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All persons entering this conservation area and using its facilities, do so entirely at their own risk. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and/or its employees and/or agents and/or its successors in title shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft, injury, accident or death suffered by any person, howsoever caused.

Right of Admission Reserved.

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Kogelberg has three patches of relic indigenous forest: Louwsbos, Platbos and Oudebos. These patches are similar to the Knysna forests and include yellowwood, stinkwood and boekenhout trees. The Palmiet River and its associated riparian vegetation is of the most pristine in the south-western Cape. Wild almond, rooi-els, Breede River yellowwood and Cape beech are among the trees occurring in the riverine scrub along its water courses.

Much of the area's early botanical documentation was done by TP Stokoe, a Yorkshireman who emigrated to South Africa in 1911. Stokoe collected numerous specimens in the Kogelberg, many of which were named after him. His ashes were scattered near Stokoe's Bridge in the Reserve.

Animals

The Kogelberg does not have many large animals although leopards have been sighted and the Cape clawless otter may be seen in or near the Palmiet River. Smaller antelope include grey rhebuck, klipspringer and grysbok, while baboons, porcupine, mongoose, dassies and hares are fairly common.

Peregrine falcons, black eagles and fish eagles hunt and nest in and around the Reserve. An endemic freshwater crab and the endangered micro-frog are also found in the area. A herd of wild horses that were abandoned after the Anglo-Boer War, roam the flats of the Bot River estuary at Rooisand Nature Reserve.

Activities

Visitor numbers are limited and low-impact recreation that is compatible with the wilderness atmosphere is encouraged. Hikers have several options (refer to map) and should be prepared for fairly rough terrain and unpredictable weather. White water kayaking is permitted during the winter season on the Palmiet River but only for competent kayakers, as the river can be dangerous.



In the Reserve's less sensitive areas, activities include hiking, mountain biking, swimming, canoeing and angling at Rooisand Nature Reserve on the Bot River estuary, and walking with dogs near Sir Lowry's Pass Village. Accommodation is available at Oudebosch in three wooden self-catering cabins. Picnic facilities are not provided.

Take note

- Hiking, mountain biking and kayaking must be booked in advance
- Permits must be carried at all times
- Trail times make allowances for swimming and resting
- Keep to designated paths/routes to prevent soil erosion and trampling of plants
- The making of fires is prohibited
- Swim and rest only at designated sites on the trails
- Do not pick flowers, disturb animals or deface rocks
- An inland fishing license is required for fishing at Bot River estuary and can be obtained at the Kogelberg office
- The Reserve gates are open between 08:00 and 19:00

