



CAPENATURE

GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE



Thank you for choosing **Gamkaberg Nature Reserve** as your preferred destination.

Gamkaberg is an isolated mountain range in the Klein Karoo, lying between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains. The Gamkaberg Nature Reserve (10 430ha), a World Heritage Site, is located 33km south-west of Oudtshoorn and 32km south-east of Calitzdorp. It forms part of the 80 000ha Gamkaberg Conservation Area which is made up of various categories of protected areas, including privately owned stewardship nature reserves. Gamkaberg was established in 1974 in order to conserve a local population of endangered Cape mountain zebra and their natural habitat. The terrain is rugged with mountainous plateaux incised by deep ravines.

# Inside the property



#### **LOCATION**

**GPS:** 33 40 17.51 S, 21 53 18.37 E



#### **ACCOMMODATION UNITS**

#### Tierkloof Eco Lodge (sleeps max 8 people)

Rustic accommodation built from thatch and reed situated in Sweetthorn thicket at the foot of the Gamkaberg. We take only one group at a time so it's the ideal private getaway for family and friends. The main lapa consists of a kitchen/dining room and a living area with a wood stove for cold winter nights. - There are four safari-style tents pitched on desks; one tent has a king-size bed, one tent has a double bed and two tents have two single beds each. The lodge boasts an eco-splash pool with a shaded deck, lapa, braai area, and hammocks. **Bring your own pool towels** and come and soak up the peace!

Bedding provided: Yes Towels provided: Yes

Amenities provided: Yes (shower gel and shampoo).

Electricity: solar and gas

Kitchen equipped: Appliances are gas

Fridge: Yes, solar.

Braai facilities: Outside with grid available

Bathroom equipped: Hot water showers & disabled access: Only with assistance.

#### Sweetthorn Eco Lodge (sleeps max 6 people)

Rustic accommodation built from poles & reed situated in Sweetthorn thicket at the foot of the Gamkaberg. We take only one group at a time so it's the ideal private getaway for family and friends. From here, you can do various day hikes. The main lapa consists of a kitchen/dining room and a living area. There are three safari style tents pitched on decks, two with two single beds and one with a double bed. The lodge boasts an eco-splash pool, shaded deck, lapa and braai area. **Bring your own pool towels** and come and soak up the peace!

Bedding provided: Yes Towels provided: Yes

Amenities provided: Yes (shower gel and shampoo).

Fridge: Yes solar. Electricity: solar and gas

Kitchen equipped: Appliances are gas. Braai facilities: Outside with grid available.

Bathroom equipped: Hot water showers & Enviro-Loo waterless toilets

#### Fossil Ridge Eco Lodge (sleeps max 4 people)

Rustic accommodation built from poles & reed situated next to the fossil rich ridge at the foot of the Gamkaberg. We take only one group at a time so it's the ideal private getaway for family and friends. The main lapa consists of a kitchen/dining room and a living area. There are two safari style tents pitched on decks, with two single beds in one and double bed - in the other. The lodge boasts an eco-splash pool, deck, lapa and braai area. **Bring your own pool towels** and come and soak up the peace!

Bedding provided: Yes Fridge: Yes solar Towels provided: Yes Electricity: solar and gas.

Kitchen equipped: Appliances are gas. Braai facilities: outside with grid available.

Bathroom equipped: Hot water showers & one Enviro-Loo waterless toilet and one

flushing toilet.

Disabled access: No

#### Xami Eco Lodge (sleeps max 2 people)

This two—sleeper eco lodge is beautifully designed with minimal impact on the natural environment. In addition, it is wheelchair friendly and offers privacy in the bush, with a modern look and feel. All facilities are constructed on one deck which includes: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, open plan lounge and a braai area and an eco-splash pool on the verandah, with magnificent views of the valleys and mountains of the Klein Karoo. Bring your own pool towels and come and soak up the absolute peace and quiet!

Bedding provided: Yes Towels provided: Yes Electricity: solar and gas

Fully equipped kitchen: Cutlery, crockery, pots and pans. Gas hob and solar fridge,

kettle.

