

CALITZDORP COUNTRY WALK (guided hike)

This leisurely walk changes according to the seasons to showcase all the natural beauty of Calitzdorp's countryside. Accompanied by a professional field guide, experienced nature conservationist and plant enthusiast, you will gain insight into the history, landmarks and agriculture of the area focusing particularly on the unique succulent biodiversity. Enjoy this walk either in the morning or as a sundowner stroll. Home made iced tea and biscuits are served at a look out point with spectacular views of the mountains, farming land and a quaint town of Calitzdorp.

Duration: 2 hours; Level: Easy; Cost R300 per person
Requirements: Please book 24 hours in advance. 100% deposit will secure booking.

Contact: Kevin Koen +27 71 6000 109 / karoobotanicalcollection@gmail.com. Please bring a sun hat, bottled water and comfortable walking shoes.

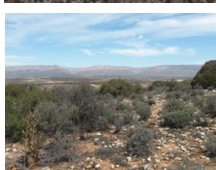
SWARTKOP HIKING TRAIL (guided hike)

The Swartkop trail is situated halfway between Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp close to the R62. Its location is on unique private property with prime examples of succulent karoo habitat. Most of similar habitat in this area was decimated by ostrich farming decades ago during the Ostrich feather era. The area abounds with quartzitic sandstone outcrops where small succulents abound.

This walk makes one appreciate the smaller treasures, learning about their survival in drought and extreme weather conditions. The walk is a must for succulent enthusiasts.

The Swartkop trail is a circular route of about 7km, but it can be adapted according to needs. It's an easy walk however loose rocks and heat in summer can be a challenge.

Departure: 7h00; Catering: lunch packs and water provided; Cost: R1200 pp. **Contact: Kevin Koen,** +27 71 6000 109



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CALITZDORP ON FOOT (guided walk)

The general architecture of the central village area of Calitzdorp is English-derived and its beauty is that of severe simplicity in the so-called Karoo style. Many of the older homes were built as "church houses" (tuishuise) for the temporary accommodation of farmers travelling to town for church services. These tiny structures—some of them almost dolls'houses—are mostly to be found in the vicinity of the DR Church, a national monument that has been the main feature of the town for 98 years.

Two routes to choose from:

- Central Village Area
- Queen Street

Contact: Kevin Taylor

Tel: +27 82 469 8143

Email: taylorklb@gmail.com

Cost: R150pp, Level: Easy, Duration: 2 hours

Requirements: Please book 24 hours in advance. Bring sun hat, drinking water and comfortable walking shoes.



Calitzdorp Hiking Trails



GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE

(marked trails)

<https://www.capenature.co.za/reserves/gamkaberg-nature-reserve>

Day Walks

The hiking trails on offer at Gamkaberg give you the chance to experience some spectacular viewpoints and natural tranquillity within the reserve. Hikers have several options including the overnight Tierkloof Hiking Trail and should be prepared for some fairly rough terrain. When hiking at Gamkaberg, always be prepared for unpredictable weather as the area experiences high temperatures in summer and gets very cold in winter.

Permits may be purchased for R50 per adult and R30 per child at the reserve office or bookings can be made via Cape Nature Central Reservations office.

The Klein Karoo falls within the Cape Floral Kingdom and is one of the botanical wonders of the world. It harbours five biomes, namely:

- Renosterveld,
- Afromontane forest,
- Fynbos,
- Succulent Karoo, and

Subtropical thicket

The Gamkaberg day trails take you through the succulent Karoo and subtropical thicket.



Guarrie Trail

Trail distance: 0.7km

Estimated time: 20 min

This short trail takes one through the lowland succulent Karoo vegetation. The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated for ID purposes and interpretation is

Spekboom Trail

Trail distance: 1.3km

Estimated time: 30 min

This trail branches off the Guarrie trail and takes you higher up onto the foothills into the spekboomveld. It offers a wonderful view of the Klein Karoo vlaktes as well as the Swartberg Range in the distance. The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated.

Mousebird Trail (Short Heritage Trail)

Trail distance: 2.5km

Estimated time: 1.5hrs

Explore this heritage trail with interpretation boards along the trail about the plants, animals, geology and fossils, and where guests can visit an authentic rock art site.

This trail takes you mainly through the Sweet thorn thicket along the valley bottom. It's a great trail for observing the wide variety of bush birds which occur on Gamkaberg. (Bird list provided in the info brochure). The 20 most common and interesting plant species are demarcated.

Pied Barbet (Long Heritage Trail)

Trail distance: 4.1km

Estimated time: 2.5hrs

Experience the heritage trail with interpretation boards along the trail about the plants, animals, geology and fossils, and where guests can visit an authentic rock art site.

Acacia Pied Barbets are often seen and heard along this trail. It branches off from the Mousebird trail and continues further up in the sweet thorn thicket along the valley bottom. Returning at a higher level through the spekboom veld it allows one a view over the sweet thorn treetops. Also great for birding but offering a glimpse into the Tierkloof Ravine where the real wilderness starts.

An option is to branch off into the Tierkloof for a km or two, as your time or fitness levels dictate, just to experience the change in surroundings as the high cliffs on either side with forest vegetation in the valley bottom makes an appearance. Just turn back and join up with the Pied Barbet trail when you have taken in the pristine views.

To Overhang and Back

Trail distance: 14.4km

Estimated time: 6hrs

This trail is highly recommended for those with a bit of extra time and fitness levels. It covers the two longer day trails (Mousebird and Pied Barbet) as well as the continuing deep into the Tierkloof which has remnants of evergreen forest vegetation below spectacular sheer sandstone cliffs all along the way. At the overhang you can have a picnic and a rest while looking over the dense vegetation further up the ravine before turning around to complete the route back to the start at the info centre.

Multi-Day Hikes

Tierkloof Hiking Trail Day 1

Trail distance: 13.2km

Estimated time: 8hrs

Tierkloof Hiking Trail Day 2

Trail distance: 11.6km

Estimated time: 7hrs

Starting in succulent Karoo, this is a moderately strenuous trail taking hikers through a deep, forested ravine to a fynbos-rich mountain plateau. Here they overnight at the remote Okraal camp and enjoy spectacular views of the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountain ranges.

Trail Preparation: Do not hike alone. Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat. Make sure to carry sufficient food, water and take along your binoculars. Permits are to be purchased via Cape Nature Central Reservations or reserve office. In winter, a raincoat/poncho is advised.

