



Info Sheet

JONKERSHOEK

NATURE RESERVE

Near Stellenbosch



USEFUL NUMBERS AND TIMES

RESERVATIONS	☎ 087 087 8250	
RESERVE OFFICE	☎ 087 087 4118 ☎ 082 467 0405	(Office hours) (Fire and Rescue)
OFFICE HOURS	08h00 – 16h30	(Monday – Friday)
CHECK-IN TIME	08h00 07h00	(Winter) (Summer)
CHECKOUT TIME	18h00	
GATE TIMES	08h00 – 18h00 07h00 – 18h00	(Winter) (Summer)

HOW TO GET THERE

📍 33°57'48.70"S 18°55'31.98"E

From Cape Town: Take the N2 highway out of Cape Town towards Stellenbosch. Take exit 33 for Baden Powell Drive towards the R310/Stellenbosch/Macassar. Approach Stellenbosch from the R310, turn left on the R44 and then right into Merriman Avenue. Continue straight at traffic circle continue with Jonkershoek road. Follow the winding Jonkershoek road straight to the gates/guard house of Jonkershoek / MTO Forestry.

ABOUT THE RESERVE

This nature reserve is home to the majestic Jonkershoek Mountains and parts of the Jonkershoek valley. Visitors first pass through the MTO plantations to get access into the Nature Reserve, which then includes the Jonkershoek Valley, with trails crossing the peaks to the back of the Bergriver dam area. The Valley includes several hiking trails traversing multiple streams, mountain peaks and valleys. Visitors can expect breath taking views with beautiful mountain fynbos. Keep your eyes open for sightings of the “blushing bride” and a variety of bird species.

JONKERHOEK NATURE RESERVE RULES

- All access is subject to the conditions stipulated in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (57/2003) and the Nature Conservation Ordinance (19 of 1974).
- Access is only permitted through approved access gates and at times prescribed by the managing authority
- Access permits are required and subject to payment of conservation fees
- Ensure you always have your permit ready for inspection
- Only use approved trails
- Cycling is not permitted.
- Drones are not permitted
- Parking is only permitted in approved parking areas
- Do not block access, this is a high-risk area for fires and emergency service vehicles (including trucks) must be able to pass easily.
- Overnighting is not permitted
- Do not feed the wild animals
- Dogs (and other pets) are not allowed
- Special use permits will be required for activities other than hiking
- Do not lure, disturb, harm, feed or kill any animal in the reserve.
- Do not pick, uproot, remove, cut or in any way damage any plant or part thereof in the reserve
- Do not deface, etch into, scratch on or in any way cause damage to any geological or historical feature or structure in the Reserve.
- Littering & dumping is not permitted, regardless of whether it is a natural item or not.
- Do not pollute any rivers and streams
- Open fires (including gas braais, cookers, candles etc.) are strictly prohibited
- Do not discard cigarette butts anywhere
- No weapons (including firearms) are allowed

ACTIVITIES

SWIMMING

With four rivers finding their source in the Jonkershoek Mountains, there are many rock pools and waterfalls to discover as you explore the reserve's trails.

BIRD WATCHING

No designated bird watching areas; however, a variety of birds can be found throughout the reserve.

DAY WALKS

The reserve offers four challenging hikes ranging between 5.3km and 18km.

MOUNTAIN BIKING/CYCLING

There are cycling routes at the MTO property further down the road, but not at Jonkershoek Nature Reserve. Visitors need to arrange their own mountain biking permits directly from MTO.



DAY TRAILS / WALKS

SWARTBOSKLOOF TO SOSYSKLOOF

This easy, scenic trail ascends the western slopes of Swartboskloof for about 2km, passing through a patch of beautiful indigenous forest. Hikers follow a contour to Sosyskloof, before winding back to the start of the route.

Maximum people allowed on trail per day:	100
Total distance in km:	6
Type of route:	Circular
Degree of difficulty:	Easy
Estimated time to complete:	3 hours
Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes (if applicable):	12:00
Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?	No

SWARTBOSKLOOF TRAIL

This trail ascends the steep Swartboskloof, going higher than 900m in altitude over the first 4.5km. Your efforts will be rewarded by breath taking panoramic views. The route is fairly level after that, as it takes you to the top of Kurktrekkernek. From there, hikers descend 2.5km to a beautiful waterfall. Bring a swimming costume with you.

Maximum people allowed on trail per day:	100
Total distance in km:	18
Type of route:	Circular
Degree of difficulty:	Strenuous
Estimated time to complete:	6 hours
Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes (if applicable):	10:00
Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?	No

PANORAMA CIRCUIT

This scenic trail has a steep climb to a contour path just below the Banhoek peaks. This path leads to Bergriviernek, which has amazing views of Assegaaiboskloof. Bring a swimming costume with you.

The route winds across the picturesque Dwarsberg plateau, with streams surrounded by Disas, to Kurktrekkernek. From here, you can take a short detour to the summit of Guardian Peak (1 227m), which has stunning panoramic views of the Cape Peninsula, from Table Mountain to Cape Point, Robben Island, False Bay, Cape Hangklip, and the peaks of the Hottentots Holland range. From Kurktrekker, the path descends past Tweede and Eerste Waterval, back to the starting point. Please note the path is slippery when wet.

Maximum people allowed on trail per day:	100
Total distance in km:	17
Type of route:	Circular
Degree of difficulty:	Strenuous

Estimated time to complete:	6 hours
Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes (if applicable):	10:00
Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?	No
TWEEDE WATERVAL <i>This is an easy ramble along the Eerste River, past Eerste Waterval, followed by a steep climb along a gorge to the foot of Tweede Waterval. The dangerous ascent to this waterfall is closed. Please note the path is slippery when wet. Bring a swimming costume with you.</i>	
Maximum people allowed on trail per day:	250
Total distance in km:	6.4
Type of route:	Out and back
Degree of difficulty:	Easy
Estimated time to complete:	2 hours
Cut-off time to set off on trail to be back before gate closes (if applicable):	14:00
Must trails be booked before arrival at reserve?	No, can be purchased at the gate

HIKERS - PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:	CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits are required for all hiking trails, available at the entrance gate, or from MTO website and App. • Please note that hiking trails might be closed at short notice due to extreme weather conditions or natural disasters. • Hikers use all hiking trails at their own risk. • In emergency situations, rescue services will be contacted. These may include the Wilderness Search and Rescue or Metro. Please note that hikers will be held liable for rescue costs incurred. Much of the terrain is not accessible by vehicle and thus rely on Rescue Helicopters. • Permits must be carried with the group at all times and must be available for inspection by the Reserve Staff. • Hikers should remain within their hiking groups, hike single file and only on the demarcated trails. <p>Hiking trail route information is also available on https://www.forgesa.com/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat • Sunblock • Wear comfortable hiking shoes or boots • Carry enough food and water with you. A normal hiking pack should have a minimum of 2litres of water. • Make sure you know what the weather conditions are, current and forecasted, before you depart. • Always take a warm jacket/ raincoat with you as the weather changes quickly, especially as you climb into the mountain • Make sure you have a good hiking map (showing contours & place names) of the area • Take a field medical kit and a charged cell phone with you in case of emergencies. Personal solar chargers are useful • Make sure you have informed a reliable person of the hike you are doing and when they should expect you back