

Introduction

Nestled in the rolling foothills of the Maluti Mountains of the north eastern Free State lies the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

The park derives its name from the brilliant shades of gold cast by the sun on the park's sandstone cliffs, especially the imposing Brandwag rock, keeping vigil over the main rest camp.

This 11 600 hectares of unique environment is true highland habitat, providing home to a variety of mammals – black wildebeest, eland, blesbok, oribi, springbok and Burchell's zebra - and birds, including the rare bearded vulture (lammergeier) and the equally rare bald ibis, which breed on the ledges in the sandstone cliffs. Ribbokkop, the highest point in the park, reveals a breathtaking tapestry of red, yellow and purple hues as its warm shades merge with the cool mountain shadows towards evening.

Areas of Special Interest

- The Van Reenen family graveyard
- The Impressive Brandwag buttress rock formation
- Vulture Restaurant
- Cathedral Cave (Guided Walk)
- Interesting lookout points and viewpoints - Zuluhoek lookout point, Generaalskop viewpoint, the third highest point in the park; Oribi basin and Drakensberg view

5 things to seek

1. Bearded Vulture
2. Bald Ibis
3. Black Wildebeest
4. Eland
5. Oribi

Read about Our Camps

Accommodation

[Glen Reenen Rest Camp](#)



[Rondavels](#), [Longdavels](#) and [Guest Cottages](#) with either one double and two single beds or two single and one stack bed, bathroom (shower) and kitchen with basic equipment.

Camping

- Caravan and camping sites in beautiful shaded grounds at Glen Reenen. - Ablution and barbecue facilities, scullery. - Power points in ablution block and some camp sites. - A maximum of 6 persons, one caravan/tent and one vehicle or one auto villa permitted per site. - Telephone +27 (0)58 255 0000 and Fax +27 (0)58 255 0901

[Basotho Cultural Village Rest Camp](#)



"The Free State landscape gladdens my heart, no matter what my mood. When I am here I feel that nothing can shut me in, that my thoughts can roam as far as the horizons." - Former State President Nelson Mandela wrote in his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*.

It is here where Basotho Cultural Village Rest Camp nestles on the eastern side of the amalgamated Golden Gate Highlands National Park. The camp resembles an 18th century Basotho Village. The surroundings take you back from the pathway of previous times to the modern days, here the Basotho lifestyle, architectural and hospitality is the order of the day.

The Basotho Cultural Village Rest Camp offers comfortable self-catering accommodation with splendid views where game viewing is practically enjoyed without the trouble of having to embark on a game searching journey.

The Camp also has communal braai facilities that are shared amongst families sharing the kraal and also private webber braai facilities for every chalet.

Kgotso! *We greet You in Peace*, come stay with us, dance to our rhythm, sip from our traditional beer, consult our Ngaka (Traditional Healer) and come to Lekhotla (the gathering place for men).

The tranquil and healing cultural heritage experience awaits you, Kgotso!! Pula!! Nala!!

[Highlands Mountain Retreat](#)



Close your eyes and allow your senses to totally relax. Breathe in the crisp, fresh mountain air and slowly allow your eyelids to open. Take in the awesome view of the overlapping mountain range, all the while knowing that you are standing 2200m above sea-level, the only place in South Africa at this height

A great escape for the mind, body and soul... the recently released Highlands Mountain Retreat, is a luxury camp in Golden Gate that has certainly been worth the wait. Home to eight log cabins nestled in the foothills of Golden Gate, that can accommodate 4 families of 4 each (2 bedrooms each en-suite) and 4 that can accommodate 2 persons each (1 bedroom), making this camp, a definite must visit for all.

[Golden Gate Hotel](#)



Formerly known as Brandwag Hotel, this luxury accommodation has always been synonymous with Golden Gate. A wide spectrum of services and facilities has always been offered, which stretched out onto the 34 adjacent fully-equipped chalets.

Although the hotel has undergone minor renovations over the years, a point was reached where a major upgrade was necessary. Visitors to the newly improved (and newly named) Golden Gate Hotel can expect their stay to be nothing short of fabulously luxurious. [Read more](#)

[Noord Brabant Guest House](#) – an historic Guesthouse

Noord-Brabant Farmhouse – rustic converted farmhouse – kitchen and bathroom facilities – 1 double bed, 1 sleeper couch and 3 single beds.

