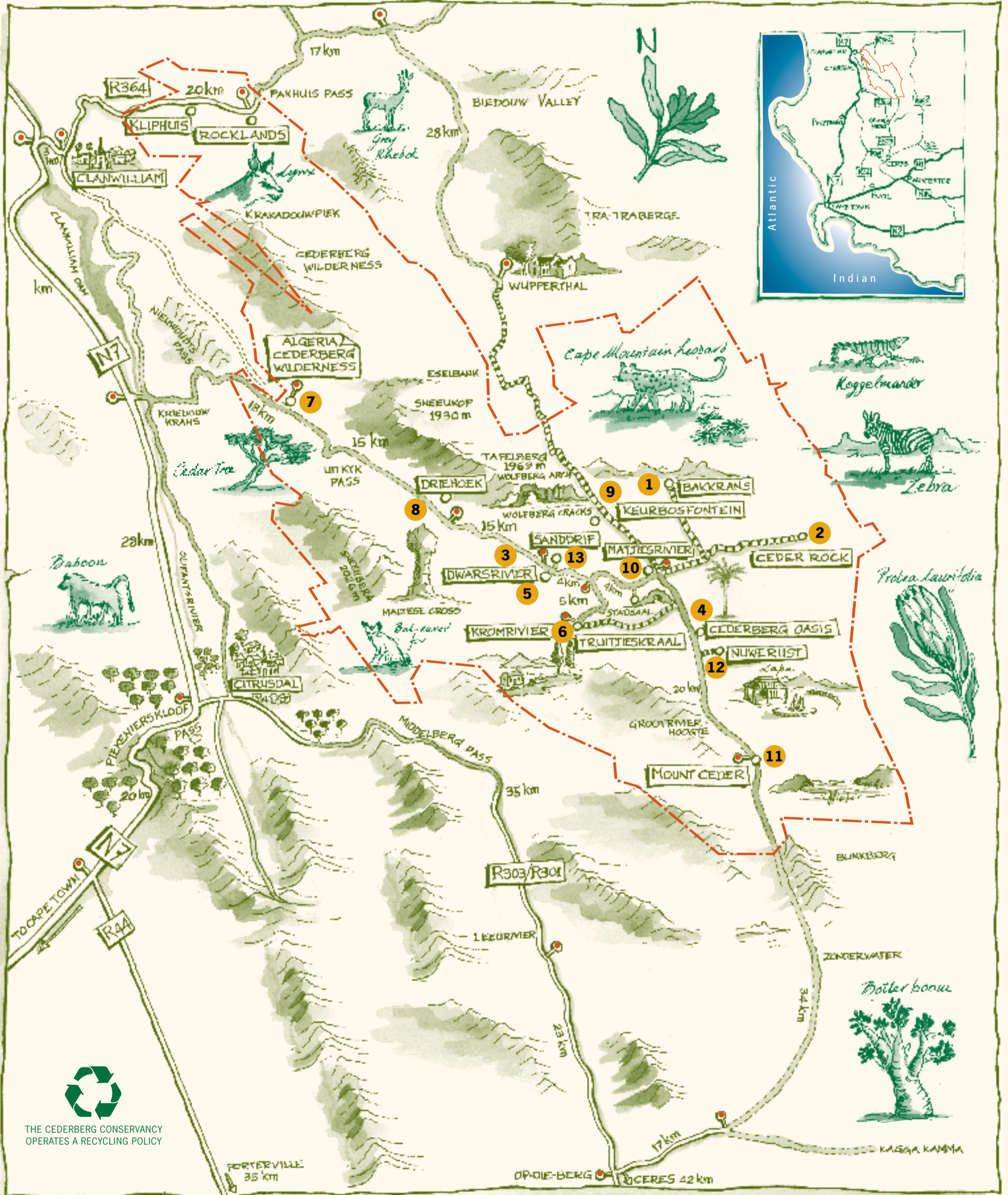


The CEDERBERG

CONSERVANCY tourist info map



www.cederberg.co.za
Emergencies: Police 10111 Ambulance 10177



THE CEDERBERG CONSERVANCY
OPERATES A RECYCLING POLICY

▲ HISTORY of the CEDERBERG

The Cederberg lies some 200km north of Cape Town. This vast region, encompasses some 162 000 hectare of rugged, mountainous terrain, stretching from the Pakhuis Pass in the north to Grootrivier in the south. The San and Khoi people inhabited the Cederberg area from early times, leaving behind a rich legacy of rock art.

European settlers began stock farming in the Cederberg in the eighteenth century, and in 1876 a forester was appointed to oversee Crown Land in the mountains. This was possibly the first attempt at conservation in the Cederberg. From 1903 to 1973, exploitation of the Cederberg's natural resources was rampant. Large amounts of dead cedar wood, rooibos tea, buchu and rockwood bark was harvested while farmers used the mountains to graze livestock in times of drought. Large numbers of cedar trees were felled as the wood was in great demand for construction – some 7 200 trees were used as telephone poles between Piketberg and Calvinia. Fires added to this destruction and the cedar tree is now on the brink of extinction. In 1967 the removal of dead cedar trees was halted, and other forms of exploitation ended in 1973 with the proclamation of Cederberg Wilderness. In 2004 the Cederberg Wilderness was declared as a World Heritage Site as part of the Floristic Region.

