

# Keurbooms River Nature Reserve,

a World Heritage Site, is an exquisite, small reserve of 740 hectares located in the lush Garden Route region just outside Plettenberg Bay.

The Keurbooms river passes through the reserve bringing an abundance of water from further up in the Tsitsikamma and Outeniqua Mountains through the stunning estuary on its way to the ocean.

Only 8km away from the busy seaside town of Plettenberg Bay, Keurbooms

gives visitors the chance to experience the drifting, hypnotic rhythms of life by the river on kayaks, canoes and boats, gliding through silky water while gazing up at the forest above, listening to the chorus of birds.

Named after the Western keurboom tree, the reserve contains an unspoilt gorge and protected kloofs and is a favourite destination for both local and international travellers. The Keurbooms river can only be explored by canoe or boat.

## Climate



Warmest temperatures are normally experienced between November and March and range between the high twenties and low thirties, with February typically being the hottest month. The lowest temperatures are normally experienced between April and September, with the coldest temperatures usually recorded during July.

## Flora



The deep protected valleys and kloofs are covered in Afrotemperate forest with the plateau being vegetated with typical grassy fynbos. The reserve is a sanctuary for indigenous trees, including the Cape beech, white stinkwoods and the beautiful Outeniqua yellowwoods. Keurbooms River Nature Reserve is a lush destination filled with an abundance of plant life.

## Fauna



Twenty six species of mammals have been recorded in the Keurbooms River Nature Reserve. Of these, only the blue duiker is considered a threatened species. Bushbuck, baboons and bushpigs are frequently sighted on the Reserve.

Visitors should look out for the quirky vervet monkeys, the shy blue duikers, beautiful grysbok and mongooses. Those patient and lucky enough could even spot elusive Cape leopards.

An abundance of river and forest birds inhabit this region and provide a musical background to the lush surroundings, with contributions from the Knysna Loerie, Pied and Half-collared Giant Kingfisher, Knysna Woodpecker, Sunbirds, Yellow-billed Ducks, Fish Eagle, Little Grebe, Black-headed Oriole, and Narina Trogon. A total of 177 species of birds have been recorded, of which 63 are known to breed within reserve boundaries.



The Keurbooms and Bitou rivers are home to four indigenous freshwater fish species namely the Slender reedfin, the Eastern Cape reedfin, the Cape galaxias and the Cape kurper.



## Activities

Many of the activities at the reserve revolve around the waterways including boating, fishing, canoeing, and water-skiing.



Angling is permitted at the Keurbooms River Nature Reserve, but a fishing license is required. Fishing licenses are obtainable from the post office or online at E-permit at <https://www.fishing.dffe.gov.za>



Visitors are welcome to swim in the river. Children should not swim unsupervised.



Visitors are welcome to picnic at one of three designated spots along the river – these are only accessible by boat or by canoe. The canoes can be hired at the entrance gate. There is also a large picnic area at the entrance gate with braai facilities.



There is an abundance of river and forest birds that inhabit this region.



Double canoes and kayaks can be hired per day at the entrance gate. Canoe and kayaks cannot be booked (first come first use). The cost includes lifejackets and oars. Motorized boat users must be in possession of a valid boat permit.



Keurbooms Ferries offers guided river tours along the Keurbooms River, where visitors can explore forests, secluded beaches, and enjoy tranquil experiences. [www.keurboomsriverferries.co.za](http://www.keurboomsriverferries.co.za)



## Facilities

**Whiskey Creek Cabin** is located 7km upstream from the main entrance and comfortably sleeps 10 guests in four double bunk beds and two single beds. The cabin has an open-air kitchen shaded by a veranda roof, and an expansive deck with a braai area. Guests need to bring all bedding and food. Pillows and pillow cases are provided. Firewood is available on site. Only rain water is provided.

Whiskey Creek Cabin can only be reached with an approximately two-hour paddle on the river. This can take longer if paddling into a headwind. We recommend that visitors leave no later than 14h00 in summer and 13h00 in winter to ensure they make it to the cabin well before nightfall.

Note that the canoe might have to be pulled across the rapids by hand during low tide. When getting out of canoes, extreme care must be taken on slippery rocks. Children must be accompanied by adults. The rapids can be challenging and the walk to the cabin is 400m requiring a reasonable level of fitness.

