# POTBERG Eco Venue DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE



e Hoop Nature Reserve's diversity of landscapes, ranging from mountains, fresh water streams and a large vlei, to a long stretch of coastline. The reserve is ideally suited for environmental education.

De Hoop is 36 000 ha in extent, with over I 500 plant species, 86 mammal species (including the rare bontebok and Cape mountain zebra), approximately 260 bird species (including the Cape vulture) and nearly 50 reptile species. The adjacent De Hoop Marine Protected Area is one of the best land-based whale watching sites in the world.

The Potberg area is steeped in history. Early indigenous people were attracted by the supply of fresh water and the plentiful game. The first recorded European inhabitant of the area was Christoffel Groenewald who was granted a grazing license in 1730. Anders Ohlsson, of Ohlsson's Breweries fame, built the original Cape Dutch thatched homestead in the late 1800s. Potberg has many interesting features, one being the San (Bushman) painting in the cave above the homestead. Scattered throughout the reserve are other signs of their existence, including shell middens on the sand dunes and in the caves, along the limestone cliffs on the coast.

Cape vultures are often seen soaring overhead the Klipspringer Trail, either on their way out to forage, or returning to the kloof.





**RESERVATIONS 087 087 8250** 



087 087 4004/6 OFFIC 082 496 3443 AFTE

OFFICE HOURS
AFTER HOURS



OFFICE HOURS 07h30 - 16h00



CHECK IN 14h00 - 16h00

CHECK OUT

10h00



CHECK IN 08h00

CHECK OUT 16h00



GATE TIMES 07h30 - 16h00

FOR SCHOOL GROUPS - a copy of the programme, list of learners and indemnity forms to be given to the officer on duty







#### From Cape Town via N2

Take the N2 from Cape Town to Caledon. Turn right at the second turn off to Caledon, where you will find the Venster Restaurant on your left side. Drive through Caledon and then continue on the R316 to Bredasdorp, via Napier. At the 3rd 4-way stop street in Bredasdorp, turn left into All Saints Street (Engen garage on left corner). Travel approximately 8 km on the R319 to Swellendam (past the silos on right hand side). Turn right onto the gravel road signposted Wydgeleë, Infanta, Malgas and De Hoop. Travel for approximately 50 km straight on to Potberg. (Do not turn right at the sign posted De Hoop Pad). Go past Ouplaas School. DO NOT turn to Malgas. Drive straight. Pass Verfheuwel farm. Potberg gate is approximately 10 km from the school. Once you enter the reserve, follow the public entrance signs at the Y-junction to the office.

#### From George via N2

From George, follow the N2 to Swellendam. Approximately 10 km past Swellendam, take the Spitskop turn off and follow this gravel road for 31 km, until you reach a T-junction. (This will be the road going from Potberg to Bredasdorp). Turn left here and follow the road to Potberg for about 12 km. (Do not turn right at the sign posted De Hoop Pad).



THERE IS NO SHOP ON THE RESERVE.
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND OTHER PROVISIONS MUST
BE BOUGHT BEFOREHAND.

### ACCOMMODATION ON SITE







### POTBERG ECO-VENUE

CAPACITY 65 &

**OVERNIGHT + DAY BOOKINGS** 

**FACILITIES** 







HALL



FULL SERVICE [self-catering]



**GENERATOR** 



**ELECTRICITY** 



DATA PROJECTOR
[on request]



**BRAAI PLACE** 



COMMUNAL



COMMUNAL



BEDS+
MATTRESSES

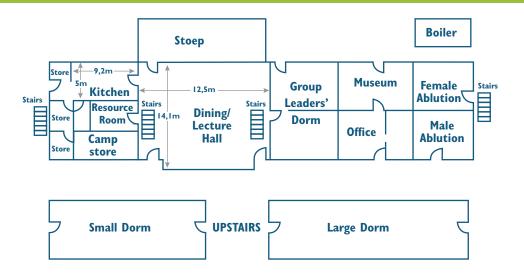


BEDS+









Guests may combine rooms as needed.

Capacity remains 65.

**GROUP LEADERS' DORM** 

(DORM IS DIVIDED INTO 2 SECTIONS)



**x9** 

**LARGE DORM** 



**x48** 

**SMALL DORM** 



x23

## ECO-PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Our approach to environmental education is based on active participation where learners are encouraged to learn about the environment through

discovery | questioning | problem solving | critical thinking



### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**



CAPACITY

25-60 learners + 2-8 leaders

- Curriculum aligned programmes available on request
- Must be pre-arranged and booked prior to arrival
- Can be guided or self-guided

#### **FACILITATED**

- Programme run by **CapeNature**
- 7 days a week (Subject to availability)
- Includes mountain and coastal hikes with studies of fynbos ecology, invasive plants, tidal pools, dunes and the De Hoop Vlei

#### SELF-FACILITATED

- Programme run by group organiser
- 7 days a week (Subject to availability)
- A recommended programme can be provided

### **ACTIVITIES**



#### DAY WALKS

- Klipspringer Trail 6km
- Potberg Trail 6km



· The clear rock pools along the De Hoop coastline are ideal for swimming and snorkelling.



#### WHALE WATCHING

• The De Hoop Marine Protected Area is a breeding ground for southern right whales and is one of the best land-based whale watching sites in the world.



#### OVERNIGHTTRAIL

The 5-day Whale Trail starts at Potberg (BOOKING ESSENTIAL). Whale Trail cottages located along the route lie at the foot of the Potberg mountains. Each fully equipped cottage sleeps up to 12 people, generally with 3 bedrooms (4 beds each).





028 425 1690 Otto Du Plessis Hospital (Bredasdorp) 028 424 1167 **Swellendam Hospital** 028 514 1141

### **CHECKLIST: WHAT TO BRING**

**ALWAYS** BRING THESE ITEMS



**BOOKING CONFIRMATION** 

This is your entry permit



**SIGNED INDEMNITY FORMS** 



























WARM JACKET/ **RAINCOAT** (Winter)

**ALSO** BRING THESE ITEMS IF **STAYING OVERNIGHT AT THE POTBERG ECO-VENUE** 





PLATE, MUG, CUTLERY (unless requested directly from the reserve, prior to arrival)



**SLEEPING BAG + PILLOW** 







PEN + NOTEBOOK







**SUN HAT** 



**SUNSCREEN** 



**WATER BOTTLE** 





**POCKET MONEY** 



**TORCH**