

explore
CAMPING
in the EASTERN CAPE

SPEND A FEW NIGHTS UNDER THE STARS



Yours to Explore

Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY

RECONNECT WITH NATURE

GO CAMP!

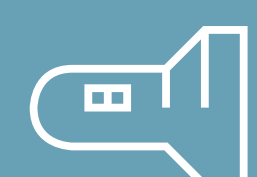
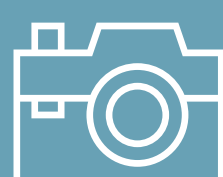
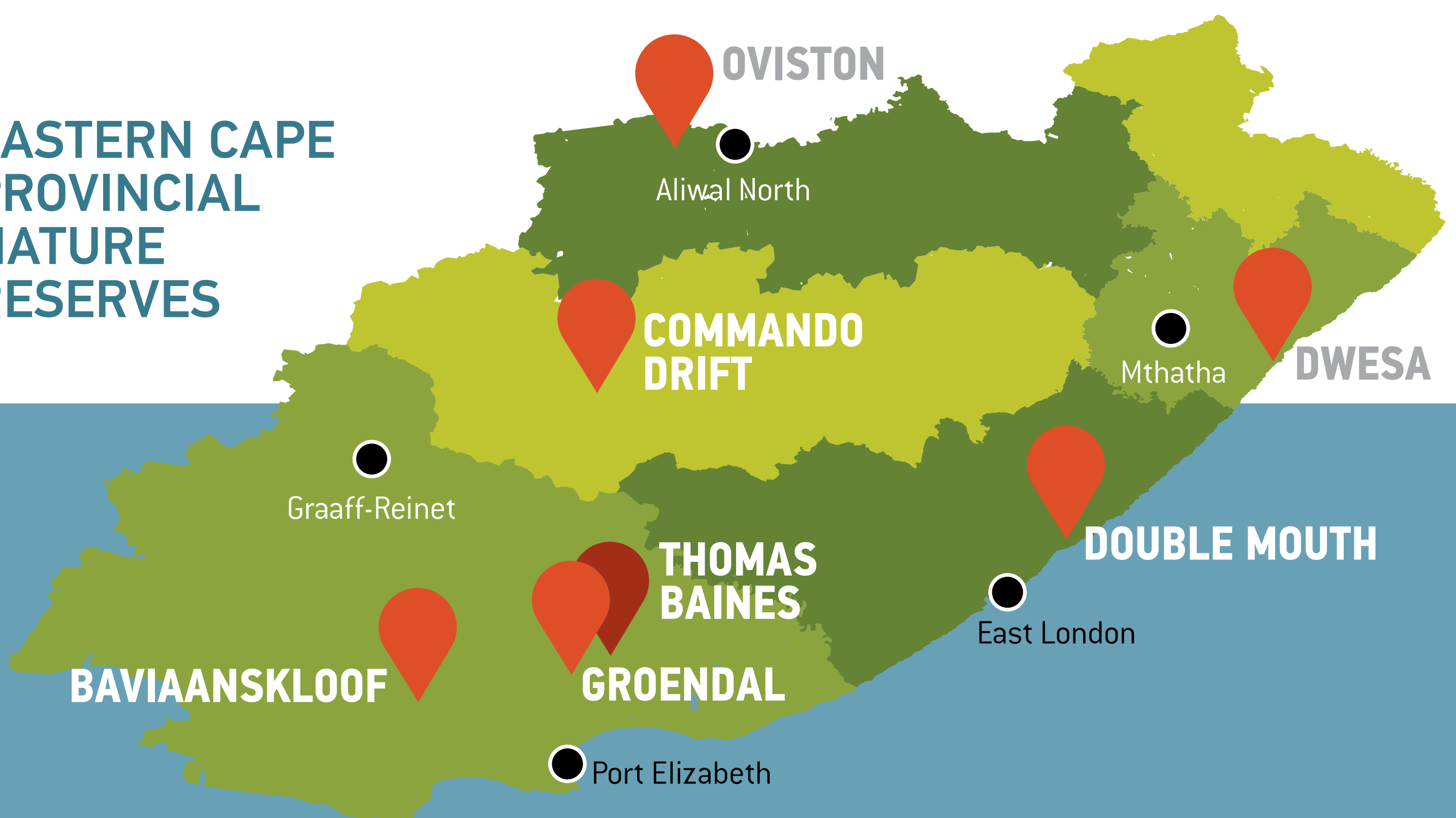


WE ALL COULD DO WITH SPENDING A FEW NIGHTS UNDER THE STARS!

