

# CITY OF CAPE TOWN NATURE RESERVES



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

## STEENBRAS NATURE RESERVE



### INTRODUCING THE AREA

The Steenbras Nature Reserve forms part of the greater Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. The area is often referred to as 'the heart of fynbos.'

With more than 1 600 plant species, it boasts the greatest floral diversity per unit area than anywhere else in the world. The area supports five different vegetation types and is regarded as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

The region was originally proclaimed as a protected area in 1979 and was registered with UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in 1998, as an area of international importance. The City of Cape Town's portion of the protected environment is more than 8 400 hectares in extent.

The reserve conserves a number of vegetation types, including the critically-endangered Kogelberg sandstone fynbos. The unique landscape with its exceptional floral diversity is home to many interesting birds and animals, making the area renowned for its scenic beauty.

### BEING RESPONSIBLE

#### Please:

- Join volunteer activities
- Keep to the designated paths
- Enjoy all activities and natural beauty
- Adhere to the area's regulations
- Report illegal activities
- Take valuables with you

#### Never:

- Feed the baboons
- Remove animals or plants from the nature reserve
- Disturb nesting birds
- Litter (a bin-free area)
- Start or cause a fire
- Engage in illegal activities

# BIODIVERSITY

## Flora

Fynbos (an Afrikaans term derived from the Dutch "fijn-bosch") literally means 'fine bush' and is the dominant vegetation in the area. Small pockets of forest and thicket are present, but less prominent. It is an evergreen, fire-prone shrubland, characterised by the presence of restios, ericoid shrubs (principally in the families Ericaceae, Asteraceae, Rhamnaceae, Thymelaeaceae and Rutaceae), as well as proteoid shrubs (Proteaceae).

## Fauna

The reserve has a comprehensive bird species list, which includes the fynbos region's six endemic bird species. These include the Orange-breasted sunbird (*Anthobaphes violacea*), Cape rockjumper (*Chaetops frenatus*), Cape sugarbird (*Promerops cafer*), Victorin's warbler (*Cryptillas victorini*), Cape siskin (*Crithagra totta*) and protea canary (*Crithagra leucopterus*). A breeding pair of Verreaux's eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*) have also been spotted in the area.

Big game species are no longer present in the reserve, however smaller antelope species such as klipspringer, greysbok and common duiker are still abundant. Small mammal species such as the Smith's red rock rabbit, rock hyrax, porcupine, genet and Cape fox are also found. Predatory species such as caracal and honey badger still occur in the reserve, with the top predator species being the elusive Cape leopard.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

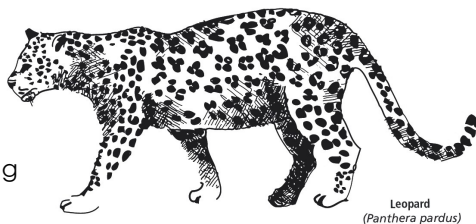
Address: Faure Marine Drive (R44), past Gordon's Bay  
GPS -34.235 233 S, 18.85212 E

Opening hours: Sunrise to Sunset  
1 Nov - 30 Apr (6 months)  
**Closed** during winter months

Steenbras River Gorge and Crystal Pools hiking  
trail bookings by email only, from 1 October.

E-mail: [steenbras.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za](mailto:steenbras.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za)

Emergency Tel: 021 480 7700 (Fire, medical, security emergencies)



For the latest updates on tariffs, opening hours, maps or any other information, please visit  
[www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves](http://www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves).