

# HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND NATURE RESERVE

## Contact numbers

RESERVE OFFICE  
087 087 3038

RESERVATIONS  
087 087 8250

EMERGENCIES  
082 413 5258

Gate times  
07h30 - 16h00

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CapeNature

Conserve. Explore. Experience.

## Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve

lies in the Hottentots Holland mountains, some 90km south east of Cape Town. This 70 000ha reserve stretches from Elgin in the south to beyond Villiersdorp in the north, and from the Stellenbosch mountains in the west, eastwards to the Groenland mountains. About 7 000ha of private and state property adjoining the reserve is co-managed as the Theewaterskloof

### Climate



The annual rainfall is as high as 3 300mm on the Dwarsberg plateau and winds are frequent and strong. Summers are generally mild and dry. Weather conditions in the mountains can be unpredictable and dangerous.

### Flora



The Reserve plays an important role in the conservation of mountain fynbos, with approximately 1300 species occurring, some of which are rare and endemic.

### Fauna



Approximately 110 bird species have been recorded, including several species of raptor. Many animals have been re-introduced, including the rare Cape mountain zebra, eland, bontebok and red hartebeest. Populations of grey rhebuck, klipspringer, common duiker and grysbok occur and, while leopards frequent these mountains, they are seldom seen.

### Activities



Hiking trails range from day excursions to overnight experiences. For their own safety, hikers are not allowed to set off after the specified starting cut-off times, in order to complete the hike before nightfall. Hikers may choose their route, covering either one, two or three days of hiking, but they need to be fit, experienced and well-equipped for extreme weather at all times. Occasionally some trails will be closed due to severe weather and flooding rivers. CapeNature's 'There and Back Safely' guide on hiking safety is available on our website.

All trails start at Nuweberg which has changing room facilities at the parking area. Overnight accommodation for the hiking routes is available at two locations – Landdrooskop Hut and Shamrock Lodge at the first, and Boesmanskloof and Aloe Ridge Huts at the second. Rooms in the huts are booked out in dormitory style or entire rooms can be booked. Landdrooskop has six rooms sleeping between four and seven people per room while the other three huts have three rooms sleeping between nine and twelve people. The huts are equipped with bunk beds and mattresses, water, eco-toilets and a braai area stocked with wood.

Conservancy by CapeNature and local landowners. The entrance to the reserve is at Nuweberg, 11 km from Grabouw on the R321.

From Cape Town, take the N2, turn left at the Orchard Farm Stall in Grabouw and left again at the Villiersdorp junction.

### History



In 1935 the Department of Forestry purchased much of the land in the Jonkershoek Valley from the municipality of Stellenbosch. Shortly afterwards the Jonkershoek Forestry Research Station was established and this became the initial step in a long history of research into mountain ecosystems, with emphasis on the hydrological cycle and plant ecology. The Forestry industry received added momentum as a result of the shortage of timber during the First World War and the need to create employment during the Depression.

Nuweberg, previously a railway owned plantation, was taken over by the Department of Forestry and new plantations were established on the lower slopes of the mountains at La Motte, near Franschoek, and at Jonkershoek. There was an immediate reaction from amateur naturalists and others who were concerned about the destruction of the natural fynbos to make way for forestry operations. As a result, several nature reserves were established in the afforestation zone, to protect the Cape flora.

Many of these reserves were too small for long term viability and finally, all these areas were consolidated and the reserve was proclaimed in 1979. This was the first and only nature reserve to be declared under the Forest Act in South Africa. Water and nature conservation were the primary land management goals, while secondary uses of the area, such as recreation and research, were permitted if they were compatible with the primary objectives.

In 1995, the former farm Rusbos was handed over to CapeNature for management as part of the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve. The land is managed as part of the Riviersonderend catchment according to the management plan of the reserve.

Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve was included as one of the protected areas making up the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site, declared South Africa's 6th World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004.

Local communities are expected to play an important part in the conservation of the area and the establishment of a viable local eco-tourism industry.