Not only is camping great fun, but it also allows us to reconnect to nature with loved ones. And what better way to do this than to explore the many camping options available at the Eastern Cape provincial nature reserves.

If you're not convinced that you're a camper, then take a look at its health-giving properties - for adults and children alike - and you'll be packing to GO CAMP!

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVES





BE HAPPY GO CAMP!

More sunlight, fresh air and increased physical activity help the body to create serotonin - that remarkable chemical that makes you happy! And who doesn't need a healthy dose of happiness right now?

KEEP YOUR BRAIN HEALTHY GO CAMP!

Yes, there are challenges associated with camping that involve problem-solving. How to pitch a tent or deal with situations when easy access to mod cons in familiar surroundings is not an option! New experiences, tackling new challenges and solving problems keeps your brain healthy.



EDUCATE CHILDREN GO CAMP!

Children are more confident finding their way around a smartphone or iPad than they are navigating a nature trail. Leave the technology behind and help educate your children through the learning opportunities that camping at an Eastern Cape provincial nature reserve provides.

SLEEP BETTER GO CAMP!

Battling to sleep or wake up in the morning? Escape the artificial light of your computer and cell phone screens. Reset your biological clock by adjusting to the natural light-dark cycle. Not only will you feel so much better – you'll be much better company!



GET A VITAMIN D BOOST GO CAMP!

During lockdown, we spent too much time indoors. Camping in an Eastern Cape provincial nature reserve means more time in the sun. And more rays mean extra Vitamin D, so important for physical and mental health. (Take care to minimise the risk associated with too much exposure.)



GET EXERCISE GO CAMP!

All of those zoom calls and webinars have had you seated for too long! Escape unhealthy routine - get up, hit the road and go camp! Explore new surrounds and discover the wonder of exercise on a nature trail in an Eastern Cape provincial nature reserve - some of the most scenic in South Africa.

From the exhilarating Wild Coast to magnificent Baviaanskloof, and all the natural wonders across the forests and valleys of the hinterland, the Eastern Cape provincial nature reserves' beautifully appointed and well-maintained camping and caravanning sites await you. GO CAMP!



DOUBLE MOUTH NATURE RESERVE

SPECTACULAR SEA VIEWS,
EASY BEACH ACCESS GO CAMP!



DOUBLE MOUTH NATURE RESERVE



Nestled alongside the popular holiday town of Morgan Bay, just 50 minutes' drive from East London, Double Mouth Nature Reserve is one of the Eastern Cape's premier coastal camping destinations. Thirty beautiful camp and caravan sites enjoy spectacular sea views and easy access to both the beach and the Quko River Mouth, making this the ideal camp for fishing, diving and water sport enthusiasts. The adjacent estuary and lush forested dunes are home to a large number of bird species, while small game such as bushbuck, blue duiker, mongoose and vervet monkeys are frequent campsite visitors.

Remnants from the shipwreck - Santo Espiritu that ran aground in 1608 just off Black Rock between Haga-Haga - 'money cowries' (cowrie shells used as money to buy goods), carnelian beads (red in colour and were mined in India over a century ago) and Chinese blue and white Ming porcelain shards 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.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Reserve Manager:

071 476 4418 | 087 286 6519

Double Mouth: 087 285 7385



GPS COORDINATES

32°43’25.8”S | 28°18’50.4”E

CAMPSITE

Double Mouth Campsite:

- 30 sites
- Electrical points and ablution facility with hot water
- Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max
- Bathrooms: Ablution with hot water
- Electricity: Yes (provide own connection)
- Braai Facility: Yes
- Drinking Water: Yes
- Cellular Reception: Yes (close to office)
- Wheelchair Access: No

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

- On-site parking
- Picnic site with braai facilities
- Ablution blocks

ACTIVITIES

- Camping
- Caravanning
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Bird watching
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Surfing
- Canoeing
- Conferencing

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

- Morgan Bay Cliffs
- Gxara Village visits
- Climbing and abseiling
- Kei Mouth
- Morganville Motorcycle Museum
- Golf at Kei Mouth Country Club
- Cape Morgan Lighthouse
- Bushbuck Trail
- Bowls at Morgan Bay Bowling Green
- Wild Coast Horseback Adventures
- Pont at Kei River
- Morgan Bay Hotel
- Miarestate
- Haga Haga
- Double Mouth Photo Frame





BIRDS

Cape gannet
White-breasted
cormorant
Cape cormorant
Reed cormorant
Grey heron
Black-headed heron
Little egret
Cattle egret
Hadedda ibis
Cape vulture
Kelp gull
African wood owl
Spotted eagle owl
African grass owl
Barn owl
African fish eagle
Jackal buzzard

