

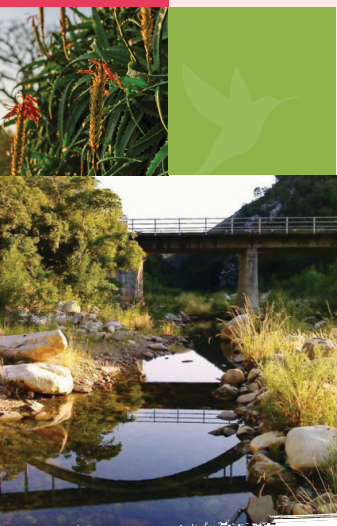


## History and Location

Van Stadens Wild Flower Reserve is a 500-hectare "floral wonderland" located on the Garden Route 35km from Gqeberha. The area is well known as a stop over for travelers arriving or leaving the city to relax. The terrain comprises southern wooded slopes, a large plateau and northern river banks, each with its vegetation type.

*The prime purpose of the Reserve is to protect and propagate the unique indigenous flora, including the rare **Sterculia alexandri**, named after English medical doctor and amateur botanist Richard Pior, born Richard Alexander.*

Visitors are encouraged to explore and enjoy the extraordinary diversity and splendour of the natural Fynbos, succulents and other indigenous flora.



The **Cyrtanthus stadensis**, whose name pays homage to Marthinus van Staden, a pioneering farmer in the area, is part of the African genus of bulbous plants. *Cyrtanthus stadensis*, a delicate brushstroke on nature's canvas, paints the landscape with vibrant hues and intricate patterns.

## Important Information

Please remember that this is a Nature Reserve:

- All plant and animal life is protected and must not be disturbed or harmed.
- Please keep on the trail at all times.
- A minimum number of two people is recommended as a safety precaution.
- Please do not smoke or light fires while on the trail.
- No dogs allowed.
- Do not litter.
- Carry at least two litres of drinking water per person.



**In case of emergency** please contact:

SAPS: 10111

Ambulance: 10177

Fire Department: +27 (0) 41 585 1555

Search and Rescue: +27 (0) 41 585 1555



|                          |                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reserve is Open Daily    | 07h30 – 18h00 (During Summer)<br>07h30 – 17h30 (During Winter) |
| General Enquiries        | Tourism Office: +27 (0) 41 585 8884                            |
| Complaints/Log a Query   | 0800 205050                                                    |
| Environmental Management | +27 (0) 41 506 5464                                            |
| Trail Permits            | No permit required/Free entrance                               |
| Associations             | Friends of Van Stadens                                         |



**Friends of Van Stadens**  
Educate and Conserve



**nelson mandela bay**  
TOURISM



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## VAN STADENS TRAIL

Linear/Circular Route

A breathtaking floral wonderland where nature's artistry is fully displayed, with **stunning views** of the **surrounding mountains** and the Indian Ocean. The Reserve promises a sensory feast of nature's abundance and various **wildflowers**, including **Proteas** and **Ericas**. Hikers can relax and enjoy areas such as the birdhide, where they can see the **abundance of birdlife**.



Duration:  
2 / 3 Hours



Difficulty:  
Easy/Moderate

7.5km

## Explore and Experience

Several picnic areas and braai areas are available for visitors' use. We encourage you to bring a picnic and relax whilst enjoying the natural environs. You may even be lucky enough to spot some of the shy Buck and small animals and birds.



**Flower House:** There is a well-maintained custom-designed 'flower house' with correctly named flowering plant specimens at the reception office to test your knowledge.



**Drives and Rides:** All the roads in the Reserve are car-friendly and open to the public. The circular route travels past the African huts and along the valley with a view of the mountain range before reaching the bridge picnic area - where you may wish to get out and take a photo of the Van Stadens motorway bridge. There are further roads crisscrossing the interior of the circular route enabling visitors to access less frequented areas of the Reserve.

**Mountain Bike Rides:** These are family friendly trails that explore the plateau section of the Reserve while appreciating the plethora of indigenous flora on display. 3Rivers Trails also offer more adventurous trails outside of the reserve. See [www.3riverstrails.co.za](http://www.3riverstrails.co.za) for more information.



**Bird Hide:** Looks out over a dam with water lilies and the Ladyslipper Mountain. The short walk to the hide starts along the access road to Forest Trail.



- 1 **Van Stadens Trail** 7.5Km  
(Combination of trails: moderate)
  - 2 **River Trail** 3.5Km  
(Circular route: easy)
  - 3 **Forest Trail** 2.6Km  
(Circular route: easy)
  - 4 **Nymph Trail:** 2.6Km  
(Circular route: easy)
  - 5 **Fynbos Ramble** 710m  
(Linear route: easy)
  - 6 **Three Dam Trail** 1.3Km  
(Circular route: easy)
  - 7 **The Arboretum** 600m  
(An old restored nursery walk: easy)
- Mountain Bike Trails**  
(Family Friendly Trails)

### Top Fauna & Flora:



- Van Stadens Sceptre
- Van Stadens Firelily
- Crowned Eagle
- Chacma Baboon
- Honeybush Tea
- Chacma Baboon