

Knysna Heads, Entry and Estuary: Chart SAN 1021

General

The Knysna Estuary area (sometimes referred to as the Lagoon) is a protected South African National Park and is administered and managed by SANParks www.sanparks.org Current regulations will apply.

Maritime matters are dealt with by SAMSA www.samsa.org.za

The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) www.nsri.org.za Station 12, Knysna is situated on the eastern side of the Heads a short distance from the Fountain Point beacon.
044 384 0211 Mobile: 082 990 5946.

Visitor swing moorings are available via the Knysna Yacht Club, subject to availability, via the contact information below. A permit for your vessel, issued by SANParks, will be required for vessels moored on the estuary for the duration of the visit.

Approach and Entry

Because of heavy breakers across the Heads at times, it is not easy for low powered craft to maintain proper way in this channel. It is recommended that entry should only be made when conditions are fair in swell/wave conditions no higher than 2.0m, the best time being in the last hour before high water and in daytime.

It is strongly emphasized that it can be dangerous to attempt entry during the period of ebb tide, especially if there are breakers over the bars with the resultant effect of overfall.

When approaching from the West, an offing of at least half a mile is recommended to avoid the above-water rocks which extend south from the Western Head to 34°05.3'S.

When approaching from the East a similar situation exists. Rocks extend to 34°05.4'S from the Eastern Head and East Cape over a mile from the Heads.

A safe position of 34°05.5'S 23°03.5'E in more than 20m depths will bring vessels onto the leading line, 006° The lights (not functional during periods of electricity outages) are; Front - Fountain Point FIW 3sec, 910m behind this is the QR Leisure Island Light.

After passing **Needles Point** close alongside there is usually a strip of smooth water even when the breakers over the bars are relatively heavy, a course along the leading line should be maintained whilst passing to the westward of **Emu Rock** position 34°04.87'S 23°03.64'E. When **Duiker Rocks** are abeam to port, the course should be altered gradually westward so as to pass **Fountain Point** in the deepest part of the channel at an offing of around 30m.

Just before **Fountain Point beacon** comes abeam, **a sharp alteration to port** becomes necessary to avoid the possibility of being swept by the in-going tidal stream past the point on to the shallows to the north of it. The navigable channel now runs close to the SW shore of the estuary, and you will be heading towards a conspicuous house at **Green Point.**, When **Green Point** is abeam course should be altered towards **Best Cove.**

From **Best Cove** the channel runs even closer to the SW shore to **Monkey Point** where the first of the Red-White-Red buoys appear, shape a course towards it and follow the safe-

water buoys, and be guided by the two white transit beacons on the lower west headland on range astern, heading 006° to **Thesen's Island**.

The larger boat swing moorings (passing them fine to port) will indicate the channel that leads past the SANParks offices on the end of Thesen's Island jetty to the conspicuous A-Frame building with nautical Flagpole at KYC. Depth reduces to around 2m at the Knysna Yacht Club jetties at MLWS. The navigable channel narrows to around 25m opposite the Yacht Club with a mud bank to the West.

Visiting Yachts are most welcome, for KYC facilities, alongside docking and swing mooring enquiries contact the KYC Manager at 044 382 5724, emails:

manager@knysnayachtclub.com

or the KYC Secretary 044 382 5724, emails: secretary@knysnayachtclub.com

No VHF channel watch is maintained, although local craft utilize channel 10 for ship to ship calling.

Immediately past the Yacht Club on the starboard hand is the Knysna Quays Harbour

www.knysnaquays.com

No VHF channel watch is maintained.

Harbour Masters Office: 044 382 77891

Email: harbour-quays@mbeb.co.za