ANIMALS

Bush Pig
Bushbuck
Blue duiker
Mongoose
Vervet monkey
Clawless otter
Dolphin
Whale
Porcupine
Rock dassie
Blue-backed jackal
Rock monitor lizard
Great white shark

PLANTS

Wild banana (Ikhamanga)
Milkwood (Umntunzi)
Sweet thorn (Umnga)
Fig tree (Umthombe)
Wild date palm (Isundu)
Coastal silver oak
(Igqange)
Cat thorn claw tree
(Ispingo)
African potato (Inongwe)





DIRECTIONS

80km from East London, via N2 and R349
229km from Mthatha, via N2 and R349
240km from Queenstown via N6, R63, N2 and R349

PERMITS REQUIRED

Fishing permit (from post office)
Day visit and overnight permit (receipt)

CLOSEST TOWNS

Morgan Bay: 5km
Kei Mouth: 14km
East London: 90km
Mthatha: 213km
Queenstown: 240km
Port Elizabeth: 400km



RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

2x4 or 4x4
Sedan



BAVIAANSKLOOF WORLD HERITAGE SITE

NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE
GO CAMP!



BAVIAANSKLOOF WORLD HERITAGE SITE



A UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as a Cape Floristic Region protected area, Baviaanskloof (Valley of the baboons) is a magnificent mountain kingdom spanning 2 040km, boasting seven of South Africa's nine biomes - fynbos, forest, grassland, succulent Karoo, Nama-Karoo, subtropical thicket and savannah.

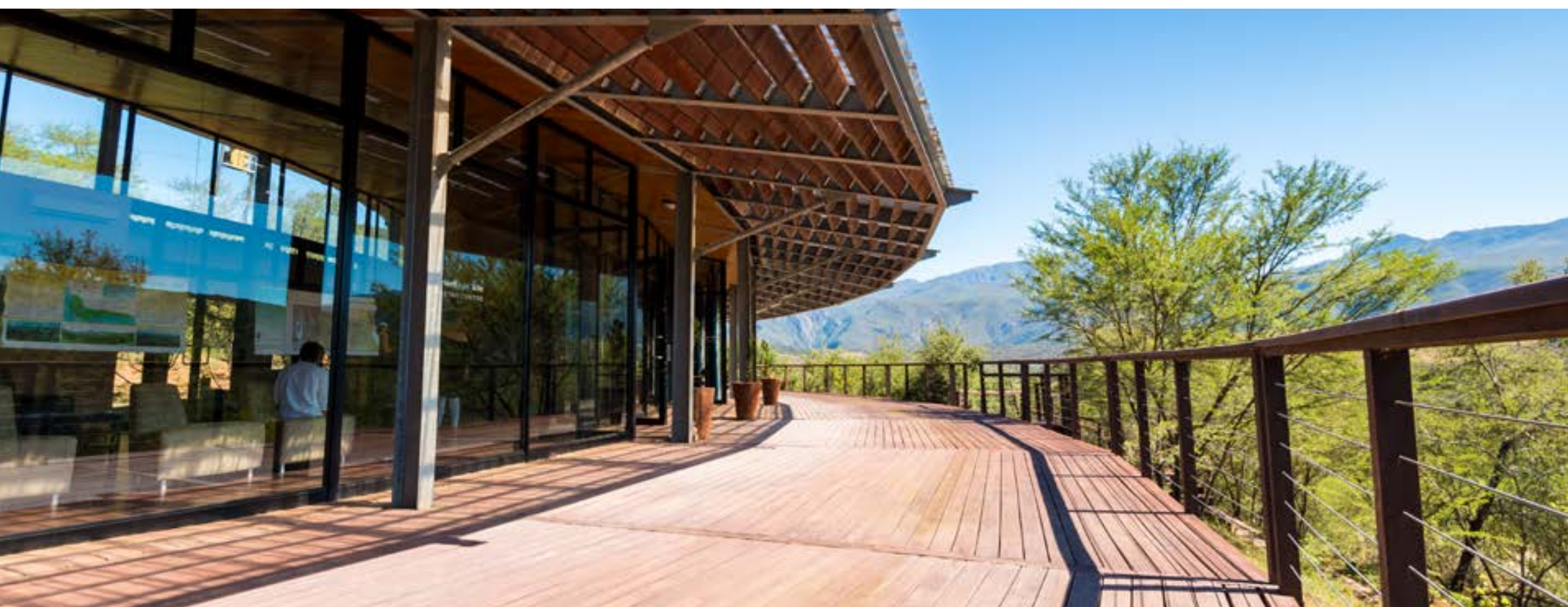
At the eastern entrance to the reserve is the World Heritage Site Interpretive Centre with dedicated displays that showcase the reserve. Guides are on hand to show visitors around the centre and explain all about the rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and natural wonders that make Baviaanskloof one of the most spectacular regions in the country.

