



Take a hike

explore

the wide open spaces of the Eastern Cape



THE HIKERS GUIDE TO PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE TRAILS

East London Coast | Groendal | Hluleka | Island | Mkhambathi
Ongeluksnek | Thomas Baines | Waters Meeting | Baviaanskloof



Yours to Explore

Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY



Wazi says,

Take a load off and breathe. Discover the beauty and tranquillity at the Eastern Cape Provincial Nature Reserves. Explore the wide open spaces to freely and safely connect to nature. The provincial nature reserves trails offer something for everyone - seasoned hikers, those without the time or fitness levels that the more strenuous hiking trails require, or dawdlers who simply want to get back to nature.

Wonderful outdoor time for the whole family,
- enjoying and respecting nature!

Disclaimer: please note, entrance fees may apply for some of the reserves.



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE HIKING TRAILS

BOOK A STAY:

reservations@ecpta.co.za

043 492 0883/4

-  Eastern Cape Tourism
-  EC_Tourism
-  EasternCapeTourism
-  Eastern Cape Tourism

visiteasterncape.co.za

Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY



East London Coast

Nature
Reserve

Trails

EASY TO MODERATE



All trails

- Demarcated
- Non-guided (field rangers can accompany when available)

Trail 1

Circles the Manager's Office and remains on the plateau

1hr
2,5km

Trail 2

Crosses to the north of the Buffalo Pass Road

2-3 hrs
6km

Trail 3

A shorter trail covering part of trail 2

30min
1,5km

- 3 easy day walks
- Tree labels and information boards for an educational experience
- Geocache of *umtiza listerana* in circular trail in the Umtiza Forest
- Picnic area near conservation offices

Wazi says,

Pack a basket and round off your visit with a bite to eat at the picnic area near the nature conservation offices.



LOCATION:

East London Coast Provincial Nature Reserve
Banks of the Buffalo River
14km north of East London



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 32°58'43"S | 27°57'28"E

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Samango monkey
- ✓ Tree dassie
- ✓ Blue duiker
- ✓ 30-40 Bird species
- ✓ Indigenous forests
- ✓ *Umtiza listerana*

Office 087 286 6516

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

www.visiteasterncape.co.za



Groendal

Nature Reserve

Trails



- 8 hiking trails from easy to strenuous
- 45 428ha of remote and unspoilt rugged terrain
- Third largest proclaimed wilderness in South Africa
- Numerous streams, ravines, deep kloofs and clear pools
- Water-catchment area of the Kwa-zunga River
- Groendal Dam
- Khoi-San paintings in caves and shelters
- Rooikrantz picnic area with short, circular trail

LOCATION:

Groendal Provincial Nature Reserve

Within the Groot Winterhoek mountain range

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



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 33°40'37.5"S | 25°12'45.2"E

Office 087 086 2499

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

<https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/groendal/>

EASY, MODERATE AND STRENUOUS

Fernkloof

- Self guided
- Unmarked (must know the area well)

12km

Lowerblinderkloof

- Self guided
- Clearly demarcated

4hrs
16km

Bushpig

- Self guided
- Clearly demarcated

16km

Elephant Cave

- Self guided
- Unmarked (must know the area well)

16km

Waterkloof

- Self guided
- Unmarked (must know the area well)

16km

Upperblinderkloof

- Self guided
- Clearly demarcated
- Overnight

32km

Eel Cave

- Self guided
- Clearly demarcated
- Overnight

32km

Emerald pool

- Self guided
- Clearly demarcated
- Overnight

32km

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Bushbuck
- ✓ Duiker
- ✓ Grey rhebok
- ✓ Bushpig
- ✓ Grysbok
- ✓ Leopard
- ✓ Mountain reedbuck
- ✓ Vervet monkey
- ✓ 180+ bird species
- ✓ 2000+ species of flora
- ✓ Mostly fynbos



Hluleka

Nature Reserve

Trails



- 5 easy trails
- 772ha area of coastline
- Range of ecosystems: rocky seashores, golden beaches, lagoons and forests
- Walks along the coastline
- Dolphin and whale watching
- Picnic spots

LOCATION:

Hluleka Provincial Nature Reserve
Near Congwane Mtombo and Ndabeni
120km from Port St Johns
87km from Mthatha
310km from Port Shepstone
426km from Durban



