

GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE

Contact numbers

RESERVE OFFICE
087 288 0370/73

RESERVATIONS
087 087 8250

EMERGENCIES
Tourism 072 202 3438
Fire & Rescue 082 339 1240

Gate times
07h30 – 18h00

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CapeNature

Conserve. Explore. Experience.

Gamkaberg Nature Reserve

is an isolated mountain range in the Klein Karoo, lying between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains. The name Gamka is derived from the Hottentot word 'gami', meaning lion. The Gamkaberg Nature Reserve (10 430ha) 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. In 2015 Gamkaberg Nature Reserve was included as one of the protected areas making up the Cape Floral Kingdom Protected

Climate

Gamkaberg lies between winter and summer rainfall regions, experiencing gentle soaking rain in winter, and thundershowers in summer. The annual rainfall averages 500mm at the summits and 300mm on lower slopes. Summers can be very hot, but generally the climate is suitable for visits throughout the year.

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.

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.

Activities

Day visitors can browse the information centre, enjoy a meditative walk through the labyrinth, take short hikes including the karoo bossie identification trail and use the picnic or braai facilities. The reserve is ideal for the visitor who enjoys peace and tranquillity. Games available at reception. Games can be signed out from reception at the duty officer upon arrival and must be handed in upon guest departure.

Gamkaberg is also rich in Khoisan rock art and early marine invertebrate fossils.

Please note:

- Make sure you have minimum impact on this pristine environment.
- Stay on the existing tracks - careless driving through the veld destroys plants and small creatures.
- Prevent soil erosion by avoiding wheel spins.
- Use biodegradable cleaning materials and take your refuse away with you.
- Do not throw cigarette butts into the veld.
- 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.
- Please respect all plants and animals.
- Clients to bring their own water as the reserve makes use of borehole water.
- 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.

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. 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 plateau incised by deep ravines. The major rock formations are Table Mountain quartzites and shales, and Bokkeveld sandstone and shales.



Explore a range of **day hikes** from 14.4km trail to overhang and back. Variety of hiking options include Guarrie Trail 0.7 km, Spekboom trail 1.3 km, Mousebird trail 2.5 km, Pied barbet trail 4.1 km. A Karoo bush identification guide is provided for the short trails.

Tierkloof Hiking Trail (DAY ONE 13.2 km, DAY TWO 11.6 km)
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.

Zebra Crossing 4x4 Route. This moderate ±3 hour out-and-back route starts at the reserve office and winds its way up Gamkaberg for about 14km to Oukraal camp. From here you can explore the rugged plateau and ridges for another ±20km to Mathee se Hek. Alternatively, take the road to the Southern Gate where the newly added 11km Fontein Loop is one of the highlights, offering a good chance of seeing zebra and eland herds near the waterpoints. Guests can overnight at any of the Eco-Lodges, the Stables or at Oukraal.



Accommodation

Gamkaberg aims to provide visitors with a first class nature experience while at the same time creating awareness about treading lightly on the environment. With this in mind, accommodation facilities are comfortable, yet all about rustic charm. Carefully constructed along a network of pathways, the four Eco-Lodges (Tierkloof, Sweet-thorn, Fossil Ridge and Xami) consist of safari-style tents on decks, splash pool and a kitchen/lounge area with adjacent lapa.

In addition, the Stables and Campsites offer comfortable facilities with all the basics in place. If you are a keen hiker or have a 4x4, venture out to the remote Oukraal, which has a primitive stone shelter with a hearth, surrounded by four herder's huts.

Please note: **NO FIREWOOD allowed**, due to the current risk of infestation of our trees by the Shothole Borer Beetle. Eco logs/charcoal and firelighters are for sale at the reserve.

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.