In addition to the scenic splendour of the region, Baviaanskloof is fast gaining recognition as one of South Africa's premier adventure destinations. Traversing this reserve by 4x4 or on mountain bike (permission and support vehicle required), up rugged mountain passes, through rivers and across the plateau, is an unforgettable true wilderness experience.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Komdomo Office: 087 286 6494

Senior Reserve Manager: 079 496 7979



GPS COORDINATES

33°39'47.2"S | 24°32'29.2"E

CAMPSITES

Komdomo Campsite (3-Star):

27 sites (Groot River)
Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max
Bathrooms: 2 ablutions
Electricity: Yes
Braai Facility: Yes (bring grid)
Drinking Water: Yes
Cellular Reception: No
Wheelchair Access: No

Rooihoek Campsite:

6 sites (Kouga Dam region)
Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max
Bathrooms: Long drop
Electricity: No
Braai Facility: Yes (bring wood)
Drinking Water: Yes
Cellular Reception: No
Wheelchair Access: No

Doodsklip Campsite:

5 sites
Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max
Bathrooms: Long drop
Electricity: No
Braai Facility: Yes (bring grid & wood)
Drinking Water: No (bring own)
Cellular Reception: No
Wheelchair Access: No



DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

Komdomo picnic area & bird trail
Grasnek lookout point
World Heritage Interpretive Centre
Smitskraal picnic area
Poortjies waterfall walk
Combrink Pass lookout point
Bergplaas Plateau lookout

ACTIVITIES

Camping
Bird watching
Swimming
Cycling
Wildlife photography
Guided tour of World Heritage Centre
Guided walk to San rock-art
Wilderness self-drive along the R332
Cable way at Holgat pass lookout point
Hiking:
• Bergplaas Hiking Trail to Pete’s Pools
• Poortjies Waterfall Trail
• Komdomo River Trail
• Maqpeek Hiking Trail

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

Kouga Dam
Sarah Baartman gravesite - Hankey
Fig tree forest at Baviaanskloof
Padlang's
Grootriverpoort
Tolbos Farm Stall
Vero’s craft shop
Willowmore
Karoo Farm Tour
Makkedaat Caves
Largest sundial in Africa
2nd largest in Southern Hemisphere
- Hankey





BIRDS

Hottentot buttonquail
Blue crane
Knysna woodpecker
Crowned eagle
Black harrier
Orange-breasted sunbird
African fish eagle
Knysna turaco

ANIMALS

Eland
Kudu
Cape buffalo
Klipspringer
Cape mountain zebra
Bushbuck
Leopard
Mountain reedbuck
Red hartebeest
Baboon
Vervet monkey
Duiker
Grysbok
Grey Rhebok
Aardvark
Aardwolf
Cape Clawless Otter
Honey Badger
Bush Pig
Leopard
Bat-eared Fox
Caracal

PLANTS

Protea
Erica
Cedar
Pre-historic cycad
Giant Outeniqua
yellowwood
70 succulent species





DIRECTIONS

234km from Knysna, via N2 and N9
207km from Graaff-Reinet, via N9
120km from Port Elizabeth, via N2, R75, R329 and R332
548km from East London, via N2, R75, R329 and R332

PERMITS REQUIRED

Entrance & Activity permits (camping/day visit/drive through).

CLOSEST TOWNS

Patensie to Komdomo office 35km
Humansdorp 79km
Jeffrey’s Bay 107km
Port Elizabeth 120km
Willowmore to Western Gate 149,5km



RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

2x4 or 4x4
(No quad bikes or motocross bikes allowed).



GROENDAL NATURE RESERVE

MOUNTAINS, STREAMS, RAVINES
& MOST POPULAR HIKING SPOT
GO CAMP!



GROENDAL NATURE RESERVE



The 45 000ha Groendal wilderness area protects the water catchment of the Swartkops River (KwaZungha River) and forms part of the spectacular Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site. Although it is situated just 50km from central Port Elizabeth, it is characterised by unspoiled landscape including deep kloofs, gushing streams, ravines and crystal-clear pools. At the centre of the reserve is the tranquil Groendal Dam. Encompassed by the towering Groot Winterhoek Mountain Range, the reserve was first proclaimed a wilderness area in 1976, making it one of the oldest protected areas in the Eastern Cape. Groendal is important to our cultural heritage, as the protected San rock-art in the area provides an invaluable record of the earliest inhabitants of this region.

