




Survival
GUIDE KIT
CAPENATURE

GOUKAMMA NATURE RESERVE



Thank you for choosing **Goukamma Nature Reserve** as your preferred destination.

Goukamma Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area, situated on the Garden Route between Sedgefield and Knysna, has a diverse array of fascinating habitats and an abundance of smaller wildlife, birds and fish. It is also a World Heritage Site. Goukamma is home to an extensive dune field with some of the highest vegetated dunes in South Africa, and the unique Groenvlei lake which has no inflowing rivers and only an underground link to the sea.

The reserve covers 2 500 hectares of dense coastal forest, including milkwood, yellowwood and candlewood trees. A great time to visit is in September/October when the first spring rains create splashes of bright spring flowers amid the fynbos. This is a year-round destination, as it falls between the Cape's summer and winter rainfall seasons. Goukamma also borders Buffalo Valley – a conservation area overlooking the Goukamma River which offers safe seclusion in three fully-equipped self-catering timber lodges.

Inside the property



LOCATION

GPS: 34 4 6.73 S 22 56 52.29 E



ACCOMMODATION UNITS

Goukamma

Mvubu Bush Lodge (Sleeps 4)

Mvubu Bush Lodge is situated on the edge of the Groenvlei Lake which forms part of the Goukamma Nature and Marine Protected Area. This elevated wood and thatch self-catering cottage is nestled amongst the milkwood thickets, offering spacious accommodation for four guests in two en-suite bedrooms, one with double bed and the other with two singles. The cottage's expansive decks afford spectacular views of the lake. A double canoe is available for guest use.

Electricity: Yes

Bathroom: En-suite with bath, second bathroom with shower, flush toilet

Kitchen: Fully equipped, cutlery and crockery

Bedding, linen and towels: Yes

Fireplace: Yes, a gas Weber is provided (No fires are allowed due to the high fire risk)

Disabled access: No

Pets welcome: No

Otter's Rest Lodge (Sleeps 4)

Set overlooking the ocean and river, the lodge sleeps four in two rooms with the main bedroom featuring a double bed, and the second bedroom two single beds. An open-plan kitchen, dining room and lounge provides a space to relax and enjoy a crackling fire in the indoor fireplace. The main area opens out onto an expansive deck with braai facilities. Private parking is available.

Electricity: Yes

Bathroom: A full bathroom with bath, shower, and flush toilet. There is also an extra toilet for the other bedroom.

Kitchen: Fully equipped, cutlery and crockery

Bedding, linen and towels: Yes

Fireplace: Yes, indoor fireplace and freestanding braai facilities on deck

Disabled access: No
Pets welcome: No
Television: No

Fish Eagle Loft (Sleeps 2)

This duplex unit is located on the top floor of Otter's Rest Lodge and sleeps two people in single beds. The loft has fabulous sea and river views, and an open-plan kitchen, dining room and lounge leading onto a deck with private braai facilities. The en-suite bathroom, with skylight, has a shower. Private parking is available.

Electricity: Solar panels
Bathroom: Shower (solar geyser)
Kitchen: Fully equipped, cutlery and crockery
Bedding, linen and towels: Yes
Fireplace: Yes, braai facilities on deck
Disabled access: No
Pets welcome: No
Television: No

Stumpnose, Blacktail, and Kabeljou Cottages (each cottage sleeps 4)

Three charming self-catering chalets overlook the lake. Each offers two bedrooms, sleeping four on single beds. One bathroom (shower and toilet) is shared between the two bedrooms. Private braai facilities are provided and Blacktail is the middle chalet of the three.

Electricity: Solar panels
Bathroom: Shower (solar geyser)
Kitchen: Fully equipped, cutlery and crockery
Bedding, linen and towels: Yes (plus blankets)
Fireplace: Yes, grill is provided
Disabled access: No
Pets welcome: No
Television: No

Buffalo Valley

Buffalo Valley is a large conservation area bordering the serene Goukamma River just two kilometers upstream from the warm Indian Ocean. Buffalo Valley's three self-catering timber lodges are fully equipped and sleep between four and six people. The three lodges are all out of sight and sound to one another with complete privacy, providing each with its own unique environment within the 150ha conservation area. Each lodge offers safe seclusion where fireplaces and sundecks ensure year-round comfort.

