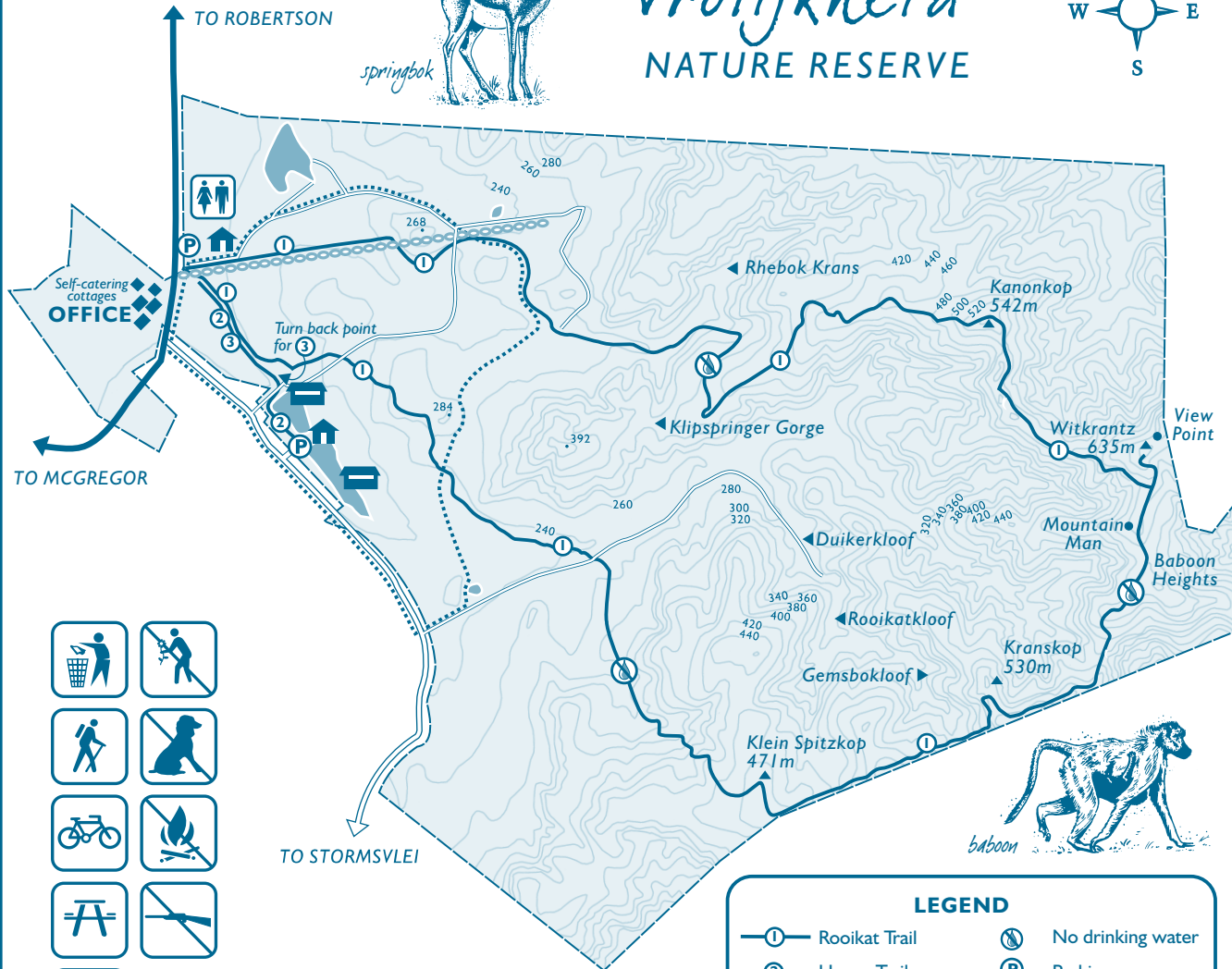
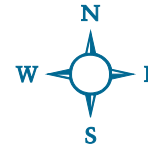
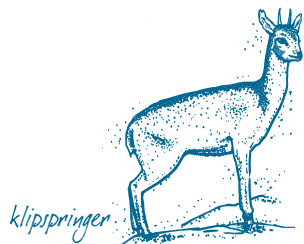


