



## Info Sheet

# GEELKRANS

## NATURE RESERVE

Near Stilbaai

### USEFUL NUMBERS AND TIMES

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| RESERVATIONS              | ☎ 087 087 8250                  |
| RESERVE OFFICE            | ☎ 087 087 4118 (Office hours)   |
| EMERGENCY (Fire & Rescue) | ☎ 082 496 2522                  |
| OFFICE HOURS              | 07h30 – 16h00 (Monday – Friday) |
| GATE TIMES                | 07h30 – 16h00                   |

### HOW TO GET THERE

📍 34°21'55.5"S 21°27'43.9"E

When you enter the town of Stilbaai stay on Main Road East. Turn left onto the Preekstoel Road and follow it to the end of the road. When you get to the end of the Preekstoel Road, follow the signage to go farther East to the reserve.

### ABOUT THE RESERVE

Geelkrans Nature Reserve is a beautiful coastal nature reserve situated on the Eastern side of the town of Stilbaai. Geelkrans Nature Reserve was established in 1977 and is 440ha in size. The reserve borders the core conservation area of the Stilbaai MPA along its coastal boundary.

Visitors can explore the reserve by hiking through coastal vegetation and along the unique stretch of coast with dynamic sandstone cliffs and extensive intertidal areas. There are two wooden decks from which to enjoy the picturesque views or have a picnic. In the winter months the reserve becomes alive with blombos and boegoe flowers, and summertime offers fantastic snorkelling opportunities for the family.

Cars are not allowed past the parking area. Please do not disturb nesting birds and keep to specified paths to avoid trampling sensitive vegetation. Please also note that the beach may only be accessed on a low or falling tide.

| ACTIVITIES  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SWIMMING</b>   | The rock pools offer ideal spots for both swimming and snorkeling.   |
| <b>PICNICKING</b>   | There are two wooden decks along the hiking trail, perfect for picnicking.   |
| <b>BIRD WATCHING</b>  | Discover a birdwatcher's paradise – 200+ bird species await your binoculars!   |
| <b>WHALE WATCHING</b>   | During whale season, enjoy whale watching from the coastal decks and vantage points.   |
| <b>DAY WALKS / HIKING</b>   | Marked day trails are available, and a permit is required. Geelkrans hiking routes along the coast are ideal for exploring rock pools and the beach. |
| <b>SEA ANGLING</b><br>The Geelkrans section of the Stilbaai MPA is a Restricted Zone, no fishing or removal of living marine organisms allowed. |  |

| PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The return part of the hiking trail is along the coast. Please do wear appropriate shoes.</li> <li>• The coastal part of the route can only be accessed during a falling and or lower tide. This section of coast should be avoided at high tides. The sea will force you up against dangerous sandstone cliffs.</li> <li>• The Sandstone cliffs are very brittle and should not be attempted to climb by anyone.</li> <li>• Snakes are common in this area. Puffadders may be encountered on the route. September – May are the peak snake period.</li> <li>• Gate times must be strictly adhered to; self-issued permits at Geelkrans Trail gatehouse.</li> <li>• Please note that hiking trails might be closed at short notice due to extreme weather conditions or natural disasters.</li> <li>• NO fires are allowed on the hiking trails.</li> </ul> |

| GEELKRANS RULES  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not hike alone. Minimum 2 persons</li> <li>• Inform someone of your route and what time you're expected back.</li> <li>• Always stay on the hiking trails to avoid disruption / degradation of vegetation.</li> <li>• Beware of snakes and look where you step.</li> <li>• NO plants, animals, wildlife or any natural or cultural items may be removed.</li> <li>• NO pets (dogs, cats, birds or any other) may be brought into the reserve.</li> <li>• NO littering. Please take away what you brought in.</li> <li>• The consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the reserve.</li> <li>• Gate times must be strictly adhered.</li> <li>• Please note that hiking trails might be closed at short notice due to extreme weather conditions or natural disasters.</li> <li>• The gates open at 07h30 and close at <b>16h00 sharp</b></li> </ul> |



## DAY TRAILS / WALKS

### GEELKRANS CIRCULAR TRAIL

Visitors have the opportunity to explore the reserve by hiking through coastal vegetation, alongside a distinctive stretch of coastline featuring dynamic sandstone cliffs and extensive intertidal areas. Two wooden decks offer picturesque views and an ideal spot for picnics. During winter, the reserve comes alive with blooming blombos and boegoe flowers, while summer provides excellent snorkelling opportunities for families. Please note: no drinking water available along the route; bring your own. For more information visit <https://www.forgesa.com/>.

