

ADVENTURE PROVINCE
Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVES



VISITOR'S GUIDE



ADVENTURE PROVINCE

Eastern Cape



DISTANCE TABLE

FROM RESERVE TO EAST LONDON

1	BAVIAANSKLOOF	490km	9	MKHAMBATHI	465km
2	COMMANDO DRIFT	300km	10	ONGELUKSNEK	580km
3	DOUBLE MOUTH	90km	11	OVISTON	400km
4	DWESA	230km	12	SILAKA	330km
5	MPOFU FORT FORDYCE	180km	13	THOMAS BAINES	180km
6	GREAT FISH RIVER	150km	14	TSOLWANA	250km
7	GROENDAL	360km	15	ISLAND	305km
8	HLULEKA	320km	16	LUCHABA	321km

- National & Regional Roads
- Rivers & Dams
- Towns & Cities
- Route Markers
- Nature Reserves
- Reserve Numbers
- Reserves in Marine protected areas
- Shipwreck
- Sardine run



GET YOUR ADVENTURE ON
at these provincial reserves!

Take a load off and breathe. Discover the adrenaline rush of adventure at the Eastern Cape Provincial Nature Reserves.

For a family eco-adventure holiday, discover well-positioned campsites, hiker's huts, forest huts or farm-style lodges that offer the very best in affordable, comfortable nature escapes.

Discover the wilderness wonder of Baviaanskloof, take in the pleasure of the great outdoors at Great Fish River; be inspired by magnificent Oviston sunsets; experience game viewing thrills at Tsolwana, Fort Fordyce and Mpofu; or be captivated by the ancient magic of the Wild Coast nature reserves – Mkhambathi, Dwesa, Silaka and Hluleka.

The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency protects the nature reserves featured in this guide.

WARNING:

Do not feed the baboons or monkeys, beware of wild animals, comply with reserve rules, and stay in vehicles when on self game drives.

Key information on all accommodation options and amenities at each game reserve can be found on pages 74-77.

Please note that the information in this brochure may change without notice.

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BAVIAANSKLOOF

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 05h00 – 16h30
OFFICE HOURS 08h00 – 16h30,
weekends 08h00 – 16h00
GPS lat. -33.4, long. 24.4.

NEAREST TOWNS

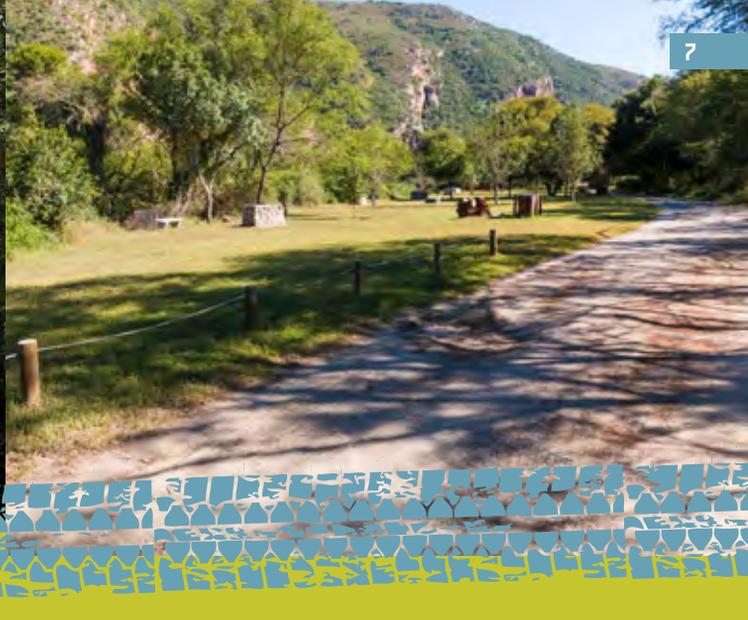
Patensie (Eastern
Section) – 45km.
Willowmore (Western Section) – 120 km.
Jeffrey's Bay – 107km.
Port Elizabeth – 120km.

CONTACTS

Komdomo Office: 042 283 7912/13/14/
087 286 6494
Senior Reserve Manager: 079 496 7883/
071 166 9495
ECPTA Central Reservations: 043 705 4400

ACCESS

Access from the east, travel from the N2 to Patensie along the R331, and from Patensie to Komdomo on the R332 (27km). Access the Reserve from the west on N9 from George to Willowmore, and from Willowmore to Coleske gate on the R332 (100km gravel). A 4x4 (and a full tank of fuel!) are required for the rugged mountain passes of Baviaanskloof.



A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

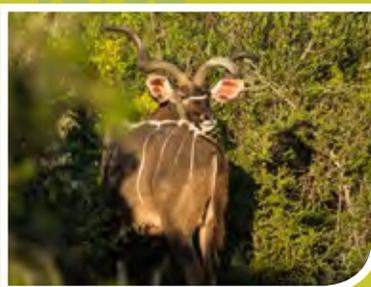
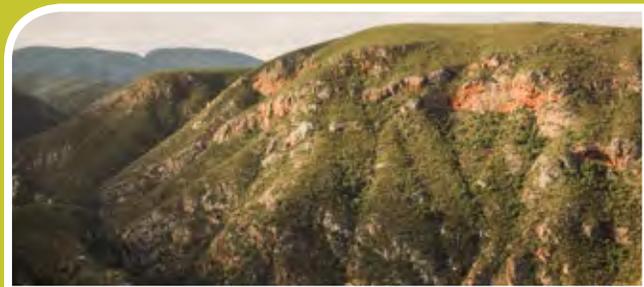
Baviaanskloof (Valley of the Baboons) is an astonishing mountain kingdom that is a World Heritage Site and which contains seven of South Africa's eight biomes (major natural regions) – fynbos, forest, grassland, succulent Karoo, Nama-Karoo, subtropical thicket and savannah. To traverse this reserve – up rugged mountain passes, through rivers and across the plateau – is truly an unforgettable experience.



NATURAL WONDERS OF FAUNA AND FLORA

The Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site spans 2 040km² and is home to over 1 100 plant species, at least 20 of which are endemic. Over 50 plant species are categorised as threatened species or species of interest. The incredible flora includes proteas, ericas, cedars, pre-historic cycads, giant Outeniqua yellowwoods and 70 succulent species. This exceptional diversity is testament to the great physical and climatic diversity of the reserve. The dramatic, varied landscape is home to an array of wildlife – namely eland, kudu, cape buffalo, klipspringer, Cape mountain zebra, bushbuck, leopard, mountain reedbeek, red hartebeest, baboon, and vervet monkeys.

Baviaanskloof also boasts 33 endemic reptile species and nine amphibians endemic to South Africa. There are over 300 bird species recorded in the nature reserve. Among them are the colourful Knysna loerie, the orange-breasted sunbird, the iconic African fish eagle and South Africa's national bird – the blue crane.





Visit the Interpretive Centre

At the eastern entrance to the reserve is the World Heritage Site Interpretive Centre – a modern building with dedicated displays that showcase the amenities of the Reserve. The friendly staff show visitors around the centre, discussing the various resources and maps in the centre that celebrate the rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and natural wonders that make Baviaanskloof one of the most spectacular regions in the country.



ACTIVITIES

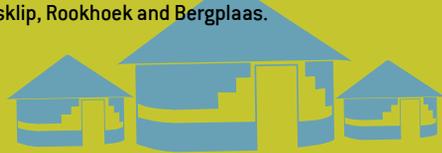
This reserve is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether visitors traverse this region by 4x4, on foot, mountain bike or motorbike, it is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience. Day visitors can walk the bird trail along the river, browse the World Heritage Interpretive Centre or explore the Poortjies waterfall on a hike. The Combrig pass lookout point, Grasnek lookout point, Smitskraal picnic area and Bergplaas Plateau lookout are all accessible in a day trip. Enquire about guided tours to the bushman paintings and caves near the Heritage Centre. Other adventures not to be missed are the Bergplaas hiking trail to Pitspools and the Maqpeek hiking trail. The World Heritage Site Interpretive Centre hosts a picnic along the Grootrivierpoort.



ACCOMMODATION

Baviaanskloof offers visitors the chance to embrace true wilderness, with campsites on the banks of the Groot River (**Komdomo campsite**) and in the Kouga Dam region (**Doodsklip** and **Rooihoek campsites**) – which are in close proximity to awesome deep river pools, ideal for swimming. Canoeists must have all the required safety gear. **Bergplaas hut** (solar power) is a rustic, self-catering hut with breathtaking views and is used as a basecamp for hikers. The magnificent **Geelhoutbos Lodge** (solar power) offers comfortable accommodation in the most astonishing natural environment.

Please note: A special combination code is required for Doodsklip, Rookhoek and Bergplaas.



GREAT FISH RIVER



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 05h00 – 21h00

OFFICE TIMES 08h00 – 16h30 (weekdays).

08h00 – 16h00 (weekends)

GPS lat. -32.99 S, long. 26.83.

NEAREST TOWNS

Alice – 30km.

Grahamstown – 35km.

East London – 150km.

Port Elizabeth – 210km.

No fishing or hunting is permitted.