Vlei Lodge (Sleeps 5)

Overlooking a tranquil birdvlei, this magical hideaway has extensive sun decks designed around noble milkwood trees. The living area with its huge fireplace has a character all its own.

Linger around the fire at the spacious outdoor braai area. Fall asleep to a chorus of frogs and wake to the sounds of the singing birds. The loft above the living area has two standard single beds and one smaller size single bed (not suitable for an adult).

A separate cabin house, the main bedroom with king-size bed, has an en-suite shower and flush toilet with an extra door opening onto the deck which is also accessible to the loft's users.

What we provide:

- Beds, mattresses including bedding and towels
- Gas fridge and Stove
- Cutlery and crockery, pots and pans (for 5 people)
- Braai grid
- Three-legged Pot (No 4) – Cast Iron
- Gas Kettle
- Camp chairs, tables and benches in the braai area
- Flush toilets
- Lanterns (paraffin)
- Hot water showers (Gas heated)
- Firewood for sale
- Firelighter for sale

River Lodge (Sleeps 6)

The sunny River Lodge has a panoramic view of the pristine Goukamma River and sleeps six people. The deck and outdoor braai area offer ringside seats to spectacular sunsets over fynbos hills. It's just a short walk through coastal forest to the grassy banks of the river where you can enjoy a spot of fishing. There is one toilet and one shower in separate rooms with a washing basin in each room. Lights are solar powered.

What we provide:

- Beds, mattresses including bedding and towels
- Gas fridge and hob
- Cutlery and crockery, pots and pans (for 6 people)
- Braai grid
- Kettle
- Camp chairs, tables and benches in the lapa
- Hot water showers (solar heated)
- Lanterns (solar electricity)
- Firewood for sale
- Firelighter for sale

Buffalo Valley - Forest Lodge (Sleeps 4)

Hidden in riverine forest right on the edge of the Goukamma River, the spacious sky-lit Forest Lodge perfectly complements its stunning surroundings.

Relax on the magnificent deck, built around bird-filled milkwood trees as the river glides by. Follow a short boardwalk to a private jetty from which you can fish, canoe and swim.

The two bedrooms sleep two people each with an en-suite toilet at the one bedroom and a shower at the other. The back opens to a big deck in the tree tops overlooking the Goukamma River and a walkway that takes you straight to the riverside where you can canoe.

What we provide:

- Beds, mattresses including bedding and towels
- Gas fridge and hob
- Cutlery and crockery, pots and pans (for 4 people)
- Braai grid
- Gas kettle
- Camp chairs, tables and benches on the deck
- Flush toilets
- Lanterns (solar electricity)
- Hot water showers (Gas heated)
- Firewood for sale
- Weber Braai on the deck



HOUSEKEEPING

Use biodegradable cleaning materials and take your refuse away with you.

(PLEASE NOTE: Servicing means change of linen and towels and or refilling compost only, this will only be done if the client permits)



CHECKOUT

Gate hours: 8:00 – 18:00

Office hours: Mon – Fri 7:30 – 16:00

Accommodation

Arrival: after 14:00 but before 18:00

Departure: not later than 10:00.



SMOKING

All CapeNature properties are non-smoking. Please keep in mind the risk of a wildfire when smoking outside.



TOWELS

Fresh linen and towels will be supplied, but general cleaning is however not included in this service.



FURNITURE

Please do not move any of the furniture around.



BATHROOMS

Warm and cold water. Shower and basin, flush toilet.



TRASH LITTERING

Please keep the surrounds and facilities clean.



KITCHEN

Refer to checklist in kitchen.



SECURITY & DOORS

Please lock doors and close windows when you leave the cottage.