The Cederberg Conservancy was constituted in 1997 as a voluntary agreement between landowners to manage their properties in a sustainable manner. Conservation goals are achieved through cooperation and dedication towards the conservation of nature on private land. Landowners actively participate and support conservation projects, e.g. Stewardship, cedar restoration and leopard conservation.

▲ GEOLOGY and ROCK FORMATIONS

Tectonic plate movement and erosion, both wind and water, sculpted the Cederberg and surrounding area in to a geological wonder. The Cederberg is famous for its spectacular rock formations. The most well-known are the Wolfberg Cracks, Wolfberg Arch, Maltese Cross, Stadsaal Caves and Truitjieskraal. These rocks are composed of sandstone and shale formations of the Cape Supergroup. The formations were deposited between 500 and 345 million years ago. Some formations such as the Bokkeveld Group are rich in marine fossils such as trilobites, brachiopods and crinoids. (Please remember that all fossils are National Monuments, protected by Law, and may not be disturbed or removed). Geological processes had also cut valleys and canyons into the landscape leaving mountain peaks like Sneeuberg at 2027 m.a.s.l. and wide valley basins where farming activities take place. The most spectacular of all the valleys in the Cederberg is the Rietrivier Canyon. Situated in the south-east of the Conservancy it winds through this wilderness landscape over a distance of approximately 29 kilometers.

▲ VEGETATION

The vegetation of the conservancy area changes from Fynbos to succulent Karoo as the climate and geology change from west to east.

Fynbos vegetation is recognized by the presence of reeds (Restionaceae), ericas (Ericaceae) and many different types of Proteaceae such as sugarbush proteas, cone bushes, pincushions and spiderheads. The Cederberg fynbos is also home to the rooibos tea plant (*Aspalathus linearis*) and to many different types of buchu (*Rutaceae*) with their fragrant oils. The Conservancy is the proud custodian of the endemic Clanwilliam cedar tree (*Widdringtonia cedarbergensis*) which grow in the snowline from 1200 – 1700 m.a.s.l. Trees propagated in the Conservancy are planted back in to their natural habitat at the annual cedar tree planting events. Another endemic is the snow protea (*Protea cryophila*) which only occur on a few high peaks in the area.

The Succulent Karoo vegetation is characterised by the abundant presence of "vygie" (Mesembryanthemaceae) and Crassulaceae families. The "daisy" family (Asteraceae) is also well represented. Although the vegetation here is more sparse than the relatively "lush" Fynbos vegetation to the west, the succulent Karoo produces bright displays of spring-flowering vygies, daisies and other annual flowering plants in a good rain year.

▲ WILDLIFE

Baboons, dassies, grey rhebok, klipspringers, duiker and grysbok are fairly common. Although porcupine, honey badger, cape clawless otter and aardvark occur here, they are seldom seen. The leopard is the Cederberg's largest predator, and is fairly common although very shy. The farmers of Cederberg Conservancy were the first in South Africa to ban the use of all gintraps. The Cape Leopard Trust is very active in the area and is based at Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve. Smaller predators include African wild cat, caracal, bat-eared fox, aardwolf and cape fox. The small grey mongoose and striped polecat are often seen. Various interesting rodents occur, including the spectacled dormouse. The Cederberg is home to more than 100 bird species, with the black (Verreux's) eagle, rock kestrel and jackal buzzard as the most common raptors. The armadillo lizard is one of the endemic reptiles to be found in the Cederberg. About 16 snake species are found here, the most common are the berg adder, puff adder and black spitting cobra.

The rivers in the Cederberg are home to eight endemic fish species. All these species are threatened and include the Clanwilliam yellow fish, Clanwilliam redbin minnow and fiery redbin minnow.

▲ SAN/XAM ROCK ART

"Southern Africa probably has the richest legacy of Rock Art in the world. The Western Cape, particularly the mountainous regions from the Koue Bokkeveld, through the Cederberg to the Agter Pakhuis, may have more rock painting per square kilometre than anywhere else in Southern Africa" according to Peter Slingsby 1998. Southern African rock art has been dated to be as old as 28 000 years, with the age of the Cederberg paintings ranging from 8 000 years to 100 or 200 years. The paintings most commonly record animal scenes, and it is thought that particular animals such as eland have important symbolic religious meanings. Humans are also commonly depicted, often in procession, hunting or out gathering food. Other types of paintings show the therianthropes (half-animal half-human figures) and entoptic shapes, these have important religious meaning. (Further reading: Some views on Rock paintings in the Cederberg – by Janette Deacon, 1998 ISBN 1-875012-25-7)

▲ CLIMATE

Rainfall in the Cederberg varies from 1600mm/annum at Algeria to less than 250 mm/annum around Matjiesrivier, Oasis, Nuwerust and Mount Ceder. The west of the conservancy is mostly wet and cold during the winter while the eastern area is cold with less rain. The most rain falls during winter between May and September. It often snows on the higher parts. Summers are very hot and dry and can reach high temperatures. Lightning is the most common cause of periodic veld fires. South-easterly winds predominate in the summer while North-westerly winds indicate the possibility of rain during winter.