CONTACTS

Main Office (Senior Reserve Manager):
087 286 6545/079 496 7893

Conservation Manager: 046 622 7909/
072 4185 810

SAPS Alice: 040 653 2222

Ambulance Service: 10177

Alice Hospital: 040 653 1141

ACCESS

Alice is the nearest town, on the R345. The turn-off for Great Fish River is sign-posted in Alice. Travel 27km to the boom gate (gravel road in good condition), and another 6km to the main office. Contact the office for detailed directions and other access points. Roads are fair, 4x4 not essential but a high clearance vehicle is recommended.



RICH IN HISTORY, WILDLIFE AND NATURAL SPLENDOUR

The Great Fish River has a rich and varied history, from the earliest movements of San hunter-gatherers in 300 A.D. to the Frontier Wars between white settlers and Xhosas in the 19th century. The area was a place of mighty conflict, with the Great Fish River forming a boundary between the settler and Xhosa territories. There are a number of forts, signalling towers, fortified farmsteads, barracks and graves located within the Reserve, including Fort Double Drift, Fort Wilshire, graveyards and Knott Memorial Church.

DON'T MISS OUT ON...

The Adam's Krantz view point over the twisting Fish River canyon is one of the most iconic Eastern Cape vistas. The wooden deck perched on the cliff is an amazing spot from which to watch the sun set. The newly developed Double Drift picnic site is perfect for braais alongside the river.



WHERE THE WILD BEASTS ROAM

Memories of turmoil have been replaced by tranquility in this vast and spectacular reserve that stretches as far as the eye can see. The 45 000ha reserve includes the Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve, Double Drift Nature Reserve and Sam Knott Nature Reserve, and is defined by significant plant biodiversity, ranging from sub-tropical thicket to savannah and grassland.

The massive Reserve is a sanctuary for an incredible array of animal life, offering excellent opportunities for self-guided game drives and wildlife photography. The Kentucky Hide in the west is perfect for animal sightings throughout the year. Animals found in the reserve include elephant, buffalo, eland, hippo, kudu, red hartebeest, ostrich, plains zebra, baboons, jackal and steenbok, to name a few. There are various well-marked game driving routes and game walks are available from Mvubu Lodge.

Over 245 bird species have been listed in the area, including martial eagle, Stanley's bustard and blue crane.

ACCOMMODATION

The Reserve has a wonderful variety of accommodation; **Mbabela Lodge** was built by early settlers, Nottingham Lodge is a beautiful colonial farm-style building that can accommodate large groups and **Mvubu Lodge** is a cluster of four stone cottages, with a swimming pool, a boma fireplace and a deck overlooking the gushing Great Fish River. Six luxury **stone and thatch chalets** are situated further up-river, with wooden decks overlooking the valley.



GROENDAL



KEY INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS 08h00 – 16h30 (weekdays).
08h00 – 16h00 (weekends)

GATE TIMES 08h00 – 16h30
GPS lat. -32.9, **long.** 26.8.

NEAREST TOWNS

Uitenhage – 10km.
Port Elizabeth (50km)

CONTACTS

Groendal Office: 041 991 9913
Reserve Manager: 079 496 7923
SAPS: 041 996 3438

Ambulance: 10177

Emergency Automobile Service: 0800 003 066
Search and Rescue: 072 324 4985/073 755 2250

ACCESS

From Uitenhage, take Durban Street and turn left to Cuyler Street. Pass Swartkops River Bridge and turn right to Kruiserivier Road. Continue with the gravel road until Low Water Bridge is passed. At the T-junction, turn left and drive straight through Hebron Quarries until you reach the Groendal Office. **4x4s are not required.**



HIKE THE TRAILS OF THE SAN

The 30 000ha Groendal wilderness area protects the water catchment of the Swartkops River (KwaZungcha River) and forms part of the spectacular Greater Bivaanskloof Cluster – a World Heritage Site. The unspoiled landscape includes deep kloofs, gushing streams, ravines and crystal-clear pools. At the centre of the Reserve is the tranquil Groendal Dam. Groendal is an awesome hiking, swimming and fishing destination.

The Reserve is encompassed by the towering Groot Winterhoek Mountain Range and was first proclaimed a wilderness area in 1976, making it one of the oldest protected areas in the Eastern Cape. The KwaZungcha catchment is crucial to the well-being of this area, as it supplies water to Uitenhage/Despatch. Groendal is hugely important to our cultural heritage, as the protected San rock-art in the area provides an invaluable record of the earliest inhabitants of this land.

DIVERSE FAUNA AND FLORA

The vegetation is predominantly fynbos, while pockets of subtropical indigenous forests and endangered cycads grow in the ravines, and there are elements of semi-succulent valley bushveld as well. There are various mammals roaming the Groendal wilderness. Visitors are likely to see baboon, common duiker, Cape grysbok, bushbuck, grey rhebok and mountain reedbuck. Birdlife here is fairly diverse, with approximately 180 species having been recorded, including buttonquail, fish eagle, Knysna loerie, francolin, partridges and black duck, to name a few.

HIKING HEAVEN

The reserve offers both marked and unmarked trails, ranging from easy to gruelling! Blindekloof Trail (which takes hikers to Crystal Cavern Pool) is a relatively easy 16km hike, and the shorter 4km circular trail to the picnic area is ideal for families. Upper Blindekloof Trail is an advanced 32km hike that takes two days. There are no overnight huts, so bring a tent or sleep in one of the caves along the route! Emerald Pool Trail leads to Groendal Dam, crossing the Swartkops River all the way to Eel Cave. Dam Trail is the most difficult of all but does have a fairly clear footpath around the dam through a riverine forest, alongside the KwaZungcha River and through the Aquilakloof.

The San rock paintings and other artefacts in the series of caves along these routes are a crucial part of our cultural heritage and are protected by law.

ACCOMMODATION

The Groendal Camp has eight sites with beautiful views of the Groot Winterhoek mountains. There is also a lodge for those who prefer a more comfy sleep!



ISLAND



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 08h00 – 16h30pm (weekdays).
08h00 – 16h00 (weekends)

GPS lat: 33, 59'8.10"S, **long:** 25, 22'12.41"E.

NEAREST TOWNS

Port Elizabeth – 25kms.

CONTACTS

Island Nature Reserve: 041 378 1634
Reserve Manager: 079 496 7923

Kabega Police Station: 041 397 6886
Sea-view Satellite Police Station: 041 378 1710

Ambulance: 10177

Councillor's Office: 041 775 1096

ACCESS

The Reserve is located approximately 25km from Port Elizabeth and is accessed via the Sea-view Road turn-off on the national road (N2). After the turn-off from the N2, travel for 6km to the entry point of the Reserve, which is on the left-hand side of the Sea-view Road. Roads are tar and fair gravel, accessible with a sedan.



EXPLORE ENCHANTED WOODS

The Island Nature Reserve comprises 480ha of indigenous Alexandria coastal forest, where ancient Outeniqua yellowwoods, hard pears and white milkwoods create a wonderful 'enchanted wood'. This forest was once referred to as an 'island' of verdant nature surrounded by a sea of development – given rise to the official name of the Reserve today.

The exquisite coastal forest is perfect for long walks, mountain biking, birding, picnicking and game viewing.

HIKING, BIKING AND HORSE RIDING

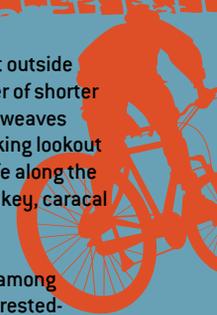
There are a number of hiking trails that meander through the shady forest, most of which are suitable for kids. The main route is

the 16km Bushbuck Hiking Trail, which starts just outside the Main Office of the Reserve. There are a number of shorter routes, ranging from 900m to 7,6km, as the path weaves through the forest and out onto various breathtaking lookout points. Hikers are likely to spot some great wildlife along the way, including blue duiker, bushbuck, vervet monkey, caracal and bushpig.

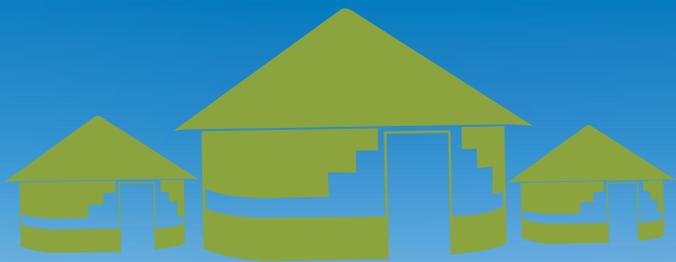
The forest is also home to over 120 bird species, among them the exquisite Knysna loerie, blue-mantled crested-Flycatcher, Narina trogon, olive woodpecker, olive bush shrike, sweet waxbill, forest canary and forest buzzard. Horse riding excursions can be arranged through Friends of Island (contact Ann: 082 921 5757) and mountain biking adventures are available through Sea-View Forest Resort Mountain Biking (contact John Web: 063 155 1026).

ACCOMMODATION

The Reserve only caters for day visitors and facilities include picnic sites, braai areas, an ablution block and **two lapas**.



THOMAS BAINES



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 18h00.
OFFICE HOURS 08h00 – 16h30 (weekdays).
GPS lat. -33.4, **long.** 26.5.

NEAREST TOWNS

Grahamstown – 12km.
Kenton – 47 km.
Port Elizabeth – 110km.
East London – 180km.