Groendal is one of the most popular hiking destinations in the Nelson Mandela Bay area. The predominantly fynbos vegetation is home to a diverse range of bird and animal species.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Groendal Office: 087 086 2499

Reserve Manager: 071 609 1383

Section Ranger (alternative): 073 378 4324





GPS COORDINATES

33°40'37.5"S | 25°12'45.2"E

CAMPSITES

Rooikrans Campsites (3-Star):

- 8 sites
- Bathrooms: Yes
- Electricity: Yes
- Braai Facility: Yes
- Drinking Water: No
- Cellular Reception: No
- Wheelchair Access: No

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

- Picnic site with braai facilities
- Lapa

ACTIVITIES

- Camping
- Picnicking
- San rock-art
- Old graves and monument
- Hiking:
 - 16km Blindekloof Trail to Crystal Cavern Pool & short 4km circular trail
 - 32km Upper Blindekloof Trail (advanced - 2 days sleep tent or cave)
 - Emerald Pool Trail to Groendal Dam (cross Swartskop River to Eel Cave)
 - Dam Trail through riverine forest along KwaZunga River through Aquilakloof

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

- Drostdy Museum - Uitenhage
- Auto Pavilion Museum - Uitenhage
- Island Nature Reserve
- Addo Elephant Park
- Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site
- Rock-art / Kwa-Zunga catchment
- Addo Elephant National Park
- Zipline and quadbike in Addo
- Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site





BIRDS

- Buttonquail
- Fish eagle
- Knysna turaco
- Francolin
- Partridge
- Yellow-billed duck
- Black duck

ANIMALS

- Baboon
- Common duiker
- Cape grysbok
- Bushbuck
- Grey rhebok
- Mountain reedbuck

PLANTS

- Fynbos
- Indigenous forest
- Valley bushveld scrub
- Sneezewood (Ptaeroxylon Obliquum)
- Pork bush (Portulacaria Afra)
- Big karee thorn (Lycium Astrinum)
- Bitter aloe (Aloe Ferox)
- Cycads
- Real yellowwood (Podocarpus Latifolius)
- White stinkwood (Celtis Africana)
- White ironwood (Vepris Undulata)





EMERGENCY NUMBERS

SAPS: 041 996 3438 / Ambulance: 10177
Search and Rescue: 072 324 4985 | 073 755 2250
Emergency Automobile Service: 0800 003 066

DIRECTIONS

19km from Uitenhage, via Doornhoek Rd
60km from Port Elizabeth via R75, Doornhoek Rd
265km from Knysna, via N2
305km from East London, via N2

PERMITS REQUIRED

Entrance permit / Activity permit / Accommodation permit



CLOSEST TOWNS

Uitenhage 10km
Port Elizabeth 50km

RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

All types of vehicles



DWESA-CWEBE NATURE RESERVE

A RANGE OF HIKING TRAILS THROUGH
THICK COASTAL FOREST GO CAMP!



DWESA-CWEBE NATURE RESERVE



Straddling the impressive, 140km Mbhashe River on the Wild Coast, the Dwesa and Cwebe Nature Reserves are situated in one of the Eastern Cape's most unspoilt coastal conservation areas. Birdlife at these reserves is truly incredible. More than 200 terrestrial and coastal species have been recorded including the globally threatened spotted ground thrush, which breeds here. The coastal mangroves hold the only protected breeding population of mangrove kingfisher in South Africa. Featuring a range of low-, medium- and high-impact hiking trails through thick coastal forest, this is the ideal setting for visitors wanting to get back to nature.

While similar in vegetation, the two reserves nonetheless have individual identities. Dwesa, the larger of the two, features a bigger variety of game, while Cwebe boasts a more diverse habitat, from forest and grassland to lush mangroves.

A short walk through the dune forest reveals a perfect, unspoiled shelly beach with fascinating rock pools. The campsite is sheltered by the forest and bluff. Spectacular views from Kobole Point and of the nearby waterfall are definite highlights.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Admin Office: 087 286 6536

Reserve Manager: 079 496 7923



GPS COORDINATES

32°15’14.9”S | 28°52’36.5”E

CAMPSITE

Dwesa Campsite:

40 sites

Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max

Bathrooms: 1 ablution & bush showers

Electricity: No

Braai Facility: Yes

Drinking Water: Yes

Wheelchair Access: No

No campsites at Cwebe.

