**Code of Behaviour**

**Please do**
- Avoid penguin nesting areas.
- Report injured animals to TMNP staff.
- Respect the privacy of local residents.
- Obey traffic signage.
- Respect the quiet nature of the area.
- Keep your receipt.

**Please don’t**
- Light fires, gas stoves or “skottel braais”.
- Harass penguins.
- Use selfie sticks through fences and near penguins.
- Park in front of residents’ driveways.
- Leave personal belongings unattended.
- Litter or remove any plants or other material.
- Bring your dog. Dogs are excluded from the beaches and are allowed on Willis Walk only if on a leash.
- Have alcoholic beverages on the beach.
- Smoke on the beach or boardwalks.
- Remove any marine life, sand or shells.
- Fish. Boulders falls within the Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area and is designated as a “No Take” zone.

**Tides**
- Some beaches may be inaccessible during high tide. Please check tide tables before visiting Boulders.

**Please Note**
- Boulders Bay is a penguin sanctuary and under Navy regulations. Kayaks, boats or other vessels are not permitted to approach the beach. Please note there are no lifeguards on duty at this beach.

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**Orange Kloof Tented Camp**

*forest experience*

Overnight in a picturesque tented camp, set in the ancient Afromontane forest of Orange Kloof. Enjoy the overwhelming silence of this unspoilt, restricted-access forest.

**Slangkop Tented Camp**

*relax next to the ocean*

Nested in indigenous Milkwoods, no more than 100m from the sea, this tented camp is the ideal location for watching the sun set over the Atlantic Ocean.

**Smitswinkel Tented Camp**

*close to the point*

Set in the shadows of a weathered flowering gum plantation and perfectly located to enjoy day trips to Boulders, Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point. The only tents with en-suite bathrooms and private kitchenettes.

All the tented camps have communal ablution facilities, hot water and large communal kitchen/dining area, and are fully equipped for 12 people. Own bedding required.

**Bookings/info**

+27 21 712 7471
hoerikwaggobookings@sanparks.org
www.tmnp.co.za

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**Table Mountain National Park**

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**Boulders Penguin Colony**

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**FREE ENTRY**

for a year for Wild Card members, for more information, call 0861 GO WILD (46 9453)
www.wildcard.co.za

EXCLUDES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Boulders

Nestled in a sheltered cove between Simon’s Town and Cape Point, Boulders has become world famous for its thriving colony of African Penguins and magnificent wind sheltered, safe beaches.

Although set in the midst of a residential area, it is one of the few sites where this endangered bird (Spheniscus demersus) can be observed at close range, wandering freely in a protected natural environment.

From just two breeding pairs in 1982, the penguin colony has grown to about 2,200 in recent years. This is partly due to the reduction in commercial pelagic trawling in False Bay, which has increased the supply of pilchards and anchovies, an integral part of the penguins’ diet.

Bordered mainly by indigenous bush above the high-water mark on the one side, and the clear waters of False Bay on the other, the area comprises a number of small sheltered bays, partially enclosed by granite boulders that are 540 million years old.

The most popular recreational spot is Boulders Beach, but the penguins are best viewed from Foxy Beach, where boardwalks take visitors to the birds.

Penguin Facts

• The African Penguin is listed in the Red Data Book as an endangered species.
• Of the 1.5-million African Penguin population estimated in 1910, only some 10% remained at the end of the 20th century. The uncontrolled harvesting of penguin eggs (as a source of food) and guano scraping nearly drove the species to extinction.
• Their distinctive black and white colouring is a vital form of camouflage – white for underwater predators looking upwards and black for predators looking down onto the water.
• They can swim at an average speed of seven kilometers per hour; and can stay submerged for up to two minutes.
• Peak moulting time is during December; after which they do not feed during the annual moult. In this period, the birds lose their waterproofing and are confined to land for about 21 days. African Penguins “fatten up” before the moult, which is a period of starvation.

Nesting

Being unable to fly, penguins must construct their nests on the ground. Nests range from a shallow scrape in the open to burrows in sand or guano. They are also quick to use artificial structures.

Baby Blues

About 60 days after hatching, some are already in full juvenile plumage. The down is replaced by a waterproof blue-grey plumage in which young penguins will eventually go to sea. At this age they are called “baby blues” because of their new colouring.

Chicks

Newborn chicks are covered in down, which is not waterproof. From the age of about 30 days, both parents go to sea. Youngsters that are left alone often congregate in crèches, mainly for protection.

Moult

Old worn feathers are replaced during the annual moult. In this period, the birds lose their waterproofing and are confined to land for about 21 days. African Penguins “fatten up” before the moult, which is a period of starvation.

Adults

After a year or two, baby blues moult and attaine their distinctive black-and-white adult plumage. African Penguins generally start breeding only at about four years of age. The main breeding season starts in February. They are a monogamous species and the lifelong partners take turns to incubate their eggs and to feed their young.