CONTACTS

Reserve Manager: 079 496 7978
Office Number: 087 285 7399

ACCESS

Thomas Baines Nature Reserve lies just 12 kilometres outside of Grahamstown, en route to Port Elizabeth on the N2. **High clearance vehicle is recommended.**



A NATURAL HAVEN

This spectacular nature reserve is just 12km outside Grahamstown in the Makana District. It was originally established as a municipal nature reserve in 1961 and was declared a provincial nature reserve in 1980.

The Reserve comprises a number of farms bordering and incorporating Howison's Poort Reservoir and Settlers Dam. These are both important water supplies for Grahamstown. It contains a boat launching site, game boma, viewpoint, picnic sites and bird hide.

The Reserve is named after the famous 19th century artist, who left a valuable record of the rich diversity of flora and fauna in the region, including the now-extinct Quagga.



WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

Today, the Reserve is home to 61 mammal species including aardwolf, wildcat, blue duiker, eland, kudu, red hartebeest, mountain reedbeek and common duiker. It is also a birder's paradise, boasting 243 resident bird species, including the African fish eagle, crowned eagle, jackal buzzard, Knysna loerie, doves, cuckoos, owls, Fiery-necked nightjar, hornbills, honeyguides, woodpeckers, swallows, cuckoo-shrike, malachite sunbird, and many more.

There are seven vegetation types in the Reserve, including valley bushveld, succulent valley bushveld, riparian forest, riparian thicket, Afro-montane forest, grassy fynbos, grasslands and savannah.

This Reserve is ideal for hiking, camping, birding, game drives and swimming.

ACCOMMODATION

Dung Beetle Cottage is a self-catering unit that accommodates four people. It is fully equipped, including linen.

Settlers Dam Campsites are on the banks of Settlers Dam, with basic ablution facilities and access to all the natural amenities of the Reserve.

The **Environmental Educational Centre** offers two dormitories that accommodate 30 people in each, as well as two teachers' quarters that can accommodate two people each.

COMMANDO DRIFT



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 07h00 – 18h00 (winter),
06h00 – 19h00 (summer)

OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30

GPS lat. -32.1, long. 26.1

NEAREST TOWNS

Tarkastad (35km)

Cradock (55km)

East London (300km)

Port Elizabeth (350km)

CONTACTS

Main Office: 087 286 6404

Police: 10111

Emergency Services: 10177

Telephone Directory: 1023

ACCESS

Commando Drift is roughly 60km north of Cradock on the road to Tarkastad. The road condition is poor – 2x4 or 4x4 required.



HIKING, BIKING AND WONDERFUL WATER

The 6 000ha Commando Drift Nature Reserve is perfect for travellers who love water and the great outdoors. At the heart of the Reserve is the Commando Drift Dam – a great expanse of water perfect for fishing, boating and watersports. The dam is fed by four rivers and covers 950ha when full, creating a cool oasis in the bushveld.

The name Commando Drift can be traced back to the original farm owned by Voortrekker leader Hendrik Potgieter, who lived in the area in the early 1800s.

The beautiful landscape is made up of karoo veld, grassland and sandstone cliffs, and is home to various small game, including black wildebeest, Cape mountain zebra, blesbok, kudu, aardvark, warthog, springbok, steenbok and caracal, to name a few.



Over 200 species of bird have been listed in the area – African fish eagles can be seen swooping down on the water while blue cranes stalk the riverbanks and grasslands.



ADVENTURE DESTINATION

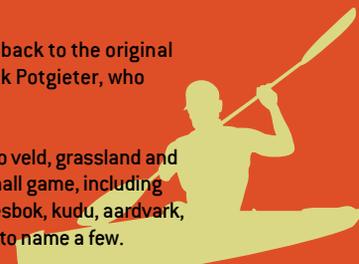
There are a number of great hikes in the area. The Bushman Trail is an enjoyable 6km hike along the edge of the dam that also explores the Palingkloof. This hike is perfect for the whole family – water birds and game can be spotted along the route. For the more serious hikers, the Endurance Trail is a challenging adventure. It follows a circular, two-to-three-day trail that spans 28km of awesome grasslands, gorges and veld. The hike covers the lower slopes of the Rooiberg and the Springbokvlakte, where there is likely to be more game.

Snow has been recorded in the surrounding mountains in winter months, so be prepared for cold weather! The mountain backdrop and wonderful wildlife make the Reserve a great biking destination. The mountain bike trail is fairly easy, but be prepared for some challenging hills, rocky terrain and a few devil thorns! There is a circular route and a number of alternative trails. It takes about four hours to complete. A permit is required for the biking trail and is obtainable from the Commando Drift Nature Reserve Office.

ACCOMMODATION

Lake View Chalet and the **Fish Eagle Cabins** are comfortable self-catering establishments, with lovely views of the lake and all the basic facilities one needs.

The **campsite** is grassed and well maintained with excellent access to the dam.



LUCHABA

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 22h00 (Mon-Sun)
GPS lat: 28 4560, long: 31 3481

NEAREST TOWNS
Mthatha (3km)

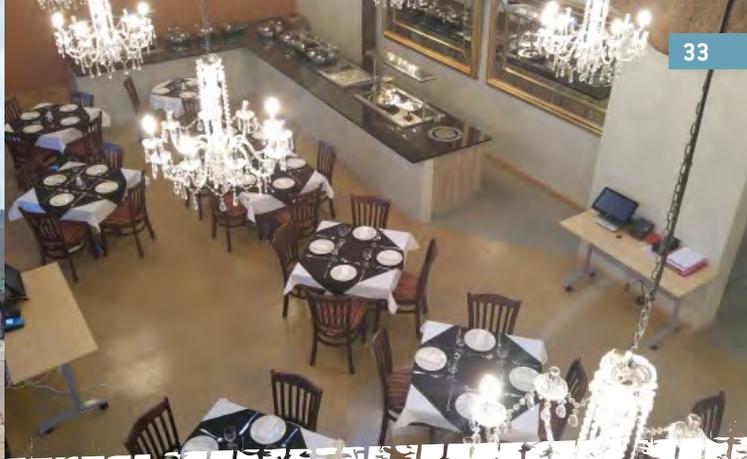
CONTACTS

Luchaba Nature Reserve: 047 531 4431/
087 286 6527/079 496 7899
Email: patrick.mudzanani@ecpta.co.za
Nelson Mandela Hospital: 047 502 4400
Mthatha Police Station: 047 532 4479
Disaster Management: 047 532 4183
Fire Brigade: 047 501 4182 or 047 532 4444

ACCESS

Luchaba Nature Reserve is located on the N2 National Road, 3km from Mthatha. The road condition is poor – 2x4s or 4x4s are recommended.

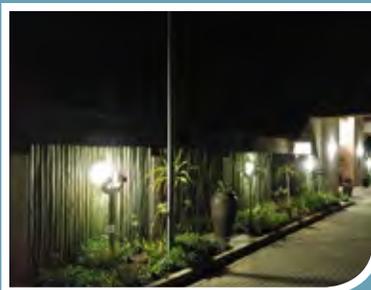




WATER, WILDERNESS AND WORSHIP

The charming 460ha Luchaba Nature Reserve is made up of a series of wetlands and grasslands and is home to a variety of wildlife. The reserve is adjacent to the Mthatha Dam and is managed together with the Nduli Nature Reserve, which lies on land owned by King Sabata Dalindyebo.

The landscape is made up of dolerite dykes, rocky outcrops, shale and sandstone, as well as regions of highland sour veld. This Mthatha Moist Grassland biome supports a variety of wildlife, including blesbok, red hartebeest and Burchell's zebra. Birds to look out for include the magnificent crowned crane, the rare Stanley's bustard and many wetland birds. The Reserve is also a haven for rare and threatened cycads.



A PLACE OF MEMORIES

Mrs Nozuko Matanzima placed a memorial at the base of a hill in the Reserve in 1986, commemorating the fifth anniversary of Women's Day of Prayer. From that point on, the sacred space has been used as a general place of worship. It has been named the Tooke Garden of Remembrance, or colloquially as The Rock Garden.

EXPLORE THE AREA

The Nelson Mandela Museum, which is visited by many local and international tourists every year, is spread over three sites in close proximity to the Reserve. The museum celebrates Madiba's inspiring journey through life, as he fought for humanity and equality. The Museum is located at the Bhunga Building in Mthatha, Mvezo – where Mandela was born, and Qunu – the cultural village where he grew up.



Visitors can enjoy picnics overlooking the Mthatha Dam, self game drives, mountain biking and water sports. The Garden Rock Trail is a lovely scenic walk for the whole family, 1km in length. Two conference halls make up a beautiful conference centre for 150 guests. The restaurant for 136 guests looks out over the dam. A marquee is also available for 600 guests.



MPOFU FORT FORDYCE



ACCESS

Fort Fordyce Section – from Fort Beaufort drive 10km on the R67 towards Queenstown. Turn left to Fort Fordyce. Drive 1km and turn left again. Drive 12km up a mountain pass to Fort Fordyce Section Office.

Mpofu Section – from Fort Beaufort drive 12km on the R67 towards Queenstown. Turn left at the Post Retief turn off. Drive 12km up a mountain pass till you get to the sign stating Mpofu Office. Turn left and continue for 2km till you get to the Mpofu Section Office.

