

## Info Sheet

# OUTENIQUA

## NATURE RESERVE

Near George

### USEFUL NUMBERS AND TIMES

RESERVATIONS	☎ 087 087 8250
RESERVE OFFICE	☎ 087 087 4151 (Office hours)
EMERGENCY (Fire & Rescue)	☎ 081 835 8032 or ☎ 082 899 6862
OFFICE HOURS	07h30 – 16h00 (7 DAYS A WEEK)
CHECK-IN TIME	07h30
CHECKOUT TIME	16h00
WEBSITE	<a href="https://www.capenature.co.za/">https://www.capenature.co.za/</a>
BOOKING PORTAL	<a href="https://booking.capenature.co.za/">https://booking.capenature.co.za/</a>
GATE TIMES	07h30 – 16h00

### HOW TO GET THERE

📍 S 33° 56'07.9" E 22° 25'38.10" Witfontein Office  
 📍 S 33° 54'52.4" E 22° 01'46.08" Ruitersbos Office

Outeniqua World Heritage Site & Nature Reserve has two offices situated in Witfontein and Ruitersbos.

**Witfontein office:** The office is just 4km outside the CBD of George towards Oudtshoorn on the Outeniqua Pass. This is the main office from where the protected area is managed.

**Ruitersbos office:** This satellite office lies between the towns of Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn opposite the Ruitersbos village along the Robinson Pass.

### ABOUT THE RESERVE

The Outeniqua World Heritage Site & Nature Reserve lies in the Garden Route district between the Gouritz River in the West and Touws River in the East. This area was clearly used by the San for many centuries, as evidenced by the numerous rock paintings and artifacts found in caves all over the reserve. The Outeniqua Mountain range spans an east-west gradient of 73km with climatic variations occurring over this area. Although the Outeniqua Mountain range generally receives winter rainfall it is not uncommon to receive year-round rainfall.

## ACTIVITIES

<b>SWIMMING</b>	Swimming permitted in Doring River pool at your own risk.
<b>BIRD WATCHING</b>	No designated bird watching areas; however, a variety of birds can be found throughout the reserve.
<b>WILDLIFE WATCHING</b>	No designated wildlife watching areas; however, a variety of small wildlife can be found throughout the reserve.
<b>HIKING</b>	PERMITS ARE REQUIRED: Purchase your permit online, or via telephone through our CapeNature Contact Centre on 087 087 8250.
<b>DAY WALKS / PICNICKING</b>	Marked day trails available
<b>MOUNTAIN BIKING / CYCLING</b>	A huge variety of mountain bike and downhill trails. More info on <a href="#">hillbillies's</a> website.

## OUTENIQUA RULES

- All access is subject to the conditions stipulated in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (57/2003) and the Nature Conservation Ordinance (19 of 1974).
- Access to the Outeniqua WHS&NR is only permitted at times prescribed by the managing authority.
- No motorbikes or quad bikes allowed on hiking trails
- Access permits are required and subject to payment of conservation fees.
- Ensure you always have your permit ready for inspection.
- Only use approved trails.
- Cycling is not permitted, except on approved cycling routes.
- Drones are not permitted.
- Parking is only permitted in approved parking areas.
- Do not block access, this is a high-risk area for fires. Emergency service vehicles (including trucks) must be able to pass easily.
- Dogs (and other pets) are not allowed on trails.
- Special use permits will be required for activities other than hiking.
- Do not pollute any rivers and streams.

## HIKING CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING

- Check the weather a day prior to hiking day.
- Comfortable walking shoes/boots.
- Warm jacket/top – temperatures can drop quickly on top of the mountain.
- Sun hat and sun block.
- Water – Limited water available on route (hikers should bring sufficient water to drink).
- Plastic bag for the items you want to throw away – you need to take it back with you.



## DAY TRAILS / WALKS

### ► CRADOCK PASS

*This hike traces the historic route once used by settlers with their ox-wagons to cross the Outeniqua Mountains from the Little Karoo to the coast. Starting at the Witfontein office, it can be completed as a one-way hike (with hikers arranging their own transport for pick-up) or as a return route, depending on fitness levels. An early start is recommended, as water is limited along the trail. The hike rewards adventurers with an abundance of scenic views.*

<b>Maximum people allowed on trail per day:</b>	150
<b>Total distance in km:</b>	8.4
<b>Type of route:</b>	Out and back
<b>Degree of difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Estimated time to complete:</b>	6 hours
<b>Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes:</b>	08h30
<b>Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?</b>	Yes
<b>Is a permit required?</b>	Purchase your permit through CapeNature Central Reservations System – online, via telephone, or at the CapeNature Outeniqua Offices – Witfontein & Ruitersbos.

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Cradock Pass trail can be hiked one-way or there and back depending on logistical arrangements and/or hiker fitness. (Porterage or transport services are not provided).
- Cradock Pass starts from the Witfontein office.
- Due to fire prone area, no fires are permitted on the trails and start/end of the trails in the Outeniqua WHS&NR.

## HIKING SAFETY TIPS & RULES

- Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, and a hat.
- Make sure you have a relevant map of the area.
- Take a field medical kit with you for emergencies.
- Carry enough food and water with you.
- Make sure you know what the weather conditions are before you depart.
- Take a warm jacket/raincoat in winter.
- Stay in a group and stay on the trails.
- Make sure to save emergency numbers before hike.
- Hikers use all hiking trails at their own risk.
- In emergency situations, rescue services will be contacted. These may include Wilderness Search/Rescue or Metro. Much of the terrain is not accessible by vehicle and thus rely on rescue helicopters.
- Hiking groups are advised to hike in a minimum group size of 2 (for safety reasons).
- Hikers should remain within their hiking groups, hike single file and only on the demarcated trails. Do not hike alone and obey all signage.
- Do not lure, disturb, harm, feed or kill any animals.
- Do not pick, uproot, remove, cut or in any way damage any plants or part thereof.
- Do not deface, etch into, scratch on or cause damage to any geological or historical feature or structures in the reserve.
- Littering & dumping is not permitted, regardless of whether it is a natural item (e.g., banana peel) or not. Clients need to take out their trash.
- Open fires (including gas braais, candles etc.) are strictly prohibited on the trails and at the start/end.
- Do not discard cigarette butts anywhere, take them with you when you exit the reserve.
- No weapons (including firearms) or pets are allowed on hiking trails.
- Note that there is cell phone reception on the hiking trails.