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

Braai site

ACTIVITIES

Swimming

Hiking

Mountain biking

Bird watching

Camping & caravanning

Fishing

Forest walks

Cycling

Guided and non-guided game viewing (only designated private tour guide)

Explore:

- O’Bell Shipwreck site (1916)
- Mbashe River Estuary
- Kobolo Viewpoint - game viewing
- Dwesa Point - game viewing
- Magonya Hills - whale & dolphin watching
- Mendu point - whale & dolphin lookout
- Mbanyana Falls (Cwebe)
- Coastal indigenous forest

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

Nqabara River Mouth

King Hintsa gravesite

Collywobbles Cape vulture colony





BIRDS

Spotted ground thrush
Red-necked spurfowl
Lemon dove
Trumpeter hornbill
Crowned hornbill
Knysna turaco
Olive woodpecker
Forest buzzard
Crowned eagle
Rufous-breasted
sparrowhawk
African wood owl
African black
oystercatcher
Narina trogon
Kelp gull
Black headed heron
Mangrove kingfisher

ANIMALS

African buffalo
Burchell’s zebra
Eland
Crocodile
Blue duiker
Caracal
Spotted genet
Black backed jackal
Dolphin
Whale

PLANTS

Coastal coral tree
Big num-num
Cape box
Common cabbage tree
Forest num-num
Natal box
Stink ebony
Forest false nettle
Forest iron plum
Real yellowwood
Cape plane
Common yellowwood
Quinine tree
River euphorbia
White milkwood
Sweet thorn
Red pear
Forest bushwillow
Cross berry
Red-stem corkwood
Dog ash
Woolly cape bush
Dog plum
Forest knob wood
Small bone-apple
Spiny gardenia
Weeping bride’s bush
Bitter aloe
Red beech
Cape ape
Laburnum
Skunk bush
Dune myrtle
Cheesewood
Large-leaved dragon tree





EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Station: 047 576 9296
Madwaleni Hospital: 047 564 1207

DIRECTIONS

80km from Idutywa, via R408
160 from Mthatha, via N2 and R408
233km from East London, via N2 and R408



PERMITS REQUIRED

- Entry permit
- Fishing permit (subsistence and recreational-catch and release fishing is allowed)
- Cycling, birding and hiking permit
- Transport permit (for hunting clients)
- Hunting permit and hunting license (for hunting clients)
- Threatened or Protected Species permit for the hunting of African buffalo

CLOSEST TOWNS

DWESA: Willowvale 50km / Idutywa 80km / Mthatha 160km
East London 230km / Port Elizabeth 550km
CWEBE: Mthatha 104km

RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

2x4 or 4x4



THOMAS BAINES NATURE RESERVE

RUSTIC CHARM ON THE BANKS OF
SETTLERS DAM GO CAMP!



THOMAS BAINES NATURE RESERVE



Just 12km outside Makhanda, Thomas Baines Nature Reserve is an ideal destination for those wanting to explore the rich historical, cultural and geological history of South Africa's famed Frontier Country. Originally established as a municipal nature reserve in 1961, it 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 - both important water sources for Makhanda.

The 1 000-hectare reserve teems with birdlife, and the 15kms of dirt tracks make for excellent game drives, nature walks and mountain biking. Look out for eland, zebra, red hartebeest, warthogs and monkeys as you negotiate the reserve's lush fynbos and Albany thicket landscapes. Scenic but basic, non-powered campsites on the banks of Settlers Dam offer a rustic charm, in close proximity to excellent fishing, sailing and hiking sites.

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.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Reserve Manager: 079 496 7979

Section Ranger: 079 423 3492

Office: 087 285 7399 / 7398 / 7397



GPS COORDINATES

33°39'47.2”S | 24°32'29.2”E

CAMPSITE

Settlers Dam Campsite
(3-Star):

- 5 sites
- Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max
- Bathrooms: Ablutions
- Electricity: Yes
- Braai Facility: Yes (bring wood)
- Drinking Water: Yes
- Cellular Reception: Yes
- Wheelchair Access: Yes

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

- Picnic site
- Conference hall

ACTIVITIES

- Bird watching
- Hiking
- Cycling
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Teambuilding
- Self-drive game viewing
- Fishing
- Canoeing (bring own canoe & safety gear)

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

- Makhanda - Host: National Arts Festival
- Albany Museum
- Observatory Museum
- Settlers Monument
- Sunshine Coast - beautiful beaches





BIRDS

African fish eagle
Crowned eagle
Jackal buzzard
Knysna turaco
Fiery-necked nightjar
Trumpeter and crowned
hornbill
Black and grey
cuckoo-shrike
Fork-tailed drongo
Wagtail
Starling
Flycatcher
Malachite sunbird
Canary species
Weaver species
Bulbul species
Honeyguide species
Woodpecker species
Swallow species
Dove species
Cuckoo species
Owl species

ANIMALS

Warthog
Vervet monkey
Blue duiker
Aardwolf
Eland
Kudu
Red hartebeest
Mountain reedbuck
Common duiker
Wildcat
Plains zebra