The road condition is poor – 2x4 or 4x4 is recommended.

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 24 hours

OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30

GPS lat. -32.6, long. 26.6.

CONTACTS

Reserve Office: 046 684 0729

Reserve Manager: 071 609 1409

SAPS: 046 645 1133

Doctor Lochner (Fort Beaufort): 046 645 1177

Dr Black (Adelaide): 046 684 0162

Fort Beaufort Hospital: 046 645 1111

Adelaide Hospital: 046 684 0274

Fire Brigade: 046 645 1174



RICH IN HISTORY AND NATURAL WONDERS

The Mpofu Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve covers approximately 15 000ha and is situated 25km north-west of Fort Beaufort, on the escarpment and lower valleys of the Amatole catchment, with magnificent views of the Katberg and Amatola Mountains.

The Reserve comprises the Mpofu, Fort Fordyce and Bosnek areas. The area is of great cultural and historical significance, with incredible San rock art found here, and sites of the 8th Frontier War.



BIODIVERSITY AT ITS BEST

The valleys and forests support an amazing variety of animal and plant species. The vegetation includes Afromontane forest, grassland, thicket and protected sourveld. Bosnek's indigenous Sneezewood stand is one of the biggest in the region.



This habitat is home to an array of birds and mammals. Mammals include leopard, baboon, duiker, Burchell's zebra, black wildebeest, red hartebeest, blesbok, Cape buffalo, impala, eland, honey badger and Cape clawless otter, to name a few. Over 138 bird species can be spotted, including rare/endangered Narina trogon, Rameron pigeons, Cape parrots and starred robins.

AMAZING ACTIVITIES

Self-guided **game drives** with spectacular views of the Katberg and Amatole Mountains are unforgettable.

The **hikes** traverse the scenic valleys with abundant wildlife and forests. They range from 3hrs to full-day hikes.

Bass fishing is allowed in the dam at Fort Fordyce. It is, however, catch and release and only 'dry bait' (lures and spinners) are allowed.

Educational tours covering biodiversity, environment and tourism are available on request.





HISTORIC SITES

The remnants of two forts that were built during the Frontier Wars can be seen on the high ground of Horseshoe Valley. Both forts became known as Fort Fordyce, after Lieutenant-Colonel John Fordyce, who was shot and killed by Xhosa warriors during the attack on Chief Maqoma in 1851. Chief Maqoma was the most renowned Xhosa chief of the Frontier Wars, winning battles against the British Frontier. Fullers Hoek is a kloof with huge caves where Maqoma and his followers hid out.



ACCOMMODATION

Mpofu Lodge is a big lodge with seven en-suite bedrooms and accommodates 14 people. It has a stunning view of the Katberg Mountains. There is also a conference facility.

Loerie's Rest has a view of the Amatole Mountains. It can accommodate 18 people.

Maqoma's Den is nestled against the edge of the forest. It accommodates four people.

Harris Hut is situated alongside a stream in an indigenous forest. It accommodates four people.

Phakamisa Hut is almost literally 'on top of the world', with awesome views of the Katberg and Amatole Mountains. It accommodates six people.

Basic camping facilities are available at the dam at Fort Fordyce.

All accommodation is self-catering.





ONGELUKSNEK

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 24hrs
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30
GPS lat. -30.2, long. 28.2.

NEAREST TOWNS

Matatiele (45km)
Kokstad (130km)
Maclear (130km)
Durban (350km)

CONTACTS

Reserve Manager: 071 609 1383
Hospitality Supervisor: 082 056 1500
Ongeluksnek Pass: 039 256 3010
SAPS: 10111
Ambulance: 10177
Netcare: 082911
ER24: 084 124
Avondale Police Station: 039 256 3002
Local Clinic: 079 340 0290
Taylor Bequest Hospital:
Matatiele: 039 737 3107
Mt Fletcher: 039 257 0043
Working on Fire: 082 312 9456

ACCESS

From Matatiele, head west along the tarred R56 for 10km. Turn right onto a gravel road. Continue heading in a westerly direction for 35km where you will have a good view of the beautiful church and buildings of the Mariazell Mission station. Carry on for a further 5km to the entrance gate of the Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve. Sedans will make it to the Reserve's reception. 4x4s are required from that point on.



WHERE ADVENTURE BEGINS

The Ongeluksnek area was so named in about 1860 after one of the trekkers in the Griqua trek to 'Nomansland' died from a gunshot wound. The Reserve forms part of the Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Park (MDTP) and is renowned for its natural beauty, verdant wetlands and perilous mountain pass.

Much of the Reserve is covered with east Griqualand grassland, while lush wetlands exist at Lake Letsie in the north, bordering Lesotho. Travellers must visit the spectacular waterfall and check out the 'vulture's restaurant', where the rare bearded vulture can be spotted.



This Reserve is a hiker's paradise – with trails to suit all levels of competence. There are a number of marked trails, ranging from 1km to 12km in distance, as well as longer trails that require a good contour map and experienced mountaineers.

Enthusiastic birders and nature lovers must keep a look out for some of the 241 different bird species found in the

reserve, especially the awesome raptors like the Cape vulture, bearded vulture, secretary bird, amur falcon, jackal buzzard, spotted eagle owl and African harrier-hawk. There is also a fair selection of game wandering the idyllic grasslands, including mountain reedbeek, baboon, black wildebeest, blackbacked jackal, caracal, hyrax (dassie), grey duiker and grey rhebok.

BRAVE 'ACCIDENT NECK'

The rugged Ongeluksnek pass (which traverse the length of the Reserve) is strictly for off-road vehicles and has humbled many fearless travellers! The track is usually rutted, muddy and quite difficult to negotiate, but the challenge offers great rewards. Ongeluksnek translates to 'Accident Neck' – so be aware that true adventure awaits...

EXPLORE THE AREA

Robin Derricourt documented the area surrounding the Reserve in the 1970s and recorded four San rock art sites in the close vicinity of the Mariazell Mission Station. These sites were revisited in 2005 by the Natal Museum and their occurrence has been confirmed. An extensive Iron Age site is in close vicinity to the mission station.

ACCOMMODATION

Gateway Lodge is a beautiful sandstone farmhouse located at the entrance to the reserve. It was built in the 1920s and provides rustic accommodation with wonderful views of the surrounding mountains. The lodge is self-catering and can accommodate 12 people. There are also two small **rondavels** and **campsites** available.



OVISTON

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 07h00 – 19h00
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30 (weekdays)
GPS lat. -30.61, long. 25.8

NEAREST TOWNS
Venterstad (11km)
Burgersdorp (70km)
Queenstown (200km)
Bloemfontein (230km)

CONTACTS
Reserve Office: 051 655 0000/051 655 0199
Office Mobile: 087 285 7390
Reserve Manager: 082 416 1913/
063 801 8344
Venterstad SAPS: 051 654 0122
Gariiep SAPS: 082 542 0644
Ambulance: 10177
Venter Fire Protection Association: 051 654 0503
Knapdaar Fire Protection Association:
051 763 0860

ACCESS

The reserve can be accessed on the R58 via Burgersdorp or the R390 via Steynsberg. Alternatively, it can be accessed from the R701 in the north via Bethulie (turning south onto the R390), or on the R58 from Colesburg. **The road condition is fair, so sedans or 2x4s are sufficient.**



A PEACEFUL GETAWAY

The 16 000ha Oviston Nature Reserve is one of the Eastern Cape's best kept secrets. It is a secluded, peaceful reserve situated on the southern shores of the Gariep Dam – South Africa's largest standing body of fresh water (370km² when full). Visit the quiet waterside village of Oviston in the little Karoo, spend afternoons fishing and boating on the dam, and be sure to enjoy a self game drive through this awesome reserve.

The Karoo climate is characterised by blazing hot days, followed by cool evenings and extraordinary sunsets. It is a beautiful landscape of wide open grasslands, little 'koppies' and deep blue skies – a photographer's paradise.



Oviston Nature Reserve was initially established to preserve False Upper Karoo vegetation and to support a breeding programme for buck.

WILDERNESS AND WATER

Self-guided game drives are the best way to explore the Reserve, which is home to buffalo, kudu, springbok, gemsbok, zebra, hartebeest, black wildebeest, armadillo, bat-eared fox, porcupine, mongoose and clawless otter, to name a few. Birders can expect to see Verreaux's eagles, fish eagles, blue cranes, secretary birds, steppe buzzards, African hoopoe and greater flamingo, among other species.

Gariep Dam is perfect for watersports, boating and swimming and is an excellent fishing destination – anglers can hope to land largemouth yellowfish, Orange River mudfish, moggel and sharptooth catfish. The highlight of any day at the Reserve is a sunset cruise on the peaceful dam. Other activities include hiking, mountain biking and admiring the wonderful San rock art on offer. Places of interest include the Gariep Dam wall (which is 914m long and 88m high), the Oviston tunnel and the Bethulie railway bridge.

ACCOMMODATION

Komweer Lodge is a beautiful old farmhouse that accommodates nine.

Apies Bay Cabin is a rustic stone cabin with a thatched roof, in close proximity to the Gariep Dam. It accommodates four.

Ihodi Campsite is available for those who travel with tents and caravans. The name is derived from the Xhosa word *ihodi*, meaning armadillo, referring to the tenacious creatures that can be found in the area.