WIFI-INTERNET

Visitors have access to the CapeNature Guest Wi-Fi network. Users will be credited with 30min free roaming time. Thereafter, they will be rerouted to the payment portal, where additional data can be purchased. Please check with the office if you have any questions.



ELECTRICITY

Do not leave outside lights burning all night.



FIRE

- Please do not take hot coals from the outside braai area into the cottage for use in the fireplace.
- Collection of firewood is not allowed.
- Make sure all fires are extinguished before you leave or go to sleep.
- Only make fires in demarcated areas. The vegetation is extremely flammable and uncontrolled fires are devastating to the environment and costly to manage.

Life on the Reserve



BIRD WATCHING

This is a popular birder's destination with more than 220 species recorded in the nature reserve. Visitors should keep an eye out for the rare African black oystercatcher and the endangered African penguin. Species commonly spotted include the African fish eagle, African marsh harrier and Knysna loerie. A bird list is available at the office.



PICNICKING

Visitors are welcome to picnic at any of the designated spots.



WHALE WATCHING

Between June and November each year, the southern right whale heads to South Africa's shores to breed and calve their young. The sight of these majestic creatures lolling in the water never fails to impress.



HORSE RIDING

Guided horse riding trips are on offer along the beach. Costs vary depending on the number of horses required.



CANOEING

Take a relaxing tour of the reserve on a canoe or pedal boat. Visitors can slowly drift down the river or across the lake, taking in the scenery and keeping a sharp eye out for wildlife and birds. Kayaks and pedal boats can be reserved at the main office. Paddles and lifejackets are provided.



ANGLING

This is a marine protected area so no bait organisms or shellfish can be removed or disturbed. For this reason, no ski-boat fishing or spear fishing is allowed. Angling with a rod and line from the shore is permitted.



TRAILS

A variety of hiking trails are offered in this beautiful reserve ranging from two to six hours in duration. Take plenty of water and a sense of adventure with you!

Blombos Route

Trail distance: 15km
Estimated time: 6 hours

Popular with birders, the trail is 15km in length, but can be split into two shorter circular routes: the 13.5km Porcupine Trail (four to five hours) and the circular 6.5km Bushpig Trail (two to three hours). Hikers begin their route by crossing a river on a self-hauled ferry, then head off into the Milkwood forest before making their choice to head along the dunes, stay in the forest or traverse the entire reserve. The full Blombos Route should take six hours to complete.

Galjoen Trail

Trail distance: 12km
Estimated time: 4 hours

Hikers need to consult tide tables before heading off on this seaboard hike to Platbank, as it is inaccessible during spring high tide. Return transport should be arranged before departing or hikers will need to walk back.

Cape Clawless Otter Trail

Trail distance: 6.5km
Estimated time: 2–3 hours

This hike takes visitors alongside the southern shoreline of Groenvlei Lake. Hikers will pass through indigenous forest of milkwood trees and along the shores of the beautiful lake.

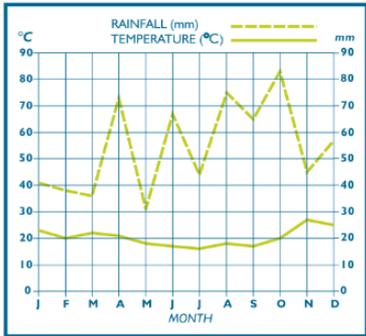
Buffalo Bay Trail

Trail distance: 4.2km
Estimated time: 2 hours

This is a circular or open-ended trail that passes through the holiday town of Buffalo Bay, into the indigenous forest and along the coastline. With great sea views all along the trail, this is a popular route for whale watching from June to November each year.

