

WHY SET ARRIVAL DAYS –

Monday/Wednesday/Fridays

Lekkerwater is located in truly remarkable setting in a remote, picturesque part of De Hoop Reserve. The lodge and its location is packed with stories – historical, environmental, marine life and more. Lekkerwater works best when guests arrive together and enjoy the same unfolding experiences through similar eyes. A strong sense of camaraderie develops through these experiences. We therefore have set arrival days every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We understand that the set arrival days can be an inconvenience to itinerary planning, but our past guests have found that the benefits gained from everyone arriving on set arrival days are immensely positive.

OPTIMAL STAYS

Whilst we work on set arrival days of Monday, Wednesday and Fridays (i.e. 2, 2 and 3 night stays), longer stays can be accommodated. We feel that a 3 night stay is optimal for Lekkerwater, taking into consideration the location and activities available. If you are a keen walker and opt for a longer stay, please note that some hosted/ guided activities will be recurring and you would need to be comfortable with repeating the activity or enjoying your own self guided activities, or else spending time relaxing on the beach or the Lodge environs. We do have some requests for one night stays which we decline because a one night stay does not do justice to the remoteness of the destination, the travelling time and the overall experience.

ACCESS TO LEKKERWATER LODGE

Our pre-tour information sheet gives comprehensive directions to the Lekkerwater Car Park from both Cape Town or George. We recommend that you follow those directions along with a good map. Google Maps has marked Lekkerwater Beach Lodge and that does help with navigation, remembering that your car park destination is not at the lodge, but is 6km inland. We cannot take private vehicles directly at Lekkerwater Lodge due to very rough access road over the hill and the limited parking space. The car park has trees for shade and is located inside the Reserve. The drive to the car park from either Bredasdorp or Swellendam is on dirt roads. The condition of the road from Bredasdorp or Swellendam changes from day to day depending on the volume of traffic and the weather.

The road within the De Hoop Reserve from the Potberg Gate to the Lekkerwater car park is suitable for regular saloon vehicles, provided that you drive slowly and carefully. Travelling in a low bodied vehicle such as a sports car or a vehicle with low profile tyres is not recommended. Guests will be transferred from Lekkerwater's car park to the lodge in the Lodge's vehicle as per the pickup times provided. Whilst most guests self-drive to Lekkerwater, helicopter transfers are an exciting alternate way to get to the lodge (especially in whale season) with the landing spot about 200m away from the lodge. The nearest airfield for aircraft is in the western sector of the De Hoop Reserve, around an hour and half drive away from Lekkerwater making that option less practical.

REFUELLING YOUR CAR

Its best that you refuel your vehicle on the way into Lekkerwater either in Napier, Bredasdorp or Swellendam. There is only one farmer's fuel stop after that and that is often closed.

PICK UP & DEPARTURE TIMES

The scheduled arrival time is 2pm at the Lekkerwater Car Park which is located 6km inland from the lodge (or around a 30 minute drive in our 4x4 vehicle). Our scheduled check out time from Lekkerwater Lodge is at 10.30am. We ask guests to arrive at the car park at as close to 2pm as possible so that you are not kept waiting or keep others waiting. Our lodge staff will facilitate the 6km transfer from the car park to the lodge. If you are unable to arrive by 2pm please advise us in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

We are unable to assist with an early check-in or late check-outs due to the COVID deep cleaning & sanitising protocols that need to be followed. If you do have time on your hands we recommend that you enjoy a meal enroute at one of the fun and quirky places in Napier, Bredasdorp or Swellendam. The Square in Bredasdorp is a lovely lunch spot. If you are very early, you could do a short self-drive game drive around the western section of the De Hoop Reserve to the Koppie Alleen / Morukuru area and / or have lunch with the De Hoop Collection in that sector of the reserve. To access the western sector of De Hoop Reserve, you will need to follow directions to their entrance gate which is to the west of the Potberg Gate which leads to Lekkerwater.

CAPE NATURE / DE HOOP RESERVE

Gate Opening & Closing Times

Where necessary and possible, we try to accommodate later arrival times on a request basis remembering that Cape Nature's Potberg entrance gate closes at 4pm sharp. Guests need to be through this gate by 4pm otherwise you will be locked out. This is a park rule and is beyond our control. The gate opens at 07:30am in the morning.

