

HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND NATURE RESERVE

KLOOFING ROUTES & RULES: SUICIDE GORGE & RIVIERSONDEREND

Bookings:

Telephone: 021 483 0190

E-mail: reservation.alert@capenature.co.za

- **The kloofing routes are closed in winter and are only open from 01 November to 30 April.**
- **Please note: The trail is 17km long and you need to start the trail by the latest 09:00am as no later arrivals will be allowed to enter the reserve for the trail**

TARIFFS: Please refer to Tariff Guide
All fees include VAT

Our goal is to provide you with an enjoyable experience in nature. Your co-operation in adhering to the following is therefore requested:

- The water is cold all year round, wear wetsuit.
- Watch the weather for flash floods, the river can rise meters in minutes.
- **The hike is approximately 17km long**
- First time hikers for the kloofing routes must be guided by an experienced kloofer.
- You must be fit in order to be able to do this trail.
- **Hikers should be at the starting point at or before 9 am.**
- Hikers must carry their Back Pack with valuable stuff such as cell phone, **first aid kit**, water, and toiletries.
- No children under the age of 12 years are allowed.
- The reserve gate opens at 6 am in summer and closes at 7 pm.
- Reserve office hours are from 8 am to 4 pm on weekdays only. A manager is on duty seven days a week.

Kloofing Routes — HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND NATURE RESERVE

ACCESS

Parking is available near the office on the entrance road. Both kloofing routes start with a walk from the office along the management road to Landdroskop. Routes are signposted on the footpath.

KLOOFING RULES

- Start early, hikers may not set out from the starting point later than 9am and must be out of the reserve before the gate closes at 7pm.
- You must have a permit.
- Groups must be guided by an experienced kloofer who has done the trail before.
- No children under 12.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Reserve office hours are 8am to 4pm weekdays only. The entrance gate is open from 8am to 7pm. A manager is on duty seven days a week.
- The route is open from 1 November to 30 April.
- Saturdays and Sundays must be booked a month in advance.
- Reservations (permits): +27 21 483 0191 email: reservation.alert@capenature.co.za
- Group size: five groups of six people are allowed over weekends; groups of 12 to 15 allowed on weekdays.

WHAT TO BRING

- Hiking permit
- Good, lightweight hiking shoes.
- Swimsuit, a quick-drying shirt and swimming shorts. Cotton is not advised. Remember, this is a wet hike.
- A light wetsuit is recommended – 80% of the kloofing requires swimming and you will remain wet throughout.
- Bring a change of clothes along and leave it in the car for after the hike.
- Drinking water (drinking river water can cause illness).
- At least one proper dry bag, waterproof for 14m drops into water, with warm jackets or tops for the group.
- Lunch and energy snacks in sealed bags. This hike requires energy.
- Waterproof sunblock. There are patches of shade to rest under, but for most of the walk you might be exposed to the sun.
- Waterproof camera/video camera. Views are incredible and you will want pictures of you and your friends doing the jumps.

KLOOFING SAFETY

- Kloofing is strenuous and jumps can be dangerous. Only do these routes if you are a fit and experienced hiker. Go with someone who has done the route before.
- Weather can turn quickly in the mountains. Check the weather forecast and do not start if rain or poor weather conditions might set in.
- Wear a wetsuit and carry food, emergency gear and warm clothing in a waterproof pack.
- Once you're in the gorges, the only way out is to continue down the river, so be prepared for a long day. Tell someone where you are going and your expected time of return. There is no cellphone reception in the kloofs, so you're on your own.
- Never jump without testing the water. Cape mountain water is very dark due to the natural tannins in the water, and underwater hazards can be invisible. Never assume that a pool that was clear of obstacles before is still safe, large rocks and branches are regularly moved around by water.
- Land feet first, legs together, with your arms at your sides. Never, ever dive.
- When booking a guided trip, ensure that your guides are qualified and check whether wetsuits are provided.
- If there is rain, beware of flash floods, the river can rise metres in minutes.

Riviersonderend Route

DIFFICULT

Beginners should start with the 14.4km Riviersonderend kloofing route, which begins just off the main Boland Hiking Trail. There are no abseils and the highest compulsory jump is seven metres.

