



AgulhasNPark eBulletin

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Tourism and Heritage Month

www.sanparks.org



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

World Tourism Day ~ 27 September

This date was chosen as it coincides with an important occurrence in world tourism - the anniversary of the adoption of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) Statutes on 27 September 1970. The main purpose of World Tourism Day is to create awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values. In South Africa, tourism brings in foreign revenue and exposes nations to the South African culture. Eco-tourism involves creating a tourist industry which will help the economy of a country by creating jobs while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Tourists may visit areas to see and photograph wildlife and scenic beauty. However, the numbers of tourists and methods of approach in the tourism industry must be carefully monitored to maintain the spirit and natural status of an area and avoid disturbing both wildlife and ecosystems. (SOURCE: A Year of Special Days, 2012. Sharenet)

Agulhas Tourism management

The Tourism department is managed by Duty Manager Derick Strydom, supported by Receptionists Betsie Graaff and Hester Wessels, General Workers Gerhard Adams and Bennet Temmers, Facility Attendants Agnes Adams Alecene Windvogel and Ilse Ahrends. Gate Guards for the Agulhas Rest camp were recently appointed: Andrew Macpherson, Dewald October, Ralph Snyders and Savimbi Louw. The Cape Agulhas Lighthouse reception is manned by Chandre Behr.



D. October A. Macpherson R. Snyders S. Louw

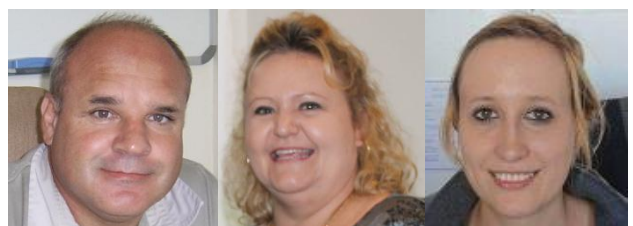


C. Behr



Tourism in Agulhas National Park

The goal for tourism in the Park is to provide a wide array of facilities, 'value for money' accommodation, activities and experiences that will support and build financial sustainability for the park with programmes aiming at a range of sustainable tourism products and activities to ensure a memorable experience for all park visitors, while having the minimal impact on conservation and biodiversity assets. The park aims ultimately to become a year round tourism destination. SANParks also endeavours to boost local economic development through providing employment opportunities, contracting out some services to stimulate the establishment of small, micro and medium enterprises. (SOURCE: Agulhas National Park Management Plan, Draft 4.4, 29 February 2012)



D. Strydom

B. Graaff

H. Wessels



A. Windvogel

G. Adams

I. Ahrends

B. Temmers

A. Adams



From l to r: E. Wessels F. Davids E. Ahrends E. Adams D. Smith B. Bantom
L. Neethling



Connecting to Society

Agulhas Tourism accommodation

Agulhas Rest camp

The main Rest camp is situated on the coast and consists of Lagoon House and chalets, 10,3km from the Park's office in L'Agulhas following the road to Suiderstrand. Lagoon House is a self-catering unit with eight beds. There are eight self-catering chalets: four double and four single, 24 beds in total. Seven more chalets will be added in the near future: one double and six single units, another 16 beds. All in all the Rest camp will sleep 40 people.



Rhenosterkop

Rhenosterkop is situated to the north of the Agulhas dunefield on the Agulhas Plain, 31km from the Park's offices in L'Agulhas, on the Struisbaai-Elim road, turning off onto the Brandfontein road. It is three self catering units with 10 beds. Rhenosterkop is a provincial heritage site.



Rietfontein

Rietfontein is situated on the southern slopes of Soetany'sberg, overlooking the ocean and coastline, 63km from the Park's offices in L'Agulhas, following the Struisbaai-Elim road, turn off at Die Damme sign and turn off again at the Uintjieskuil sign. It is self-catering with three semi-detached units (*Langhuis*), a barn unit and a "worker's house" unit, 10 beds in total. The farmstead is surrounded by a more than 220 years old stone-wall.



Bergplaas

Bergplaas is situated on the northern slopes of Soetany'sberg, overlooking the Agulhas Plains and Nuwejaars Wetlands; 36 km from Park's offices in L'Agulhas on the Struisbaai-Elim road. It is a self-catering unit with 10 beds.



Bookings: Central Reservations: +27 (0) 12 428-9111, Web: www.sanparks.org, E-mail: reservations@sanparks.org.

Seasonal discount (20%): 4 May to 19 September; T&C's apply. Rates are subject to alteration without advance notice. All rates are in South African Rand (ZAR). Tel: +27 (0) 28 435-6078, Fax: +27 (0) 435-6225.