### 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.

### Stay safe when venturing outdoors

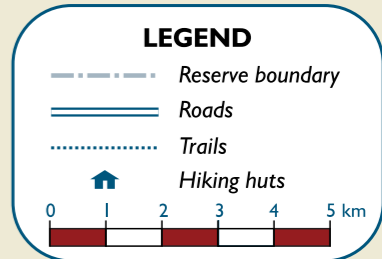
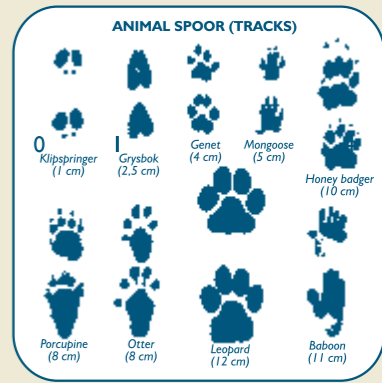
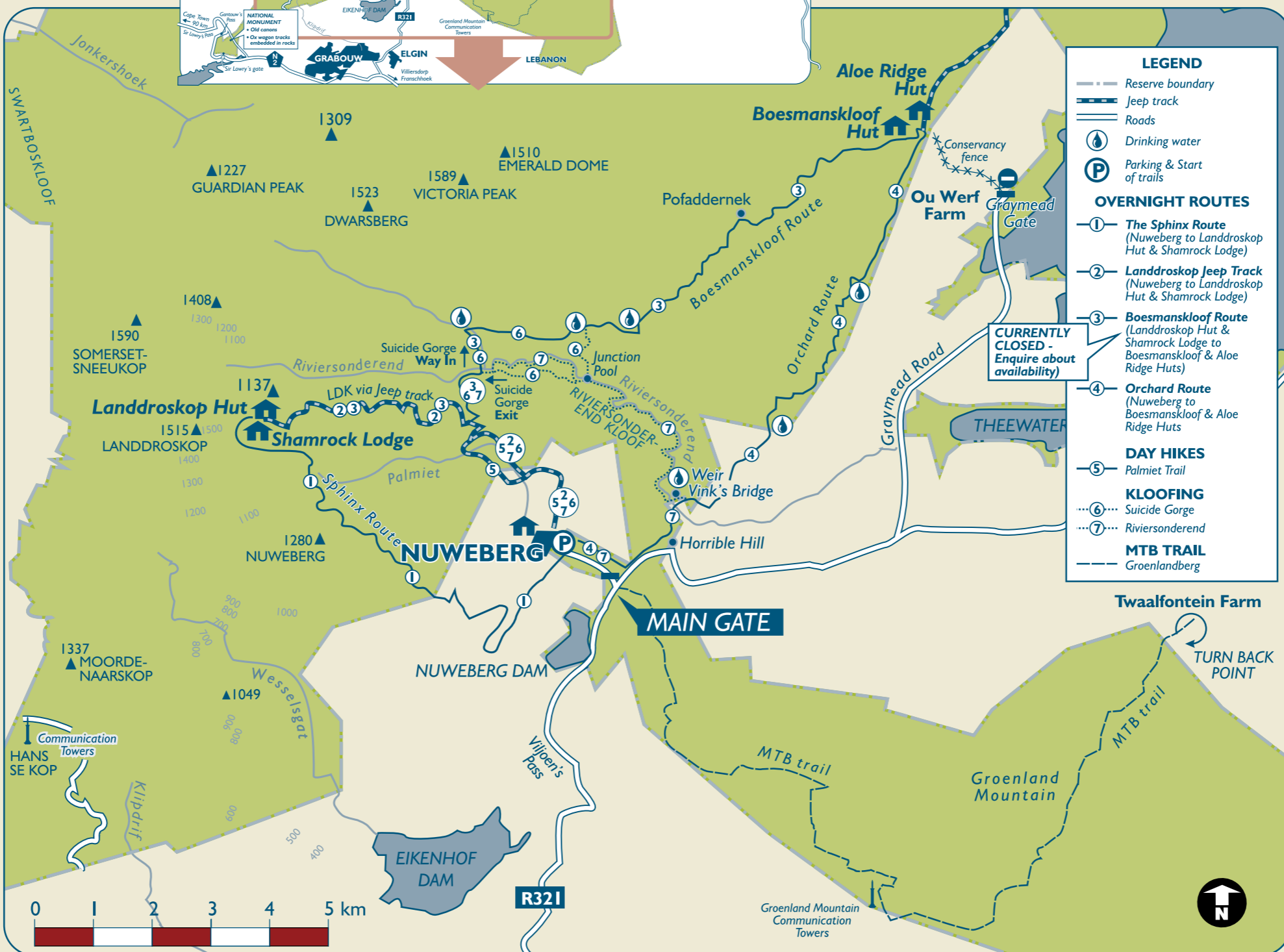
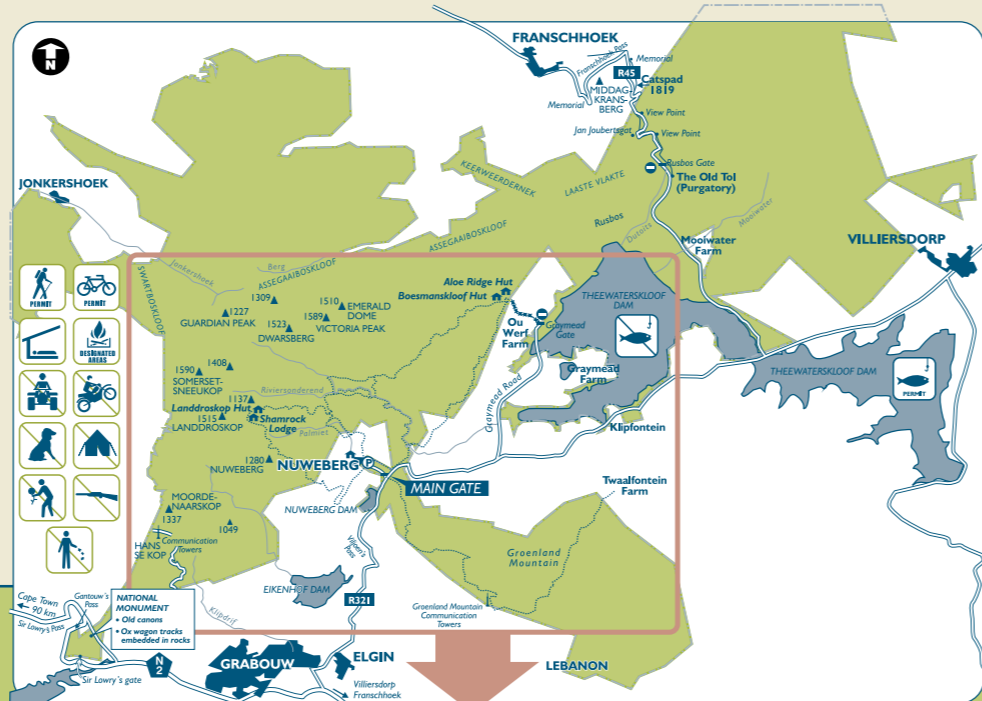
- Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat
- Don't hike alone
- Carry enough food and water for the trip
- Make sure you know what the weather conditions are before you depart
- Take a warm jacket/raincoat in winter
- Make sure you have a map of the area
- Take a field medical kit along for emergencies
- Obey all signage
- Stay in a group and keep to marked trails

| HIKING, KLOOFING and MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS                                    |   | DISTANCE, DURATION, DIFFICULTY  | STARTING CUT-OFF TIME           |       |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|-------|
| OVERNIGHT ROUTES   | Sphinx Route (Nuweberg to Landdrooskop & Shamrock Lodge hiking huts)  | ±12km   3-4 hours (Moderate)  | 13h00                           |       |
|  | Landdrooskop Jeep Track (Landdrooskop & Shamrock Lodge hiking huts to Nuweberg)   | ±8km   2-3 hours (Moderate)   | 13h00                           |       |
|  | <b>THIS TRAIL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED</b><br>Enquire about availability   | Boesmanskloof Route (Landdrooskop & Shamrock Lodge hiking huts to Boesmanskloof and Aloe Ridge hiking huts) | ±16km   8-9 hours (Challenging) | 10h00 |
|  | Orchard Route (Nuweberg to Boesmanskloof and Aloe Ridge hiking huts)  | ±14km   6-7 hours (Moderate)  | 12h00                           |       |
| DAY HIKE   | Palmiet Trail (From Nuweberg along the trail and back along the Landdrooskop Jeep track)  | ±6km   2-3 hours (Easy)   | 14h00                           |       |
| KLOOFING<br>(Only open from November to end of April due to winter flooding) | Suicide Gorge   | ±14,9km hiking   ±1,3km kloofing<br>8-9 hours (Difficult/extreme)   | 9h00                            |       |
|  | Riviersonderend   | ±8,3km hiking   ±6,1km kloofing<br>7-8 hours (Difficult)  | 9h00                            |       |
| MOUNTAIN BIKING  | Groenlandberg MTB Trail is a ±34km out-and-back route that starts at the main gate at Nuweberg and goes along the top of the Groenlandberg Mountain to Twaalfontein Farm and then back to Nuweberg. |   |                                 |       |

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# HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND NATURE RESERVE



- LEGEND**
- Reserve boundary
  - == Jeep track
  - == Roads
  - Drinking water
  - P Parking & Start of trails
- OVERNIGHT ROUTES**
- ① The Sphinx Route (Nuweberg to Landdroskop Hut & Shamrock Lodge)
  - ② Landdroskop Jeep Track (Nuweberg to Landdroskop Hut & Shamrock Lodge)
  - ③ Boesmansklouf Route (Landdroskop Hut & Shamrock Lodge to Boesmansklouf & Aloe Ridge Huts)
  - ④ Orchard Route (Nuweberg to Boesmansklouf & Aloe Ridge Huts)
- DAY HIKES**
- ⑤ Palmiet Trail
- KLOOFING**
- ⑥ Suicide Gorge
  - ⑦ Riviersonderend
- MTB TRAIL**
- Groenlandberg

CURRENTLY CLOSED - Enquire about availability