Trail preparation

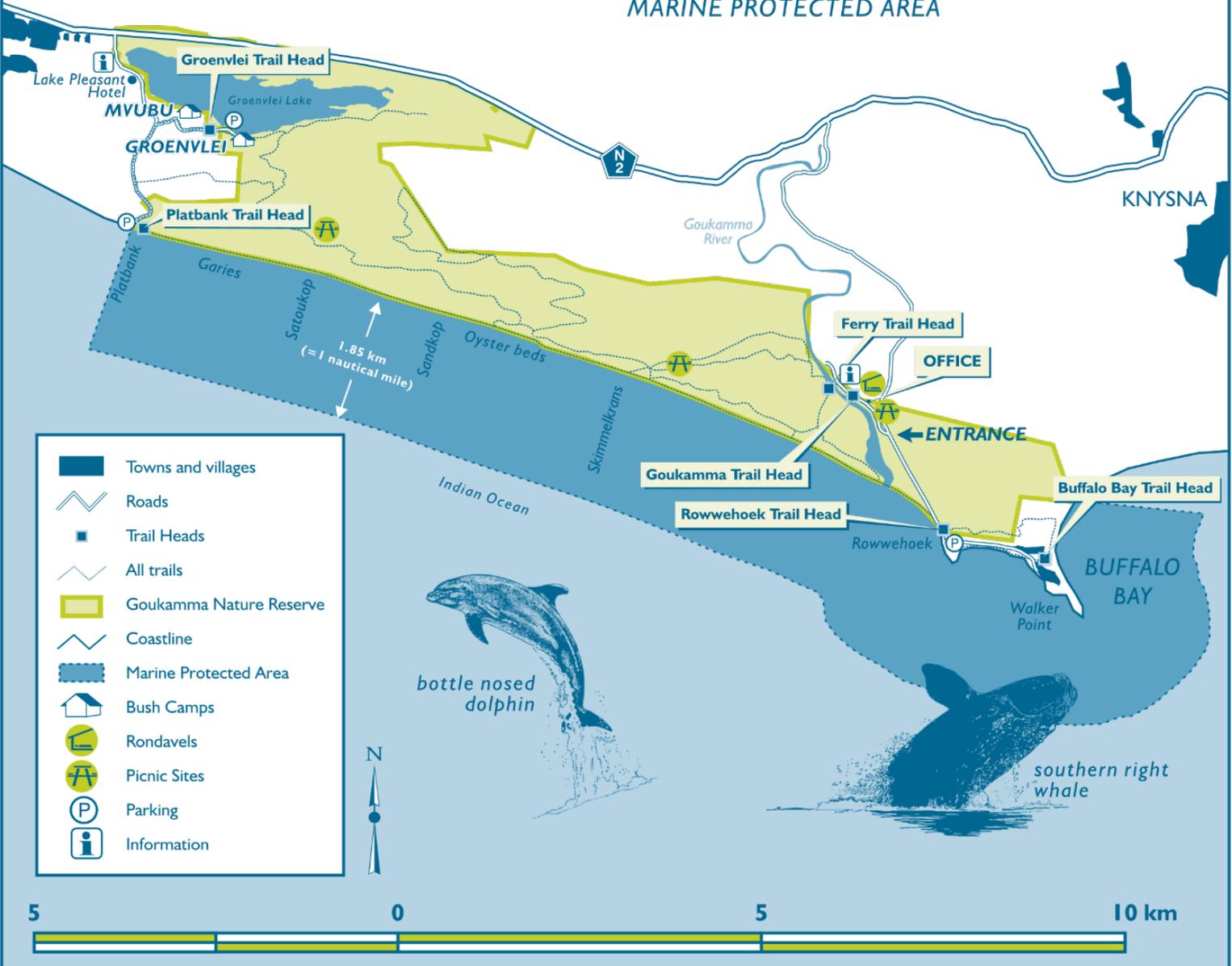
- Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat.
- Do not hike alone.
- Carry enough food and water with you.
- Make sure you know what the weather conditions are before you depart.
- Take a warm jacket/raincoat in winter.
- Make sure you have a relevant map of the area.
- Take a field medical kit with you for emergencies.
- Obey all signage.
- Stay in a group and on the trails.