"World Tourism Day is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of tourism to global well-being. As we travel, let us engage with other cultures and celebrate human diversity. On this observance, let us recognize tourism as a force for a more tolerant, open and united world." Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, World Tourism Day 2011.



What to do at the Southernmost Point of Africa – spirit of place experiences



Cape Agulhas Lighthouse

Visit the second oldest lighthouse in South Africa newly restored; fully operational.



Southernmost Point of Africa

Spend a memorable moment at the Southernmost Point of Africa where the mighty Atlantic and Indian oceans meet.



Boardwalks

Walk the new Southern Point and Rasperpunt boardwalks and experience the coastal fynbos, middens, fish traps and birding.



Cultural Experience

Historical farms, the stone walls stretching for kilometers along the Soetanytsberg, Saltpans, middens, fish traps, food from the veld and so much more. Learn more about all this and the huge impact the shipwreck survivors had on life and traditions in the Overberg.



Walks

Rasperpunt along the coast and ridge is an easy circular walk (5,5km); the new 2Oceans 10,5km trail to view the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Indian Ocean to the east.

Birding

The Agulhas Plains has such a rich diversity of fynbos, coastal and wetlands birds. Purchase our bird list for R10 from Reception and enjoy our feathered friends.

Fynbos

Experience the Coastal, Limestone, Sandstone and Lowland fynbos, renosterveld, wetlands and the milkwood stands.

Surrounding Attractions



Straits Harbour



Nuwejaars Wetlands
SMA



Elim Village



Elim Wine Route



Shipwreck Museum

Fly Sea & Sky for wonderful sightings; spotted during 2013 whaling season



The Shell House
Museum

Enquire about all the activities and attractions at the Park's reception in L'Agulhas or phone 028-4356078.



September events

Park week , 9 – 13 September 2013

Historical walks at the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse, Rasperpunt and the Saltpans. Book as a group of eight to ten. Contact: Emmerentia/Alliston, 028-4356078.

Cape Floral Kingdom Expo

29 August – 1 September 2013

Watch this space for 2014!!



CAPE **Floral Kingdom**
EXPO

REVIVE OUR FLORAL HERITAGE

29 August – 1 September 2013

Mega Park, Bredasdorp

www.capefloralkingdom.co.za



1 Km Braaiday, 24 September 2013

Heritage Day



The annual Elim Wine and Food celebration is at Strandveld this year!

On Saturday 28th September you can sip, savour and enjoy the cool-climate wines from Strandveld Vineyards and the rest of the Elim wine ward. There will be local food stalls, fresh produce and activities to keep the whole family entertained. For the more energetic visitor who wishes to experience the beauty of the Overberg, you can enter the Elim Wine Grower's Mountain Bike Challenge (70km, 30km or 10km) or the 10km Strandveld Trail Run. You will ride or run through the yellow canola fields and green wheat fields which are stunning at this time of year. Entrance is R50 per adult which includes unlimited wine tastings, and a branded wine glass. Children are free. For more information, please visit the website www.elimwines.co.za.



Shipwreck Trail becoming a reality

While training for their FGASA Marine and Nature Guiding Certificates, Di and Neville Norton, Robert and Hanneke van Meygaarden and Frikkie Albertyn developed the Shipwreck Hiking Trail from Cape Agulhas Lighthouse to Quoin Point Lighthouse. This is a guided trail with Slack Pack Hiking to explore the amazing coastline and give clients a once in a lifetime experience of the exciting natural environment. Sea Birds, Rocky and Sandy shores, fascinating history, exceptional vegetation, Lighthouse learning, Shipwreck studies, Ghosts and Haunts are all included. Accommodation is in **Agulhas National Park** historical houses, and all meals are catered for. Prospective hikers are met in Bredasdorp where the Shipwreck Journey begins. After a stunning sunset evening at Cape Agulhas Lighthouse the group will retire to a lovely B&B. The next morning the trail starts covering a total of about 30 kilometres over a three day period. Starting near the southernmost tip of Africa, the group embarks on a magical journey being at one with nature and easily discovering the wonders of creation....; experiencing the ultimate spirit of the place. Being a Slack-pack trail you will find it very easy and rewarding to do an extra day's hike up Soetany'sberg (249m) while staying at Bergplaas, one of Agulhas National Park's accommodation facilities. It is definitely worth it! In order to ensure a very unique experience bookings are limited to a maximum of eight guests, so book right now to avoid disappointment. (Booking accommodation with SANParks must be done in time). Contact Di Norton (dinynorton@gmail.co.za) if you would like to share this experience.

