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reserve



Info Sheet

BIRD ISLAND

NATURE RESERVE

Lambert's Bay

USEFUL NUMBERS AND TIMES

RESERVATIONS	☎ 087 087 8250
RESERVE OFFICE	☎ 087 087 3951 (Office hours) ☎ 087 087 3952 (Reception)
OFFICE HOURS	07h00 – 16h30 (Monday - Friday)
CHECK-IN TIME	08h00 – 17h30
CHECKOUT TIME	18h00
GATE TIMES	08h00 – 18h00

HOW TO GET THERE

📍 S 32 ° 05'22.13" E 18° 18'08.95"

If travelling from Cape Town, take the N7 towards Clanwilliam. On the approach to Clanwilliam, take the R364 Graafwater/Lambert's Bay road to the coast. Once in Lambert's Bay, follow the signs to the harbour and Bird Island. The whole journey should take no more than four hours.

ABOUT THE RESERVE

Bird Island lies about 100m off the shore of Lambert's Bay on the Cape's West Coast. It offers visitors the rare opportunity to see the blue-eyed Cape Gannet up close. Bird Island is one of only six sites world-wide where Cape Gannets breed, and it is the only breeding site easily accessible to the public.

When you arrive at Bird Island, the obvious attraction is the blue-eyed Cape Gannets but be sure to also enjoy the fascinating Walkthrough Museum.

ACTIVITIES

BIRD HIDES AND BIRD WATCHING	As the only accessible spot in the world to see Cape Gannets breed, Bird Island is a bird-watcher's paradise. The island's hide is perfectly situated to observe their activities first-hand and learn more about their breeding habits. Other birds include the Cape Cormorant and the Kelp Gull.
WHALE WATCHING	Take a scenic drive along the West Coast on your way to Bird Island. On the way you might see these majestic creatures out at sea, as southern right whales and humpback whales enjoy the warm waters after migrating from icy Antarctica. Whale season is from June to November although they have not been close to shore in recent years.
WALKTHROUGH MUSEUM	Affectionately known as the Bone Box, visitors are able to observe many different sea mammal and sea bird skeletons. These include the Cuvier's beaked whale, Cape fur seal and dusky dolphin. Outside, along the path, you will meet Polly, our life-sized model whale.
PENGUINS	Coming soon.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Permits to access the island are available at the entrance gate office.
- Visitors should cross the breakwater carefully.
- There is no accommodation available on reserve.
- Cell phone reception is generally good.
- There are no hiking trails on the reserve but visitors are free to explore at their leisure.

BIRD ISLAND RULES

- There is no entrance with a vehicle, but visitors may park in the parking area nearby.
- Entrance is prohibited if rough seas make it too dangerous to cross the breakwater.
- No pets allowed.
- No feeding of birds.
- No firearms allowed.
- Alcohol or illicit drugs are not permitted on the premises.
- Children under 13 must be supervised by an adult/parent.
- Don't disturb the birds. Keep a safe distance from them.

CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING

- Hat
- Sunblock
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Binoculars