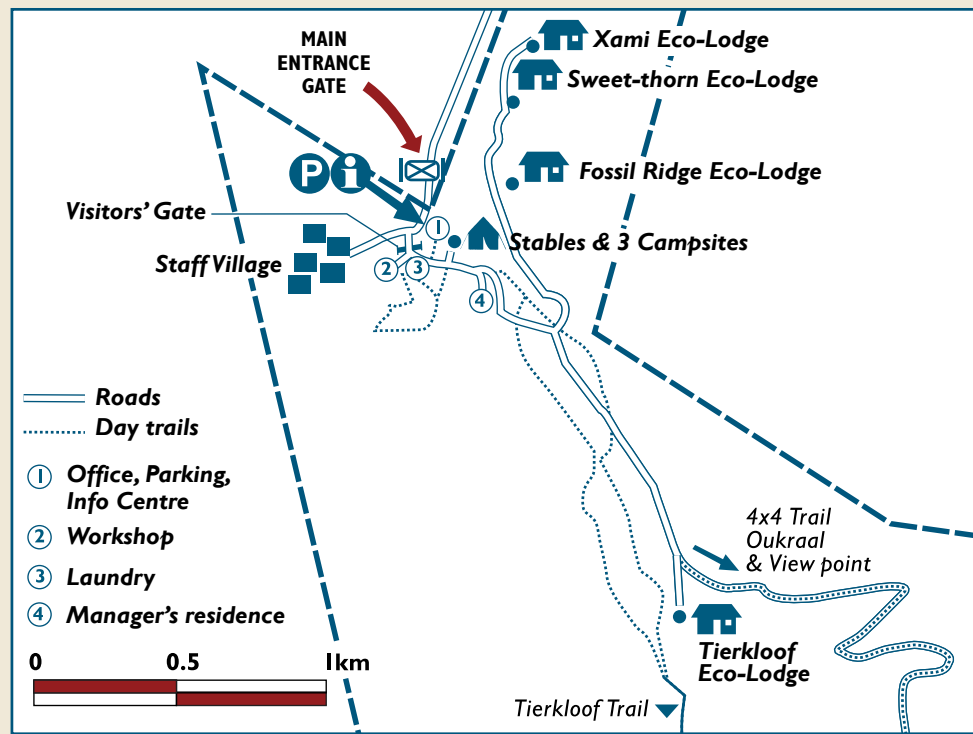
Stay safe when venturing outdoors

- 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

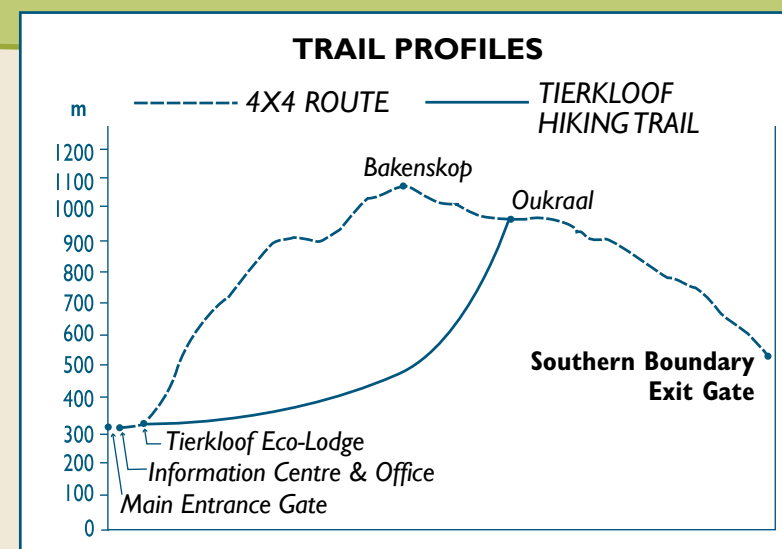
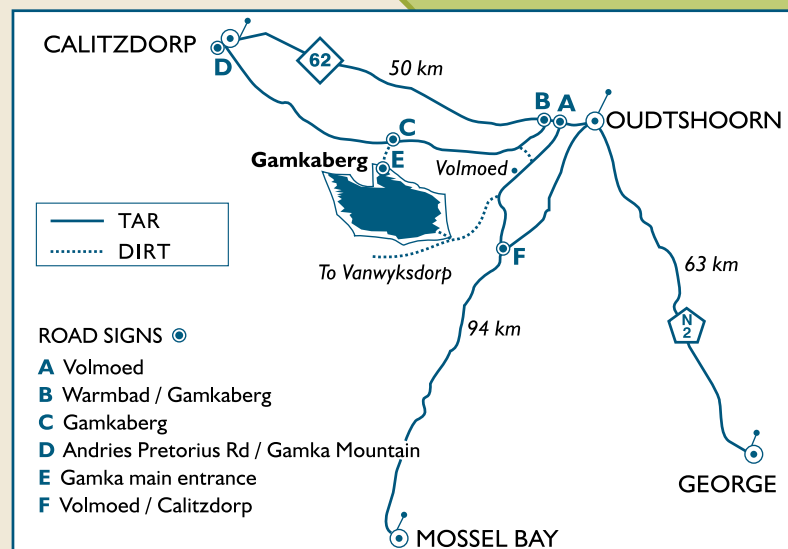
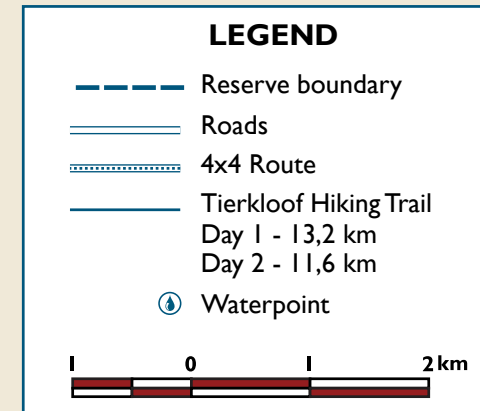
PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PROTECTED AREAS PRISTINE



GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE



**MAIN
ENTRANCE
GATE**



The combination code for the Southern Gate lock will be provided by the duty officer to guests who wish to exit via the southern side of the reserve.