TSOLWANA



ACCESS

Located 60km west of Queenstown and 30km south-east of Tarkastad. 2x4 or 4x4 is required.

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 08h00 – 18h00
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30
GPS lat. -31.1, long. 26.5

NEAREST TOWNS

Tarkastad (30km)
Whittlesea (47km)
Queenstown (65km)
East London (250km)

CONTACTS

Tsolwana Nature Reserve: 087 285 7400/
0408459912

Fishing permits are required.
Day visitors can make use of the braai facilities,
picnic sites and the conference centre.



A STRIKING LANDSCAPE BECKONS

Situated on the northern slopes of the commanding Winterberg mountain range, Tsolwana Nature Reserve's landscape is one of striking beauty. The name Tsolwana is a Xhosa word meaning 'spike', and refers to a conical hill that can be seen in the Reserve. Tsolwana is 8 500ha in size and marks the beginning of the Karoo plains.



The mountainous slopes, grassy plains and acacia thornveld are home to a wide variety of wildlife, making game viewing a major attraction. Animals to spot include bat-eared fox, ant bear, black wildebeest, Cape mountain zebra, black backed jackal, baboon, springbok, mountain reedbuck, oryx, blesbok, dassie, eland, gemsbok, kudu, lynx, mongoose and meerkat. Enthusiastic birders and nature lovers must keep a look out for some of the 241 different bird species.



The climate can be extreme, with greatly varying temperatures and unpredictable heavy summer rainstorms with hail. In winter, snow falls frequently, so be prepared!

EPIC ADVENTURE

Tsolwana's experienced rangers are available to take visitors on self game drives, combining 4x4 adventure with awesome wildlife viewing opportunities. They also offer guided game walks. Other activities include hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, swimming and the chance to see incredible San rock art.

Hiking trails follow game tracks and gravel roads. They vary in length from a couple of hours to a two-day overnight trail in the western part of the Reserve.

ACCOMMODATION

Otterford Lodge is a beautiful, fully equipped old farmhouse situated in a quiet and secluded part of the reserve. It sleeps four people.

Indwe Lodge is a fully equipped lodge with excellent views of the Winterberg mountains. It sleeps four people.

Tibet Park Lodge has two quaint flatlets with en-suite bathrooms. They each sleep two.

The **Fundani** campsite is available for those who enjoy the great outdoors.

All accommodation is self-catering.



DOUBLE MOUTH



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 22h00 (weekdays)
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30 (weekdays)

GPS lat. -33, long. 27.8

NEAREST TOWNS

Morgan Bay (5km)
Kei Mouth (14km)
East London (90km)
Port Elizabeth (400km)

CONTACTS

Reserve Manager: 082 304 4228/087 286 6519
Double Mouth: 087 285 7385
Email: nobusika.makeleni@ecpta.co.za
Paramedic: 043 726 2247
Police: 10111
Kei Mouth Police Station: 043 841 1080
Netcare: 082 911
Cwili Clinic: 043 841 1274
Fire Rescue: 043 831 1084

ACCESS

From the N2, take the R349 to Morgan's Bay (40km). Double Mouth is just 5km south of Morgan Bay, along Beach Road. The drive offers epic views of the coastline and the Kumqotwane River. A 4x4 is not required.



AWESOME CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Double Mouth is a great fishing destination (permit required) and the surrounding forested area is home to various small game, including blue duiker, bushbuck, porcupine, mongooses, legavaan, jackals and the rare clawless otter, to name a few. The area is also rich in birdlife, offering the chance to see awesome raptors like the African fish eagle, Cape vulture, spotted eagle owl and African wood owl.



Hiking along the coast affords incredible views of the bays and cliffs where kelp gulls glide, and the hillsides are covered in pristine grasslands where horses can be seen running wild. Canoeing, swimming or mountain biking are great options for the adventurous, and keep an eye out for dolphins, whales, seals and other sea life frolicking in the ocean.



EXPLORE THE AREA

Excellent waves for surfing can be found at Morgan Bay and the area encompasses two inland state forests and 10 coastal reserves. There is also an interesting historical site nearby – in 1906, a Portuguese ship named Santo Espiritu ran aground on the stormy coast between Haga Haga and Double Mouth. We can still see evidence of the shipwreck in the form of ‘money cowries’ (cowrie shells used as money to buy goods), carnelian beads, as well as Chinese blue and white Ming porcelain shards. These artefacts can be found in the shingle and sand at what has become known as ‘Bead Beach’, between Black Rock and the Quko River at Double Mouth. The Carnelian beads are red in colour and were mined in India over a century ago!

ACCOMMODATION

Double Mouth is an incredible secluded campsite, set among the trees overlooking a beautiful stretch of the Wild Coast. The campsite is laid out in a perfect semi-circle, protected on all sides by forest, with a communal ablution block, and individual braai facilities and electricity points for each of the 30 sites. A lush, grassy field offers a lovely place for kids to play and families to picnic, and just beyond that is the beach cove, where rock pools abound and waves roll up the pebbly beach.



DWESA

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 22h00
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30 (Mon-Thur)
08h00 – 16h00 (Friday)
GPS lat. -32.3, long. 28.9

NEAREST TOWNS
East London (230km)
Idutywa (100km)
Mthatha (160km)
Port Elizabeth (550km)

CONTACTS
Office: 087 286 6537
Reserve Manager: 079 496 7954
Police Station: 047 576 9296
Madwaleni Hospital: 047 564 1207

ACCESS

From the N2 turn-off at Idutywa and travel to Willowvale (30km), then follow signposts to the reserve (48km). The last stretch of the road is gravel and 2x4s or 4x4s are recommended, although not essential.



A HAVEN FOR BIODIVERSITY

Entering the Dwesa Nature Reserve is like disappearing into another world... Just beyond the entrance gate, the dirt road enters a lush indigenous forest, where dappled light dances and the sky is a canopy of leaves. This road twists and turns endlessly through the magical forest until, at last, the campsite and chalets are revealed.

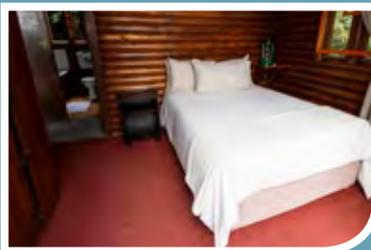
There are many hiking trails through forests and over dunes, and the white sandy beach and lagoon are great for swimming. The Mbashe River is a crucial habitat for a number of collapsed fish stocks. Fishing is allowed for those with recreational permits on catch and release terms, although one fish can be kept every four days.

Dwesa Nature Reserve serves to protect the incredible biodiversity of the coastal forests, southern sourveld grasslands and Marine Protected Area.



WONDERFUL NATURE

From the top of Kobole Point, breathtaking views can be seen in all directions and majestic wild animals inhabit the surrounding area, including fearsome crocs... so beware! Out to sea, dolphin and whale can be spotted. The Reserve is home to African buffalo, Burchell's zebra, eland, crocodile, blue duiker, caracal, spotted genet, black backed jackal and more.



Birdlife at the reserve is truly incredible, with 290 terrestrial and coastal bird species having been recorded. Look out for rarities such as the narina trogon and the mangrove kingfisher, as well as Knysna turaco, African black oystercatcher, switern kelp gull, black headed heron, Knysna turaco and night jar, to name a few. For those interested in history, ask officials for directions to view the O'Bell Shipwreck site.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is situated on the edge of a tranquil lagoon, a short walk through a dune forest to a perfect, unspoiled beach where shells and rock pools can be found. The campsite is sheltered by the forest and bluff, and the communal ablution block has steaming hot showers. Seven exquisite timber chalets are hidden deep in the trees.

HLULEKA



ACCESS

Hluleka is 89km from the nearest major town, Mthata. Take the R61 (Port St Johns Road) and turn right onto the Hluleka Nature Reserve gravel road, which continues for 47km until the entrance. **The road condition is poor so a 2x4 or 4x4 vehicle is recommended.**

KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 22h00
OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30
08h00 – 16h00 (Friday)
GPS lat 31.8, long 29.3

NEAREST TOWNS

Ngqeleni (60km)
Mthata (89km)
Port St Johns (110km)

CONTACTS

Reserve Manager: 079 4933 566
Admin/Hospitality Supervisor:
078 608 3044/078 797 2886/082 056 2637
Office Number: 087 285 7784
Senior Field Ranger: 083 765 2416
Nkanunu Clinic: 087 310 8324
Ngqeleni Police Station: 047 568 0003
CPF Supervisor: 072 101 9983

Day visitors can make use of the picnic site and braai area, open showers and toilets.

BRING DRINKING WATER!



A COASTAL PARADISE

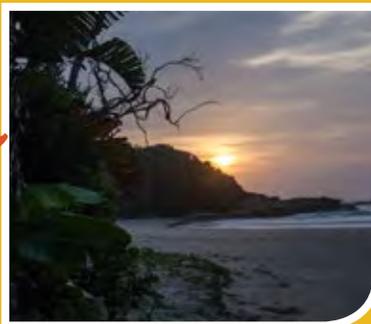
From the top of the grassy hill at the entrance to Hluleka, there is an incredible panoramic view along the coastline. The series of coves, white sandy beaches lined with palms and the indigenous coastal forest that make up the 772ha Reserve, form a real coastal paradise.