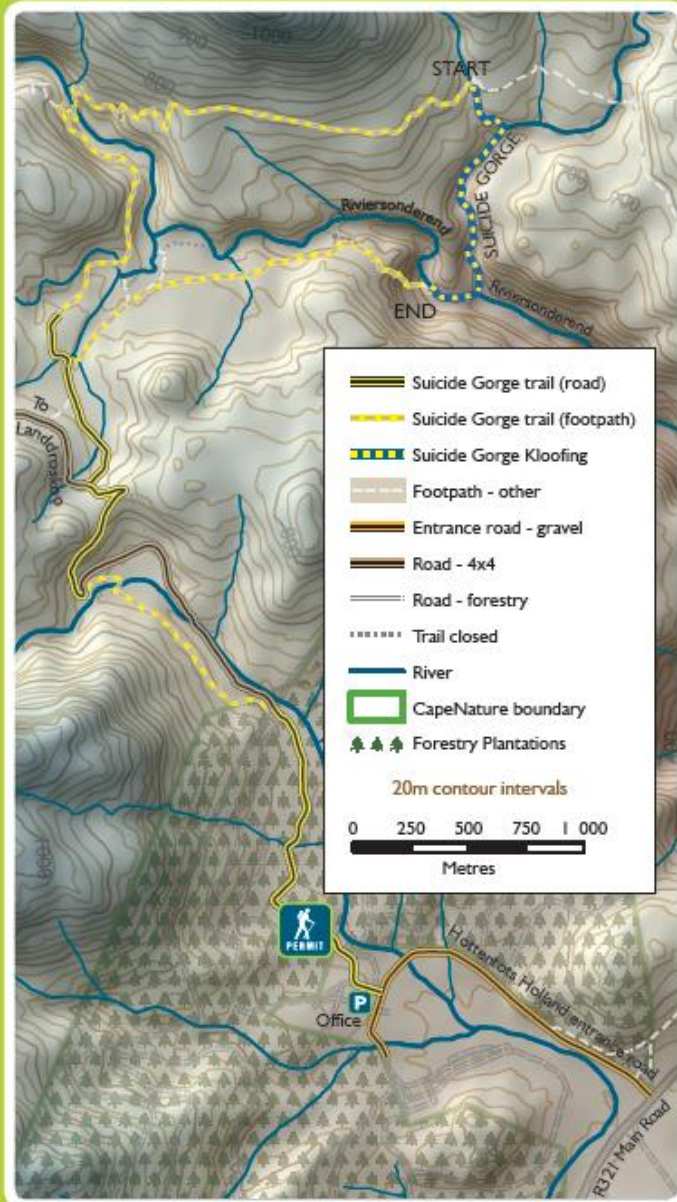
Trail in 4.7km	Kloofing 6.1km	Trail out 3.6km	TOTAL 14.4km / 7-8 hours
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Suicide Gorge Route

DIFFICULT/EXTREME

Suicide Gorge is for experienced hikers who are not afraid of heights. It starts with a two-hour hike high into the mountains, and an optional waterfall slide. Then it's steep downhill for 1.3km with jumps up to 14m high and plenty of swims. The route can take 9 hours. The kloofing section is only 1.3km but consists of 80% swimming – start early to ensure you finish before dark.

Trail in 8.4km	Kloofing 1.3km	Trail out 6.5km	TOTAL 16.2km / 8-9 hours
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SUICIDE GORGE EXIT:

At the major river junction DO NOT continue down river, but turn right and follow the Riviersonderend River for 200m upstream where you will find the Suicide Gorge exit trail on your left.



Damage / loss / death

It is a distinct condition of admission to any protected area, that the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board accepts no responsibility arising from a visit(s) howsoever caused:

- * For any death, injury or illness sustained or suffered by any person.
- * For theft/loss/damage to any property, whether allegedly due to the negligence of the board/officers/employees/agents or arising from the use of any facilities supplied/made available.
- * From any alleged defect in any utensil/equipment/ services/vessel/vehicle.
- * From any other conveyance supplied/made available, or from any liquid/food supplied.
- * From any other matter arising, in any other manner and from any other cause whatsoever.

