

Frequently Asked Questions about the Kloofendal Nature Reserve

Friends of Kloofendal, September 2016.

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The Kloofendal Nature Reserve

Q Brief description of the Kloofendal Nature Reserve

A: Johannesburg City Parks (JCP) provides a brief description of the Reserve on <http://www.jhbcityparks.com/index.php/2015-04-29-12-30-27/find-a-park-contents-64?task=view&id=43>

Q: Where is the Kloofendal Nature Reserve (the Reserve)?

A: The Reserve is in the suburb of Kloofendal. The entrance (26⁰ 07' 39.56" S, 27⁰ 52' 49.95" E) is on Amphitheatre Road, off Galena Road. Maps and other information are available at our web site <http://kloofendalfriends.org.za/>.

Q: Please tell me in words how to get to the Reserve?

A: **Via the N1 from the North or South:** Turn off at 14th Avenue and turn West (away from Northcliff and towards the main ridge). Pass underneath the Hendrik Potgieter bridges and turn right into Hendrik Potgieter. Travel through several traffic lights and turn left into Christiaan de Wet drive (before the Clearwater Mall). Travel up into narrow (Struben's) valley and turn right at a traffic light (no left turn) into Wilgerood Road.

Then (*) Turn left into Topaz Road at the second traffic light. Almost immediately you meet a stop street at Galena. Turn right. The entrance to Kloofendal is on the left at the bottom of the road. Drive up to the parking and enter the reserve through the pedestrian gate.

Via Ontdekkers Road. Turn North at Christiaan de Wet and left (slip way) at Wilgerood and then follow instructions as above (*).

Q: Is food for sale or accommodation for hire in the Reserve?

A: No.

Q: Is the reserve safe?

A: We are not aware of any unpleasant personal incident in the Reserve since the Friends of Kloofendal was founded in 2003. There have been some incidences of theft from the parking area. If you have a spare wheel hanging below your vehicle you might consider reversing over the kerb in the parking area.

Friends of Kloofendal (FroK)

Q: What are the Friends of Kloofendal?

A: FroK is an interest group that tries to “look after” the Reserve in collaboration with Johannesburg City Parks (JCP). JCP are the custodians of the Reserve on behalf of the citizens of Johannesburg.

Q: How is FroK funded?

A: We receive no external funding or subsidy and obtain our income mostly from our guided walks.

Q: How is FroK structured?

A: We operate within the following “portfolios”: Please check our website for more details.

- **Environmental Education.** The main activity is 2-hour guided nature walks organised during the weekends for families. Bookings of advertised events through Joey with the FroK phone (079-593-5608). For general enquiries contact Karin Spottiswoode (011-674-2980; 072-595-6991). There is a small fee for attendance to pay our well-qualified guides and to cover administrative costs.
- **Invasive alien vegetation control.** Please join us with the programme of removal of Invasive alien vegetation. Details in the events list. Jörgen Hammarstöm (011-763-5504, 083-546-1199)
- **Environmental Maintenance.** This group works with “nuts and bolts” issues to help maintain and enhance the Reserve. Typically projects outside of JCP’s routine work are tackled. Charlie Read (011-673-1817; 083-253-0293)
- **Mining history.** This group is concerned with the Confidence Reef mine, the first mine on the Witwatersrand and situated within the Reserve. Also related items of historical interest, evidenced by the stamp mill that was moved to the Reserve. Rod Kruger (011-475-1782; 082-477-0319)
- **Cultural Events.** This portfolio was set up to bring you concerts within Kloofendal’s fine amphitheatre. Vacant.

Q: How can I become a member of Friends of Kloofendal?

A: At present we are not pursuing formal membership. Donations are welcome.

Guided walks for schools and private functions

Guided walks for schools and private functions led by our qualified nature and cultural guides can be arranged through Karin Spottiswoode (011-674-2980; 072-595-6991). Popular topics are ecology and insects. <http://kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com/schools-programme.php>

We take up to about 20 people per guide for guided walks, catering for up to 80 people at a time with four guides.

Nature Adventure Hunts are offered for larger groups. <http://kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com/nature-treasure-hunt.php>

Walking trails

Q: What is the cost of entry to the Reserve?

A: There is no cost to enter the Reserve or to walk the trails.

Q: What are the times that it is open?

