Karoo National Park
South Africa’s Natural Heritage

Distances to the Park:
- Cape Town: 500 km
- Johannesburg: 1000 km
- Bloemfontein: 300 km
- Port Elizabeth: 540 km
- George: 220 km

Facilities
Du Schuur Interpretive Centre provides an insight into the ancient history of the Karoo, the culture and way of life of Karoo people as well as detailed information about the Karoo ecology and environment.

Bulllraal provides braai & picnic sites, a swimming pool and group catering facilities for overnight and day visitors.

Doornhof Picnic Site is a perfect place for a braai or picnic stop on your game drive.

Bird Hide near the accommodation area overlooks a reed bed frequented by weaver and bishop birds and occasionally wildlife.

Restaurant & Shop serves breakfast, dinner, group functions and provides a stock of curries, basic foods, snacks and drinks.

Conference Room can cater for up to 60 delegates, cinema-style.

How to get there
- Karoo National Park is situated on the R1 National Road, 6 km from the town of Beaufort West.
- GPS Points: 32° 27’ 43.2” S 22° 12’ 53.4” E

Additional Information
- Reservations: Tel: +27 (0)23 415 2020
- Fax: +27 (0)23 415 1671
- E-mail: karooreservations@sanparks.org
- Website: www.sanparks.org

SANParks
PO Box 297, Pretoria, 0001
643 Leibs Street, Middelham, Pretoria
Tel: +27 (0)12 429 5089

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Cover photo: Pat Heymans

Wild Card holders have free entry to national parks and other participating reserves for a year. Visit www.wildcard.co.za or call 0861 469 915.
Wide open spaces, majestic dolerite cliffs and utter tranquility await you at the Karoo National Park, conveniently located just outside Beaufort West, off the N.".

An ideal stopover point for travel between Cape Town and Johannesburg and only three hours from the Garden Route, the Park is also ideal for a family holiday or weekend breaks.

Bird watching is a treat with over 200 species of birds to be spotted. Specials include the Kori bustard, Karoo korhaan, Ludwig's bustard, Namibian sandgrouse and raptors such as bateleur eagle, pale chanting goshawk and lesser kestrel (summer visitor). Some of the best birding is around the rest camps where you can see acacia pied barbets, red-billed bulbul, Karoo scrub robin, Karoo eremomela, Namibian wabler (spring) and print bats at close range.

Activities

4x4 Trails

Explore the rugged side of the Park on the Ausaal (15km) or Nuweveld (42km) 4x4 trails with your own 4x4 vehicle. Both routes link to the Postskerkpoort Loop, which will add another 4x4km to your drive. The Koekfontein Loop (40km and Sandrivier Loop (37km) branch off the Nuweveld and Ausaal loops respectively, providing various 4x4 route options.

The Nuweveld trail includes an optional overnight stay in the comfortable and secluded Emibewani Cottage with its spectacular views of the Nuweveld Mountains. Emibewani, which means "place of ostrich", is perfect for families or groups of friends, sleeping six people.

The Piennars Pass 4x4 trail is a very challenging drive up to a plateau and hot for beginners.

Accommodation

Fully equipped Cape Dutch-style units all have stunning panoramic views of the Karoo landscape.

All accommodation is self-catering but breakfast at the restaurant is included in the price of accommodation units. Accommodation is served daily with bedding & towels provided. Eight Family Cottages have two bedrooms, each with three single beds and en-suite bathroom. There is a roomy verandah with braai unit and an open-plan kitchen/lounge with TV.

Nineten Chalets have two single beds plus a double sleeper couch in one open-plan room. Ten Cottages have a double bed in a separate room plus a single sleeper couch in the open-plan lounge/kitchen which has a TV.

The swimming pool and accommodation units are within easy walking distance of the reception and restaurant area. All accommodation has air conditioning/heating units. Three units are adapted for the mobility challenged. The award-winning camping ground provides 24 caravan and tent sites on a grassy base, each with braai facilities and electrical point. A communal kitchen, ablutions and laundry facilities are provided.

A maximum of six people per site can be accommodated.

Guided drives

Enjoy a morning (2-3 hours) or night (1-1.5 hours) guided drive, led by qualified rangers. On the night drive, you have a chance of seeing some of the Park's nocturnal animals such as aardwolf (anteater), aardvark, scrub hare and porcupine. Drives operate on a minimum of four people basis.

Guided Walks

Join our qualified ranger on a morning or afternoon walk and explore the fascinating world of the Karoo where plants and animals have developed extraordinary means of surviving the harsh conditions.

Fossil Trail

Discover the ancient Karoo and view real fossils on the 400 million long Fossil Trail which is suitable for wheelchair users. Karoo National Park offers a Carnivore Walk in the unique Karoo Basin with its large and abundant 30-million-year fossil record, covering a period of 240 to 190 million years ago. The section of dino track and discovery point displays by different animal groups through time can be more closely traced than in other fossil-bearing systems of rock strata due to the uplifting record.

Explore 136 kilometres of scenic drives and wildlife viewing roads in your own vehicle or a fascinating 4x4 tour of the Karoo ecosystem.

Towards late afternoon, the great, unyielding Karoo slowly softens into farmlands, and from pastel shades of pink and blue, the colours deepen, setting the endless Karoo canvas ablaze with glorious hues of orange and red.

Both day visitors and overnight visitors are welcome on every day of the year.

Wildlife & Nature

At the largest, most important system in South Africa, the Karoo is home to fascinating diversity of life which is adapted to survive in the harsh conditions.

A wide variety of wildlife species inhabit the Park, including lion, black rhino, zebra, eland, springbok, red hartebeest, grey rhebok, mountain reedbuck, klipspringer and kudu. Nocturnal animals such as springbok, baboon, fox, caracal and serval may be seen on the guided game night drives.

The Park boasts one of the largest concentrations of breeding pairs of black eagles in the country and prospective visitors have seen breeding pairs at inlakle lookout point.