Braai facilities: Outside with grid available

Bathroom equipped: Hot water shower & equipped for wheel chair friendly Deck:

Lounge chairs, director chairs, table, ceramic fire bowl

Disabled access: Yes, but only with assistance (carport and ramp for wheelchairs on deck).



Please note: Visitors must report to the office before departing for Ou Kraal.

This remote camp on top of the Gamkaberg Plateau is 1,5 hours' drive by 4x4 and 6 hours hike on foot. Ou Kraal has recently been upgraded, with four new herder's huts and an Enviro-loo toilet on site. Clients can still use the original rock shelter as a kitchen and braai area. Each hut sleeps two hikers in two single beds with mattresses, with a shelf around the interior for bags and belongings. Ou Kraal is an opportunity for hikers, or those with a 4×4, to experience a night in the heart of the Gamkaberg.

Number of units: Four. Ou Kraal sleeps up to 8 people, accommodating two in each hut

Electricity: No

Ablution facilities: Enviro-Loo waterless toilet and a basin.

Braai facilities: outside, with grid available.

Disabled access: No

#### What we provide:

Braai grid (wood provided on request for hikers only)

- Enviro-Loo(waterless toilet)
- Water tank with rain water (use sparingly).
- Three-legged Pot (No 3)
- Two beds in each Herder's hut with mattresses

#### What you need to bring:

- Warm clothes (temperatures may drop rapidly).
- Drinking water, cutlery to prepare and eat meals
- Bedding and towels
- Torch

#### Services available at the Reserve:

The reserve office sells firewood and charcoal.

#### Stables and Gamkaberg Campsite (max 16 people)

Situated near the office and information centre at the foot of the Gamkaberg overlooking the Klein Karoo Valley and the Swartberg Mountains. From here you can hike various day hikes and the overnight trail.

#### The stables and campsite accommodation consists of three areas:

- The Stable: (max 8 people) Perfect for those who don't want to pitch their own tents! The old horse stables have been converted into two separate rooms, each of which can accommodate 4 people, and each has its own entrance. The stables are rented out to only one group at a time. Between the two rooms is a 'kitchen' area with a table, chairs, enamel crockery and cutlery and a 2-plate gas stove and fridge. There is electricity and water on tap but remember to bring your torches. All beds have mattresses, but you'll need to bring your own bedding. A sheltered lapa/braai area is situated in front of the stables.
- Gamkaberg campsites: (2 sites with max 4 people each). Close to the stables, there are two sheltered areas to pitch your tent. Together with the 8 guests in the stables, there will never be more than 16 people in the area. Portable braais are provided to set up your own camping area. The camp area has water on tap.
- Ablution facilities: The camp sites and stables share a hot water shower & ablutions facility close to the office that consists of gents & ladies shower and toilets and an outdoor work-

surface and zink (about 50m from the site). Additionally, two waterless eco-loos with cold outdoor showers were installed in close range.



#### HOUSEKEEPING

Use biodegradable cleaning materials and take your refuse away with you. (PLEASE NOTE: Servicing means change of linen and towels and or refilling compost only, this will only be done if the client permits)



#### **CHECKOUT**

Office hours - 07h30 to 16h00.

PLEASE ARRANGE TO BE ON RESERVE BEFORE THE GATE CLOSES AT 18H00: The afterhours number is 072 202 3438.

• The Eco Lodges may be **occupied from 14:00** on the day of arrival and must be **vacated by 10:00** on the day of departure.



#### **SMOKING**

All CapeNature properties are non-smoking. Please keep in mind the risk of a wildfire when smoking outside.



#### **TOWELS**

Fresh linen and towels will be supplied, but general cleaning is however not included in this service.



#### **FURNITURE**

Furniture should not be moved around.



#### **BATHROOMS**

You are in a water restricted area; at Gamkaberg we make use of bore-hole water! Please use water sparingly.



#### TRASH LITTERING

Please keep the surrounds and facilities clean.

At Gamkaberg we recycle, therefor we encourage all our clients to take part and to look after our pristine environment.



#### **KITCHEN**

Refer to checklist in kitchen.