A: The Reserve is open from 6:00 to 18:00 every day of the year. The Reserve used to be closed during the winter months as a precaution against veld fires. Be very careful not to start fires in the Reserve, especially when the vegetation is dry.

Q: How long are the trails?

A: There are well-maintained paths within the Reserve. Three trails are suggested in the map issued by the Friends of Kloofendal.

http://kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com/resources/Kloofendal_FroK_Aug14.jpg They are:

Wetland (Blue) 20 minutes

The Wetland walk starts just below the FroK notice board.

Struben (Green), 30 min (nominal / slow) ¹

Riverine forest, grassland, dam, Struben mine entrance

Dassie (Red), 1 hour

As for A, plus views of Reserve, quartzite outcrops, many tree species, exploration trenches

Rocky Ridge (Yellow), 2 hours

As for A & B, plus wider views, near-perennial stream (sometimes potable), exploration adits

Q: Are maps available?

A: Yes. Download from <http://kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com/> or by email from sspotty@pixie.co.za.

Q: Must a person be member of a club to do this hike?

A: No. However, normal safety precautions apply. Friends of Kloofendal are not aware of any muggings or other crimes on individuals within the Reserve since we were formed in 2004.

Q: Are guided walks available?

A: Yes, two-hour guided walks on a variety of themes are arranged by Friends of Kloofendal and led by qualified guides. Karin (contacts below) also organises guided walks for schools and private groups.

Q: Is the Reserve still accessible if there is a function in the Amphitheatre Area?

A: Yes, you may pass through the Amphitheatre area into the Reserve.

Q: Is further information available in the Reserve?

A: Friends of Kloofendal has a notice board at the entrance to the Amphitheatre area.

Q: Is further information available on the Reserve?

A: Yes, contact the Reserve Manager, Kobus Theunissen at 011-760-0143 or Karin or Steve Spottiswoode of Friends of Kloofendal at sspotty@pixie.co.za, 011-674-2980 or 072-595-6991. We

¹ Times are nominal and assume a leisurely pace and can be halved by brisk walking. Dassies may be sighted on two areas in the Dassie trail, Mountain Reedbuck on the Rocky Ridge trail and Common Duiker in the vicinity of the wetland.

have a web site at <http://kloofendalfriends.yolasite.com/>. You can subscribe to receive our newsletters and list of events at <http://www.kloofendalfriends.org.za/list/>.

Use of facilities in the Kloofendal Nature Reserve

Q: Is there any overnight accommodation in the Reserve?

A: No, except for the Campouts offered by Johannesburg City Parks.
<http://www.jhbcityparks.com/index.php/2015-04-29-12-30-27/find-a-park-contents-64?task=view&id=43>

Q: How can I book facilities in the Amphitheatre?

A: Contact Moses Madlala at Johannesburg City Parks (011-712-6600)

Q: Can I still access the Reserve if a large function is on the go in the Amphitheatre?

A: Yes, even if the facilities are hired out for private or public functions, the general public is still entitled to use the public facilities in the amphitheatre area, such as the toilets and paths leading to the two entrances into the reserve.

Picnicking is allowed. Electronic music and alcohol are not allowed except during “special events” such as concerts.

The Kloofendal Ecology Centre, the Executive lapa and braai lapa are hired out by Johannesburg City Parks at 011-712-6600. Certain rules are clearly laid out in the booking form, including:

- Noise must be limited to a level that does not disturb peace and tranquil ambiance of the reserve & surrounding environment
- Outdoor high output sound systems are not allowed
- Vehicles are not allowed on grassland except emergency vehicles
- Site is to be cleared immediately upon completion of the event
- Event must end at 18h00. If not the deposit will be forfeited
- Organisers must leave the park in a clean, tidy and undamaged condition
- Litter removal to be done by the organisers as stipulated by JCP.
- Bottles are not allowed

In order for the general public to be able to enjoy the reserve, it is important that these rules are adhered to. Having booked facilities does not mean that the organiser has exclusive use of the amphitheatre area or of the reserve

So please report breaking of the above rules to JCP (tel 011-712-6600). Not a bad idea to take photographs of littering.

Littering and excessive noise in an urban area is against the law, so this should be reported to the sector police 072-659-7279, 072-255-7243 – We hope that these numbers are not out of date! PLEASE HELP US LOOK AFTER YOUR RESERVE!