[Wilgenhof Environmental Education Centre](#)

[Wilgenhof Environmental Education Centre](#) has been offering professional and dynamic educational programmes for over 20 years. The well-maintained facilities include a large hall with kitchen and accommodation for 92 people.



The Centre is located in a beautiful setting overlooking the Golden Gate and the mighty peaks of Ribbokkop and Snow Hills. There is even a rock art site just a few minutes walk away.

- To view the accommodation prices, refer to [Tariffs](#)

Activities & Facilities

Activities

- Rhebok Hiking Trail (2 days and 1 night): maximum of 18 persons per group. Advance booking essential. Hikers provide all own necessities. Enquire at the reservations office. [Tariffs](#) and [Map](#)
- Short nature trails (varying from 1 hour to 5 hours): no bookings required.
- Game viewing at leisure in own vehicle.
- Holiday programmes are conducted during the April and December holidays. Enquire at reception.
- Environmental education courses (varying from 1 to 5 days).
- Bowls, tennis, table tennis and snooker (at the hotel).
- Horse riding available - please book at (058) 225 0951.
- Absailing and canoeing available for people using [Wilgenhof Environmental Education Centre](#)

Basotho Cultural Village Rest Camp

- Game viewing drives (self driven) – it is not only the game that one get to enjoy in this part of the world, one gets to enjoy rock formation, birds, grassland and the beautiful scenery that forms part of the Drakensberg and Maluti mountains.
- Museum tours – visitors get to feel the Basotho experience by tasting traditional cuisine, getting to know equipments and weapons that were used then.
- Cultural route, one gets afforded an opportunity to be taken through the Basotho culture and the way of living dating back from the sixteen century to date.
- Herbal trail, visitors are lead through this trail in order to be educated about the medicines that were used and are still by the African Traditional Healers.

Facilities

- [Conference Facilities](#) are available.
 - Cosy atmospheric pub with log fire (at the hotel).
 - Picnic site for day visitors has ablution and barbecue facilities.
 - Glen Reenen general dealer and filling station, Brandwag curio shop, licensed restaurant, coffee shop and ladies' bar. Enquire at reception.
 - Catering for conferences, weddings and other functions at Brandwag should be made direct to the hotel on +27 (0)58 255 0012 for all reservations and inquiries)
 - Swimming in natural pool at Glen Reenen.
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- Please see [detailed directions](#) from various areas: [Johannesburg](#), [Durban](#) and [Bloemfontein](#).
 - Equidistant from [Johannesburg](#), [Durban](#) and [Bloemfontein](#).
 - Easily accessible via excellent tarred road.
 - Public road runs through the park.
 - Roads in the park are tarred.

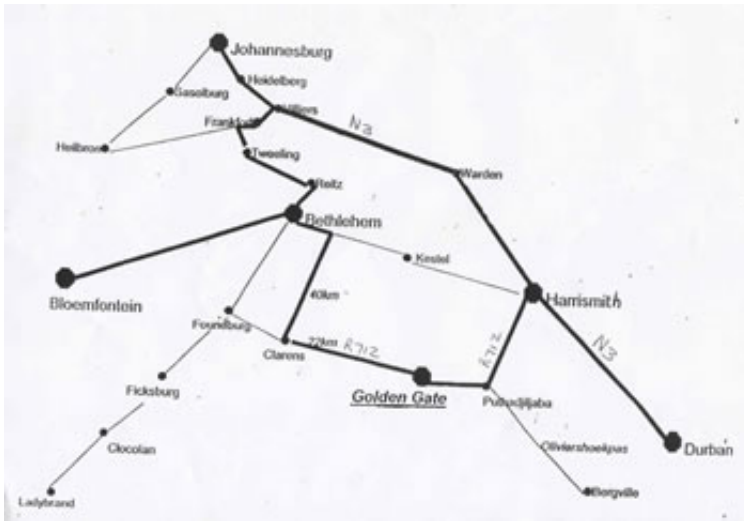
- **Basotho Cultural Village Rest Camp:**
 - It is only 55km from Harrismith and the N3. It is sited along the Maluti Drakensburg Route only 350km from Pietermaritzburg, 330km from Bloemfontein and 320km from [Johannesburg](#).
 - The village is only 42km away from the renowned Clarens, a tourist Mecca of the Free State Province through the scenic Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

Gate Times

The gates in Golden Gate do not close. The road running through the Park is a public road which does not allow for the installation of any boom gates. Gate control is done at both receptions (Golden Gate Hotel and Glen Reenen Rest Camp) on arrival.

