



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

TYGERBERG NATURE RESERVE



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INTRODUCING THE AREA

Tygerberg Nature Reserve is situated in the northern suburbs and covers 388 hectares. It was proclaimed as a Local Authority Nature Reserve in 1973 and supports one of the last remnants of the critically endangered Swartland shale renosterveld. The eastern slope of the hill consists of old ploughed fields and is in the process of being restored, whereas the western slope is near-pristine Swartland shale renosterveld.

The view from the hilltop is magnificent and not only provides visitors with a 360° vista of the City, but also emphasises just how meagre the patches of natural vegetation are amidst the urban sprawl. It is also one of the few viewpoints in the City to provide such a view of two World Heritage Sites, namely Robben Island and Table Mountain. The False Bay coastline is also visible on a clear day.

The nature reserve is not only the largest conserved piece of Swartland shale renosterveld but is also an important water catchment area, ecological corridor for animals with large home ranges and a "green lung" for the city of Cape Town.

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BEING RESPONSIBLE

Please:

- Contact staff in case of fire or suspicious activity
- Enjoy the area and facilities
- Make use of our picnic sites
- Take photos and leave only footprints

Never:

- Disturb, remove or introduce fauna
- Pick, damage or disturb fauna or flora
- Light fires
- Damage property
- Stray from footpaths
- Bring dogs, or weapons of any kind

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BIODIVERSITY

Flora

The reserve boasts over 560 plant species, of which 23 are on the IUCN Red List, eight are endemic to Cape Town and three are endemic to Tygerberg itself. "Heuweltjies", which are circles of different vegetation created by termites, give the hills a spotted appearance. Disturbed areas are dominated by *Athanasia trifurcata* and *Otholobium hirtum*. In spring the vegetation changes from a dull grey colour to show off its abundance of incredible annual flowers such as *Dimorphotheca*, daisies, *Oxalis* species as well as the numerous bulb species such as *Wachendorfia*, *Lachenalia*, *Spiloxene* and *Gladiolus*. The shrub component is dominated by renosterbos, wild rosemary, *Helichrysum* and wild olive.

Fauna

In 2010 approximately 24 mammal species were confirmed, including the Cape fox, honey badger and striped weasel. These species are a significant indication that ecological corridors are still available through and around the Tygerberg Nature Reserve and that these areas can cater for the needs of species with large home ranges, such as the honey badger. Of the 137 bird species identified, three are listed on the IUCN Red List: the peregrine falcon, the Caspian tern and the white pelican. The reserve is also home to 22 reptile and seven frog species, as well as 27 recorded butterfly species.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address: Totius Street, Welgemoed

GPS -33.87813 S, 18.600322 E

Opening hours: Weekdays, 07:30 to 18:00

Weekends & public holidays, 07:30 to 19:00

(Except Christmas Day and Good Friday)

Entry fee: Tariffs applicable at control point

Public transport: Bus or taxi

Tel: General 021 444 8971 or EE & Hall bookings 021 444 9263

Email: tygerberg.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za

For the latest updates on tariffs, opening hours, maps or any other information, please contact management or visit www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves.



Jackal buzzard
(*Buteo rufofuscus*)

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