▲ ACCESS to the CEDERBERG

The Cederberg can be accessed from the N7 or from Ceres via the Koue Bokkeveld side – via a good gravel road. On the N7 approximately 28 km from either Citrusdal or Clanwilliam you will find the Cederberg turn-off. Alternative gravel roads exist from Clanwilliam and Citrusdal when the Olifants River is in flood. During winter contact your accommodation destination to enquire about the conditions of roads and rivers before departing for the Cederberg.

AMENITIES

1 BAKKRANS NATURE RESERVE

Tel: 027-482 2815/083-261 1934
E-mail: johan@redcederberg.co.za
Web: www.bakkrans.co.za



2 CEDAR ROCK

Tel: 021-531 8212 office hours
E-mail: info@cederbergchalets.co.za
Web: www.cederbergchalets.co.za



3 CEDERBERG ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

is privately operated and is open to the public most Saturday evenings (weather permitting).
Tel: 027-482 2825 E-mail info@cederbergobservatory.org.za
Web: www.cederbergobservatory.org.za



4 CEDERBERG OASIS BACKPACKERS

Tel: 027-482 2819
Fax: 027-482 2819
E-mail: cederberg@telkomsa.net
Web: www.cederbergoasis.co.za



5 CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

Tel: 027-482 2827
Fax: 086-509 1661
E-mail: info@cederbergwine.com
Web: www.cederbergwine.com



6 CEDERBERG TOURIST PARK – KROMRIVIER

Tel/Fax: 027-482 2807
E-mail: namapip@netactive.co.za
Web: www.cederbergtourist.co.za



7 CEDERBERG WILDERNESS – ALGERIA

Tel: 027-482 2404
Reservations: 021-659 3500
E-mail: bookings@capenature.co.za
Web: www.capenature.co.za



8 DRIEHOEK TOURIST FARM

Tel: 027-482 2828
Fax: 027-482 2828
E-mail: driehoekcederberg@gmail.com
Web: www.cederberg-accommodation.co.za



9 KEURBOSFONTEIN

Tel: 027-482 2815/083-261 1934
E-mail: johan@redcederberg.co.za
Web: www.redcederberg.co.za



10 MATJIESRIVIER NATURE RESERVE

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11 MOUNT CEDER

Tel: 023-317 0848
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Web: www.mountceder.co.za



12 NUWERUST REST CAMP

Tel: 027-482 2813
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Web: www.cederbergexperience.co.za



13 SANDDRIF

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Web: www.cederbergwine.com



▲ GENERAL RULES

For the benefit of other visitors and preserving the Cederberg, please adhere to the following general rules:

1. Do not touch or damage rock art, as this causes deterioration of the paintings.
2. Do not damage or deface rock surfaces, or use rock-bolts when climbing.
3. Do not interfere with plants or wildlife.
4. Do not litter (including toilet paper).
5. Please participate in the Conservancies Waste Management Strategy and recycle. More information at your tourism office.
6. Never discard cigarette butts, as they can cause veld-fires and are unsightly.
7. No open-fires are permitted, except at designated areas.
8. Do not use soap or detergents in or near rivers and mountain streams.
9. Pets and Quad-bikes are NOT allowed at most properties/facilities. Please confirm when making a reservation.
10. Access to outdoor recreational activities and attractions are subject to permits obtainable at various establishments.
11. When hiking stick to the path and walk in single file to prevent damage to the vegetation.
12. All fossils and Rock Art are protected as National Monuments and may not be damaged, disturbed or removed.

Recreation Facilities & Opportunities	Bakkrans	Cedar Rock	Cederberg Oasis	Cederberg Tourist Park/ Kromrivier	Cederberg Wilderness	Driehoek Tourist Farm	Dwarsrivier/ Sanddrif	Keurbosfontein	Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve	Mount Ceder	Nuwerust Rest Camp
Accommodation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bed and Breakfast				●						●	
Bird Watching	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Camping Facilities				●	●	●	●				●
4 • 4 Route	●	●						●			
Day Hikes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Overnight Hikes			●		●						●
Farm Animals	●		●	●		●		●			●
Fishing		●		●		●	●			●	
Game Viewing	●	●						●			
Historical Buildings	●			●			●	●		●	●
Horse Riding				●		●				●	
Mountain Biking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Observatory							●				
Restaurant			●	●						●	
Rock Art	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rock Formations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Seasonal Flowers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sport & Traditional Climbing				●			●		●		●
Swimming			●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Wine Cellar							●				