



discover a natural world



Entry to Klapmutskop is at Delvera Agri-Tourism Centre, Corner Muldersvlei Road and R44, Stellenbosch

For more information and bookings, contact
Dirtopia: +27 (0) 21 884 4752 or theteam@dirtopia.co.za

If you want to become a friend of the Klapmutskop Conservancy please contact the secretary by email: adele@delheim.com or call +27 (0) 21 888 4615 o/h



**KLAPMUTSKOP
CONSERVANCY**



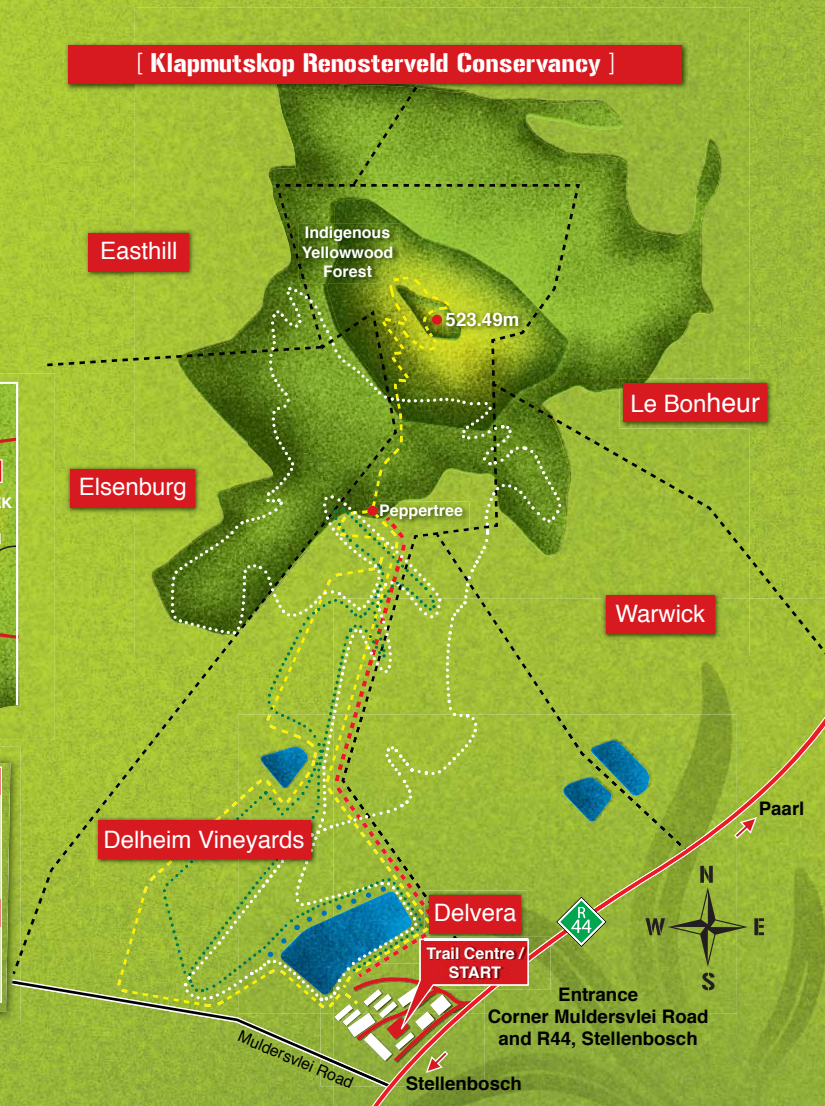
When you drive on the N1 near Stellenbosch or on the R44 wine route, you can't help but notice Klapmutskop. This modest beacon stands alone amid rare renosterveld fynbos with a crown of indigenous forest. But a quick glance from the freeway gives no hint of these hidden treasures.

This is a very special place. Visitors to Klapmutskop find themselves surrounded by natural beauty and in a place where there's also plenty to do.

Just 50 kilometres from Cape Town, Klapmutskop Renosterveld Conservancy was established in 2004 as part of Cape Nature's Stewardship Programme by the five farms that share ownership of the land - Delheim, Elsenburg, East Hill, Le Bonheur and Warwick. These wine farms act as curators of the conservancy and plough their efforts into protecting and conserving the area through sustainable practices.



TRAILS & WALKS	
	VINEYARD TRAIL (9,75km)
	VINEYARD WALK (6km)
	BIRD WALK (1,4km)
BIKE TRAILS	
	PORCUPINE TRAIL (15km)
	FARM ROUTE (1,5km)



[A haven for the nature enthusiast]

This small area – Klapmutskop is just 150 hectares in size – is bursting with wildlife and rare gems.

