

# SWELLENDAM MULTI-DAY HIKE



The Swellendam multi-day hike is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Cape Town and is one of the must-dos in the Breede River region. The formidable higher slopes and gently sloping foothills promise to take your breath away.

## LOCATION

**GPS: 34 0 6.54 S 23 24 8.30 E**

From Cape Town: Take the N2 highway towards Swellendam. Just past Swellendam, turn left onto the R60 until you reach the four-way stop. Turn right onto Voortrekker Street until you see the sign for Marloth Nature Reserve. At the four-way stop, turn left onto Andrew White Street and travel 3km until you reach the reserve gates. There is a short gravel road, approximately 1.4km long, leading up to the reserve office. The route from Cape Town is about 220km and will take about two and a half hours to drive.

## THE TRAIL

The 58.5km trail is well known in the hiking community and remains one of the best to do. The trail is demanding and should only be attempted by fit hikers. The breathtaking mountainous area is covered with mountain fynbos and patches of Afromontane forest. Spring is the best time to witness the colourful display of mountain fynbos, which includes several Protea species and more than 25 Erica species in bloom. Many of these species occur nowhere else in the world. Winters can be harsh, with snow on the peaks, but still offer a different kind of beauty.

Please note that hikes should be planned in advance, as hikers are not permitted to leave the trail due to it being surrounded by private property. Fires are only allowed in demarcated sites. A private farm owner sells wood at Wolfkloof Hut, which can be arranged with him in advance. No wood may be collected in the veld.



All huts are “**leave no trace**” units and must be left clean and tidy. All rubbish must be removed – what you take in, you need to take out with you. It is not feasible for staff to clean after each team leaves the huts. All huts are equipped with brooms, mops, and cleaning materials for groups to use before they depart for the next hut. Reservations are limited to a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 11 people. Please refer to the trail map for cross-sections of the trails.

No hiking arrival to area. Arrive and sleep at Bushbuck or Suikerbekkie cottage or stay over in the town of Swellendam which has many different options from Backpackers, and self-catering to B&B establishments. Please visit the town's info centre or website for options:

[www.swellendam-info.co.za](http://www.swellendam-info.co.za)



### ► Day 1: Marloth Nature Reserve Office to Boskloof Hut

Start your day early for the **17.5km hike (±8hrs)** to Boskloof hut. The day will be demanding. Please remember that Boskloof shelter has mattresses without bunks as at the other three huts. Hikers should also bring their own cooking utensils, bedding, warm clothes, hat, sunscreen, and warm clothes. Boskloof is just a shelter and could be very cold in winter and hot in summer months.

### ► Day 2: Boskloof Hut to Goedgeloof Hut

Again, start your day early because this is a very demanding day which takes you up and down slopes. There is also a **10km (±7 hrs)** hike to Goedgeloof hut.

### ► Day 3: Goedgeloof Hut to Proteavallei Hut

As with the other hikes on the route start early for the longer section of the trail to Protea Valley hut. This day is a **9.5km (± 5 hrs)** hike. This is also a strenuous day of hiking, and you need to be fit for this day's distance.

### ► Day 4: Proteavallei Hut to Wolfkloof Hut

This is an **8km (± 4 hrs)** hike with little time spent on an uphill and then a steep downhill to Wolfkloof hut. Fires are only permitted in demarcated sites due to the high risk of veld fires and the scarcity of wood.

### ► Day 5: Wolfkloof Hut to Marloth Nature Reserve Office

This would feel like the longest hike on the route **12.5km (± 6 and half hours)** and will be strenuous. Start early as you still need to drive to your destination except if you booked accommodation on the reserve or town for the night.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** These are **estimated distances and times** given to the hiker. Hours could vary from group to group depending on their pace. This will also help you with planning each day of your hike.



## **BOOKING AND ENQUIRIES**

[reservation.alert@capenature.co.za](mailto:reservation.alert@capenature.co.za) or 087 087 8250.





## BRIEFING SESSION

Each group must attend the briefing session provided by the reserve, which could take up to 10 minutes.



## GEAR NEEDED

- Maps
- Binoculars
- Torch
- Sun Screen
- Warm clothes
- Sleeping gear
- Sun hat
- Hiking boots
- Water
- Utensils
- Cooking Utensils
- Matches



## PLEASE NOTE

- Reservations are confirmed on receipt of full payment.
- Hikers should be fit.
- Fill water bottles before leaving for the hike.
- Escape routes will be discussed during the briefing session.
- Hiking after 09h00 is discouraged.
- The **“Leave no trace”** principal must be adhered to – what you take in you must bring out.
- Cell phone reception is sporadic.

