

BEING RESPONSIBLE TOGETHER

Cape Town's amazing biodiversity, including that found at False Bay Nature Reserve, is unfortunately under threat. A number of issues related to urbanisation and safety threaten the reserve. It is important, therefore, that we all work together to ensure that this area is looked after for our enjoyment and for the enjoyment of future generations.

It is everyone's responsibility to protect and enjoy our unique biodiversity and facilities.

What you can do:

- Conduct your activities in a manner that is in keeping with being in a nature reserve by not littering, causing fires, playing loud music or removing plants or animals from the area.
- Look after the investment made in infrastructure by not vandalising or damaging it. Report any illegal activities to the site management.
- Enjoy the beautiful environment and value the importance of this area.
- Respect any restrictions on activities. These restrictions are in place to protect the environment.

ACTIVITIES

The False Bay Nature Reserve offers a wide range of activities, some of which differ from section to section. These include:



Visit www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves for more information about the False Bay Nature Reserve and about other City of Cape Town nature reserves.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Directions: from Prince George Drive, travelling towards Muizenberg, turn left into Victoria Road. Then turn left into 5th Avenue and continue straight until you reach Strandfontein Road. Turn right into Dollarbird Street. At the circle take the second exit into Catbird Street, continue into Flowerpecker Street, drive through the Zeekoevlei public entrance (1).

Continue along this road and you will find the headquarters of the False Bay Nature Reserve on your right (2).

GPS coordinates: 34.053304 S 18.529179 E



See the section-specific leaflets for directions to the other parts of the False Bay Nature Reserve.

Opening hours

The opening hours of the headquarters of the False Bay Nature Reserve are Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 16:00.

Opening hours differ for the different sections of the nature reserve. Please see the section-specific leaflets for more information.

Public transport

The reserve can be reached by public transport. Contact the headquarters of the False Bay Nature Reserve for more information.

Entry fee

Some parts of the nature reserve have no entry fee. Other sections charge a nominal fee. Please see the section-specific leaflets or visit the City's website for more information (www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves).

Contact details

Headquarters False Bay Nature Reserve
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CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



FALSE BAY NATURE RESERVE

Making progress possible. Together.

INTRODUCING THE AREA

The False Bay Nature Reserve (FBNR) covers 2 300 ha and is divided into six parts, namely Rondevlei, Zeekoevlei, Pelican Park, the Strandfontein Birding Area, Slangetjiesbos and the Zandwolf coastal sections.

The FBNR is located between Grassy Park and False Bay, with Prince George Drive and Strandfontein Road being the main roads to the west and east of the reserve.

The reserve incorporates the biodiversity-worthy components of the False Bay Ecology Park (FBEP), but excludes the infrastructure of the Cape Flats Water Treatment Works and Coastal Park Landfill Site.

While these components are not easily reconciled with the idea of a pristine 'nature reserve', they form an important part of the overall area and reflect the ecological cycle present in our city: extraction, production, consumption and decomposition.

The ponds of the Cape Flats Wastewater Treatment Works also provide a rich, semi-natural habitat for many bird species.

The wetlands and associated environment of the FBNR have been recognised as the most significant natural asset of the Cape Flats District. Not only do they provide many opportunities for recreation and tourism, but they also have important biodiversity and conservation value.

Why it's so special?

The FBNR conserves endangered Cape Flats dune strandveld and critically endangered Cape Flats sand fynbos. These veld types are only found in Cape Town. This means that many of the species found here are unique and special and found nowhere else in the world.

The reserve also conserves a number of wetlands representing some of the last remaining ones of that type on the Cape Flats. The combination of terrestrial and wetland habitats, and the proximity to the ocean, provides a unique location that attracts and supports a number of species.

It is a designated Ramsar site: a wetland of international importance (especially for waterfowl), the only one in Cape Town and one of 22 in South Africa.

It is also an important bird and biodiversity area (IBA), an area that is recognised as being a globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations.



Arum lily frog



Great crested grebes



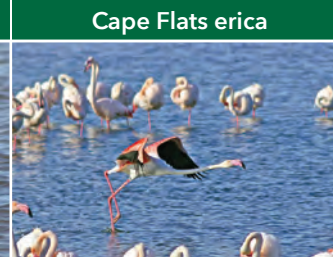
Cape grysbok



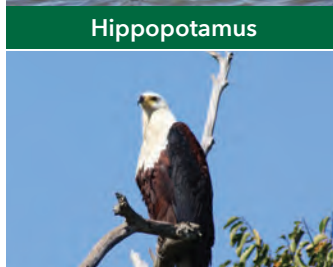
Cape Flats erica



Hippopotamus



Greater flamingo



African fish eagle



Small grey mongoose



Zeekoevlei picnic area

Migratory birds use the nature reserve as a 'staging post' along their migratory route.

Importantly, the reserve affords us many benefits. It's a natural area in the city providing opportunities for environmental education, recreation, tourism and social and economic upliftment.

BIODIVERSITY

The False Bay Nature Reserve forms an important ecological link between the Table Mountain-Peninsula Mountain Chain and the False Bay coast.

Plants

The False Bay Nature Reserve is home to more than 300 plant species, some of which are endangered.

The reserve is home to the Cape Flats erica (*Erica verticillata*) which is considered to be extinct in the wild. In recent years five plants were rediscovered around the world in botanical garden collections and propagated and reintroduced into the Rondevlei section of the reserve.

Animals

Apart from the wonderful floral heritage, the reserve also hosts an array of animal species.

At least 21 mammal species can be found, including the only population of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) in Cape Town. Other mammal species include the Cape clawless otter (*Aonyx capensis*), the small grey mongoose (*Galerella pulverulenta*) and caracal (*Caracal caracal*).

More than 240 bird species are known to occur in the reserve, with at least 84 of these breeding in the reserve. A number of Palearctic migrants spend the summer here, the southernmost extent of their migration.

Some reptile and amphibian species found in the reserve include the Cape terrapin (*Pelomedusa subrufa*), the Cape cobra (*Naja nivea*) and the endangered western leopard toad (*Amietophrynus pantherinus*).

The reserve is also home to two butterfly species listed as highly threatened: the Barber's Cape Flats ranger (*Kedestes barbarae bunta*) and the unique ranger (*Kedestes lenis lenis*).

The Cape galaxia (*Galaxia zebratus*) is the only indigenous freshwater fish present in the False Bay Nature Reserve, with the southern mullet (*Liza richardsonii*) found at the Zeekoe River mouth.