GPS Coordinates

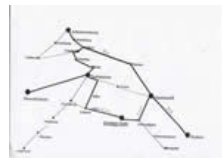
Name	X_coord	Y_coord
West Gate	28.57871	-28.50125



Click on the image for a larger view

Maps

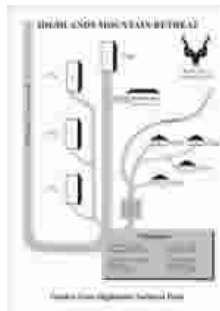
Maps
Park Map (rough)



Glen Reenan Rest Camp



Mountain Retreat Highlands Camp



Brandwag Resort



Rhebok Hiking Trail



Tariffs

- [General Tariffs Information](#)
- [Pensioners' Discount](#)
- [Daily Conservation Fees](#)
- *Members of SANParks' loyalty programme WILD do not pay conservation fees provided that proof of Identity and their WILD card are shown on arrival.*
- [Cost of a Wild Card](#)
- [View accommodation pictures and availability for Golden Gate Highlands National Park](#)
- [Wilgenhof Environmental Education Centre](#)

Daily Conservation Fees for 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012

South African Citizens and Residents (with ID):	R27 per adult, per day R14 per child, per day
SADC Nationals (with passport):	R54 per adult, per day R27 per child, per day
Standard Conservation Fee (Foreign Visitors):	R108 per adult, per day R54 per child, per day

Vital Information

Climate

Mild highveld summers with the possibility of thunderstorms in the afternoon and cold winters with occasional snow transforming the park into a [white wonderland](#).

The winter temperatures in Golden Gate can plummet to a mere -9 to -15 degrees C and that snow is a regular occurrence in the park.

Golden Gate primarily falls in a summer rainfall area (Sept to April) and the annual rainfall is approximately 760 mm per year. In very wet years this figure can rise to 1250 mm.

Day Visitors

With a public bypass road running through the park day visitors are welcome to drive through the park.

Fuel Stations: Petrol/ Diesel

Vehicle fuel is available in all parks (or is available on the park periphery):

- South African legislation stipulates that fuel stations will accept legitimate *petrol/fuel/garage/credit/debit cards* or cash as a form of payment for any fuel purchase.

Office Hours

Monday to Sunday 07:00 - 17:30.

Tips and Hints

- Pets are not allowed.
- Firearms must be declared and sealed on arrival. Seal will be broken at the reception office upon departure.
- Vehicle repair, medical, post office and police services at Clarens (17 km) or Bethlehem (\pm 60 km).
- Remember to bring a hat, walking shoes, sun block, camera, binoculars and wildlife reference books.
- Hikers on day and overnight trails must always carry sufficient water.
- Take cool and light clothing for summer and warm clothing for winter.
- Area prone to sudden weather changes.

****Visitors with reserved accommodation who arrive after 17:30 may collect the keys to their accommodation at the Security Office, Glen Reenen Filling Station.****

Contact Information

For enquiries e-mail [Golden Gate Highlands National Park](#) or phone us on the following numbers:

- Tel: +27 (0)58 255 1000
- Fax: +27 (0)58 255-1100

A Brief History



Judging by the primitive stone tools and rock paintings found at various places throughout Golden Gate, the first inhabitants of the area were the Khoisan (Bushman/Hottentot group). There is no doubt that they lived under the many overhangs which offered excellent shelter.

After the arrival of the Basotho and the Europeans (hunters, cattle farmers and Voortrekkers) on the scene, the bushman moved away during the first decade of the 19th century. In the 1830s, the first European settlers colonized the area joining Golden Gate. Many Voortrekkers trekked through this land when it was still savage and raw.

On the afternoon of 23rd September 1837, a number of Voortrekkers under the leadership of Piet Retief came into the well-known Liebenberg's Kloof. As they were planning to stay there for six days, Commandant Coenraad Meyer and some of his men asked Retief's permission to shoot game in the narrow passes which separate Golden Gate and the surrounding area. They returned to the laager with nine wagons loaded with venison and hides. This gives us an idea of how plentiful game was.



During this time, bands of marauders and assassins sent out by Shaka and Dingaan of Natal, and Silkaats, chief of the Matabele in Transvaal, massacred or scared away almost all of the black tribes in the north-eastern parts of the Free State.

After the European farmers moved into the area, many Natal people left their homes and settled in the area west of the Drakensberg—some in the vicinity of Golden Gate. Because there was no real boundary, clashes between the Free Staters and Basothos occurred mainly in this area.

The Free State Volksraad refused to appoint a border patrol, but Sir Percy Wodehouse, the governor of the Cape, was asked in 1846 to erect beacons on the Rooiberge. The first of these was erected on a very high mountain top (the present Wodehouse-kop), and a second one on Bakenkop behind the [Wilgenhof Environmental Education Center](#).

The area came under British rule for the first time when the area between the Orange and Vaal rivers was proclaimed by Sir Harry Smith. After the Battle of Boomplaas, Golden Gate remained under British rule for six more years.



During this time, the problem with stock theft surfaced again. Moshesh (pictured) led a surprise attack on Secoyella and conquered the area in which Golden Gate lies (Casalis, 1997). The Orange Free State became an independent republic in 1853, and after this numerous Basotho wars were waged. The era after the second Basotho war is of importance for Golden Gate because the farms which later became the park were incorporated into the OFS as part of the area which was conquered by the joined forces of the Transvaal and OFS.

The battles of Naawpoortshek, and the role played by Paul Kruger later in the war, led to the founding of the town of Clarens (named after the town in Switzerland where Paul Kruger died in exile). The area south and east of the Rooiberge were given to Moshesh—in other words, the area where Golden Gate is situated was still a part of Basotholand. Though Moshesh honoured the agreement, some of his followers still clashed with the inhabitants of Bethlehem. President Brand persuaded the Free State Volksraad to declare war in 1865. After the treaty of Thabo Bosio in 1869 it was decided to give all the boers who fought in the second Basotho war the opportunity to buy land along the Caledon River in order to protect the border. A.G.P van den Bosch, the surveyor-general, determined the areas of three farms, namely Noord-Brabant, Vuurland and Witsiesoorsprong.



In a historic review of the farms which later became the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Dr. A.P.J. van Rensburg related that the farm Vuurland was sold in December 1869 to Jacobus Charl Bender for R460. When it was later found that Bender did not have the full amount to buy the farm, it was confiscated by the Free State government and used as compensation for farmers who suffered stock losses during the Basotho wars.

The van Reenens bought the Vuurland farm in the valley in 1878. When moving to their new farm, the van Reenens reached the valley in the late afternoon just as the sun was setting behind two magnificent sandstone cliffs. The sun's rays casting soft and delicate shades against the sandstone cliff-face inspired the name Golden Gate.

Van Reenen named his new land Golden Gate. He was so impressed with the neighbourhood that after repeated attempts, he bought a section of Noord-Brabant (58 Morgen) in 1880 from his neighbour for only R50. In 1890,

Abraham Albertus Cilliers divided his farm between his two sons, and one portion of the portions was named Gladstone which is currently where the admin and staff accommodation is located. In 1928, the young Cilliers who owned Gladstone divided the farm further and named the other half Wilgenhof. This is where the [Environmental Education Centre](#) is situated.

Golden Gate was not spared the ravages of the Anglo-Boer wars. Everything was razed to the ground during the Second Anglo-Boer War. Some 50,000 British troops entered Bethlehem and the Boers retreated into the Rooiberge. When the Southern passes were occupied by the British, the main Boer force retreated in the direction of Golden Gate. General Prinsloo eventually surrendered.



As the Boers retreated, they abandoned their heavy ammunition wagons. To avoid allowing the British to take the ammunition, they set the wagons alight. The intense heat from this fire scorched the earth, and there are some areas in the park which are still sterile. Even now, no grass can grow there. A good example of this can be seen near Mount Pierre. A.A. Cilliers was sent to Ceylon as a prisoner of war, and Jan van Reenen was held captive in Ladysmith. All stock was raided, crops set alight and houses ransacked. The women and children were taken to concentration camps at Harrismith. However, Mrs. Cilliers and her children chose the dangers of the veld rather than the 'mercy' of the concentration camp and for many weeks took refuge in the hollow kranzes of Gladstone and Vuurland. Many groups have used caves for shelter.

In 1962, the government bought Golden Gate and handed the land over to the National Parks Board. In 1963, 4,792Ha were declared a National Park and in 1981 it was enlarged to 6,241Ha. In 1983 the park was enlarged to its present size, a total of 11,630Ha and borders Qwa Qwa National Park and Lesotho.

[Facts about the Park](#)

Mammals

Here is a brief account of the antelope species of Golden Gate Highlands National Park. See our [full mammal list](#).

1. Black Wildebeest / Swartwildebees



The black wildebeest is much smaller than the blue wildebeest and is now only found in National Parks, reserves and some farms. Both the male and the female carry horns. They have a light coloured neck mane and long horse-like tail.

They advertise their presence with a very loud two syllable call which has been described as 'ge-nu'. They feed on grasses and succulents. They are stocky yet swift. Lifespan: 20 years. Mass: 113-159kg. Shoulder height: 1.14m.

2. Blesbok



Damaliscus dorcas phillipsi These territorial grazers have the characteristic habit of standing in groups with their heads towards the sun and their heads down. Both sexes have horns. Found mainly in the Highveld, they can withstand extreme cold. If disturbed, they run upwind in single file.

Blesbok can most frequently be seen on the plains surrounding Basotho Cultural Village. Bontebok, a more colourful relative, is not found in the park. Mass: 59-80kg. Shoulder height: 93cm. Lifespan: 10-12 years.

3. Common Duiker



Sylvicapra grimmia Although mainly nocturnal, the duiker can often be seen in daylight. It is found singularly or in pairs, and is very shy. The name 'duiker' comes from the Afrikaans word meaning 'diver'. This is because the duiker looks like it is diving as it flees. It is mainly a browser, and can feed on fruits, leaves, grass and roots. It can be found anywhere in the park, and is common across Southern Africa. Mass: 12-16kg. Shoulder height: 60cm.

4. Eland



Taurotragus oryx This gregarious animal is the largest of the African antelope. Even though they appear slow, they are excellent jumpers. They are also great wanderers, and move between the hills and valleys in the park. Both sexes have horns, although those of the females are often longer.

Although normally not vocal, they produce a clicking noise with their hooves which can be heard some distance away. They are mainly browsers and are fond of young grass in areas that have been burnt. Eland have an excellent sense of smell and good hearing. Lifespan: 15 years. Mass: up to 900kg. Shoulder height: 150-175 cm.

5. Grey Rhebok / Vaalribbok



Pelea capreolus This antelope lives on the flat-topped grassy mountains in the park. They can commonly be seen on the mountains from the Rhebok Trail. They live in small family parties up to about 12 individuals. Only the males have horns. When they are alarmed, they move off with a 'rocking-horse' movement, displaying a distinctive white tail as a marker to those that follow it.

Grey rhebok are active throughout the day (diurnal) and live throughout the Cape, Lesotho, KwaZulu-Natal, eastern Free State, Swaziland and southeastern Mpumalanga. The voice has been described as a sharp cough. They have good sight, hearing and sense of smell. Mass: 18-23kg. Shoulder height: 70-76 cm.

6. Mountain Reedbuck / Rooiribbok



Redunca fulvorufula Mountain reedbuck occur mainly in small herds of between 3 and 6 animals. Only the males carry horns. It lives, as the name suggests, in mountainous areas, using rocks as cover. They mainly eat grass, although will also feed on broad leaves and twigs. Mass: 22-27kg. Shoulder height: 63-76cm.

7. Oribi / Oorbietjie



Ourebia ourebi Normally found in pairs or solitary. Only the males have horns. The oribi is a swift, inquisitive antelope that lies in tall grass. They are most often seen around the 'Oribi Loop' in the park. They are smaller and redder than the rebok. They have a short, black bushy tail which is visible when they flee. They are grazers, preferring short grass. Mass: 14-20kg. Shoulder height: 51-66cm.

8. Red Haartebeest / Rooihartbees



Alcelaphus buselaphus This social animal is found in large herds. They are grazers, preferring medium-high grass. Although they are capable of going without water for long periods, they will drink regularly in the park where water is available. Both sexes carry horns.

The illustration shows the 'pronking' posture adopted when alarmed. They can most commonly be seen on the way to Cathedral Cave. Mass: 150-160kg. Shoulder height: 120-137cm.

9. Springbok



Antidorcas marsupialis These animals live in large herds in the park and are most frequently found on the plains near Basotho Cultural Village. They are both browsers and grazers, and both sexes have the characteristic heavy ridged, lyre-shaped horns. When suddenly alarmed, springbok perform gigantic leaps which can carry them 2m off the ground. They have excellent eyesight. Mass: 36-50kg. Shoulder height: 78-84cm.s

10. Steenbok



Raphicerus campestris Found throughout southern Africa, this large-eared antelope is the smallest that we have here in this National Park. It is a swift animal that zigzags as it runs, often stopping a short way off to look back. Normally found singly except in the breeding season when it is found in pairs. It is active by both day and night (diurnal and nocturnal). Mass: 12-14kg. Shoulder height: 50-56cm.

For more information about these antelope and other animals in the park, the following book is recommended:

- Walker, C. 1996. Signs of the Wild. Struik.

Acknowledgment to the author for reference to his knowledge and pictures on this page.

Vegetation and [Grasses](#)

- [Plant List](#) for Golden Gate Highlands National Park



Structurally, the vegetation of Golden Gate can be divided into [grassland](#) and woodland/forest.

The climate is considered to be the major environmental factor that influences the floristic composition and distribution of the vegetation units. The Afromontane forest is restricted to the sheltered ravines and gorges where the necessary moisture level is maintained and the vegetation is protected from unfavourable weather conditions, as well as fire.

While in the valleys and on the south-eastern aspect of some of the slopes, the vegetation is dominated by *Leucosidea sericea* (ouhout) woodland. Isolated patches of Protea woodland (*Protea caffra*, *P. roupelliae* and *P. subvestita*) also occur.

The two dominant veld types are Highland-Sourveld and the Themeda-Festuca veld. When hiking through the park, one inevitably passes through stands of trees of which the flaking bark and silky-haired leaves are characteristic. These trees are called Oldwood (Ouhout), *Leucosidea sericea*, because of the 'old' appearance of the twisted trunks of the full-grown trees and because the wood burns like old, rotten wood. It is without doubt the most

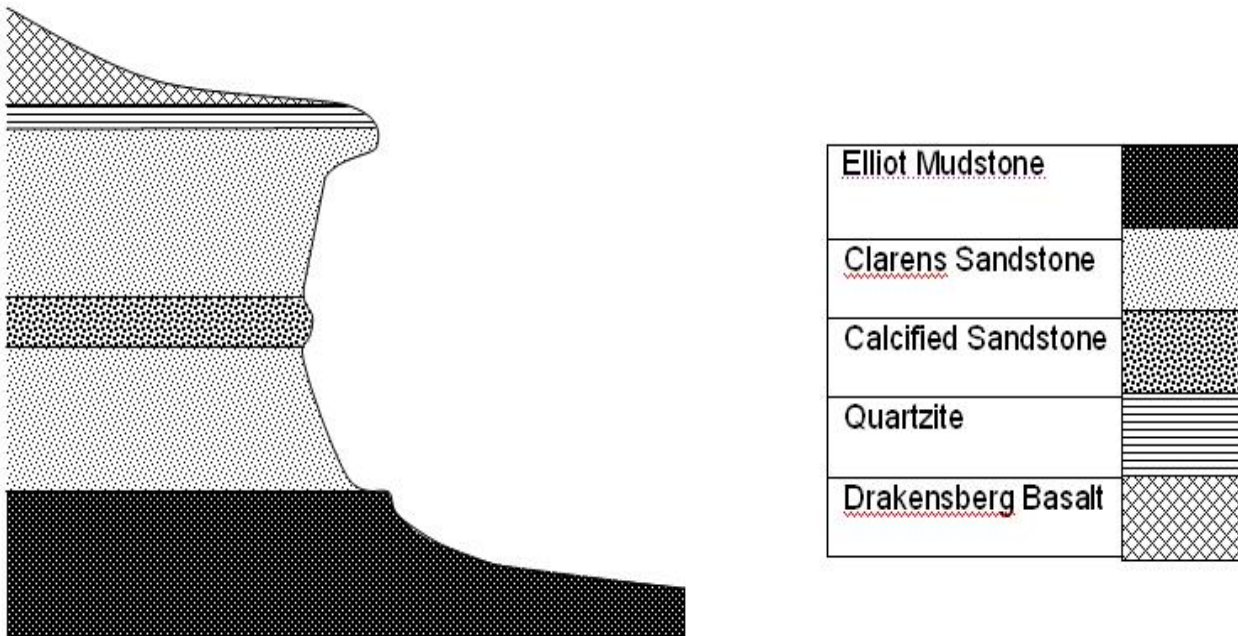
common tree in Golden Gate and belongs to the rose family (Rosaceae). An interesting fact is that no fewer than 117 species of beetles belonging to 35 different families associate with the oldwood in the park.

Golden Gate Highlands National Park is currently the only grassland National Park in South Africa. The park contains over 60 species of [grasses](#) and you can find information and pictures on the dominant grass species in the park [here](#).

Geology

There are 3 main layers of rock in Golden Gate Highlands National Park, the characteristics of which have led to the famous cliff formations present in the park today.

The red layer was created 200 million years ago when swampy rivers deposited the mud-like sediment. 196 million years ago, the area dried up and became a desert, resulting in the yellow sandstone deposits. From 160-190 million years ago, volcanic activity capped the area with a basalt layer. The rivers and streams in the park have carved the rocks into their present formations. The name 'Golden Gate' originates from the two cliffs that face each other on either side of the road: at sunset, the yellow sandstone becomes a rich gold colour.



Elliot Mudstone

Formation: Many meters of silt and mud were laid down when the area was a wetland/flood plain around 200 million years ago. When rainfall in the area dropped, the mud dried out and over time has turned into rock.

Clarens Sandstone

Formation: This rock was formed when the area was a desert 190-196 million years ago. Sand dunes built up over

time and the sand particles were squeezed together to form a weak rock.

Calcified Sandstone

Formation: Over the years, water moving through the sandstone has caused a buildup of calcium carbonate in some layers. The calcium carbonate acts as cement and holds the rock particles together making the rock harder.

Quartzite

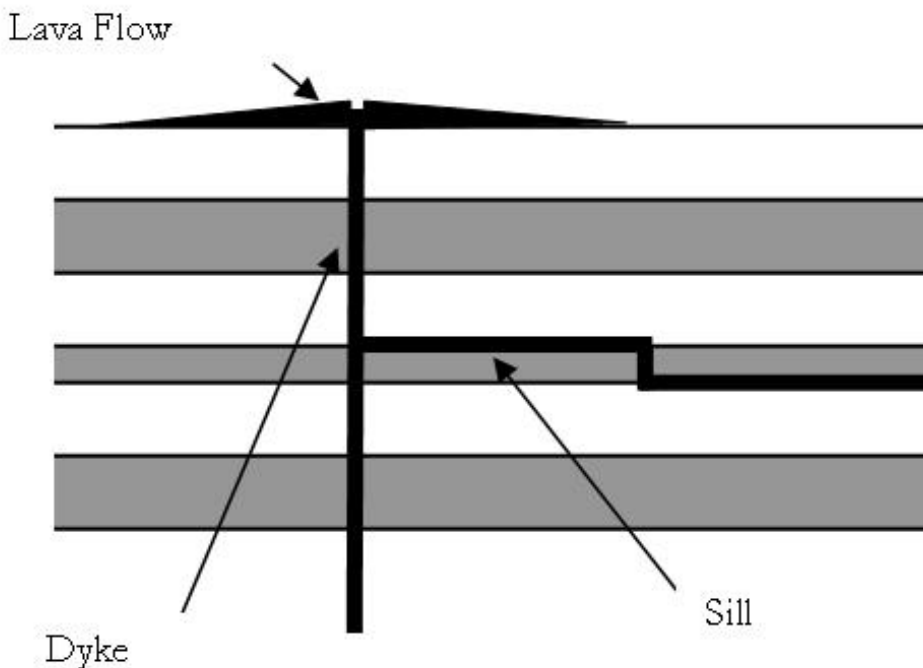
Formation: The heat and pressure of the molten lava 'cooked' the sandstone layer underneath it and turned it into quartzite—a metamorphic rock. The sand grains in the quartzite have melted together making the rock much tougher than normal sandstone.

