

# Something <sup>for</sup> everyone at DE HOOP

**W**ith a range of guided environmental activities now being offered by the De Hoop Collection, visitors of all ages to the De Hoop Nature Reserve can expect a richer ecotourism experience.





The De Hoop Nature Reserve, home to the renowned De Hoop Collection, presents a unique opportunity for nature lovers of all ages to enjoy some of the Cape coast's most spectacular ecotourism offerings. The 36,000 hectare World Heritage Site is home to an abundance of rare fynbos species, rich bird-life and a variety of animals, while the De Hoop Marine reserve offers some of the best whale-viewing in the world, with some 40% of the global Southern Right whale population coming to the bay each year to breed.

To enhance this incredible ecotourism experience, the De Hoop Collection is now offering a range of guided activities that will inform and delight visitors of all ages. A guided birding walk is particularly suited to 'twitchers' looking to spot some of the many beautiful species that inhabit the reserve and the 19 km *vlei* that stretches across it, with species such as pelicans returning each year to breed.

A guided ecosystems walk will provide a chance to learn about the fynbos and the many species of animal that inhabit De

Hoop. For the more energetic, there is a guided mountain bike trail that will combine the exhilaration of mountain biking over reserve terrain with the opportunity to learn more about the fauna and flora that abound here.

At low tide, weather permitting; guests will also be able to enjoy interpretive rock pool walks, which provide a fascinating glimpse into the richly biodiverse but fragile rock pool ecosystems that dot the shoreline.

"We hope that these guided activities will provide visitors both young and old with a richer ecotourism experience," says Kate Naughton, Marketing Manager at the De Hoop Collection.

The De Hoop Collection was approached by the Field Guides Association of South Africa and the World Wildlife Fund South Africa (WWF) to sponsor the first marine field guides course in the world to train guides about the unique Cape and Cape Coast environments. The training of these guides will not only benefit visitors to De Hoop, but will also provide people

from local communities with skills and employment, and help to raise general awareness of conservation issues in the area.

### About the De Hoop Collection

The De Hoop Collection opened in the De Hoop Nature Reserve in 2008 following a groundbreaking public-private partnership between ecotourism visionaries William Stephens and Carl Trieloff of the Madikwe Collection, and Cape Nature, who run the conservation aspects of the reserve. In addition to a wide range of accommodation types designed to suit all budgets, the De Hoop Collection offers visitors a chance to experience unparalleled peace and tranquility in what must be one of the Cape coast's most unspoiled gems.

For more information, visit [www.dehoopcollection.com](http://www.dehoopcollection.com), email [info@dehoopcollection.co.za](mailto:info@dehoopcollection.co.za) or call 0861 33 4667. ■