Visitors will be required to sign indemnity forms and wear lifejackets, helmets and water shoes when on the river. We do NOT supply water shoes, so please bring your own.

### 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

## Reserve rules

- You may not hinder or obstruct a CapeNature officer in the course of his/her duties or any person who is authorised to ensure compliance with the regulations. It is also illegal to refuse to comply with any request or prohibition made by such a person.
- It is illegal to use indecent or improper language, to behave in an offensive or improper manner, to swim or sunbathe in the nude, to wilfully or negligently inconvenience any other water user or to disturb the peace in the Keurbooms River Nature Reserve.
- Drones may not be used without prior approval by reserve management as they will interfere with the breeding success of coastal birds in a protected environment.
- People and pets are not allowed in the kelp gull breeding colony bordering the Keurbooms river mouth.
- No pets are allowed inside the reserve, irrespective of whether they are inside a boat or a vehicle.
- Vehicles are not permitted on the beach.
- Fires are only allowed at designated braai areas.
- No firewood allowed. Bring your own charcoal.
- Spear fishing and the transportation of spear fishing equipment is not allowed in any inland waters.
- Remember that you are responsible for your boat's wake.
- Please observe the speed limits of the different zones on the river.

# KEURBOOMS RIVER NATURE RESERVE

## Contact numbers

RESERVE OFFICE  
087 087 3937

RESERVATIONS  
087 087 8250

EMERGENCIES  
National Sea Rescue Institute  
082 990 5975

Metro Ambulance Services  
044 805 5070

Metro Rescue Services  
044 805 5070

## Gate times

07h00 to 18h00  
01 Apr. to 31 Aug.  
07h00 to 19h00  
01 Sep. to 31 Mar.

[www.capenature.co.za](http://www.capenature.co.za)

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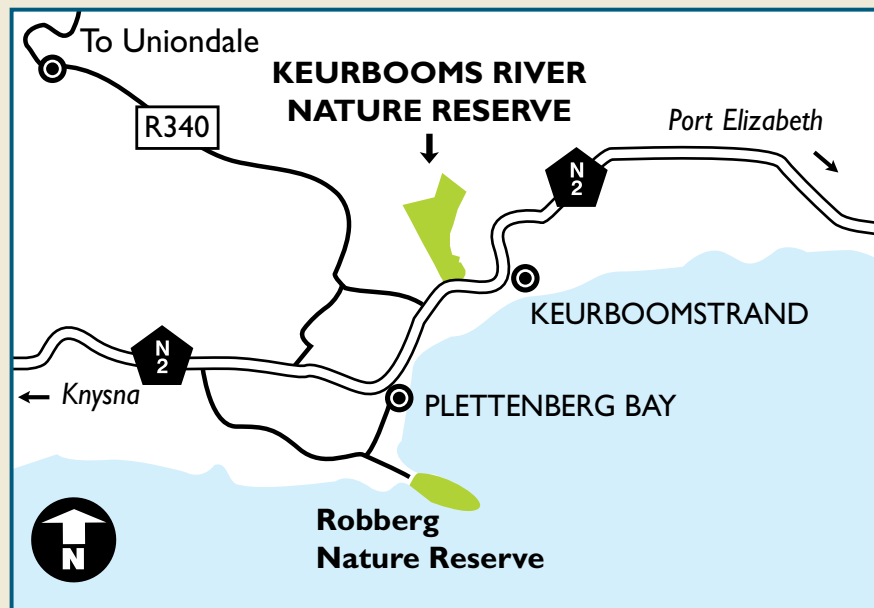
Conserve. Explore. Experience.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PROTECTED AREAS PRISTINE



# Keurbooms River

## NATURE RESERVE



### LEGEND

- Marker buoys indicate the deepest channel south of the N2 bridge
- Picnic areas
- Toilets
- NATIONAL ROAD
- ROADS

**NATURE AREA**  
Access only for canoeists with reservations for Whiskey Creek cabin

**SPEED LIMIT:**  
10 km/h    5,5 knots

**NO WATER SKIING OR AQUAPLANING**

Waterskiing and speeding allowed between 10:00 - 16:00  
**10km/h** speed limit at all other times

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