

Visitor Tips

1. There are a number of 4x4 routes that can be explored in both the eastern and western sections of the Park.
2. Day visitors are welcome and can make use of various attractions such as the Valley of Desolation, Game Viewing Area and a number of picnic sites.
3. As outdoor lighting in the camps is limited, a torch/headlamp is required when walking outside at night.

Where To Stay

Things To See

1. Nqweba Dam
2. Kwelimanzi bird hide
3. Bat-eared fox
4. Klipspringer

Accommodation

Camdeboo National Park's accommodation is situated on the floodplains of the Nqweba Dam and accessed via the Lakeview Gate on the N9 towards Middleburg. This area is part of the Park's game viewing area which is home to buffalo, antelope such as gemsbok, eland, red hartebeest and springbok, smaller mammals such as black-backed jackal and many bird species.

[Lakeview Tented Camp \(CTT2\)](#)

Four rustic furnished tents provide a relaxed nature experience. Each tent sleeps two people and has a braai unit, fridge, table and two chairs. Bedding and towels are provided. There is a communal kitchen equipped with stove plates, cooking and eating utensils and microwave. Tents are booked as individual units but there is also a communal braai area for group use. Communal showers and toilets are provided.







[View availability](#)

[Nqweba Camp Sites \(CK6P\)](#)

Fifteen caravan or tent sites are situated beneath thorn trees on a gravel substrate. Each site has a braai unit and powerpoint. A communal kitchen provides deep freeze, stove top and microwave facilities while the communal ablutions have showers, toilets and a universally accessible unit.





[View availability](#)

Please note:

Accommodation images may differ from the actual units as refurbishment of various accommodation types occur on an on-going basis.

Camdeboo National Park encircles the town of Graaff-Reinet, which has a variety of accommodation options including hotels, guest houses and a caravan park.

Contact the Graaff-Reinet Tourism Office:

Tel: +27 (0) 49 892 4248

Email: info@graaffreinet.co.za

Activities & Facilities

Activities

Daily Conservation Fee for 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017

South African citizens & Residents (with ID)	R35 per person, per day R17 per child per day
SADC Nationals (with passport)	R70 per adult, per day R35 per child per day
Standard Conservation Fee (Foreign Visitors):	R100 per adult, per day R50 per child, per day

Once you have paid entry fees at one point of entry into the park, you will not be charged when visiting other park attractions. Please note that this does not include activities.

[Valley of Desolation](#)

With an estimated 100 000 people who visit this site each year, the Valley of Desolation is a premier tourist attraction in the region.

The road to the top of the valley was tarred in 1978 and today provides tourists with easy access to the viewpoints with their panoramic views of the landscape. The viewpoints at the Valley itself provide a breath-taking view of piled dolerite columns against the backdrop of the plains of the Great Karoo and a timeless sense of wonder at a landscape said to be the product of the erosive and volcanic forces of nature over a period of 200 million years.

[Game Viewing and Birding](#)

Presently, approximately 19km of gravel roadways provide visitors with the opportunity to view the entire range of indigenous species in their preferred habitats. For birding enthusiasts, nearly 250 bird species have been recorded in the Park.

[Trails and walks](#)

The Crag Lizard Trail (45 minutes) starts at the Valley parking area and extends for about 1.5km via the Valley viewpoints. It is marked with the Crag Lizard logo.

The Eerstefontein Day Walk starts and ends at the Spandaukop gate. There are three route options of 5km, 11km and 14km with good rest spots at Eerstefontein and Agtersfontein.

The Gideon Scheepers Trail is an hour long walk, starting at the Gideon Scheepers Monument, which commemorates a historic figure, and ending at Barbergat on the R63 to Murraysburg.

There is no charge for hiking trails in the park, apart from conservation fees.

[4x4 Trails](#)

Koedoeskloof 4x4 trail (grade 3 to 4)

This trail provides a drive to the top of the mountain, providing unique and spectacular views of the landscape. The trail can be completed with a return journey following the same track in about three hours but the Karoo tranquility and scenic vistas beg for a full day outing. The turning point of the trail, which lies on top of the mountain in the Winterhoek area of the Park, is the perfect place for a picnic lunch or tea break, with a picnic table provided here.

The Koedoeskloof 4x4 trail is accessed via the Valley of Desolation gate, with the turn off to the trail well signposted about three kilometres after entering the park. No booking is necessary for those who wish to complete the trail and no fee is payable, apart from the Park conservation fee. Visitors can only attempt the trail in a 4x4 vehicle (no 2x4's with diff lock).

Driekoppe 4x4 Trail

This is a scenic grade 2 trail. Wildlife that may be seen in this section of the park includes Cape mountain zebra, kudu, mountain reedbuck, klipspringer and baboons. The flatter bottom-lands support populations of springbok, black wildebeest and ostrich. Duiker and steenbok are also common. You can follow the track past the water supply pump, to the top of Hanglip with its panoramic view of the Camdeboo plains or follow the stream bed down Wolfkloof to the waterfall. You can also walk a circular route by following the left hand turn off. Both 2x4's and 4x4's can make use of the trail.

[Watersports](#)

The Nqweba Dam, which covers over 1 000 hectares, provides cool relief during hot summer days and a base for a variety of water activities. Boating, canoeing, fishing and windsurfing are allowed on the dam (permit fees apply).

The Nqweba Dam attracts a wide variety of birds as well as wildlife such as buffalo, gemsbok, springbok and black wildebeest which come to drink from the waters. Fish species which occur in the dam include moggel (*Labeo umbratus*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), round herring (*Gilchristella aestuaria*), mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and river goby (*Glossogobius callidus*).

****No Conservation Fees will be charged for use of the Education Centre only****

Facilities

[Picnic Areas](#)

Camdeboo National Park has six picnic areas with braai and ablution facilities:

- Impunzi picnic area in the game viewing Area has four sites.
- Ribbokberg picnic area on the way to the Valley of Desolation has four sites.
- Mountain Drive picnic area has seven widely-spaced sites in the Mountain Drive area.
- Babergat picnic area has two sites adjacent to the Nqweba Dam wall.
- Piekniekbos picnic area has 12 sites on the western shore of the Nqweba Dam
- The Boat Club picnic area has four sites (for exclusive use of boat club members).



General Amenities

Facilities such as fuel stations, ATMs, banks, shops and restaurants are available in the nearby town of Graaff-Reinet. For more information on Graaff-Reinet, contact the Tourism Office on info@graaffreinet.co.za or tel: +27(0)49 892 4248.

Camdeboo Environmental Education Centre

The centre and staff offer programmes to any formal group to promote awareness of and sensitivity towards the natural environment. Courses are tailored to meet visitors' needs. A maximum of 40 people can be accommodated and visits may range from one to four days. This centre may also be booked for team building or conference purposes. However, educational groups get first option over private use.

How to get there

Directions

Camdeboo National Park surrounds the town of Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape.

To Reception, Nqweba Campsite and Lakeview Tented Camp: The gate is four kilometres out of Graaff-Reinet off the N9 to Middleburg.

To the Valley Of Desolation and Game Viewing Area: The gate is reached 5km out of Graaff-Reinet on the R63 to Murraysburg.

The nearest international airport is in Cape Town and the nearest domestic airport in Port Elizabeth.

From Cape Town, take the N1 highway towards Beaufort West. Pass through the town of Beaufort West and then turn right onto the R61 to Aberdeen. At Aberdeen, take the N9, left towards Graaff-Reinet.

- Beaufort West to Graaff-Reinet = 209 km.
- Cape Town to Graaff-Reinet = approx. 600 km.

From Port Elizabeth, take the R75 to Jansenville and Graaff-Reinet.

- Port Elizabeth to Graaff-Reinet = 251 km.

Gate Entrance Times

Valley of Desolation Gates

Jan - Feb Mar Apr May June July-Aug Sept Oct Nov