Hluleka is an excellent birding destination. Birds in the area include the Natal spurfowl, brown-hooded kingfisher, trumpeter hornbill, black cuckoo, diderick cuckoo, Burchell's coucal, Knysna turaco, African goshawk, long-crested eagle, double-collared sunbird, and more.

Types of indigenous trees include coral tree, mzembeet, sneezewood, fig tree, red milk wood, Natal plum and yellowwood trees, to name a few.

WILDLIFE AND NATURE

The Hluleka chalets are situated on a small hilltop covered in old indigenous trees, striking orange strelitzias and grassy areas where Burchell's zebra roam and graze. The surrounding forests are home to blue duiker, vervet monkeys, rock dassie, tree dassie, bushbuck, iguana, mongooses and spotted genet. Dolphins frolic in the bay and whales are rare visitors that can be seen out in the bay.



ACCOMMODATION

Partially hidden up on the hillside, overlooking the beach, are seven double-story chalets – with luxurious bathrooms, big windows and sundecks overlooking the Indian Ocean. Each chalet accommodates four, and is kitted out with modern décor and appliances, a television and all the amenities necessary for a relaxing stay. Accommodation is self-catering.

MKHAMBATHI



KEY INFORMATION



GATE TIMES 06h00 – 18h00

GPS lat. 31.3, **long.** 29.9

NEAREST TOWNS

Mthatha (240km)

East London (465km)

Durban (400km)

Port Edward (170km)

CONTACTS

Reserve Office: 039 306 9000/087 285 7752/
079 496 7850

Mthontsasa Police Station: 039 252 2051
Holy Cross Hospital: 039 252 3000

Reserve Manager: 078 638 5666

Nature Conservator (MPA): 079 496 7850

Senior Field Ranger: 073 537 2351

ACCESS

The access road is average to good but roads in the park require a 4x4 in some areas. The closest town is Flagstaff . From Flagstaff , travel the R61 for 70km to Mkhambathi Nature Reserve on the Holy Cross Hospital Road.



AWESOME WATERFALLS AND GOLDEN GRASSLANDS

The Mkhambathi Nature Reserve is situated in the OR Tambo District Municipality on the coast of north-eastern Pondoland, between Port Edward and Port St Johns. The Reserve comprises 7 720ha of coastal land.

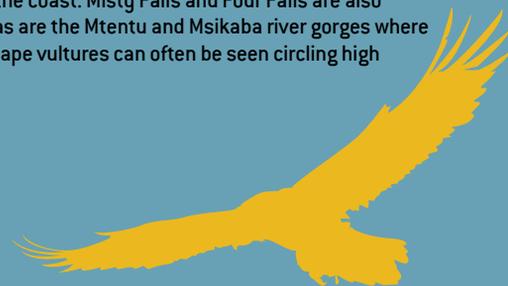
The Reserve has an interesting history. It was once a leper colony, before being proclaimed a nature Reserve in 1977. Today, it is co-managed by the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and the Mkhambathi Land Trust – a partnership that resulted from a settlement agreement through the land restitution process. This means that the local people benefit from the recreational use of the land and protection of its precious resources.



MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

The Mkhambathi River gushes through the Reserve, over a series of cliffs before tumbling into the Indian Ocean. Along the river, The Horseshoe Falls, Strandloper Falls and Mkhambathi Falls are breathtaking to behold and the river has a series of pools that are perfect for swimming.

There is a secluded cave in the forest approximately 100m up river from the coast. Misty Falls and Four Falls are also spectacular, as are the Mtentu and Msikaba river gorges where endangered Cape vultures can often be seen circling high above.





WILDLIFE AND NATURE

Mkhambathi has a wonderful selection of wildlife and a diverse natural habitat – ranging from grasslands to wetlands, dune forests and swamps to indigenous forests. It is part of the Pondoland Centre of Endemism – one of 235 sites identified worldwide as having important biodiversity and ecology. Animals include: eland, plains zebra, red hartebeest, blesbok, reedbuck, bushbuck, blue duiker, kudu, chacma baboon, black backed jackal, bush pig, common duiker, porcupine, vervet monkey, servals and clawless otter.

Mkhambathi is also an International Bird Area. Species include: Cape griffon vulture, ground hornbill, trumpeter hornbill, kingfisher, oyster catcher, secretary bird, grey heron, white and black breasted comorant, seagulls, white necked raven and green pigeon.

Rare and endemic plants and trees include the pondo coconut palm, raspalia and *jubaopsis cafra*, and indigenous species include silver tree, white stink wood, forest fever berry, water berry, orange lily and Natal mahogany.



ACTIVITIES

Mkhambathi is ideal for the adventurous traveller. Activities range from hiking, swimming, game spotting and birding to canoeing and fishing (in designated areas and with permits). The landscapes, views and wildlife are perfect for avid photographers. Whales and dolphins can be spotted out to sea – so look carefully!



ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is rustic and offers visitors a real chance to experience the African wilderness. **Gwe Gwe Rondavels** are thatched rondavels situated on a rocky bluff overlooking the Indian Ocean. The Gwe Gwe River and lagoon nearby is ideal for fishing and swimming. Up river is a large thatched lodge that can accommodate up to 20 people.

The **Main Lodge** is a beautiful sandstone building with a swimming pool, where up to 10 visitors can relax in luxury after exploring the bush and the beach.

All accommodation is self-catering and kitchens are fully equipped (except for Gwe Gwe rondavels).

SILAKA



KEY INFORMATION

GATE TIMES 06h00 – 22h00 (overnight visitors),
06h00 – 18h00 (day visitors)

OFFICE HRS 08h00 – 16h30
08h00 – 16h00 (Friday)

GPS lat. 31.6, long. 29.5

NEAREST TOWNS

Port St Johns (7km)

Lusikisiki (46km)

Mthatha (90km)

CONTACTS

Reserve Manager: 071 6076 690/
087 2866 526/nonkazimlo.baca@ecpta.co.za

Sea Rescue: 047 564 1057

Police: 10111

Port St Johns Police: 074 564 1189

Port St Johns Clinic: 047 564 1255

Wild Coast Life Saving Club: 047 564 1313

Disaster Management: 047 564 1207/8

ACCESS

The R61 from Mthatha is tarred and offers dramatic views as it winds down to the coast. From Port St Johns, continue past Second Beach onto the gravel road, which leads to the Reserve. 4x4 vehicles are advised for the last stretch of gravel road.



A PRISTINE BAY

Silaka Nature Reserve is an idyllic coastal reserve, seven kilometres south of Port St Johns. Silaka stretches from Second Beach to Sugarloaf Rock and up the valley where lush green indigenous forests cover the hills. The pristine beach is perfect for fishing and swimming, and hiking trails lead up onto the bluff, affording incredible views of the coastline.

The Gxwaleni River flows through the valley, trickling through a wetland and forming a small lagoon before entering the sea. Bird Rock stands like a sentinel in the middle of the bay; the rocky outcrop is the perfect perch for white-breasted cormorant and other sea birds.



WILDLIFE AND NATURE

The shady jungle that covers the valley is a haven for many species of wildlife. Species include zebra, bushbuck, blue duiker, mongoose, samango and vervet monkeys, bush pig, porcupine, spotted genet and caracal. Whales and blue



dolphins can be spotted frolicking in the cool Indian Ocean just beyond the waves.

Types of plant life include wonderful cycads and rare plants like *impatiens flanaganiae* (vulnerable), *benonia dregei* (endangered), as well as ancient indigenous milkwoods and giant umzimbeets.

Silaka is an excellent birding destination – keep an eye out for iconic fish eagles circling high above as well as beautiful, colourful species like the Knysna loerie, paradise flycatcher and kingfisher.

ACCOMMODATION

The Reserve includes 400ha of unspoiled wilderness, with 17 thatched chalets spread across the forested hillside overlooking the bay. All accommodation is self-catering. Day visitors are able to make use of picnic sites and braai facilities just off the beach.



ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

BIODIVERSITY AND HERITAGE

BAVIAANSKLOOF	Komdomo Campsite	Rooihoek Campsite	Doodsklip Campsite	Bergplaas Trail Hut	Geelhoutbos Lodge
UNITS	27	6	5	1	1 house
BEDROOMS	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	4
BEDS	n/a	n/a	n/a	12 bunk beds	8 sngl & 1 dbl
BATHROOMS	3 ablutions	long drop	long drop	1	2 bathrooms
CARRYING CAPACITY	6 pax max	6 pax max	6 pax max	12 pax max	10 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	yes	solar	gas & solar
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	yes
REFRIGERATOR	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	yes
BRAAI FACILITY	yes (bring grid)	yes (bring grid & wood)	yes (bring wood)	yes	yes
DRINKING WATER	bring own	bring own	bring own	bring own	bring own
CELLULAR RECEPTION	no	no	no	yes	no
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	very bad	very bad	very bad	very bad
REC. VEHICLE	sedan	high clearance LDV (2x4 or 4x4)			

GREAT FISH RIVER	Mvubu Chalets	Mbabala Lodge	Mvubu Lodge	Nottingham Lodge
UNITS	6	1	4 huts	1
BEDROOMS	2 open plan	5	1 each	5
BEDS	1 dbl, 2 sngl	1 dbl, 8 sngl	1 dbl	10 sngl
BATHROOMS	1 each	2	1 each	5
CARRYING CAPACITY	4 pax max	10 pax max	8 pax max	10 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	yes	yes
ELECTRICITY	solar/gas	solar/gas	solar/gas	solar/gas
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	yes	yes
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	yes	yes
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	yes	yes
DRINKING WATER	no (bring own)			
CELLULAR RECEPTION	no	poor	no	poor
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	bad	fair (gravel)	bad	fair (gravel)
REC. VEHICLE	sedan			

GROENDAL	Groendal Campsites	Groendal Picnic Sites	Island Picnic	Rooikrans Lodge
UNITS	8	24	24	1 house
BEDROOMS	no	no	n/a	3
BEDS	no	no	n/a	yes
BATHROOMS	yes	yes	yes	yes
CARRYING CAPACITY	48 pax max	144 pax max	144 pax max	6 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	no	no	n/a	yes
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	yes	yes
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	no	no	n/a	yes
REFRIGERATOR	no	no	n/a	yes
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	yes (bring grid)	yes
DRINKING WATER	no	yes	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	no	yes	yes	no
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	yes	yes	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	good	good	good	good
REC. VEHICLE	sedan			

THOMAS BAINES	Boys Dormitory	Girls Dormitory	Teachers' Room	Settlers Dam Campsites	Dung Beetle Cottage
UNITS	1	1	2	5 sites	1
BEDROOMS	dorm room	dorm room	2	n/a	2
BEDS	30 beds	30 beds	4 beds	n/a	4 sngl beds
BATHROOMS	3 showers	4 showers	1 shower	ablutions	1 shower
CARRYING CAPACITY	30 pax max	30 pax max	4 pax max	6/site	4 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	no	no	yes	n/a	yes
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes (available at conference facility)				no
REFRIGERATOR	yes (available at conference facility)				no
BRAAI FACILITY	yes (bring wood)	yes (bring wood)	yes (bring wood)	yes (bring wood)	yes (bring wood)
DRINKING WATER	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	fair	fair	fair	fair
REC. VEHICLE	gravel road – high clearance vehicle				

Please note that this information may change without notice.

GAME MANAGEMENT AND RECREATION

COMMANDO DRIFT	Fish Eagle Cabins	Lake View Chalet	Caravan Sites	Tent Site
UNITS	2	1	2	6
BEDROOMS	open plan	1	n/a	n/a
BEDS	2	4	n/a	n/a
BATHROOMS	ablution	1	ablution	ablution
CARRYING CAPACITY	2 pax max	4 pax max	6 pax max	6 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	n/a	no
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	6 points	no
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	n/a	no
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	n/a	no
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	yes	yes
DRINKING WATER	yes	yes	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	poor	poor	poor	poor
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	poor	poor	poor	poor
REC. VEHICLE	high clearance LDV (2x4 or 4x4)			

MPOFU FORT FORDYCE	Mpofu Lodge	Maqoma's Den Hut	Harris Hut	Louries Rest Hut	Phakamisa Hut
UNITS	1	1	1	1	1
BEDROOMS	7	2	2	5	3
BEDS	10 sngl + 2 dbl	4 x sngl	4 x sngl	16 sngl + 1 dbl	6 x sngl
BATHROOMS	all rooms en-suite	1 inside	1 outside	1 inside + 2 outside	1 x inside
CARRYING CAPACITY	14 pax max	4 pax max	4 pax max	18 pax max	6 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
ELECTRICITY	Solar	yes	gas only	yes	gas only
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
DRINKING WATER	rain water	rain water	rain water	rain water	rain water
CELLULAR RECEPTION	partial	partial	no	partial	partial
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
REC. VEHICLE	2 x 4				

ONGELUKSNEK	Gateway Lodge	Tweespruit Bushcamp	Rondavels
UNITS	1	4	2
BEDROOMS	3	n/a	-
BEDS	3 dbl, 1 dbl bunk	n/a	4 sngl
BATHROOMS	1	2	-
CARRYING CAPACITY	12 pax max	6 pax max	-
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	no	-
ELECTRICITY	solar	no	-
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	no	-
REFRIGERATOR	yes	no	-
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	-
DRINKING WATER	good	good (from river to reservoir)	-
CELLULAR RECEPTION	only Vodacom	bad	-
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	yes	n/a	-
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	fair	-
REC. VEHICLE	4x4		

Please note that this information may change without notice.



GAME MANAGEMENT AND RECREATION CONTINUED

DVISTON	Komweer Lodge	Apies Bay Cabin	Ihodi Campsite
UNITS	1	1	2 sites
BEDROOMS	4	2	na
BEDS	9 single	4 single	na
BATHROOMS	3	outside	ablution
CARRYING CAPACITY	9 pax max	4 pax max	4 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	na
ELECTRICITY	solar/gas	gas	no
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	na
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	na
BRAAI FACILITY		yes (bring wood)	
DRINKING WATER	borehole water	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	yes	no	yes
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	fair	fair
REC. VEHICLE	sedan or high clearance LDV (2x4)		

TSOLWANA	Tibet Park Lodge	Otterford Lodge	Indwe Lodge	Tibet Flatlet
UNITS	1	1	1	1
BEDROOMS	5	5	4	2 en-suite
BEDS	3 dbl, 8 sngl	2 dbl, 6 sngl	2 dbl, 4 single	dbl in each room
BATHROOMS	2 + 2 en-suite	2	2	4
CARRYING CAPACITY	10 pax max	10 pax max	8 pax max	2 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	yes	yes
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	yes	yes
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	yes	no
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	yes	no
BRAAI FACILITY		yes (bring wood)		-
DRINKING WATER	yes	yes	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	poor	poor	poor	poor
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	poor	poor	poor	poor
REC. VEHICLE	high clearance LDV (2x4 or 4x4)			

MARINE AND COASTAL

DOUBLE MOUTH	Double Mouth Campsite
UNITS	30
BEDROOMS	n/a
BEDS	n/a
BATHROOMS	ablution with hot water
CARRYING CAPACITY	6/site (180 people at full capacity)
LINEN PROVIDED	n/a
ELECTRICITY	yes (provide own connection)
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	n/a
REFRIGERATOR	n/a
BRAAI FACILITY	yes
DRINKING WATER	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION	yes (close to office)
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	n/a
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair
REC. VEHICLE	2x4 & sedan

Please note that this information may change without notice.

MARINE AND COASTAL CONTINUED

DWESA	2 Sleeper Chalets	4 Sleeper Chalets	Dwesa Campsite
UNITS	4	3	40 sites
BEDROOMS	1 each	2 each	n/a
BEDS	2 sngl	1 dbl, 1 bunk	n/a
BATHROOMS	shower	1 each	1 ablution
CARRYING CAPACITY	2 pax max	4 pax max	6/site
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	n/a
ELECTRICITY	no (gas)	no (gas)	no
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	yes
REFRIGERATOR	no (gas)	no (gas)	no
BRAAI FACILITY	yes	yes	yes
DRINKING WATER	yes	yes	yes
CELLULAR RECEPTION		Vodacom	
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	fair	fair
REC. VEHICLE	high clearance		

HLULEKA	Family Chalets
UNITS	7
BEDROOMS	2 in each chalet
BEDS	3 in each chalet (1x dbl and 2x 3/4)
BATHROOMS	2 in each chalet
CARRYING CAPACITY	4 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes
ELECTRICITY	yes
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes
REFRIGERATOR	yes
BRAAI FACILITY	yes
DRINKING WATER	no
CELLULAR RECEPTION	limited
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	chalet no.2
ROAD CONDITIONS	bad
REC. VEHICLE	4x4 vehicle or 2x4

MKHAMBATHI	Gwe Gwe Rondavels	Riverside Lodge	Main Lodge	Stone Cottage
UNITS	6	1	1	2
BEDROOMS	1	5	5	3
BEDS	2 sngl	20	2 sngl & 4 dbl	4 sngls & 1 dbl
BATHROOMS	1 (shower per rondavel)	3 (shower)	5 en-suites with bath & shower	1 bath no shower & 1 separate toilet
CARRYING CAPACITY	2 pax max	20 pax max	10 pax max	6 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	yes	yes
ELECTRICITY	solar	solar	Eskom power supply	
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	no	yes	yes	yes
REFRIGERATOR	yes	deep freezer & fridge	fridge	fridge
BRAAI FACILITY	available	available	available	available
DRINKING WATER	self provision	self provision	self provision	self provision
CELLULAR RECEPTION	no	no	poor MTN	poor MTN
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	no	no
ROAD CONDITIONS	bad	bad	fair	fair
REC. VEHICLE	2x4 to a 4x4		from normal high clearance to 4x4	

SILAKA	4 Sleeper Chalets	2 Sleeper Chalets	Conference Venue
UNITS	15	2	1
BEDROOMS	2	1	-
BEDS	3 or 4	1 dbl	-
BATHROOMS	1	1	-
CARRYING CAPACITY	4 pax max	2 pax max	40 pax max
LINEN PROVIDED	yes	yes	-
ELECTRICITY	yes	yes	-
CUTLERY/CROCKERY	yes	yes	-
REFRIGERATOR	yes	yes	-
BRAAI FACILITY	yes (bring wood)	yes (bring wood)	-
DRINKING WATER	yes	yes	-
CELLULAR RECEPTION	yes	yes	-
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	no	no	-
ROAD CONDITIONS	fair	fair	-
REC. VEHICLE	2x4		

Please note that this information may change without notice.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To ensure a pleasant and successful trip through the ECPTA nature reserves it is essential that you adhere strictly to the regulations, which are intended for your protection and enjoyment.