Swartland Shale Renosterveld

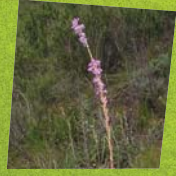
The Conservancy has one of the best examples of Swartland Shale Renosterveld, a type of fynbos that only occurs in the Western Cape lowlands and which is seriously threatened. Today, less than four percent of this unique vegetation still remains

Geological Formations

Klapmutskop is botanically significant because it is a meeting point for three different geological formations: Sandstone, Granite and Conglomerate (Magrug Formation). These formations support different vegetation types; Mountain Fynbos/ Afrontane Forest (Sandstone), Boland Granite Fynbos (Granite) and a Mountain Fynbos-Boland Granite Fynbos mosaic (Magrug).

Flora and Fauna

You can see 23 bird species, 126 indigenous plants, at least 24 geophytic plant species (bulbs/ bolplante) most of which flower during Spring, 16 trees and larger shrubs, plus a range of reptiles - such as tortoises, lizards and snakes - and mammals, including vlei rats, striped mice, duikers, dassies and porcupines.



300 Year old Yellowwood Forest - *Podocarpus elongates*

A massive fire in 2000 and the clearance of alien trees from the slopes of Klapmutskop led to the discovery, on top of the mountain, of an indigenous yellowwood forest. The Breederiver Yellowwood trees (*Podocarpus elongates*), some of which are 300 years-old, represent the southernmost patch of the species. If the author Lewis Carroll had climbed Klapmutskop, he would probably have fashioned a story around the forest because it's so mystical, magical and enchanted. The old yellowwoods creak their welcome in the wind and your path is framed by archways of branches. Miraculously surviving what nature's served up over the years, this small indigenous forest acts as a stark reminder of why conservation is so essential.

[Securing the future]

At the nursery, you can learn the Conservancy's vital work with the Millennium Seed Bank Project to propagate the seeds of rare and endangered species. Klapmutskop nursery is working closely with CapeNature and with the botanical gardens at both Kirstenbosch and Kew in the UK. The nursery also sells some species of indigenous seedlings and plants.



Klapmutskop Conservancy is playing its part in environmental education. Over the last couple of years, it has hosted field classes and outdoor classrooms for nearly 350 children from local schools. It has also provided environmental studies training – such as alien clearing and plant identification - for over 20 previously disadvantaged people.

[Hikes, mountain bike trails & more]

Dirtopia, a leading mountain bike event and trail building company, organises and runs all the trails at Klapmutskop. Dirtopia's Trail Centre office at Delvera is open 8am-5pm, seven days a week.

The hiking trail to the top of Klapmutskop takes about two and half hours and is probably the most beautiful hike in the Stellenbosch Winelands region. The views are incomparable; to take in False Bay, Table Mountain, Paarl Rock, Franschoek and the magnificent Simonsberg mountain in one sweep would thrill anyone.

From September to April, Dirtopia also runs the popular Full Moon hikes (booking essential). All year round, one can enjoy the bird walk, the vineyard walk and the mountain-biking trails, which are the only marked trails in Stellenbosch. Hikers and bikers pay a modest fee for their permit, of which 25% is ploughed back into the Conservancy. Bikes and Nordic Walking poles are available for rental.

Bring water, a hat, a lightweight jacket and walking shoes and set aside at least three hours to enjoy your visit.

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[More hidden treasures]

Nature Takes its Course

In January 2007, an intense veld fire ravaged the south-western slopes of Klapmutskop. This was the fourth fire in 64 years and it was also the worst. Although the Yellowwood forest was badly damaged, it survived. The miracle of fire is that fynbos needs to burn in order to rejuvenate itself and for the seeds to germinate. Seeds sometimes lie dormant in the soil for many years and it is only a veld fire that will provoke these hidden treasures to re-sprout and flourish again.

For this reason, it is very important that, after a fire, visitors keep to the marked paths.

The Klapmutskop Conservancy is in the process of registering as a Non Profit Organisation.

Klapmutskop is a safe place to be. It is a place where the land and the views, the animal and the plant life merge for the good of the environment as well as for the visitor's enjoyment.

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Your visit to this natural wonder of the Winelands will be rewarding to you and to the conservancy.

The agri-tourism activities, together with funding from LandCare (a Department of Agriculture programme), support the Klapmutskop Conservancy



CAPE FOX AWARD WINNER 2007