#### **SECURITY & DOORS**

[Kindly note that from 20h00 - 07h00 every night there will be a watchman on duty that patrol the reserve for safety and security purpose. The watchmen are based at the office and will do 2 hourly patrols throughout the night.



#### **ELECTRICITY**

Do not leave outside lights burning all night.



#### **FIRE**

- Please do not take hot coals from the outside braai area into the cottage for use in the fireplace.
- Collection of firewood is not allowed.
- Make sure all fires are extinguished before you leave or go to sleep.
- Only make fires in demarcated areas. The vegetation here is extremely flammable and uncontrolled fires are devastating to the environment and costly to bring under control.

## Life on the Reserve



#### **BIRD WATCHING**

An abundance of birds inhabit the Klein Karoo region, and many of them can be found in Gamkaberg Nature Reserve.

Download the Klein Karoo bird list:

https://www.capenature.co.za/uploads/files/Reserves/Maps/Karoo-Birdlist.pdf



#### **PICNICKING**

There is a picnicking area situated under a thatch lapa that is available for day visitors, where you can relax and soak in the unique atmosphere of the Klein Karoo after your hike or 4×4 excursion. A small braai is also available for use.



#### **ROCK CLIMBING**

Gamkaberg has recently opened up trad rock climbing at Tierkloof. The site offers good quality, single and two-pitch, trad climbing with easy approaches and descents in beautiful, pristine surroundings. The climbing is on hard quartzitic sandstone similar to Montagu but with many beautiful, vertical finger cracks and corners. A comprehensive guidebook for climbing at Gamkaberg, compiled by Johann Lanz and Tony Lourens from Blue Mountain, is available:

https://www.capenature.co.za/activities/rock-climbing-gamkaberg-nature-reserve-l

Please note that you have to be in possession of a <u>downloaded guidebook</u> or hard copy, which is available at the Gamkaberg Nature Reserve office, to be allowed to climb at the reserve. There are also a number of conditions for climbing at Gamkaberg, which MUST be adhered to. Conditions for climbing in Tierkloof:

- Rock climbing in Gamkaberg will only be permitted to people who are staying
  overnight in the reserve. This is to control the number of climbers in the kloof, due
  to the sensitivity of the area.
- All climbers must check in at the reserve office on arrival, where they will be thoroughly briefed by the duty officer on the rock climbing conditions.
- All climbers must be in possession of a current guidebook, or otherwise will have to purchase one at reception.
- Rock climbing is only permitted within approved areas as laid out in this guidebook.
   It is the responsibility of each person to ensure that they only climb within these stipulated areas.
- Climbing must be practised according to the 'leave no trace' principle.
- Unless staying at Tierkloof Eco Lodge, climbers are not permitted to park at the start of Tierkloof. This is reserved solely for guests at the Eco Lodge. Please park at the campsite (if you are camping), or at of the lodge where you are staying.

- All climbers are subject to the rules of conduct pertaining to all visitors to Gamkaberg as set out in the conditions of entry, which include no damaging or disturbance of the natural environment, no littering, no fires, and no overnight camping within Tierkloof.
- Climbers must take utmost care to minimise damage to any plants, both on the approach to, and at the base of, climbs (trampling), as well as plants growing on the cliffs.
- All human excrement (including toilet paper) must be wrapped in newspaper
  (available at reception), then deposited into a carrier bag of sorts and carried out,
  for disposal in a dedicated facility at the main centre. The reason for this is that due
  to the narrowness of the kloof and its proximity to the water course, which is
  utilised as a drinking water source for the Gamkaberg tourists and staff, human
  waste cannot be left or buried in the kloof as it poses a risk of water contamination.
- Absolutely no bolting is permitted.
- Fixed points, in the form of slings or rope for abseiling from the top of crags, can be installed, but should be kept to a minimum and set up to be out of view.
- Noise levels must be kept to a minimum. Climbers must at all times show respect for the wilderness character of the reserve and to other users wishing to experience the same
- No climbing, picnicking or storage of equipment is permitted in close proximity to any rock art or archaeological site.
- Certain crags or parts of crags may be temporarily closed for nesting birds, as is
  done in other climbing locations such as Silvermine in Cape Town. Such closure
  dates will be available at the reserve office together with the current guidebook of
  approved climbing areas.
- Climbers are permitted to stow their gear in the kloof overnight if returning to the crags the following day.
- All climbers must return to camp before dark each day in order to sign a register with the duty official. This is for the safety of the climbers as well as to control access.
- Failure to comply with any of the conditions set out above will be in breach of the MOU and could lead to climbing being disallowed in future.



#### **TRAILS**

The hiking trails on offer at Gamkaberg give you the chance to experience spectacular viewpoints and the natural tranquillity of the reserve. Hikers have several options including the overnight Tierkloof Hiking Trail and should be prepared for some rough terrain. When hiking at Gamkaberg, always be prepared for unpredictable weather as the area experiences high temperatures in summer and gets very cold in winter.

Trail Preparation: Do not hike alone. Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat. Make sure to carry sufficient food, water and take along your binoculars. Permits are to be purchased via CapeNature Central Reservations or reserve office. In winter, a raincoat/pancho is advised.

#### **Guarrie Trail**

Trail distance: 0.7km Estimated time: 20 min

This short trail takes one through the lowland succulent karoo vegetation. The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated for ID purposes and interpretation is provided in the info brochure.

#### **Spekboom Trail**

Trail distance: 1.3km Estimated time: 30 min

This trail branches off the Guarrie trail and takes you higher up onto the foothills into the spekboomveld. It offers a wonderful view of the Klein Karoo vlaktes as well as the Swartberg Range in the distance. The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated.

#### **Mousebird Trail (Short Heritage Trail)**

Trail distance: 2.5km Estimated time: 1.5hrs

This trail takes you mainly through the sweet thorn thicket along the valley bottom. It's a great trail for observing the wide variety of bush birds which occur on Gamkaberg. (Bird list provided in the info brochure). The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated.

#### Pied Barbet Tail (Long Heritage Trail)

Trail distance: 4.1km Estimated time: 2.5hrs

Acacia Pied Barbets are often seen and heard along this trail. It branches off from the Mousebird trail and continues further up in the sweet thorn thicket along the valley bottom. Returning at a higher level through the spekboom veld it allows one a view over the sweet thorn treetops. Also great for birding and offering a glimpse into the Tierkloof Ravine where the real wilderness starts.

An option is to branch off into the Tierkloof for a kilometre or two, as your time or fitness levels dictate, just to experience the change in surroundings as the high cliffs on either side with forest vegetation in the valley bottom makes an appearance. Just turn back and join up with the Pied Barbet trail when you have taken in the pristine views.

#### To Overhang and Back

Trail distance: 14.4km Estimated time: 6hrs

This trail is highly recommended for those with a bit of extra time and fitness levels. It covers the two longer day trails (Mousebird and Pied Barbet) as well as the continuing deep into the Tierkloof which has remnants of evergreen forest vegetation below spectacular sheer sandstone cliffs all along the way. At the

overhang you can have a picnic and a rest while looking over the dense vegetation further up the ravine before turning around to complete the route back to the start at the info centre.

#### **Multi-Day Hikes**

#### Tierkloof Hiking Trail Day I

Trail distance: 13.2km Estimated time: 8hrs

#### Tierkloof Hiking Trail Day 2

Trail distance: 11.6km Estimated time: 7hrs

Starting in succulent karoo, this is a moderately strenuous trail taking hikers through a deep, forested ravine to a fynbos-rich mountain plateau. Here they overnight at the remote Oukraal camp and enjoy spectacular views of the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountain ranges.

#### 4x4 Trail

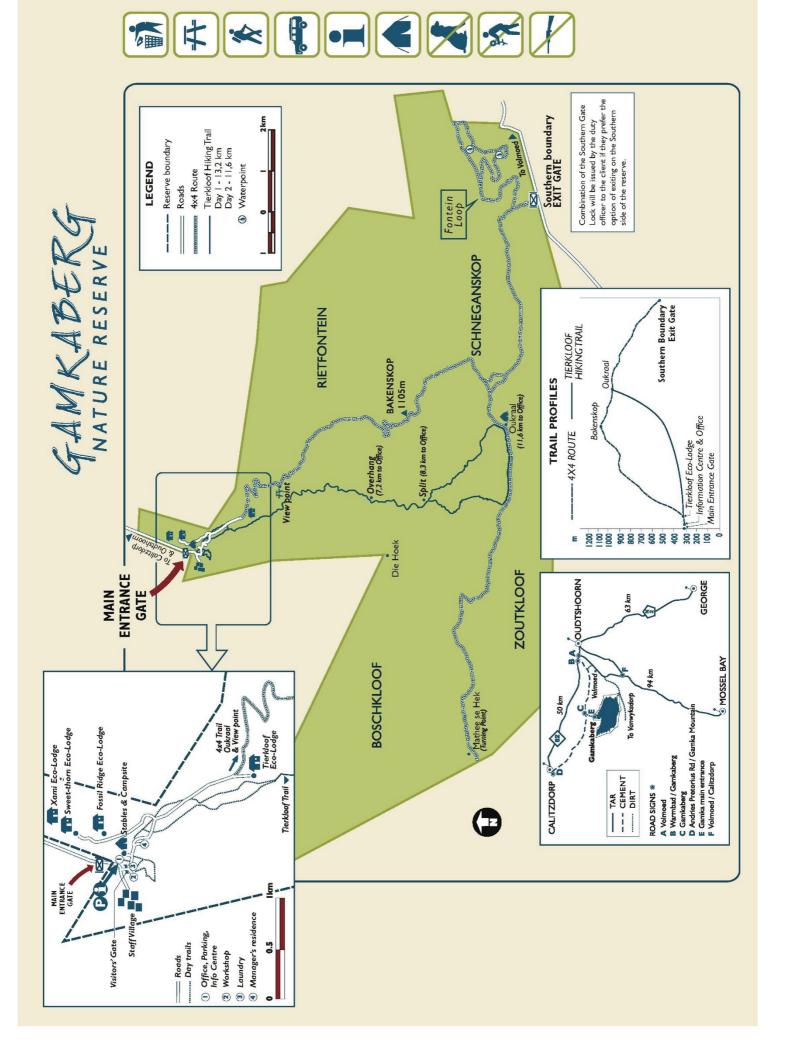
The **Zebra Crossing 4×4 Route** takes you on the Gamkaberg sector mainly through upland fynbos and renosterveld and offers you a chance to see rare Cape Mountain Zebra in its natural habitat. The route covers a large and rugged section of the reserve, taking you to and from spectacular viewpoints more than 1000m above the Little Karoo.

This is an extremely sensitive environment and has thus previously not been open to the public. It is also for this reason that the route is open only to visitors using the overnight facilities on Gamkaberg. Visitors are reminded that under no circumstances may vehicles leave the track. There are no refuse bins along the track so please take all your refuse out with you.

A maximum of three groups will be allowed on the route per day and this will be allowed on a first come first served basis.

#### Remember:

- I. Stay on the track at all times.
- 2. It is illegal to remove any plant, animal or rock from the property.
- 3. Practice "leave no trace" principles and take all your refuse (to the smallest detail) out with you.
- 4. The route is not technical but is unsuitable for low clearance 4×4 vehicles. It is graded 2 (i.e. low range and limited off road knowledge required).
- 5. Remember to take your own water and braai wood.
- 6. Fires are only permitted in the demarcated fire places.
- 7. Please respect the privacy of other people you encounter along the route.





#### **SWIMMING POOL**

Swimming is only permitted for guests staying in the Eco-Lodges.



## TO ENSURE THAT ALL VISITORS HAVE A PLEASANT STAY, THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PERMITTED

- Music and rowdy behavior
- Pets (No Dogs/Cats)
- Disturbance to plants and animals
- High noise levels after 22:00
- Firearms
- The picking of flowers, seeds, or any other specimen.
- Fires except in designated areas
- Horse riding



#### **FAUNA**

The rare and endangered Cape mountain zebra, leopard and honey badger are some of the reserve's fauna highlights. Other mammals include eland, kudu, red hartebeest, grysbok, grey rhebuck, klipspringer, duiker, steenbok, baboon, caracal, aardvark, aardwolf, black-backed jackal and numerous smaller species. The reserve is host to a wide variety of birds, reptiles and insects.



