

explore

**THE WIDE OPEN
SPACES OF THE
EASTERN CAPE**

**TAKE
A HIKE!**

**THE HIKERS GUIDE TO PROVINCIAL
NATURE RESERVES**

East London Coast | Groendal | Hluleka | Island |
Ongeluksnek | Thomas Baines | Waters Meeting |
Baviaanskloof | Mpofo Fort Fordyce

Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY



Yours to Explore

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE HIKING

Trails



Wazi:

“Welcome to the Eastern Cape, where adventure meets warm hospitality! I’m Wazi, your spirited guide, and I can’t wait to tell you about our hiking trails, it’s a hiker’s haven! Let’s journey through our breathtaking reserves, where every step is a dance with nature. Let me show you that the Eastern Cape is not just a destination; it’s an experience and all yours to discover!”

Are you ready for an adventure?



Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY

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

visiteasterncape.co.za

**BOOK
YOUR
STAY**

reservations@ecpta.co.za

043 492 0883/4

EAST LONDON COAST NATURE RESERVE



FEATURES:

- Tree labels and information boards for an educational experience
- Geocache of Umtiza listerana in the circular trail in the Umtiza Forest
- Beautiful picnic area

TYPE:

These are demarcated, non-guided (field rangers can accompany when available) trails of varying distances and difficulty:

1.45KM

EASY

TRAIL 1

4.3KM

MODERATE

TRAIL 2



*The effortless whisper
of the ocean.*

Wazi:

“End your visit with a delightful touch – pack a picnic basket and enjoy our inviting picnic area.”



LOCATION:

At the 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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 286 6516 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za | www.visiteasterncape.co.za

GROENDAL NATURE RESERVE

*The secrets of nature
most vibrant palette*



FEATURES:

- 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-zungu River
- Groendal Dam
- Khoi-San paintings in caves and shelters
- Rooikrantz picnic area with short, circular trail

TYPE: These are trails of varying durations:

<p>8KM MODERATE</p> <p>FERNKLOOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Unmarked (must know the area well) 	<p>16KM MODERATE</p> <p>ELEPHANT CAVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Unmarked (must know the area well) 	<p>32KM STRENUOUS</p> <p>EEL CAVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Clearly demarcated • Overnight
<p>4HRS 16KM MODERATE</p> <p>LOWERBLINDER-KLOOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Clearly demarcated 	<p>8KM MODERATE</p> <p>WATERKLOOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Unmarked (must know the area well) 	<p>32KM STRENUOUS</p> <p>EMERALD POOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Clearly demarcated • Overnight
<p>16KM MODERATE</p> <p>BUSHPIG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Clearly demarcated 	<p>32KM STRENUOUS</p> <p>UPPERBLINDER-KLOOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self guided • Clearly demarcated • Overnight 	



LOCATION:

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



FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 086 2499 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za | <https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/groendal/>

HLULEKA NATURE RESERVE



FEATURES:

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

TYPE: Demarcated trails of varying distances. Non-guided but a ranger can assist at a cost upon request:

1KM
EASY

**MAFUSINI
TRAIL**

1.5KM
EASY

**MFENQE
TRAIL**

*A symphony of
indigenous flora.*

1KM
EASY

**HLULEKA
TRAIL**

2KM
EASY

**MAFUSELE
TRAIL**

2KM
EASY

**MPHUTSHENGE
TRAIL**



LOCATION:

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

FAUNA & FLORA

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

BIRDING:

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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 285 7784 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za | <https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/hluleka/>

ISLAND NATURE RESERVE

*The gentle embrace
nature's sanctuary*



FEATURES:

- Ideal for day trips
- Family-friendly trails
- Bird Watching
- Picnicking
- Excellent vantage points with sweeping coastal views
- Easily accessible picnic spots

TYPE: These are day-walking, well-marked, non-guided trails of varying distances and durations:

0.8KM

EASY

TRAIL 1

3.2KM

EASY

TRAIL 3

2-3HRS

3.5KM

MODERATE

TRAIL 5

0.7KM

EASY

TRAIL 2

3.5HRS

7.8KM

MODERATE

TRAIL 4

6-7HRS

16KM

MODERATE

BUSHBUCK TRAIL:

- Requires endurance in hot weather
- Starts outside the main office



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

FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 086 2498 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za |
https://www.nmbt.co.za/listing/island_nature_reserve.html

ONGELUKSNEK NATURE RESERVE



FEATURES:

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

TYPE: These are demarcated, non-guided trails, field rangers available by arrangement, and of varying distances:

828M
EASY

BUSHMAN CAVES TRAIL:

- Distance from Main Road

3.4KM
EASY

TRIG BEACON TRAIL:

- Distance from waterfall

The majestic arms of ancient cliffs.

699M
EASY

WATERFALL TRAIL:

- Distance from Main Road

3.9KM
EASY

KILLARNEY TRAIL:

- Distance from Trig Beacon

1.4KM
EASY

VULTURE HIDE TRAIL:

- Distance from Killarney



LOCATION:

On Lesotho border, part of Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park

GPS CO-ORDINATES:

-30°18'44.28 S | 28°43'28.56 E

FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 086 2503 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za | <https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/ongeluksnek/>

THOMAS BAINES NATURE RESERVE

*Walk in the
footsteps of a
pioneer.*

Wazi:

“This site is an ideal destination for school educational excursions.”



TYPE:

This trail is ideal for educational purposes:

5KM

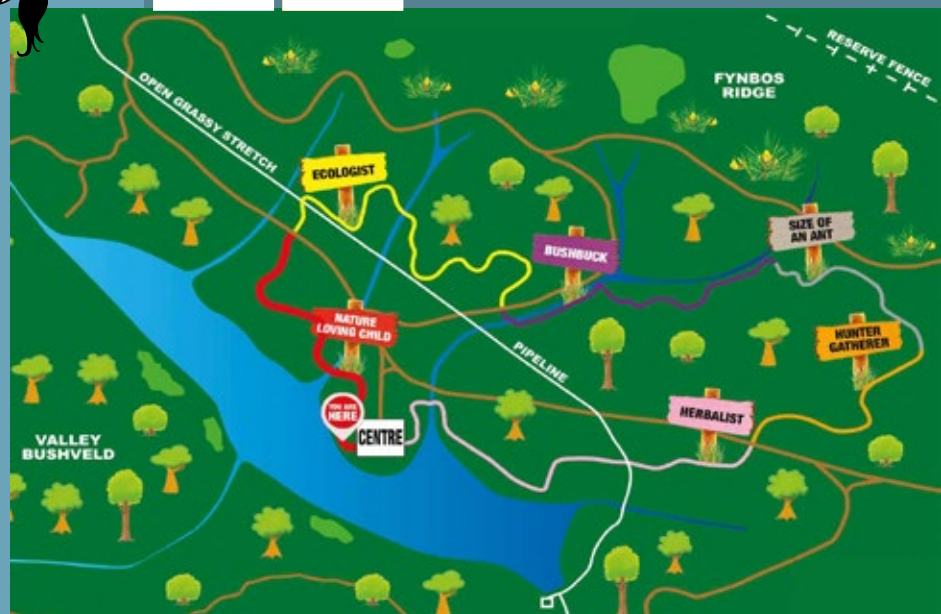
EASY
MODERATE

THE ECOLOGY
CONNECTION
TRAIL:

FEATURES:

- 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
- Reserve best explored by vehicle (4x4 or 2x4)
- Picnic and braai area

EASY TO MODERATE



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

FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

Office 087 285 7395 | Central Reservations 043 492 0881 | reservations@ecpta.co.za | <https://www.visiteasterncape.co.za/parks/ongeluksnek/>

WATERS MEETING NATURE RESERVE



FEATURES:

- 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

TYPE:

These trails are well-marked by colour-coded footprints, non-guided and of varying distances:

3KM MODERATE	GREEN TRAIL	5KM MODERATE	ORANGE TRAIL
3.5KM MODERATE	RED TRAIL	9KM MODERATE	BLUE TRAIL



A symphony of merging waters.

Wazi:

"If you're seeking a more dynamic challenge, conquer the 20.5km trail in one go!"



LOCATION:

4km from Bathurst, 36km from Grahamstown, 30km from Port Alfred, 150km from East London

MAIN ENTRANCE GATE GPS COORDINATES:

33.534026 | 26.799919

FAUNA & FLORA

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock dassie • Blue duiker • Otters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kudu • Waterbuck • Bushpig | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundant bird species • Coastal thicket |
|--|--|--|

CONTACT US:

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

BAVIAANSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE



FEATURES:

- Strenuous hike including long days and big hills
- 4-12 hikers at a time
- Beautiful and diverse landscapes 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

TYPE:

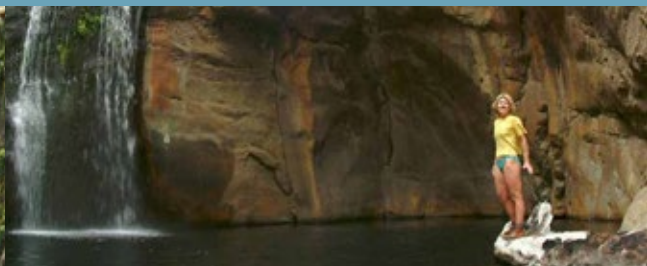
This captivating 4-day, 60km circular hike is a delight, particularly in spring. It deserves a top spot on the bucket list of every avid and fit hiker.

