

DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE



RESERVATIONS 087 087 8250



NATURE RESERVE

087 087 4012 (office hours)
082 496 3443 (after hours)



OFFICE HOURS 07h30 - 16h00 Mon-Fri



DAY VISITORS

CHECK-IN 08h00 - 14h00
CHECKOUT 16h00



GATE TIME

POTBERG GATE: 07h30 - 18h00
DE HOOP COLLECTION:
07h00 - 18h00 (Saturday - Thursday)
07h00 - 19h00 (Fridays)



The glittering jewel of De Hoop is one of Cape Nature's flagship reserves and has a well-deserved reputation as a truly magical wilderness. The reserve lies at the southernmost tip of Africa, where mountains meet the sea and create a fusion between freshwater and marine habitats that support a staggering array of terrestrial and aquatic life. Encompassing roughly 34 000 hectares, this World Heritage Site is one of the largest natural areas managed by CapeNature.

Annually, between July and November, southern right whales make their epic journey back to the safety of these rich waters to mate and calve. The famed Whale Trail Hike is revered as one of the most meaningful ways to experience this extraordinary phenomenon, with Cape Nature offering slack-packing at its most idyllic. De Hoop defies superlatives – it must be experienced to be truly understood



Once you enter the reserve, follow the public entrance signs at the Y-junction to the office.

To view De Hoop in Google maps, go to <https://www.google.com/maps> and insert these coordinates: 34°22'29.15"S 20°31'59.75"E. Then select search for the map to display.



ACTIVITIES



**BIRD
WATCHING**



SWIMMING



HIKING



**WHALE
WATCHING**



**WILDLIFE
WATCHING**



**MOUNTAIN
BIKING**

DE HOOP RULES

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED



**PICKING PLANTS
TAKE ANY SIGNAGE**



**TAKING OF STONES, SHELLS,
OR LIVE ORGANISMS**



**GRAFFITI AND OTHER
DISFIGUREMENTS**



AS SOUVENIRS



LITTERING



FIRES IN THE VELD



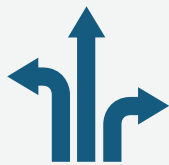
Anything that is found on the trail,
which might belong to a hiker, must be
handed in at the office.



NB: You are welcome to pick up
any litter for disposal in
designated bins.



DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE



Directions to Potberg

DIRECTIONS FROM CAPE TOWN

Take the N2 from Cape Town to Caledon. Turn right at the second turn off to Caledon. Drive through the town of Caledon and then continue on the R316 to Bredasdorp, via Napier. At the 3rd 4-way stop street in Bredasdorp, turn left into All Saints Street (Caltex garage on left corner). Travel approximately 8 km on the R319 towards Swellendam (pass the silos on right hand side) Look out for a brown board "De Hoop" Turn right onto the gravel road signposted Wydgeleë, Infanta, Malgas and De Hoop. Travel for approximately 50 km straight on to Potberg. (Do not turn right at the sign post De Hoop Pad). Go past Ouplaas School. Potberg gate is approximately 10 km from the school.

DIRECTIONS FROM GEORGE

From George, follow the N2 to Swellendam. Approximately 10 km past Swellendam (Driving towards Cape Town), take the Malgas Infanta turn off on the left handside and follow this gravel road for 31 km, until you reach a T/Y-junction and turn right (Ouplaas Bredasdorp De Hoop Lekkerwater). And follow this gravel road till you reach a T-junction, turn left here (This will be the road going from Potberg to Bredasdorp) and follow the road to Potberg for about 12 km. (Do not turn right at the sign posted De Hoop Pad).



Directions to De Hoop Opstal

DIRECTIONS FROM CAPE TOWN

Take the N2 from Cape Town to Caledon. Turn right at the second turn off to Caledon. Drive through the town of Caledon and then continue on the R316 to Bredasdorp, via Napier. At the 3rd 4-way stop street in Bredasdorp, turn left into All Saints Street (Caltex garage on left corner). Travel approximately 8 km on the R319 towards Swellendam (pass the silos on right hand side) Look out for a brown board "De Hoop" Turn right onto the gravel road signposted Wydgeleë, Infanta, Malgas and De Hoop. Travel for approximately 40 km straight on to Potberg and turn right at the sign post De Hoop Melkkammer Morukuru (After turning right the gravel road will take you straight to the De Hoop main gate).