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 31°49'S | 29°18'E

Office 087 285 7784

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

<https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/hluleka/>

EASY

All trails

- Demarcated
- Volunteering tour guides available

Mafusini Trail

1km

Hluleka River Trail

1km

Fenqe Trail

1.5km

Mfeyesele Trail

2km

Mphutshenge Trail

2km



BIRDING

- ✓ African finfoot
- ✓ Ground hornbill
- ✓ Osprey
- ✓ Knysna touraco
- ✓ Green coucal
- ✓ Narina trogon

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Bushbuck
- ✓ Spotted genet
- ✓ Burchell's zebra
- ✓ Blue duiker
- ✓ Quinine
- ✓ Coral
- ✓ Stink ebony
- ✓ Natal fig trees



Island

Nature Reserve

Trails

EASY TO MODERATE

All trails

- All trails are well-marked and non-guided

Trail 1

900m

Trail 2

975m

Trail 3

3.95km

Trail 4

(Also an easy 1.3km trail to picnic sites with fireplaces)

3.5hrs
7.6km

Trail 5

3.4km

Bushbuck Trail

- Requires endurance in hot weather
- Starts outside main office

6-7 hrs
16km

- 6 easy to moderate trails (include the Bushbuck Hiking Trail)
- Ideal for day trips
- Family friendly trails
- Excellent vantage points with sweeping coastal views
- Easily accessible picnic spots

LOCATION:

Island Provincial Nature Reserve
25km from Port Elizabeth
219km from Plettenberg Bay
66km from Jeffrey's Bay



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 33.9855° S | 25.3697° E

Office 087 086 2498

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

https://www.nmbt.co.za/listing/island_nature_reserve.html

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Blue duiker
- ✓ Bushbuck
- ✓ Vervet monkey
- ✓ 180+ Bird species
- ✓ Outeniqua yellow-wood
- ✓ White milkwood



Mkhambathi

Nature Reserve

Trails

MODERATE

All trails

- Not clearly demarcated but with signage
- Volunteering guide/ranger upon request at a cost

Gwegwe to
Point Beach
• Coastal

4km

Horseshoe Falls

4.2km

Mkhambathi
Waterfall

5.5km

Vulture Colony

6.5km

Mtentu to
Gwegwe
• Coastal

8km

Mtentu to Point

12km

- 6 moderate trails, some along the Mkhambathi River
- 7 720ha reserve with a spectacular 10km long coastline
- Rugged, rocky beaches and calm inlets
- Spectacular waterfall walks including Mkhambathi and Horseshoe Falls
- Canoeing up Mkhambathi River
- Shipwrecks of the Sao Bento (1554) and the Grosvenor (1782)

LOCATION:

Mkhambathi Provincial Nature Reserve
Pondoland, near KwaZulu-Natal border
30km from Port Edward
59km from Port St Johns



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 31° 18' 22.4928" S | 29° 59' 5.514" E

Office 087 285 7752

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

<https://www.wildcoast.co.za/mkambati/mkambati-nature-reserve>



FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Eland
- ✓ Red hartebeest
- ✓ Prolific birdlife
- ✓ Mkhambathi palm
- ✓ Forested ravines



Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve Trails



- 5 easy to moderate trails
- 13 000ha reserve with magnificent mountain vistas
- Part of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park
- Marked and unmarked trails
- Horse and mountain bike trails available
- Well-preserved San rock art

LOCATION:

Ongeluksnek Provincial Nature Reserve

On Lesotho border, part of Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park



GPS CO-ORDINATES: -30°18'44.28 S | 28°43'28.56 E

Office 087 086 2503

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

<https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/ongeluksnek/>

All trails

- Demarcated
- Non-guided, field rangers assist by arrangement

Bushman Caves
(Distance from main road)

828m

Waterfall
(Distance from main road)

699m

Trig Beacon
(Distance from waterfall)

3.4km

Killarney
(Distance from Trig Beacon)

3.9km

Vulture Hide
(Distance from Killarney)

1.4km



FAUNA & FLORA

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Bearded vulture | ✓ Plains zebra |
| ✓ Cape vulture | ✓ Chacma baboon |
| ✓ Grey rhebok | ✓ Caracal |
| ✓ Common reedbuck | ✓ Aardvark |
| ✓ Mountain reedbuck | ✓ 240+ bird species |
| ✓ black wildebeest | ✓ Globally significant |
| ✓ Black-backed jackal | ✓ plant biodiversity |