**4-DAY
60KM**
STRENUOUS

**THE
LEOPARD
TRAIL:**



*A voyage into the
rugged grandeur.*



LOCATION:

Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site Wilderness Reserve

GPS CO-ORDINATES:

33.4 S | 24.4 E

FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

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

BAVIAANSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE



TYPE:

Experience a mesmerising 6-day, 95km trail comprising four days of invigorating hiking with additional days for arrival and departure. "Camino" means way or road, carrying a deep spiritual resonance for many. While the Baviaanskloof lacks traditional churches or places of worship, this Camino seamlessly weaves together all the essential elements to transform into a profoundly personal and spiritual pilgrimage of your own.

**6-DAY
95KM
STRENUOUS**

**BAVIAANS
CAMINO
TRAIL:**

FEATURES:

- 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 and ends in Kareedouw
- (shuttle transfers available)
- Bookings must be made in advance



LOCATION:

Baviaanskloof World Nature Reserve

GPS CO-ORDINATES:

33.4 S | 24.4 E

FAUNA & FLORA

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

CONTACT US:

Office 073 825 0835 | esti.stewart@vodamail.co.za | <http://www.baviaanscamino.com/>

MPOFU FORT FORDYCE



FEATURES:

- Located 25km northwest of Fort Beaufort, the reserve spans 14,000ha, offering stunning views of the Katberg and Amatola Mountains from the escarpment and lower valleys.
 - Trail altitudes range from 550 to 1,380 meters above sea level in the greater Amatola catchment, near Chief Maqoma's Kraal.
 - Home to the legendary Blinkwater Monster, the reserve holds cultural and historical significance with early SAN rock paintings.
- The site of the 8th Frontier War and crucial for sustaining the Kat River, it serves as Fort Beaufort's primary water source, contributing a significant portion of runoff to this vital waterway.
 - Overnight accommodation available
 - Picnic and braai areas for day visitors

TYPE:

Embark on an enchanting journey through captivating trails, each offering a unique blend of distances and durations from 3 hrs to a full day. Traverse picturesque valleys adorned with abundant wildlife and lush forests.

5.4KM
MODERATE

LOURIE TRAIL:

7.8KM
MODERATE

BUSHPIG TRAIL:

18.4KM
MODERATE

BABOON TRAIL:

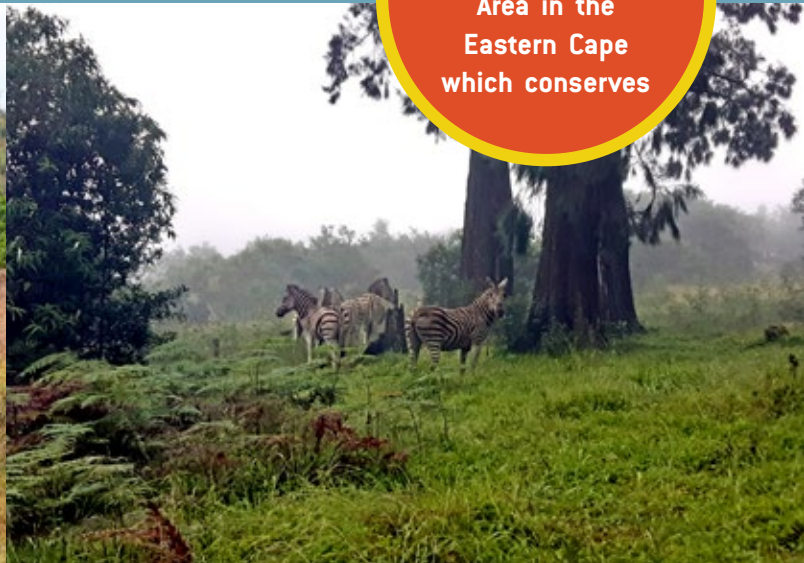
8KM
MODERATE

BUSHBUCK TRAIL:

6.5KM
MODERATE

CROWNED EAGLE TRAIL:

Fort Fordyce Section is the only Protected Area in the Eastern Cape which conserves



LOCATION:

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.

GPS CO-ORDINATES:

32°40'47.17"S 26°29'21.87"E



- Baboon
- Blue Duiker
- Burchell's Zebra,
- Bushpig
- Warthog
- Black Wildebeest
- Red Hartebeest
- Blesbok
- Jackal
- Springbok
- Oribi
- Grey Rhebok
- Cape Buffalo

- Impala
- Honey badger
- Cape clawless otter
- Caracal
- Leopard
- Striped mouse
- Porcupine
- Smith's Red Rock rabbit
- Small grey mongoose
- Small spotted genet
- Black back jackal
- Dense Amatole
Afromontane Forest –

- including yellowwoods and sneezewoods.
- Aliwal North Dry Grassland and Moist Mountain Grassland types on the plateau and associated areas.
- Escarpment Thicket and Fish Valley Thicket vegetation types in valleys.
- 138 bird species, including rare/endangered Narina Trogon, Rameron Pigeons, Cape Parrots and Starred Robins.

CONTACT US:

Office 087 086 2500 | 087 286 6500 | Reserve Manager 079 496 7818 | 073 950 1155 |
reservations@ecpta.co.za | www.visiteasterncape.co.za