# Vrolijkheid NATURE RESERVE



TO STORMSVLEI



0 0.5 1 km

Space between contour lines: 20m

## LEGEND

- ① Rooikat Trail
- ② Heron Trail
- ③ Braille Trail
- Self-issued permit and start of trails
- Reserve boundary
- Stone wall
- Dam
- No drinking water
- Parking
- Toilet
- Bird hides
- Main tar road
- Main gravel road
- Gravel road
- MTB Route



VROLIJKHEID  
NATURE RESERVE

# VROLIJKHEID NATURE RESERVE

Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve lies in the Breede River valley, about 15km south of Robertson on the McGregor road. The landscape here is rugged and striking with its geology of sandstone and underlying shale formations.

## Vegetation

The vegetation in this rocky part of the Little Karoo is known as arid Robertson Karoo. Succulents dominate, including numerous dwarf trees and shrubs such as guarri, karee and melkbos, while grasses are scarce. Patches of mountain renosterveld are found on the higher ridges and hills, and sweet-thorn trees along the seasonal watercourses. Sheets of botterblom daisies create a splash of orange in spring.

## Animals

Klipspringer, grysbok, grey rhebuck and springbok are common at Vrolijkheid. Caracal (rooikat) also occur but are rarely seen. Birds are well represented by a total of 175 species including the jackal buzzard, African and pale chanting goshawk and the spectacular black and African fish eagles. The dams on the reserve also attract a variety of waterbirds. Amphibians and reptiles are abundant, a highlight being the rare Robertson dwarf chameleon. Species lists are available at the Reserve entrance and office.

## Trails



Heron

**The Heron Trail** is an easy 3km walk that takes about an hour to complete. The route follows fairly flat terrain to two dams. There are two bird hides at the upper dam, with the boardwalk and one of the hides having Universal Access. There is also a bird hide at the lower dam. The bird hides

can alternatively be reached by driving to the parking area on the Steenboksvlakte / Stormsvlei road.

**The Braille Trail** is a trail for visually impaired visitors that follows the first kilometre of the Heron Trail. It leads to the first bird hide and back and has boards with interesting information in braille along the route.

**The Rooikat Trail** is a circular 19km trail that winds through the Elandsberg mountains, offering scenic views of the Robertson landscape, the Langeberg and Riviersonderend mountains. The route is fairly strenuous and takes 7 to 8 hours to complete. No water is available on the route so hikers must carry their own (2 litres or more per person). The path is rough underfoot and sturdy hiking boots are recommended.

Vrolijkheid also has an 8km mountain bike trail that meanders through a section of the reserve and takes about an hour to complete. Please stay on the marked route.

### BE AWARE!

Extremely high temperatures are common from November to March, during which hikers are advised to set out early in the morning and avoid walking during the hottest part of the day. A sunhat is essential. Hikers can collect self-issued permits at the reserve entrance.

## Accommodation

Five recently refurbished self-catering cottages are available for overnight visitors – *Luiperd*, *Rooikat*, *Bakoovos*, *Silwervos* and *Ichelesi*. Each of these large cottages sleeps up to eight people in four rooms, two with a double bed and two with two single beds. Each unit has a fully equipped kitchen and lounge area with indoor fire, and exclusive use outside braai area. *Luiperd* and *Rooikat* feature jacuzzis while *Ichelesi* has a private swimming pool. Communal facilities for overnight guests include a tennis court, putt-putt course and swimming pool.



### DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All persons entering this conservation area and using its facilities, do so entirely at their own risk. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and/or its employees and/or agents and/or its successors in title shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft, injury, accident or death suffered by any person, howsoever caused.

Right of Admission Reserved.

### ENQUIRIES

Tel: (023) 625 1945

### RESERVATIONS

Tel: (021) 483 0190

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