#### **FLORA**

Situated within the Cape Floral Kingdom, which hosts one of the richest flora on earth, the reserve is of particular interest to botanists. Here, four of the South African biomes are represented, namely Fynbos, Succulent Karoo, Subtropical Thicket and Evergreen Forest. The best times of the year to visit are in Spring and Autumn but visits throughout the year can be rewarding.

## Discover the Region



#### **NEAREST TOWNS**

- Oudtshoorn (33km)
- Calitzdorp (32km)



#### **SUPERMARKETS**

- Pick n Pay, Spar, Checkers and Shoprite Oudtshoorn
- Spar & Shoprite U-Save Calitzdorp



#### LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Cango Wildlife Ranch 044 272 5593
- Chandelier Game Lodge and Ostrich Show Farm 072 742 4405
- Highgate Ostrich Show Farm 044 272 7115
- Minwater Eco Adventure 082 481 3625
- Safari Ostrich Show Farm 044 272 7311
- Skydive Oudtshoorn 072 590 8336
- Cango Caves 082 303 0029 / 066 486

#### Wine, Gin, Art Tasting Experience

- Grundheim 044 272 6927
- Karusa wines
   – 044 272 8717
- Black Mountain Gin

   071 657 4851
- Calitzdorp Wine Cellar
   044 213 3301
- Boplaas Winery and Distillery
   044 213 3326
- De Krans Wines
   – 044 213 3314

#### **Natural Hotspring Spa's**

KarooWater Gest Farm – 076 382 3477

## In Case of Emergency



#### **GAMKABERG DUTY OFFICER**

### REMEMBER: THERE IS ALWAYS A DUTY OFFICER (072 202 3438) AVAILABLE EITHER AT THE OFFICE OR AT THE STAFF VILLAGE!

#### Lost or Injured:

- If lost or injured stay where you are and if you have reception, phone one of the emergency numbers.
- Do not try to move around at night.
- If you do not have reception, clearly mark the area where the injured person is, leave warm clothing and water and make your way to the Reserve Office area.
- The duty staff has access to a 4x4, first aid kits and a telephone in case of emergency.
- If you do not return form your hike as arranged prior to your leaving because you
  are lost or injured, do not panic, reserve staff will be alerted and a search will start.

#### **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

In case of emergency phone any of these numbers:

044 2133367 - CapeNature Gamkaberg Nature Reserve

066 225 9073 – Reserve Manager/Officer – Nkosekhaya Sam Pinzi

072 729 4730 - Fire Duty Officer at Reserve

072 202 3438 - Tourism Duty Officer at Reserve

082 339 1240 - Mountain Rescue

082 323 4349 - Mountain Club of SA

083 123 0500 - 24/7 Weather Report

044 279 1415 – Eden District Centre for emergencies

083 275 1464 - Dr Deon Barnard (local physician)

021 931 6129 - Snake bite Centre for emergencies

082 770 4181 – 4x4 Rescue service (J.R. Towing)

10177 – Metro emergency services

044 272 3405 – Cango Clinic for medical emergencies



#### [Oudtshoorn] SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

044 203 9014



#### AMBULANCE / [OudtshoornAdd nearest town]

10177 - Metro emergency services



#### [Oudtshoorn] HOSPITAL

044 272 3405 - Cango Clinic for medical emergencies

083 275 1464 - Dr Deon Barnard (local physician)



#### IN CASE OF SNAKE BITES

The emergency number for any tourism related emergency after hours is:

Tourism duty officer: 072 202 3438

Snake bite Centre: 021 931 6129

In case of snake bites: Please report to the Duty Officer.

Common snakes of Gamkaberg Nature Reserve and **emergency protocol** in the event of a snake bite:





















# #LoveNature















































































Entrance fees apply. Free access for Wild Card members.

Pensioner discount available on accommodation. Ts & Cs apply.

**BOOK ONLINE AT** www.capenature.co.za Tel 087 087 6292





































