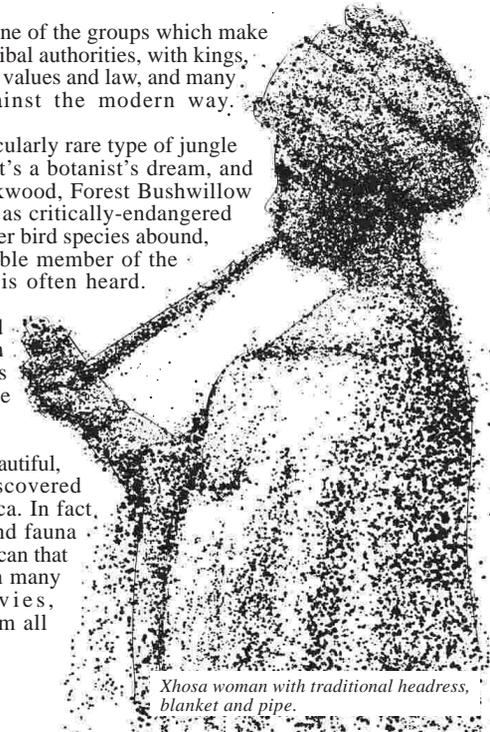
This is Pondoland, home to the Pondo People, one of the groups which make up the Xhosa. The land is administered by tribal authorities, with kings, chiefs and headmen upholding traditional values and law, and many age-old practices still prevail against the modern way.

Port St Johns is surrounded by a particularly rare type of jungle known as Pondoland Scarp Forest. It's a botanist's dream, and contains species such as White Stinkwood, Forest Bushwillow and Umzimbeet (Mthimbiti), as well as critically-endangered fauna such as the Samango Monkey and Cape Parrot. Other bird species abound, with the Trumpeter Hornbill being a raucously noticeable member of the community, while the call of the African Fish Eagle is often heard.

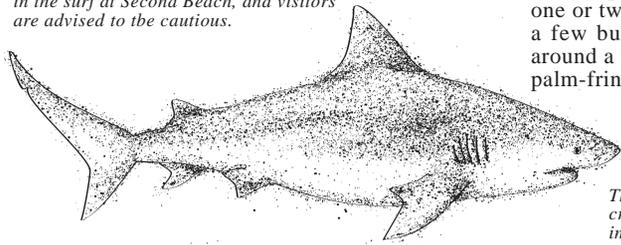
The spectacular Sardine Run occurs between June and August each year, when huge shoals of fish swim north and attract hordes of predators. PSJ is also famous for its angling, with favourite spots such as Poenskop and the Mzimvubu Estuary within easy reach.

In short, Port St Johns offers a tremendously beautiful, extremely rare and practically undiscovered experience - a true taste of Africa. In fact, the scenery, culture, flora and fauna are so quintessentially African that the area has appeared in many well-known movies, depicting scenes from all over the continent.

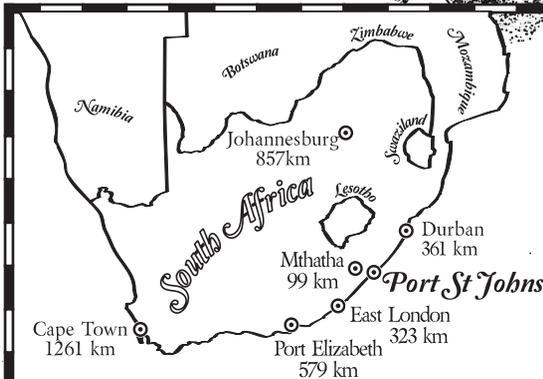
Xhosa woman with traditional headress, blanket and pipe.



The sea and rivers around Port St Johns are an important breeding ground for Zambezi (Bull) sharks. These predators grow up to 3 metres long and can weigh 225kg. There have been several attacks on humans in recent years, particularly in the surf at Second Beach, and visitors are advised to be cautious.



The Samango Monkey is one of the critically-endangered species which inhabit Port St Johns.



Some Useful isiXhosa Words

Hello - <i>Molo/Molweni</i> (plural)	Open - <i>Vula</i>
How are you? - <i>Kunjani?</i>	Close - <i>Vala</i>
I am fine - <i>Ndilungile</i>	None - <i>Aziko</i>
I want... - <i>Ndiyacela...</i>	I, me - <i>Mina</i>
Where? - <i>Ipi?</i>	Ocean - <i>Elwandhile</i>
What did you say? - <i>Uthini?</i>	Sun - <i>Ilanga</i>
I do not know - <i>Andiyazi</i>	Finished/Empty - <i>Pelile</i>
How much? - <i>Malini?</i>	Today - <i>Namhlanje</i>
Thank you - <i>Enkosi</i>	Tomorrow - <i>Ngomso</i>
Go - <i>Hamba</i>	Later on - <i>Ngogo</i>
Come - <i>Yezapa</i>	Goodbye - <i>Hamba gahle</i>

Please note: These maps are not intended as hiking guides. When exploring the area, it is advisable to hire a guide. They can be contacted through any of the accommodation establishments, or the Tourism Information Centre in town.