DIRECTIONS FROM GEORGE

From George, follow the N2 to Swellendam. Approximately 10 km past Swellendam (Driving towards Cape Town), take the Malgas Infanta turn off on the left handside and follow this gravel road for 31 km, until you reach a T/Y-junction and turn right (Ouplaas Bredasdorp De Hoop Lekkerwater). And follow this gravel road till you reach a T-junction, turn right here (This will be the road going from Potberg to Bredasdorp) and follow the road to Bredasdorp for about 3 km and turn left at the sign post De Hoop Melkkammer Morukuru. (After turning left the gravel road will take you straight to the De Hoop main gate).

CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING



MEDICAL
KIT



INSECT
REPELLENT

Day Hiking Trails

DE HOOP COASTAL TRAIL

This linear trail begins at Koppie Alleen – a great viewpoint for whale watching. From here, visitors can either walk along the beach or take an exploratory ramble across the rocky shore. Use the boardwalk to get to the water's edge, turning left to explore rock pools, limestone cliffs and rocky outcrops. The beach walk is to your right.

Both walks are best at low tide, when the beach sand is most suitable for walking and coastal limestone platforms become exposed. A tide table is available at the office and at the gate. Please take care not to trample the fragile vegetation on the beach route.

DE HOOP KLIPSPRINGER TRAIL

Trail distance: **6 km**

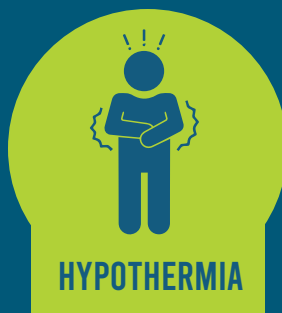
Estimated time: **2 hours**

This circular trail winds across the Potberg Mountains, in the north-eastern section of the reserve. The hike begins at Potberg's Eco Venue. The views of the Breede River valley are breathtaking. Hikers will also see the **Cape vulture colony** – the only remaining breeding colony in Western Cape.

PERMITS

Permits may be purchased for R50 per adult and R30 per child at the reserve office or through CapeNature Central Reservations.

All guests are advised to be aware of the following, before they start the hike, namely:



PLEASE REMEMBER

The management of the tourism activities and accommodation facilities of the cottages and camping sites at De Hoop Nature Reserve (excluding the Whale Trail) is handled by De Hoop Collection: <http://www.dehoopcollection.com/> . De Hoop Collection has something for everyone at De Hoop, from families travelling on a tight budget to couples seeking a comfortable and affordable breakaway. There is a wide range of accommodation, ranging from camping and caravanning sites, to more affordable self-catering chalets, to luxurious self-catering and five-star fully catered lodges.

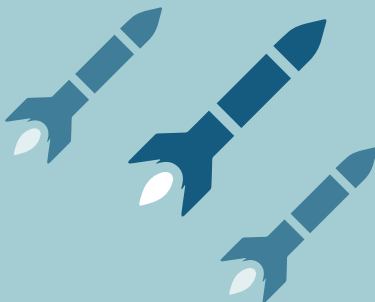
Other overnight stay options in De Hoop Nature Reserve include the Lekkerwater Beach Lodge and the Morukuru Ocean House:
<https://morukuru.com/accommodations/morukuru-ocean-house>.



The nearest shop and fuel supply is at Ouplaas (Wydgeleë), 15km from the reserve.



Cell phone signal is sporadic; you will get signal mainly on the higher parts of the mountain, on the hard dunes and along the coast.



The Denel Overberg Testing Range occasionally uses the eastern sector of De Hoop Nature Reserve for missile testing. CapeNature receives limited notice of these tests. Although we try to minimise disruption to our hikers, it may be necessary for us to evacuate groups from the Whale Trail while the tests are being conducted.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

ARRIVAL:
08h00 - 16h00

Please remember that you are in a nature reserve.
No fauna or flora may be damaged, removed or disturbed in any way.



**THIS IS YOUR
ENTRY PERMIT**



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