PLANTS

Kowie Thicket
Bhisho Thornveld
Suurberg Shale Fynbos
Suurberg Quartzite Fynbos
Southern Mistbelt Forest
Xeric Kaffrarian Thicket
(Valley Bushveld),
Xeric Succulent Thicket
(Succulent Valley
Bushveld),
Riparian Forest
Riparian Thicket
Afro-montane Forest
Grassy Fynbos
Grassveld and Bush Clump
Savannah



COMMANDO DRIFT NATURE RESERVE

SPECTACULAR CLIFFS, NUMEROUS
HIKING TRAILS, DIRECT ACCESS TO
DAM GO CAMP!



COMMANDO DRIFT NATURE RESERVE



Roughly 60km from Cradock, in the heart of Eastern Cape hinterland, lies the Commando Drift Nature Reserve with its central geographical feature, the impressive Commando Drift Dam. Fed by four rivers, the dam ensures an abundance of wildlife, including the endangered mountain zebra. Among the most striking features of the reserve is a series of spectacular dolerite and sandstone cliffs, as well as numerous popular hiking and off-road trails, including the Bushman and Endurance hiking trails and Palingkloof jeep track.

A great biking destination, the mountain bike trail has a circular route and a number of alternative trails. It is fairly easy, but includes some challenging hills, rocky terrain and a few devil thorns!

The reserve offers scenic chalets, campsites and direct lake access, making this a great option for the avid fisherman. Snow has been recorded in the surrounding mountains in winter months, so be prepared for cold!

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

087 286 6404



COMMANDO DRIFT
NATURE RESERVE



GPS COORDINATES

32°04’37.4”S | 26°01’46.4”E

CAMPSITES

Commando Drift Campsite:
2 sites

Commando Drift Caravan Park:
2 sites

Carrying Capacity: 6 pax max

Bathrooms: 1 ablution

Electricity: Yes

Braai Facility: Yes (bring grid)

Drinking Water: Yes

Cellular Reception: Poor

Wheelchair Access: No

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

Picnic site with braai facilities

Fishing

ACTIVITIES

Hiking

Bushman Trail (6km)

Endurance Trail (28km circular)

Fishing

Boating (own boat)

Self-drive game viewing

Camping

Picnicking

Hunting

Birding

Rock-art paintings

PLACES OF
INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

Cradock - Schreiner House

Olive Schreiner Museum

Golf Club

Tarkastad - 4x4 trail

Commando Drift Dam

Rock-art

Bushman Trail

Cradock Four Garden of

Remembrance in Lingelihle

Mountain Zebra National Park

Tarkastad rock engravings in

Grootvlei

Tarkastad War Memorial





BIRDS

- Blue crane
- Hadedda ibis
- White-necked raven
- Black crow
- Olive thrush
- Red-winged starling
- African fish eagle
- Cape turtle dove
- Egyptian goose



ANIMALS

- Black wildebeest
(White-tailed gnu)
- Cape mountain zebra
- Bontebok
- Ostrich
- Kudu
- Aardvark
- Warthog
- Springbok
- Steenbok
- Grey rhebok
- Black-backed jackal
- Porcupine
- Springhare
- Rock hyrax
- Caracal
- Common duiker



PLANTS

- Sweet thorn
- Blue bush
- Glossy currant
- Bitter aloe (Aloe Ferox)
- Kei apple





EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police: 10111
Emergency Services: 10177
Cradock Hospital: 048 881 2123

DIRECTIONS

60km from Cradock, via R61
51km from Tarkastad, via R61
289km from Port Elizabeth, via N10
307km from East London, via N6, R61

PERMITS REQUIRED

Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) permit
Hunting permit
Fishing permit (available at reserve office)



CLOSEST TOWNS

Cradock 55km
Tarkastad 35km
Queenstown 125km

RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

2x4 or 4x4



OVISTON NATURE RESERVE

BUCK- & BIRD-RICH KAROO
LANDSCAPE ON THE BANKS OF
GARIEP DAM GO CAMP!



OVISTON NATURE RESERVE



Initially established to preserve the False Upper Karoo vegetation and to support a breeding programme for buck, the 16 000ha 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. A visit to the quiet waterside village of Oviston in the Little Karoo is well worthwhile - spend afternoons fishing and boating on the dam and enjoy a self-drive game drive through this awesome reserve. The Karoo climate is characterised by blazing hot days, followed by cool evenings and extraordinary sunsets. The landscape of wide-open grasslands, little 'koppies' and deep blue skies is a photographer's dream.

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 a day at the reserve is a sunset cruise on the peaceful dam.