Thomas Baines Nature Reserve Trails

EASY TO MODERATE

The Ecology
Connection Trail

5km



FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Chacma baboon
- ✓ Common eland
- ✓ Greater kudu
- ✓ 25+ reptile species
- ✓ 175 bird species
- 3 distinct habitats:
- ✓ Grassy fynbos
- ✓ Valley bushveld
- ✓ Afromontane forest

- 1 trail, ideal for educational purposes
- The trail has six section themes
- Caters to school and youth club outings
- Fully equipped environmental education centre (up to 60 learners)
- Settlers Dam activities: bass fishing, sailing, board sailing, canoeing
- Reserve best explored by vehicle (4x4 or 2x4)
- Picnic and braai area

LOCATION:

Thomas Baines Provincial Nature Reserve
12km from Grahamstown
54km from Port Alfred (via R72)
120km from Port Elizabeth



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 33°23 28 S | 26°29 13" E
MAIN ENTRANCE GATE: 33.391968 | 26.475608

Wazi says,

This is a perfect
location for a school
educational outing.



Office 087 285 7399

Central Reservations 043 492 0881

reservations@ecpta.co.za

<https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/thomas-baines/>



Waters Meeting

Nature
Reserve

Trails



EASY, MODERATE AND STRENUOUS

All trails

- Well-marked by colour-coded footprints
- Non-guided

Green Trail

3km

Red Trail

3.5km

Orange Trail

5km

Blue Trail

9km

- 4 easy, moderate to strenuous trails
- Reserve accessed from Kowie River at Port Alfred
- Trails can be done separately or as one complete trail
- Kowie River vistas, including 'horseshoe bend'
- Picnic and braai areas

LOCATION:

Waters Meeting Provincial Nature Reserve
4km from Bathurst
36km from Grahamstown
30km from Port Alfred
150km from East London



MAIN ENTRANCE GATE
GPS CO-ORDINATES:
33.534026 | 26.799919

Office 087 286 6541
Central Reservations 043 492 0881
reservations@ecpta.co.za
www.visiteasterncape.co.za



Wazi says,

For the more energetic
do the complete
20.5km as one trail!

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ Rock dassie
- ✓ Blue duiker
- ✓ Otters
- ✓ Kudu
- ✓ Waterbuck
- ✓ Bushpig
- ✓ Abundant bird species
- ✓ Coastal thicket



Baviaanskloof

Nature
Reserve

Trails



An absolute treat, especially during spring, the Leopard Trail should be on every fit hiker's bucket list.

- 4-day, 60km circular hike
- Strenuous hike including long days and big hills
- 4-12 hikers at a time
- Beautiful and diverse landscape and flora
- Technical rating of trail: Standard trail walking interspersed with rocky or loose terrain and multiple shallow river crossings
- Slackpacking trail
- Overnight accommodation included
- Bookings must be made in advance

STRENUOUS

The Leopard Trail

**4-day
60km**

LOCATION:

Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site Wilderness Reserve



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 33.4 S | 24.4 E

Office 074 939 4395
reservations@gobaviaans.co.za
www.gobaviaans.co.za



FAUNA & FLORA

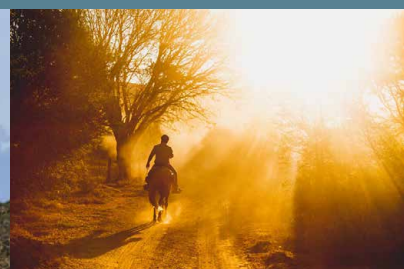
- ✓ Baboon
- ✓ Leopard
- ✓ 100+ bird species
- ✓ One of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots



Baviaanskloof

Nature
Reserve

Trails



The word “Camino” means way, or road. For many it has a spiritual connection too. Although there are no churches or places of worship in the Baviaanskloof, this Camino certainly has all the elements to become your own spiritual journey.

- 6 day, 85-95km trail (4 days of hiking plus arrival and departure days)
- North-south route through Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve
- Hiking and horse-riding trail
- 14 participants required (can include up to 6 on horseback)
- Slackpacking trail
- Overnight accommodation included
- Non-circular route starts in Willowmore, ends in Kareedouw (shuttle transfers available)
- Bookings must be made in advance

LOCATION:

Baviaanskloof Provincial Nature Reserve



GPS CO-ORDINATES: 33.4 S | 24.4 E

Office 073 825 0835

esti.stewart@vodamail.co.za

<http://www.baviaanscamino.com/>

STRENUOUS

Baviaans Camino

6-day
95km

FAUNA & FLORA

- ✓ 95 bird species
- ✓ One of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots