**Camdeboo National Park**

**South Africa's Natural Heritage**

**Camdeboo Environmental Education Centre**

This centre provides an ideal learning environment for school, tertiary education and nature-based interest groups.

Environmental education programmes of one to four days are offered to pre-booked groups of up to 45 people to promote awareness of and sensitivity towards the natural environment. The centre may also be booked for a team building or conference purpose.

**Camdeboo National Park surrounds the town of Graaff-Reinet on the N8 national road. The Park has three main entrance gates: Lakeview Gate and the Park Reception Office is located on the N8 to Middelburg, 4km out of Graaff-Reinet. The Valley of Desolation Gate and Impangele Gate are located on the R65 to Murray's Bay.**

**HOW TO GET THERE**

**DISTANCES TO THE PARK**

- Port Elizabeth: 251 km (3 hrs drive)
- Cape Town: 672 km (7 hrs drive)
- Johannesburg: 826 km (9.5 hrs drive)
- Bloemfontein: 422 km (4.5 hrs drive)

**Contact the Park**

Camdeboo National Park
PO Box 589
6290 Graaff-Reinet
Tel: +27 49 892 3333 / 6128
Fax: +27 49 892 3535

**PARK HOURS**

Gate opening times vary from 0600 to 0700 depending on season
Gate closing times vary from 1800 to 2000 depending on season.
Please check our website or the Park Office for current times.

**Out and About**

Why not explore the quaint and charming Karoo towns nearby the Park? Sample the history and cultural heritage that is cherished in Graaff-Reinet in its museums, antique shops and on township tours. Aberdeen offers historical architecture, art works and restaurants. Neuh-Bethesda is famous for its Owl House, Helen Martins' cement and glass fantasy world. Sample wholesome and creative Karoo cuisine in the restaurants of these towns and enjoy friendly hospitality.

**Wild Card holders have free entry to national parks and other participating reserves for 3 years. Visit www.wildcard.co.za or call 0861 469454.**
Discover an awe-inspiring landscape of ancient rocks, vast and timeless Karoo landscapes, explore a wildlife reserve on the shores of a picturesque lake, and experience the tranquillity of nature on the outskirts of a charming and quaint town. This is Caledonbos National Park, the dam in the town of the Great Karoo.

Visitors can explore the area in their own vehicles on 20 kilometres of touring gravel roads. The Kheisekraal Hide provides a perfect spot for game and bird watching on the floodplains of the dam.

**Explore with a 4x4**

The Kheisdoskroo 4x4 trail on the western side and Griekwakraal 4x4 trail on the eastern side of the Park provide an opportunity for visitors to explore the Park in their own 4x4 vehicles. Both trails offer spectacular scenic views over the landscape.

**Waterports**

The Nwabela Dam, which covers over 1,000 hectares, provides cool relief during hot summer days and a base for a variety of water activities. Boating, canoes, fishing, and watersports are allowed on the dam. Angling species which occur in the dam include common carp and African catfish. Permit fees apply and own equipment must be provided.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Lakeview Tented Camp and the Nwabela Campsite offer a rustic overnight nature experience on the floodplains of the Nwabela Dam. Visit www.sanparks.org to check availability, make bookings and to check details of facilities.

**Lakeview Tented Camp**

Four tented units sleep two people each. Bedding and towels are provided and each tent has camp chairs, a table, braai unit and fridge. The communal kitchen has stove plates, microwave, kettle, toaster and washing basin. Communal ablutions provide showers and toilets.

**Nwabela Campsite**

Tent sites can accommodate caravans or tents with up to six people per site. All sites have power points and braai units while the communal kitchen provides stove plates, microwave, deep freezer and benches. There are showers and toilets in communal ablutions with universally-accessible units.

The town of Graaff-Reinet offers a wide variety of bed & breakfast and guesthouse accommodation as well as restaurants, shops and other amenities. Visit the Graaff-Reinet Tourism Office for more information. www.graffreinet.com

Over 19,000 hectares embrace the town of Graaff-Reinet. The town offers visitors a journey into history and culture, preserving the most national monument sites (123) in the country as well as a wealth of museums, antique shops and other attractions.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Valley of Desolation**

Caledonbos National Park, famous for its Valley of Desolation, also called the Cathedral of the Mountains, is a declared national monument. The viewpoints at the valley provide a breathtaking view of the escarpment along the background of the Great Karoo plains and a breathtaking experience as a landscape seen to be the product of the erosive and tectonic forces of nature over a period of about 200 million years.

**Game Viewing Area**

Bird life includes such as black wattlebird, red barbet, goshawk, sand-grouse, ring-billed gull and sparrowhawk roam the area surrounding the Nwabela Dam. Small mammals such as serval, bat-eared fox and Cape fox, meerkat and scrub hare are also found in the Park. Bird enthusiasts can indulge in spotting both 295 bird species in the Park. The diverse landscape of the park supports the Nama Karoo, Thicket and Grassland biomes.