

EDITORS NOTE

With summer (in most parts of the country) now in full swing, many may want to make their way to the coast for that long awaited break.

In this edition I make mention of, among other, how access to beach wheelchairs can be arranged as well as highlighting the beach permit process.

Look out for information about national parks and guest houses in our next edition as well as some feedback on some of the access issues raised with NAA over the past few months.



Jeremy Deysel
National Access Officer

Orchids and....



Public telephones at the King Shaka International Airport in Durban shows inclusive design and use for wheelchair users, persons of short stature and children

Onions



The absence of a dedicated wheelchair demarcated disability pick- up point at the King Shaka International Airport in Durban.

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES LISTS QUALIFYING DISABILITY EXPENDITURE

A list of deductible expenditure incurred by persons with disabilities have been published by the South African Revenue Services (SARS)

Expenses deducted must ,however, be necessary for the easing of the restrictions on a person's ability to perform daily functions

A taxpayer with a disability or who has a spouse or child with a disability may qualify in terms of section 18(1) (d) of the Income Tax Act of 1962, to deduct certain items and services from their taxes.

Subject to certain conditions some of the deductible expenses include:

1. Attendant care expenses
2. Travel and other related expenses
3. Insurance, maintenance, repairs and supplies
4. Artificial (prosthetic) limbs/organs and other
5. Assistive devices and mobility aids
6. Services (including animals such as guide dogs)
7. Products (Required because of incontinence)
8. Alterations or modifications to assets acquired or to be acquired

A more detailed explanation of these stipulations can be accessed from the SARS website on www.sars.gov.za . simply type "Section 18(1)(d) of Income Tax Act, 1962" in the search box or by visiting the NCPPDSA website at www.ncppdsa.org.za

SAA Assisted Passengers Announcement

When booking with SAA, and need assistance, use this email to confirm the service with your details and reference.

specialhandling@flvsaa.com

If you go down to the beach today....



Access to the beach for persons with disabilities have been made easier and more accessible in recent years with the introduction of the beach wheel chair. Accessible beach can be easily accessed when arriving at some the beaches listed below. Members are advised to make arrangements for the chairs prior to visiting the respective beaches

Beach wheelchairs are available at the following beaches:

Ushaka Marine World

- Ocean Ventures - (086) 100-1138

Granny's Pool Southbroom

- Dave Haliday - (082) 300-4283

Hermanus :

- Grotto Beach - (028) 313-8141

Port Elizabeth

- (041) 584-0584

- Kings Beach
- Humewood Beach
- Hoby Beach

Jefferys Bay Main Beach

- Contact Danie Ruiters - (073) 048-0792

East London

- Contact Sally Chapman - (043) 722-1811

Information on Beach Permits

NAA Update hereby provides an explanation of the process of applying and understanding beach permits

1. WHAT IS THE AIM OF A BEACH ACCESS PERMIT?

To enable persons with a permanent, severe MOBILITY impairment to access beach areas in order to join their families on the beach. It needs to be noted that the beach permits were not approved to enable sportsmen (e.g. anglers) to reach fishing spots. Anglers can apply for access to fishing spots via their angling clubs.

2. WHO QUALIFIES?

No formal qualifying criteria were gazetted, as the spirit of the agreement between NCPPDSA and the former Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Now Department of Tourism) at the time embraced guidelines focusing on severe and permanent mobility impairment. In most cases this means that the applicant will use an assistive device like a wheelchair or double crutches.

YOU WILL NOT QUALIFY IF:

* you are blind, deaf, suffer from medical conditions such as emphysema or other lung afflictions, back or leg problems that make walking difficult, general health or ageing problems like arthritis, etc.

It needs to be noted that beach permits are not issued to people who qualify as "disabled" according to the World Health Organization definition.

More information on the obtaining the permit may be viewed on www.ncppdsa.org.za under the "What we Do" section

Johannesburg Bus Rapid Transit potentially unsafe for wheelchair users

NAA recently received a complaint regarding the safety of the BRT busses in Johannesburg.

The BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system is hailed as the first fully accessible mode of public transport in South Africa. Operating since 2009, the system's busses have accommodation for wheelchair users and priority seats for special needs passengers.

A member of our sector who recently made use of the busses was horrified to discover that the seatbelts in one of the busses are not working posing an obvious danger to someone using a wheelchair.

A number of other shortcomings and obstacles were identified prior to the system being launched and to date very little has happened to the recommendations made by the sector. NAA is in the process of taking up this complaint with the MEC for Roads and Transport in Gauteng.

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