

Info Sheet

MATJIESRIVIER

NATURE RESERVE



USEFUL NUMBERS AND TIMES

RESERVATIONS	☎ 087 087 8250
RESERVE OFFICE	☎ 087 087 3875 (Office hours)
AFTER HOURS	☎ 087 087 3886
OFFICE HOURS	07h30 – 16h00 (Monday – Friday)
GATE TIMES - WINTER (1 APRIL – 31 AUGUST):	07h30 - 16h00 (exit by 17h00)
GATE TIMES - SUMMER (1 SEPTEMBER – 30 NOVEMBER & 1 FEBRUARY – 31 MARCH)	07h30 - 18h00 (exit by 19h00)
GATE TIMES - PEAK SEASON (1 DECEMBER – 31 JANUARY):	07h30 - 19h00 (exit by 20h00)

HOW TO GET THERE

📍 32° 30' 0.5" S 19° 20' 10.0" E

The reserve is 300km from Cape Town. Take the N7 highway north. Stay on the N7 past Citrusdal, after 28km take the Cederberg/Algeria turn-off to the right. Follow this main gravel road for 17km to the Algeria office. From this office, continue driving east for another 40km, over the Uitkyk pass, past the turn off to Kromrivier (take the left fork in the road, following the sign for 'Ceres'). Stadsaal cave is just a few kilometres into the reserve, while the office complex and Truitjieskraal turn-off are further along. Please note that 40km of this road is gravel and appropriate transport must be used.

ABOUT THE RESERVE

Proclaimed as a nature reserve in 2000, and inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 2014, Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve occupies a very special part of the Western Cape. The 12 800 hectare nature reserve is located in the ecotone where the transition of Fynbos and Succulent Karoo vegetation interface. The diversity of fauna and flora found on the reserve thus offers visitors representations of both biomes.

This semi-arid nature reserve also contains some excellent examples of the region's geological (dating back 300 million years ago) and archaeological heritage (5000-300 years old), including the imposing Stadsaal cave, rare San rock art depicting elephants, and the Truitjieskraal interpretive trail.

Stadsaal Cave

Stadsaal Cave is a unique and special part of South African history. This cavernous dome has been carved out of the rock by thousands of years of wind erosion and other weather factors. Besides the main cavern area, there are many smaller openings and unique formations to be witnessed, all of which are accessible thanks to a trail that goes around the entire rock formation, starting and ending at the parking area. It takes about 30 minutes to walk around at a leisurely pace, though you might find yourself taking much longer to absorb and appreciate the wonder of these unique rock formations.

Truitjieskraal

This part of Matjiesrivier has arguably the most impressive Sandstone formations and is highly recommended by rock climbers practicing their sport and love for the area.

Rock Art

Estimated to be at least 1 000 years old (the San began the practice of painting on rocks and in caves around 5 000 years ago), the paintings depict three groups of people and a herd of elephants.

MATJIESRIVIER RULES	PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry with permit only. • No littering. • No picking plants / collecting seeds. • No pets. • No fires. • No feeding of any animals. • No disturbing of any wildlife. • No graffiti on rock walls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits are required for day trails, Stadsaal and Truitjieskraal and can be obtained at any tourism office in the Cederberg Conservancy or at Algeria, Cederberg Wilderness and Matjiesrivier during office hours. • There is no cell phone reception. The last reception point is at Algeria in the Cederberg Wilderness. • There is no drinking water available at Stadsaal Cave or Truitjieskraal.

ACTIVITIES	CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING
DAY WALKS / HIKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat • Sunblock • Comfortable shoes • Drinking water
ROCK ART	
ROCK CLIMBING	
BOULDERING	