



GROOT WINTERHOEK WILDERNESS AREA



RESERVATIONS 087 087 8250



NATURE RESERVE

087 087 4047 office hours
082 820 6638 emergencies



OFFICE HOURS 07h00 - 16h00
Monday-Friday



OVERNIGHT BOOKINGS

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



DAY VISITORS

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



GATE TIMES

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

All visitors must check in at reception before hiking or staying overnight.



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 twenty two strategic water source areas of national importance, 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 offers day and overnight hikes, and crystal-clear mountain pools.



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: 32°59'54.20"S, 19° 3'23.42"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 / CARD
(Card facilities
available)



DRINKING
WATER



TENTS
(needed for
wilderness camping)



MEDICAL
KIT



PHONE
(for emergencies)



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 HUT**

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.



Cell reception (Vodacom only) at hotspots: Disa Hut, near Rhebok Hut, and some Perdevlei & Groot Kliphuis peaks.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

ARRIVAL:

(OVERNIGHT STAYS AND HIKERS)

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 4047/082 820 6638



**THIS IS YOUR
ENTRY PERMIT**



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