

Gamkaberg is an isolated mountain range in the Klein Karoo, lying between the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountains. The name Gamka is derived from the Hottentot word 'gami', meaning lion. The Gamkaberg Nature Reserve (10 430ha) is located 33km south-west of Oudtshoorn and 32km south-east of Calitzdorp. It forms part of the 80 000ha Gamkaberg Conservation Area which is made up of various categories of protected areas, including privately owned stewardship nature reserves. In 2015 Gamkaberg Nature Reserve was included as one of the protected areas making up the Cape Floral Kingdom Protected Areas World Heritage Site, declared South Africa's 6th World Heritage Site in 2004. These areas are considered to be some of the most important and representative examples of the Cape Floral Region.

Gamkaberg was established in 1974 in order to conserve a local population of endangered Cape mountain zebra and their natural habitat. The terrain is rugged with mountainous plateaux incised by deep ravines. The major rock formations are Table Mountain quartzites and shales, and Bokkeveld sandstone and shales.

## Climate

Gamkaberg lies between winter and summer rainfall regions, experiencing gentle soaking rain in winter, and thundershowers in summer. The annual rainfall averages 500mm at the summits and 300mm on lower slopes. Summers can be very hot, but generally the climate is suitable for visits throughout the year.



## What to see

Situated within the Cape Floral Kingdom, which hosts one of the richest flora on earth, the reserve

is of particular interest to botanists. Here, four of the South African biomes are represented, namely Fynbos, Succulent Karoo, Subtropical Thicket and Evergreen Forest. The best times of the year to visit are in Spring and Autumn but visits throughout the year can be rewarding. The rare and endangered Cape mountain zebra, leopard and honey badger are some of the reserve's fauna highlights. Other mammals include eland, kudu, red hartebeest, grysbok, grey rhebuck, klipspringer, duiker, steenbok, baboon, caracal, aardvark, aardwolf, black-backed jackal and numerous smaller species. The reserve is host to a wide variety of birds, reptiles and insects.



Gamkaberg is also rich in Khoisan rock art and early marine invertebrate fossils.

## Exploring the reserve

The reserve is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Day visitors can browse the information centre, enjoy a meditative walk through the new labyrinth, take short hikes including the karoo bossie identification trail and use the picnic or braai facilities. The reserve is ideal for the visitor who enjoys peace and tranquillity.



The Labyrinth



PHOTO: SCOTT RAVEN

### 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.

### ENQUIRIES

Tel: 044 203 6300  
eswanepoel@capenature.co.za

### RESERVATIONS

Tel: 021 483 0190

www.capenature.co.za



Sweet-thorn Eco-Lodge

## Accommodation

Gamkaberg aims to provide visitors with a first class nature experience while at the same time creating awareness about treading lightly on the environment. With this in mind, accommodation facilities are comfortable, yet all about rustic charm. Carefully constructed along a network of pathways, the three Eco-Lodges (Tierkloof, Sweet-thorn and Fossil Ridge) consist of safari-style tents on decks, splash pool and a kitchen/lounge area with adjacent lapa.

In addition, the Stables and Campsite offer comfortable facilities with all the basics in place. If you are a keen hiker or have a 4x4, venture out to the remote Oukraal, which has a primitive stone shelter with a hearth, surrounded by four herder's huts. Firewood is available for sale at the reserve office.

## Tienkloof Hiking Trail

(DAY ONE 13,2 km, DAY TWO 11,6 km)

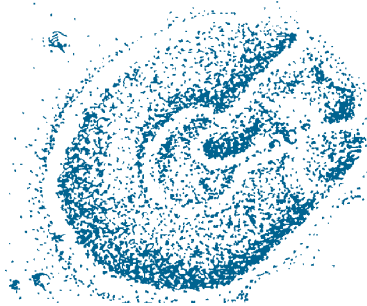
Starting in succulent karoo, this is a moderately strenuous trail taking hikers through a deep, forested ravine to a fynbos-rich mountain plateau. Here they overnight at the remote Oukraal camp and enjoy spectacular views of the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountain ranges.

Oukraal



## Zebra Crossing 4x4 Route

This moderate ±3 hour out-and-back route starts at the reserve office and winds its way up Gamkaberg for about 16km to Oukraal camp. From here you can explore the rugged plateau and ridges for another ±20km to Mathee se Hek. Alternatively, take the road to the Southern Gate where the newly added 11km Fontein Loop is one of the highlights, offering a good chance of seeing zebra and eland herds near the waterpoints. Guests can overnight at any of the Eco-Lodges, the Stables or at Oukraal.



### Please observe the following guidelines to make sure you have minimum impact on this pristine environment:

- Stay on the existing tracks - careless driving through the veld destroys plants and small creatures.
- Prevent soil erosion by avoiding wheel spins.
- Use biodegradable cleaning materials and take your refuse away with you.
- Do not throw cigarette butts into the veld.
- Only make fires in demarcated areas. The vegetation here is extremely flammable and uncontrolled fires are devastating to the environment and costly to bring under control.
- Please respect all plants and animals.





# GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE



Cape mountain zebra

