



# GROOT WINTERHOEK WILDERNESS AREA



**RESERVATIONS 087 087 8250**



**087 087 4047 office hours**

NATURE RESERVE



**OFFICE HOURS 07h00 - 16h00  
Monday-Friday**



**CHECK-IN 14h00 - 16h00**      **CHECKOUT 10h00**

OVERNIGHT BOOKINGS



**CHECK-IN 07h30 - 14h00**      **CHECKOUT 16h00**

DAY VISITORS



**GATE TIMES**  
**07h30 - 18h00 Monday - Friday**  
**07h30 - 18h00 Saturdays**  
**07h30 - 18h00 Sundays and Public Holidays**



The Groot Winterhoek Wilderness is known for its rugged, wild landscape, with exceptional rock formations carved by the elements. This mountainous area lies about 187km north of Cape Town, near Porterville. The greater Groot Winterhoek conservation area is particularly important for protecting mountain fynbos and wildlife. It is also one of Cape Town's sources of fresh, clean water, and is a World Heritage Site. This area is rich in history, with ancient rock paintings by the San and Khoi people, and the oldest farm established in 1875. Early settlers in the area used animals to transport produce and supplies between Porterville and Saron. Their tracks are still visible above Driebosch and Weltevrede.

As Groot Winterhoek's name suggests, winters are cold and wet. Winter nights are very cold, with temperatures below freezing. Summers are moderate, but hikers should always be prepared for sudden cold and mist. There's plenty to do in Groot Winterhoek, including various day and overnight hikes, crystal-clear mountain pools and rock climbing.



## From Cape Town via N7

Travel about an hour-and-a-half up the N7 from Cape Town towards Piketberg. Opposite Piketberg, take the R44 towards Porterville, but instead of going into Porterville at the T-junction, turn left towards Citrusdal. Drive for about 2km north of Porterville, turn right on to what becomes a dirt road and head for the Cardouw/ Dasklip Pass. Travel up the steep Dasklip Pass and follow the sign boards to the office and parking area, which is on top of the mountain and about 33 km from Porterville.

To view Groot Winterhoek in Google maps, go to <https://www.google.com/maps> and insert these coordinates: **33.073519 S 19.163143 E**. Then select search for the map to display.



# OVERNIGHT HIKING HUTS



## DE TRONK BASIC HIKER HUTS x4



x8 CAPACITY



BUNK BEDS  
PER HUT

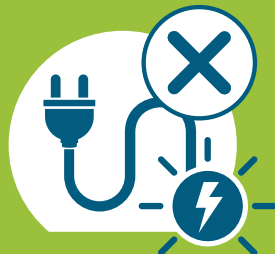
Groot Winterhoek Wilderness Area offers four basic hiker huts. These huts are self-sustainable, because they are difficult to reach for regular cleaning. Visitors need to clean huts before leaving. This will ensure that the next group of visitors will also have a pleasant stay.

Rainwater is captured from the roof of the huts and stored in tanks. The availability of this water is not guaranteed. Hikers are advised to **boil water before drinking**. Water is also available on the trail to the huts.

Only bunk beds and mattresses are provided. Sun-dome toilets are available at each hut (excluding Ribbok which has a flush toilet).



NO BEDDING  
+ TOWELS



NO ELECTRICITY



NO HOT  
WATER



SUN-DOME  
TOILETS

## CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING



INSECT  
REPELLENT



TORCH



TOILET PAPER



TOILETRIES



CASH  
(NO CARD FACILITIES  
AVAILABLE)



DRINKING  
WATER



TENTS  
(optional)



MEDICAL  
KIT



FOOD



WALKING  
SHOES



WARM  
CLOTHING



SUNHAT



SUNSCREEN



BEDDING

# ACTIVITIES



**BIRD  
WATCHING**



**SWIMMING**



**HIKING**

# GROOT WINTERHOEK RULES

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:



**FIRES**



**PICKING PLANTS**



**PETS**



**ROWDY BEHAVIOUR**



**DISTURBING OF  
ANY WILDLIFE**



**LITTERING**



**COLLECTING  
FIREWOOD**



**LOUD MUSIC**



**FEEDING OF ANY  
ANIMALS**



**THROWING CIGARETTE  
BUTTS INTO THE VELD**



**TAKING FURNITURE  
EQUIPMENT OR UTENSILS  
OUT OF THE CABIN**

# PLEASE REMEMBER



There are baboons on the reserve. All visitors are reminded to carefully adhere to all notifications regarding safekeeping of food and valuables.

- Do not hike alone.
- Obey all signage.
- Carry enough food and water with you.
- Make sure you know what the weather conditions are before you depart.
- Make sure you have a relevant map of the area.
- Stay in a group and on the trails.
- Please alert reserve staff once you have finished your hike, so that they know you are safely off the trails.

As this is a Wilderness Area, the paths are unmarked. Hikers should be well-equipped for difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and must carry an accurate map of the area. A maximum of 12 people per trail per day are allowed. There are multiple unmarked trails and hikers may choose their own routes.

If heavy rains are experienced during the hike, it is advisable to return via the De Tronk Jeep Track as rivers may be flooded. Basic shelter is available at Perdevlei and De Tronk. Hikers should note that all refuse must be carried out and that fires are not permitted. Advance reservations are essential.



There is no shop on the reserve. Food, beverages and other provisions must be bought beforehand.



No cell phone reception on the reserve.

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE



THIS IS YOUR  
ENTRY PERMIT

ARRIVAL:  
**14h00 - 16h00**

Please remember that you are in a nature reserve. No fauna or flora may be damaged, removed or disturbed in any way. In the event of an emergency, contact the manager/officer on duty on **087 087 4047/087 087 3005**



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