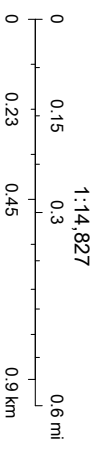
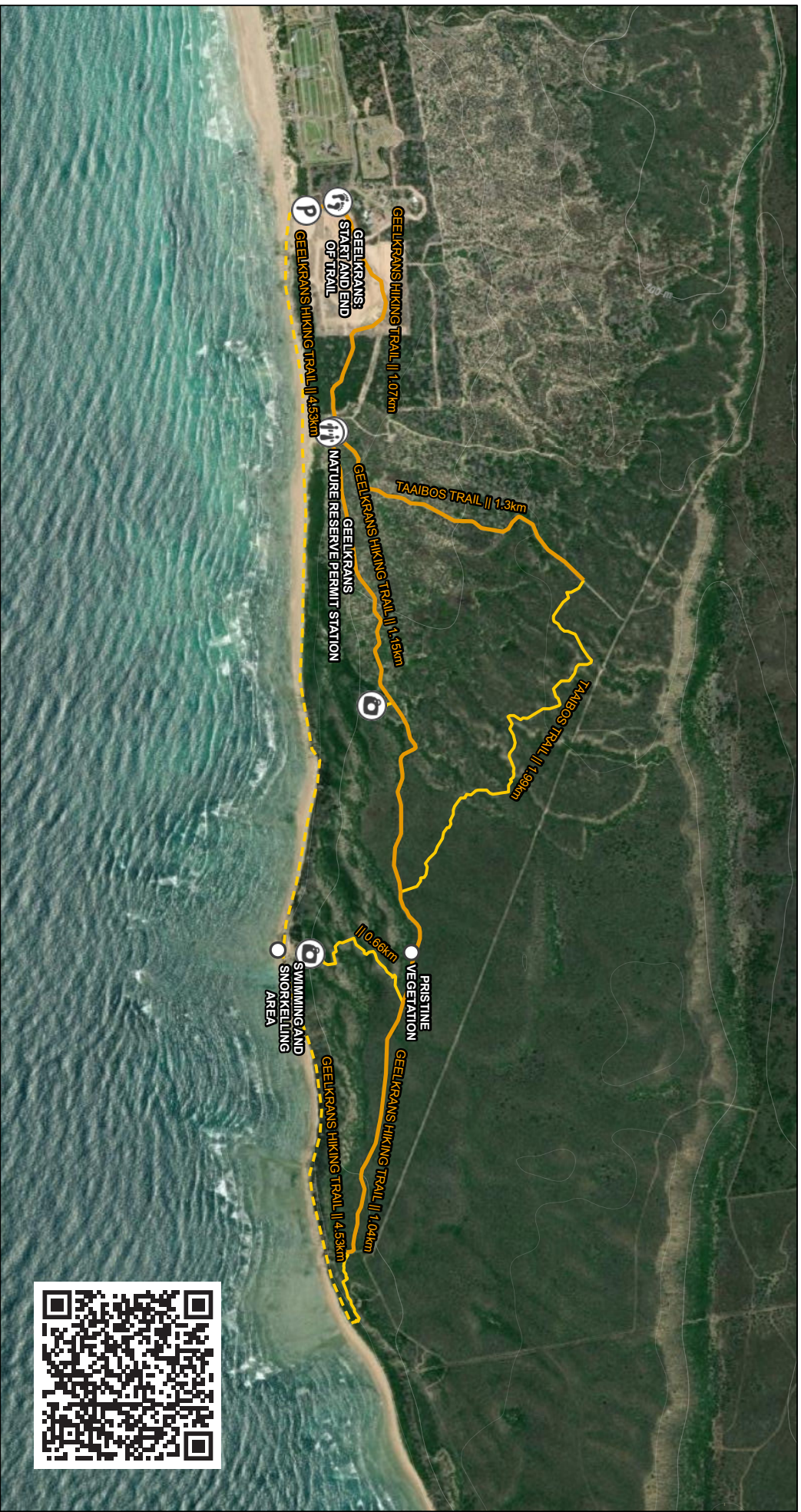
|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Maximum people allowed on trail per day:</b>                        | 50                      |
| <b>Total distance in km:</b>   | 7,5                     |
| <b>Type of route:</b>  | Circular - out and back |
| <b>Degree of difficulty:</b>   | Moderate                |
| <b>Estimated time to complete:</b>                                     | 3 hours                 |
| <b>Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes:</b> | 16h00                   |
| <b>Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?</b>                | No                      |
| <b>Is a permit required?</b>   | Yes – Book online       |

### TAAIBOS

The route ascends and meanders along ancient dunes adorned with natural vegetation, offering breathtaking vistas of Stilbaai and the expansive coastal region. Please be aware that there is no drinking water available along the route, so it's essential to bring your own.

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Maximum people allowed on trail per day:</b>                        | 25                      |
| <b>Total distance in km:</b>   | 4.4                     |
| <b>Type of route:</b>  | Circular - out and back |
| <b>Degree of difficulty:</b>   | Moderate                |
| <b>Estimated time to complete:</b>                                     | 1 hour 30 minutes       |
| <b>Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes:</b> | 16h00                   |
| <b>Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?</b>                | No                      |
| <b>Is a permit required?</b>   | Yes – Book online       |

# Geelkrans Nature Reserve





## HIKING RULES

- Try not to hike alone.
- Inform someone of your route and what time you're expected back.
- Always stay on the hiking trails to avoid disruption of vegetation.
- Beware of snakes and insects.
- NO plants, animals, wildlife or any natural or cultural items may be removed.
- NO pets (dogs, cats, birds or any other) may be brought into the reserve.
- NO littering.
- NO Fires.
- The consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the reserve.
- Gate times must be strictly adhered.

## HIKING SAFETY TIPS

- Do not hike alone.
- Stay in a group and on the trails.
- The coastal part of the route can only be accessed during a falling and/or lower tide. This section of the coast should be avoided at high tides, as the sea can force you against dangerous sandstone cliffs.
- The return part of the hiking trail is along the coast. Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunblock, and a hat.
- Snakes are common in this area, and you may encounter puffadders on the route, especially during the peak snake period from September to May.
- Carry enough food and water with you.
- Make sure you know the weather conditions 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.

## HIKING CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING

- Hat
- Sunblock
- Comfortable walking shoes
- **Sufficient snacks and drinking water**
- **Good map of the area**
- **Communication device in case of emergency**