

DE HOOP

The Jewel of the Cape



Situated just three hours drive from Cape Town, the 36,000 hectares of De Hoop conservation area forms part of a World Heritage Site characterised by rich biodiversity and rare species of fynbos that lead down to an unspoiled coastline. A 19 km vlei, which is a Ramsar site, stretches across the reserve and is home to rich birdlife, including pelicans that breed on its waters each year. The three nautical miles of De Hoop Marine Reserve beyond the shoreline offer some of the best whale viewing in the world, the some 40% of the global Southern Right Whale population coming to bay each year to breed.

ACCOMMODATION

From camping and caravanning sites and affordable self-catering rondawels to more luxurious self-catering cottages, and five star fully catered lodges, the De Hoop Collection has something to offer families travelling on a limited budget, couples seeking a comfortable but affordable breakaway, right through to guests looking for a top-end luxury experience – and all this on one of the most beautiful places the South African coastline has to offer.

The Opstal area is set against the backdrop of the De Hoop Vlei surrounded by rich fynbos plains. The Opstal area houses a wide range of accommodation from camping and caravan sites, charming self-catering cottages and luxurious fully catered suites as well as The Fig Tree restaurant, picnic sites, shop, information centre and reception. The Opstal forms the heart of the De Hoop Collection and all that it has to offer.

Situated on the far side of the vlei, the Melkkamer buildings are characterised by their rich sandstone and old – world farm architectural style and offer both self-catering and fully catered accommodation as well as The Stables, a renovated sandstone barn which has been transformed into a unique wedding and other special events venue.

KoppieAlleen sits alone on a small rise flanked by a row of pure white sand dunes overlooking a magnificent bay. KoppieAlleen is the perfect setting from which to watch the whales or explore the coastline with all it has to offer.





From whale watching and birding to game viewing and areas of anthropological interest, De Hoop has something to offer all manner of nature lovers. Its 70km of rugged coastline and sheltered rock pools provide ideal swimming in addition to land based whale-viewing. Visitors can choose from a range of hiking and mountain biking trails, as well as guided interpretive fynbos and rock pool walks and birding excursions.

FLORA AND FAUNA

De Hoop's many terrestrial habitats also supports a diversity of animal groups including 86 mammal species, most notably the rare bontebok and Cape mountain zebra, as well as eland, grey rhebuck, baboon, yellow mongoose, caracal and the occasional leopard.

The reserve forms part of the world's smallest and most threatened plant kingdoms and is home to rare species of lowland Cape Floral Kingdom fynbos. Of the estimated 1, 500 plant species, around 108 are rare or threatened, 34 000 occur only in De Hoop Nature Reserve and 14 were only recently discovered and remain to be documented.



BIRDS

For bird-lovers, De Hoop offers something special. The reserve is famous for more than 260 resident and migratory bird species and visitors can look forward to spotting the endemic African black oystercatcher, the rare Damara and Caspian terns, the vulnerable Cape griffon vulture and Stanley's bustard and the globally threatened blue crane. The De Hoop Vlei, which spreads between 17 and 19 kilometres when full, is a Ramsar site of international importance where aquatic birds such as the pelican and flamingo can breed undisturbed.



MARINE LIFE

The De Hoop Marine Reserve extends three nautical miles (23 000 ha) of the coastline of the reserve making it one of the largest in Africa. One of the highlights of this area is undoubtedly that it is one of the best whale viewing sites in Southern Africa. In addition, the De Hoop Marine Reserve is one of the world's most important calving grounds for the southern right whale and an important nursery area from which depleted angling species such as galjoen may be replenished. The area also has numerous dive sites where some have been lucky enough to encounter whale sharks.



CONTACT DETAILS

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