RESERVE CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 087 285 7390

Reserve Manager: 066 484 8364

Fax: 087 287 9293

OVISTON
NATURE RESERVE



GPS COORDINATES
30°36'51.0”S | 25°54'40.9”E

CAMPSITE

Ihodi Campsite (3-Star):

- 2 sites
- Carrying Capacity: 4 pax max
- Bathrooms: 1 ablution
- Electricity: No
- Braai Facility: Yes (bring wood)
- Drinking Water: Yes
- Cellular Reception: Yes
- Wheelchair Access: No

DAY VISITOR
FACILITIES

- Ihodi Campsite
- Game viewing routes
- Red hartebeest hills

ACTIVITIES

- Fishing
- Cycling
- Birding
- Hiking
- Hunting (permit required)

INTEREST/
ATTRACTIONS

- Gariep dam wall
- Bethulie railway bridge
- Oviston tunnel
- Anglo Boer War sites
- Orange fish tunnel
- Philippolis Old Jail
- Jobhuis - contemporary art
- Blokhuis



PLACES OF



BIRDS

Verreaux’s eagle
Blue crane
Steppe buzzard
Helmeted guinea fowl
Giant kingfisher
African fish eagle
Blue crane
Burchells starling
Pintailed whydah
Secretary bird
Blacksmith plover
Pied crow
House sparrow
Glossy starling
Yellow-eyed canary
African hoopoe
Grey heron
Red bishop
Red warbler
Garden weaver
Masked flycatcher
Fiscal shrike
Fiscal pigeon
Rock spotted eagle owl
Laughing dove
Dikkop
Spotted wagtail
Cape crowned plover
Bokmakierie
Darter barbet
Crested weaver
Cape mousebird
Cattle egret
Greater flamingo
Kori bustard

ANIMALS

Buffalo
Kudu
Eland
Burchells zebra
Red hartebeest
Black wildebeest
Gemsbok
Springbok
Steenbok
Mountain reedbuck
Vervet monkey
Chacma baboon
Caracal
Black backed jackal
Aardvark
Mongoose
Blesbok
Cape rabbit
Springhare
Bat-eared fox
Porcupine
Warthog
Duiker
Aardwolf
African wild cat
Meerkat
Cape fox

PLANTS

Acacia karoo
Wild lettuce
Boetebos
Doctyloopsis
Rooibessiebrak
White goosefoot





EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire Brigade: 1023
SAPS Venterstad: 051 654 0091
Burgersdorp Hospital: 051 653 1881
Burgersdorp/Venterstad Ambulance: 10177

DIRECTIONS

130km from Aliwal North, via R701
217km from Bloemfontein, via N1
413km from East London, via N6
440km from Port Elizabeth, via N10

PERMITS REQUIRED

Entry permit
Transport permit (for hunting clients)
Hunting permit and hunting license (for hunting clients)
Threatened or Protected Species permit for the hunting/culling of black wildebeest

CLOSEST TOWNS

Venterstad 12km
Bethulie 50km
Gariep Dam 47km
Steynsburg 77km
Burgersdorp 70km
Aliwal North 130km
Colesberg 85km

RECOMMENDED VEHICLE

2x4 or 4x4
Sedan



RATES

RESERVE	SITE	NO. OF UNITS	CAPACITY/ UNIT	OFF-PEAK RATE	PEAK RATE
BAVIAANSKLOOF	Komdomo Campsite (3-Star)	27	6 persons max	R460/night	R482/night
BAVIAANSKLOOF	Rooihoek Campsite	6	6 persons max	R413/night	R437/night
BAVIAANSKLOOF	Doodsklip Campsite	5	6 persons max	R413/night	R437/night
COMMANDO DRIFT	Caravan Site	2 (with plug points)	6 persons max	R196/night	R220/night
COMMANDO DRIFT	Campsite	2 (with plug points)	6 persons max	R183/night	R207/night
DOUBLE MOUTH	Double Mouth Campsite	30	6 persons max	R271/night	R362/night
DWESA-CWEBE	Dwesa Campsite (3-Star)	40	6 persons max	R281/night	R305/night
GROENDAL	Rooikrans Campsite (3-Star)	8	6 persons max	R56/adult R26/child	R75/adult R32/child
OVISTON	Ihodi Campsite (3-Star)	2	4 persons max	R183/night	R207/night
THOMAS BAINES	Settlers Dam Campsite (3-Star)	5	6 persons max	R310/night	R335/night

BOOK ONLINE
www.bookonline.ecpta.co.za

OR CONTACT RESERVATIONS +27 (0)43 492 0883/4
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Yours to Explore