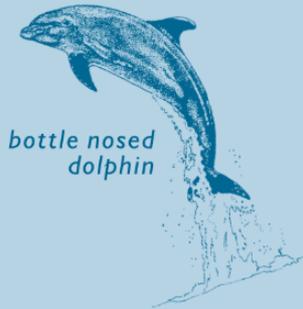
GOUKAMMA

NATURE RESERVE AND
MARINE PROTECTED AREA

SEDGEFIELD



- Towns and villages
- Roads
- Trail Heads
- All trails
- Goukamma Nature Reserve
- Coastline
- Marine Protected Area
- Bush Camps
- Rondavels
- Picnic Sites
- Parking
- Information





SWIMMING POOL

Visitors can swim in the beautiful Groenvlei River, estuary and ocean.



TO ENSURE THAT ALL VISITORS HAVE A PLEASANT STAY, THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PERMITTED:

- Music and rowdy behavior
- Pets (**No Dogs/Cats**)
- Disturbance to plants and animals
- High noise levels after 22:00
- Firearms
- Picking of flowers or collecting of seeds
- Fires except in designated areas
- Horse riding



FAUNA

Goukamma protects the charming vervet monkey, bushbuck and bushpig, as well as porcupine, mongoose, honey badger and grysbok. The reserve is a popular choice for keen birders, as the Goukamma River and estuary and the Groenvlei Lake provide a welcoming habitat for more than 220 bird species, including the rare African black oystercatcher. There are two indigenous and four alien species of fish found in the Groenvlei Lake. Visitors enjoy the sight of the magnificent southern right whales between June and November. Bottle-nosed and humpback dolphins play in the waves throughout the year.



FLORA

Coastal fynbos and coastal forest are the two main types of vegetation found here. The coastal dune forest, occurring mostly on the dunes, consists of dense thickets of milkwoods, yellowwoods and candlewoods. Further inland, the fynbos is characterised by erica and restio species which flower in September and October.

Discover the Region



NEAREST TOWNS

Sedgefield and Knysna



SUPERMARKETS

- Buffalo Bay Restaurant and Supermarket Walker Drive, Buffels Bay, 044 383 0038
- Pick n Pay, 044 343 1055
- Kwik Spar, 044 343 1056
- Knysna Mall, 42 Main Rd, Knysna Central, Centre Manager, 044 382 4574



RESTAURANT & BARS

- Buffalo Bay Waterfront Restaurant, 118 Walker Drive, 1 Park Buffels Bay, 072 551 4139
- Buffalo Bay Restaurant and Supermarket Walker Drive, Buffels Bay, 044 383 0038
- "Le Maquis" by Cathy & Remy: 14B Gray St, Knysna Central, 082 257 7852
- Olde's Restaurant , Knysna Central, 044 382 6514
- Butterfly Blu Restaurant, 198 State President CR Swart Rd, Brenton-on-Sea, 044 381 0027



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Buffalo Bay beach: sailing, swimming, sunbathing.
- Brenton beach, sailing, swimming, sunbathing
- Scootours through Knysna Forest
- Fly Time Paragliding
- Wild Oats Community Farmers' Market
- Knysna Elephant Park: Just off the N2 between Knysna and, Plettenberg Bay,

In Case of Emergency



GOUKAMMA DUTY OFFICER

082 494 1880



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE / Knysna

10111/044 302 6600



AMBULANCE / Knysna

10177/044 302 8400



HOSPITAL / Knysna

Provincial Hospital, 044 302 8400

Life Private Hospital, 044 302 5200



IN CASE OF VENOMOUS SNAKE BITES

084 124



EXPLORE AND #LoveNature

- ✓ adrenaline adventure
- ✓ paths less travelled
- ✓ relaxation

CapeNature has the most idyllic locations to stay, play and discover in the Western Cape.

Camping, glamping, eco-cabins, bush lodges and cottages available.
All self-catering for your comfort and convenience.



Entrance fees apply. Free access for Wild Card members.

Pensioner discount available on accommodation. Ts & Cs apply.

BOOK ONLINE AT
www.capenature.co.za
Tel 087 087 6292



/capenature1



@capenature



@capenature1



CapeNature

Share your memories with us!