ANYSBERG
NATURE RESERVE

Contact numbers

RESERVE OFFICE
087 087 3036

RESERVATIONS
087 087 8250

Gate times

07h30 – 16h00

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Conserve. Explore. Experience.

Anysberg Nature Reserve

Lies in the Klein Karoo between Ladismith, Laingsburg, Touwsrivier and Montagu. It is approximately four hours drive from Cape Town.

This 80 000 ha reserve offers visitors some of the most striking scenery in the Karoo as well as fascinating animals and plants and various recreational activities. Anysberg Nature Reserve was established in 1988 to conserve the local veld type and to re-introduce game species that historically occurred in this region. The landscape alternates from gently undulating terrain and Karoo plains to rugged mountains with steep gorges. The Anys, Touws and Prins Rivers and tributaries of the Gouritz river system, flow through the reserve.

Flora

Anysberg lies within the Cape Fold Mountains and the vegetation is transitional between mountain fynbos and typical Klein Karoo veld. The plant life ranges from eye-catching succulents to impressive stands of proteas that occur at higher altitudes.

In 2015 the reserve was included as one of the protected areas making up the Cape Floral Kingdom Protected Areas World Heritage Site, declared South Africa's 6th World Heritage Site in 2004. These areas are considered to be some of the most important and representative examples of the Cape Floral Region.

Fauna

Mammals include Cape mountain zebra, steenbok, duiker, gemsbok, red hartebeest, eland, brown hyaena and numerous other small, shy species. In 2013 the critically endangered riverine rabbit was discovered on the reserve. Leopards roam the mountains. Other notable carnivores include black-backed jackal and caracal.

Birdwatchers will find this an interesting locality, with approximately 180 bird species having been recorded. Be on the lookout for Martial eagle, Verreaux's eagle, Cape Rockjumper and Southern Black Korhaan.

Reptiles are represented by five species of tortoise, boomslang, Cape cobra, puff adder and various other snakes and lizards.

Activities

Anysberg offers a variety of recreational activities.

Hikers are welcome to explore the reserve, including Prinspoort and the most popular Landsekloof trail. In summer, hikers should set out early in the morning to avoid walking during the heat of the day. Landsekloof is a 6 km hike from the office to start of trail. Trail is 2.2 km from waterfall.

There are 3 scenic marked mountain bike trails using the jeep tracks that traverse the reserve. Visitors need to bring their own mountain bikes to explore the reserve. For an easy ride we have the 7.5km Old School route. The Tapfontein route is a moderate 22.5km circular route going through some rugged terrain. The Allemorgens MTB trail is 49km, for the more experienced rider. No water or cellphone reception is available on these trails. In summer MTB cyclists should set out early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day. Please note that no water or cellphone reception is available on these trails.

Please note:

- It is advisable to fill up with fuel before driving out to the reserve and a high clearance vehicle is needed to access the reserve.
- The nearest shops are in Laingsburg and Ladismith (70 km). Visitors need to bring all their own food.
- **No firewood** is permitted on the reserve due to the current risk of infection to our trees by the alien Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Beetle.
- Charcoal, firelighters and Eco-logs are for sale at the office. Cash only.
- There is limited cell phone reception on the reserve.
- Summer months can be uncomfortably hot.

Numerous archaeological sites are dotted over the reserve. Khoisan paintings depicting scenes from the past and ruins dating back from the late 1700's are reminders of the early hunters, farmers and herders who inhabited the area.

This is one of the best places in the country for stargazing under unpolluted night skies, far away from city lights. Bring your own telescope or binoculars to explore the night sky. It's important to remember that stargazing is dependent on weather conditions and visibility of the different constellations.

Interpretive signage has been erected and a Self-explore Eco-drive booklet, is for sale at the office, providing information on stargazing, the fauna, flora, history and geology of the reserve and the Khoisan.

Facilities

Five cottages, sleeping 21 people in total, may be hired at Vrede. All cottages have solar lighting and are fully equipped with 2-plate gas hobs, warm water ablution facilities, solar fridges and an indoor Dover stove or Jet Master braai for colder days. All cottages have an outdoor braai and picnic table on the stoep. Bedding and towels are provided but guests need to bring their own swimming towels.

Please note that the four rustic 'wendy house' type units at Tapfontein, sleeping 2 people each and popular with 4x4 enthusiasts and mountain bikers, are currently closed.

Guests can do the 21 km Tapfontein 4x4 trail - if not flooded. Day visitors to get a permit at the office.

Five campsites (without power points), that each accommodate a maximum of 6 persons, are available on the lawn near the office complex. The campsite ablution block is disabled-friendly and has hot and cold water, while the communal kitchen area is equipped with a 2x 2 plate gas hob, fridge and freezer. Built braai places and picnic tables with umbrellas are available. Braai equipment not provided.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All persons entering this conservation area and using its facilities, do so entirely at their own risk. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and/or its employees and/or agents and/or its successors in title shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft, injury, accident or death suffered by any person, howsoever caused. Right of Admission Reserved.

Stay safe when venturing outdoors

- **Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat**
- **Don't hike alone**
- **Carry enough food and water for the trip**
- **Make sure you know what the weather conditions are before you depart**
- **Take a warm jacket/raincoat in winter**
- **Make sure you have a map of the area**
- **Take a field medical kit along for emergencies**
- **Obey all signage**
- **Stay in a group and keep to marked trails**

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PROTECTED AREAS PRISTINE

#DontBeTrashy

Anysberg

NATURE RESERVE

LEGEND

- Anysberg Nature Reserve
- Tar road
- Gravel road
- High clearance vehicle required
- Trails
- VREDE: Office complex
- Accommodation

ACTIVITIES

- Camping
- Hiking
- MTB Trail
- Tapfontein 4x4 route