Drakensberg Basalt

Formation: 183 million years ago, the area was volcanically active. Sheets of molten rock came out of the volcanoes and spread over the land before solidifying into basalt. This is a very hard rock, and does not erode easily. The rocks of Golden Gate show variations in toughness. Caves and overhangs are formed when an area of soft rock is eroded/weathered more quickly than the hard rock around it. This can be caused by wind, water and salt crystallization

Dykes and Sills

When pressure built up beneath the earth's surface, liquid magma was forced through the cracks in the rocks. These ancient magma-filled cracks, common in the park are called dykes and sills. They can be seen as lines of dolerite rock within the sandstone. When the magma was forced through cracks to the surface, the vertical sheet is called a dyke. Sometimes magma is injected in a horizontal sheet, especially where there are flat-lying beds of rock. The horizontal sheet of dolerite is called a sill.





An example of a dyke can be seen at Rooidraai, where you can see the dolerite dyke and the effect of the heat on the surrounding rock.



And those black marks? All around the park you can see black stripes on the rock, even long after it has rained. These are areas where water seeps out of the rocks. Minerals from the top basalt layer (manganese dioxide) are carried in the water and these stain the rocks black. The water enables organisms like algae and moss to live on the rock as well.

Conferences

Location: Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Maluti Mountains, Eastern Free State

Distance to nearest Towns: Clarens 22km, Bethlehem 53km, Harrismith 73km

Directions: N3 from JHB/ DBN – turn off at Harrismith onto the N5, 5km outside Harrismith on the N5 turn off onto the R712/711 towards Phuthadijhaba. Bypass Phuthadijhaba and continue to GGHNP, which is approximately 70km from the turn off at Harrismith.

Rooms

- 34 Self catering Chalets: (One double bed & two single beds)
- 7 Standard Rooms: (One double bed)
- 12 Twin Rooms: (Two single beds)
- 15 Family Rooms: (Two double beds)
- 1 Suite: (One double bed and separate lounge)

Facilities

Hotel Rooms

- Tea / Coffee
- TV with M-Net
- Some with Balcony
- Hairdryers
- Heaters

Chalets

- Fridge
- Stove
- Cutlery / Crockery / Cooking utensils
- Tea / Coffee
- TV with M-Net
- Heaters
- Braai Facilities
- Balcony / Patio area

Premises

- Tennis Courts
- Bowling Green
- Pool Table in bar
- Table Tennis
- Curio Shop
- Bar open from 4.00pm

Conference Facilities

(Function & Wedding Facilities also available)

- Brandwag Room – 150 pax
- Kopano Room – 90 pax
- Ribbok Room – 60 pax
- Oribi Room – 25 pax

View the floor plans for the [Brandwag Room](#), the [Oribi Room](#), the [Kopano Room](#) and the [Ribbon Room](#)

Fully Inclusive Conference Package, Day Conference Package and Half day Conference Package available

Restaurant

- Breakfast open from 7.00am – 9.30am
- Dinner open from 6.30pm – 9.30pm
- Coffee shop open from 10.00am – 6.00pm

Outdoor Activities

- Cathedral Cave Guided hike
- Canoeing on the Gladstone dam
- Hiking & Bird watching
- Game 4 x 4 drives & Limited game viewing
- Natural Swimming Pool
- Horse riding



- Abseiling
- White River rafting
- Golf in Clarens
- Fly Fishing
- Quad biking
- Paint ball shooting

Bird and Games species you may find:

- Burchells Zebra
- Vaal Ribbok
- Mountain Reedbuck
- Springbok
- Eland
- Oribi
- Red Hartebeest
- Blesbok
- Black Wildebeest
- Rare Bearded Vulture
- Large Variety of birds
- Baboons

Cultural Activities: (within 30km of hotel)

- Clarens arts and crafts village
- Basothu Cultural Village

People with disabilities

Wheelchair Access

An in-depth [accessibility profile](#) for Golden Gate Highlands National Park has been compiled. A [hotel accessibility profile](#) is also available.

Please see additional information on [Wheelchair Accessibility](#).