The following Terms and Conditions apply to all bookings and stays:

1. Damage/Loss/Death

It is a distinct condition of admission to any protected area that the ECPTA accepts no responsibility arising from a visit(s), however caused:

- For any death, injury or illness sustained or suffered by any person.
- For theft/loss/damage to any property, whether allegedly due to the negligence of the Board/executive team/employees/agents or arising from the use of any facilities supplied/made available.
- From any alleged defect in any utensil/equipment/services.
- From any other conveyance supplied/made available, or from any liquid/food supplied.
- From any other matter arising, in any other manner and from any other cause whatsoever.

2. Disclaimer of Liability

ECPTA, its Directors and employees shall not be liable to any person or any legal entity for:

- Any loss or damages caused by or as a result of any theft or burglary or any other cause and/or any incident, injury, loss of life, loss or damage whether by ECPTA, its Directors or its employees, consequential or otherwise caused to such person or entity from whatever cause arising while upon or while using the said premises or any portion thereof. However, such accident, delay, injury, loss of life or loss or damage may arise occasionally as a result of negligence or breach of contract.

3. Booking Fees

- Right of admission is reserved. ECPTA only confirms a booking on receipt of full payment by the deadline date (within 14 days of making booking or prior to arrival, whichever is the lesser) as specified on the provisional booking.
- It is the client's responsibility to ensure that full payment is made before the specified date on provisional booking to avoid automatic cancellation, as the Central Reservations unit cannot be responsible for this.
- ECPTA reserves the right to cancel the booking if no or only partial payment is received, or should the proof of full payment not be received by the specified deadline date. Any money paid in by that date will be kept as credit for the customer for another 14-day period only, after which the money will be forfeited and automatically become an administration fee.
- All booking requests are only accepted 11 months or less in advance. Bookings for the eleventh month are opened on the first working day of each new month.

4. Booking Cancellation and Rescheduling

The following conditions apply to any rescheduled booking:

- Bookings rescheduled will be subject to a 25% of the total

booking as an administration fee.

- *The total booking fee plus the administration fee must be paid in full before access to the reserve is granted.*
- Bookings may only be rescheduled twice.
- Rescheduling of bookings must be made within 12 months of the original arrival date or money paid will be forfeited.
- When rescheduling, the monetary value of the cancelled booking will go as credit against the new booking (not the quantity of days booked.)
- Refunds on or after the arrival date will be processed by the head office on recommendation from the reserve.
- Refund of bookings prior to arrival date will be charged a cancellation fee as follows:
 - Cancellations greater than 45 days prior to arrival = 10% of booking total.
 - Cancellation within 30-44 days prior to arrival = 25% of booking total
 - Cancellation within 15-29 days prior to arrival = 50% of booking total
 - Cancellation within 14 days or less prior to arrival = 100% of booking total
- Bookings cannot be rescheduled should guests choose to leave earlier than expected due to illness, emergencies, *Force Majeure* or change of plans.
- All cancellations must be done in writing by clients if booking has been paid.
- Should ECPTA cancel the booking due to any unforeseen reason, the guests have the option to reschedule or receive a full refund.

5. Reserve Rules and Regulations and Other Useful Information

ECPTA reserves the right to deny access or to evict guests who do not adhere to the rules and regulations of the ECPTA and/or its reserves. Money paid will be forfeited. These rules include, but are not limited to the following:

- No pets (dogs, cats, birds or any other) allowed on all nature reserves. Transgressors will be dealt with firmly, issued with a summons and the pets will be destroyed. Guide dogs for visually impaired guests are one exception, but only in consultation with reserve management and if the owner has the necessary inoculations and permits as ordained by the veterinary department.
- No collection of bait, removing, damaging or disturbing of fauna and flora
- Litter-free zone – littering is prohibited. Deposit or leaving of any litter except in receptacles for that purpose will result in a fine.
- Fire hazard – starting or causing of any fire, whether it be intentional or unintentional other than in a fireplace or container purposely made available, is strictly prohibited and will result in a summons being issued.
- Behaviour – behaving in an offensive, improper, indecent or disorderly manner including the playing of any radio, compact disc player, music system, musical system or instrument, or in any way cause of any noise in any manner likely to disturb any species or specimen or other person is strictly prohibited and will be fined if not adhered to. The hindering, intimidating or obstructing of an authorised official in the execution of his/

her duties or the performance of his/her functions will not be tolerated and is subject to a penalty. Violation, refusal or failure to obey or comply with any prohibition, request or instruction imposed by these regulations or by the management authority or authorised official will result in prosecution.

- Alcohol – the consumption of alcohol in public areas is prohibited. Day visitors are prohibited from entering reserve with any alcohol in their vehicles.
- Smoking – please take note of the smoking regulations applicable in the nature reserve.
- Gate times must be strictly adhered to and travelling inside the ECPTA nature reserves outside of these hours is not allowed. There are different reserve times for different reserves. Visitors to familiarise themselves with gate times of reserve they are visiting.
- Overnight visitors are only to stay at a booked overnight facilities and must Report to reception before occupying accommodation/camping site.
- Check in time 14h00, check out time 10h00
- Feeding of wildlife is prohibited – the feeding or intentional disturbance of wildlife is a serious offence. By feeding any wildlife you are potentially signing their death warrant, as they may become dependent and often become aggressive and dangerous, and thus have to be exterminated.
- Stay in your vehicle – in most of the nature reserves there is a possible threat from dangerous animals. In such nature reserves, guests may only alight from vehicles in designated areas. No part of your body may protrude from a window or sunroof and doors should remain closed at all times.
- No killing of animals – poaching and killing or injuring of animals is strictly prohibited.
- Tariff prices do not include meals, however meals are included at certain parks at an additional cost.
- Adult is 12 years and above. Children (2-11 years), under two years are free of charge.
- All tariffs are in South African Rand. Tariffs are subject to alteration without advance notification.
- No exceeding the specified number of persons per booking.
- No unsealed fire arms permitted on nature reserves.
- Unlicensed and all off-road motorbikes, all quad bikes are not prohibited in all protected areas. Touring motorbikes will be permitted in certain reserves. No motorised water craft of any nature are permitted in all protected areas and marine protected areas.
- Bicycles – please enlighten yourself with the rules and regulations applicable to the use of roller skates, skateboards, bicycles for the nature reserve/s that you will be visiting as there are restrictions in some of the nature reserves; bicycles in Baviaanskloof are only permitted with a permit and back up vehicle to accompany riders. All arrangements and permission from reserve manager.
- The maximum speed limit (40kms) – please take careful note of the speed limits applicable in the various areas of the nature reserve. Note that not all roads are accessible to caravans and/ or vehicles exceeding a certain mass, type or size.

- Camping or overnight stays are only permitted in designated areas.
- Visitors are only permitted on marked tourists routes and roads. No off-road driving is permitted.
- Day visitors must be out of the nature reserve by sunset or 18h00, whichever is the earliest.
- Picnics, swimming, fishing and fires may only be undertaken in designated areas.
- Entrance to nature reserves may be only be made with the appropriate entry permit and payment of prescribed fees.
- South African residents 55 years and over are granted a discount of 20% on accommodation tariffs during **OFF-PEAK SEASON ONLY** for bookings that are three nights or more. This discount excludes trails and overnight hiking. South African residents qualify for the above discount on presentation of identification and proof of age for pensioners, failing which full rates will be charged.
- Thomas Baines offers a student rate, however, to qualify, students must provide a valid student card for authenticating purposes.
- Drive safely – general rules of the road apply within the nature reserves. It is an offence to drive on South African roads without a recognised driver's license or under the influence of alcohol. Driving or operating any vehicle in a reckless or negligent manner or in a deliberate disregard for the safety of a person, animal or property is a serious offence and can result in a summons being issued. Driving a vehicle in a manner that constitutes a nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to any other person may also be subject to a summons being issued.
- Driving areas – vehicles must remain on the designated roads at all times and off-road driving or driving on closed or no-entry roads is a serious offence. In many areas, overnight facilities are to be accessed only by booked overnight guests.
- Consult our reservations staff for details of discounts and promotions.
- The conservation fees are applicable to day visitors and overnight visitors.
- Peak season is defined as all South African school holidays, Easter and long weekends [public holiday on a Friday or Monday].
- Off-peak season is defined as the period excluding those defined as peak season.
- No refunds will be considered should visitors experience bad weather as weather conditions are out of our control.
- Campsite and accommodation numbers are to be strictly adhered to, as reflected on bookings.
- All activities at applicable nature reserves are undertaken at client's own risk, and day visitors will be charged conservation fees.





ADVENTURE PROVINCE

Eastern Cape

For bookings and tariffs, contact our Reservations Unit at:

Tel: +27 (0)43 705 4400

Fax: +27 (0)86 611 1623/4

Email: reservations@ecpta.co.za

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