

CITY OF CAPE TOWN NATURE RESERVES



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

BLAAUWBERG NATURE RESERVE



INTRODUCING THE AREA

The Blaauwberg Nature Reserve is located approximately 25 km from Cape Town's city centre, representing one of the most intact and diverse lowland vegetation habitats in Cape Town, marking the beginning of the West Coast flora. The reserve contains approximately 1 445 hectares of rich biodiversity.

The Blaauwberg Hill, which forms part of the nature reserve, offers one of the few viewpoints in the world from which two World Heritage Sites can be viewed, namely Table Mountain and Robben Island.

The Blaauwberg Nature Reserve presents a rich cultural and historical heritage of various periods in history. Shell middens dating back to approximately 15 000 years have been observed, indicating early human occupation. In addition, the reserve conserves the site of the Battle of Blaauwberg in 1806, where the British took second occupation of the Cape and retained ownership until South Africa's independence. Blaauwberg Hill features several buildings constructed during World War II, one of which includes the first radar station built in South Africa.

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Please:

- Fish while in possession of a valid permit
- Use the designated braai and picnic facilities at Eerste Steen
- Adhere to City by-laws and reserve rules
- Report matters of concern to management
- Use litterbins
- Enjoy the available facilities and activities

Never:

- Bring alcohol into the reserve
- Bring weapons into the reserve
- Play loud music
- Walk your dogs without a leash
- Drive off-road with your vehicle
- Damage, pick or disturb any flora or fauna
- Leave valuables in your vehicle

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BIODIVERSITY

Flora

The nature reserve comprises three highly threatened lowland vegetation types: Cape Flats dune strandveld, Swartland shale renosterveld and Cape Flats sand fynbos. The combination of these vegetation types are seldom found in a single conserved area. Over 560 plant species have been identified, of which more than 40 are considered to be threatened with extinction. This is more than one-third of the total number of plant species found in the British Isles.

Some plants that can be found include *Amphithalea ericifolia erecta*, *Aspalathus retroflexa bicolor* and *Serruria trilopha*.

Fauna

Over 40 mammal, 28 reptile, 5 amphibian and 30 butterfly species have been identified at the reserve. The recently discovered Blaauwberg dwarf burrowing skink (*Scelotes montispectus*) is only known from six individuals, three of which are found within the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve. Some other species found here include the honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*), Cape grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*) and caracal (*Felis caracal*).

Over 140 bird species, including the threatened African black oystercatcher, have been recorded. The Jackal buzzard (*Buteo rufofuscus*), Black harrier (*Circus maurus*) and Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) are some of the raptor bird species that occur here.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address: Eerste Steen Resort, Otto du Plessis Drive (M14), north of Bloubergstrand
GPS -33.777559 S, 18.449142 E

Opening hours:

Coastal section: Daily, sunrise to sunset

Eerste Steen braai and picnic facility:

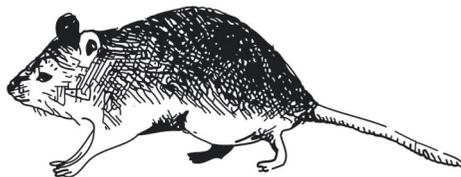
Summer (Nov-Apr) Daily, 08:00 to 19:00

Winter (May-Oct) Daily, 08:00 to 17:00

Entry fee: Tariffs applicable at control point

Tel: 021 444 0454 (Administrative complex)

Tel: 021 444 7321 (Eerste Steen Resort)



White-tailed mouse
(*Mystromys albicaudatus*)

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

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