PLANNING FLIGHTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Lekkerwater Lodge is a three and a half hour drive from Cape Town international airport (excluding stops to refuel). If you are arriving off a flight and want to make the park gate closing time of 4pm, you will need to arrive at Cape Town airport by no later than 12pm. If you are connecting onto a flight, the earliest flight that you can take is a 1pm local flight or a 2pm international flight due to the Potberg park gate opening time of 7:30am.

CHILDREN AT LEKKERWATER

Lekkerwater welcomes children 6 years and older, with the understanding that the parents are solely responsible for their children's whereabouts, safety and behaviour. Lekkerwater has one family bedroom which has an upstairs loft area with a shared open plan bathroom. All other bedrooms at Lekkerwater are standalone rooms that are not suitable for children under 12 years unless accompanied by one adult. From time to time Lekkerwater does offer exclusive use options where a family or families can book out the entire lodge for their exclusive use. On these occasions we welcome children of all ages, provided that all the parties in the group are informed and understand that we have an open swimming pool with no fences or nets and furthermore that there are high drop-offs around the lodge that are protected solely by rope balustrades.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Lekkerwater's offering tries to be as all-inclusive as possible and includes return transfers between the Lekkerwater car park and the lodge; all accommodation on a sharing basis; all lodge activities and all meals from afternoon tea on the arrival day to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. As our check-in time at the Lekkerwater car park is 2pm we do not offer lunch on arrival day.

Our offering also includes all "local drinks" in reasonable quantity and includes a variety of soft drinks, beers, house wines and a selection of gins & local spirits. It does not include shooters, tequila etc. We also have a selection of premium wines available at an additional cost. Should guests abuse the lodge's drink offerings and consume an 'unreasonable' quantity of drinks, they will be billed accordingly. If you are celebrating a special occasion and wish to bring your own premium drinks and champagnes you are welcome to do so.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

Excluded in the rate is travel insurance; gratuities to staff & guides, premium drinks and Cape Nature's park entry fee (currently R50 per person per day and R30 for children) which is payable in cash on arrival at the Potberg Gate (please note there are no credit card facilities).

HONEYMOONERS

For those planning your special occasion, we want to make sure that there is an harmonious fit between what you are wanting from your honeymoon at Lekkerwater and what the lodge can realistically deliver. Lekkerwater is a small, remote, off-the-grid lodge tucked away in an isolated part of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Lekkerwater's focus is on delivering memorable experiences in the beautiful environment and not on the bricks, mortar or gold taps that many larger resort-type hotels and lodges provide.

Whilst our accommodation and facilities are perfectly comfortable, sipping cocktails around a swimming pool, rose petals in a bath or a spa day is not our thing. If the weather, winds and tides are favourable, all or nearly all our guests want to partake in a beach lunch or beach dinner, so we are unable to offer this privately. We can pack a picnic for you to enjoy privately along the pristine coastline or a cooler box for sundowners over and above our regular activities and surprises.

We will do our utmost to make honeymooner's stays as memorable as possible so long as they are happy with the constraints that we have to live with at Lekkerwater.

OUR FOOD & WINE OFFERING

Our menus are inspired by the cultures & produce of the region as well as the no-fishing and no-foraging rules that govern the De Hoop Reserve and the marine protected area offshore. We strive to ensure that we serve fresh, locally produced and farmed products. Home style hearty meals are cooked with love and passion rather than by “fine dining” precision.

Environmental laws required the new Lekkerwater to fit into the footprint of FW De Klerk’s original “Camp David” house. We therefore have a very small developmental area and thus limited back of house and storage areas. In tandem, the lodge operates exclusively on solar electricity which restricts the number of modern, often energy guzzling appliances that we can operate. For this reason we have homely set menus that are down-to-earth that we hope you will find to your liking.

The dinner menu will be displayed in the main area from lunch time onwards. If there is something on the menu that you are not comfortable with, please advise our staff as early as possible so that they can prepare an alternative dish for you. Please also tell us in advance and remind the chefs and management on your arrival of any dietary requirements and any food allergies that you may have. Whilst we will do our best to cater to various dietary constraints, please bear in mind our severe logistical constraints. Our supplies are over a half-day round trip drive away, so we are unable to pop over to the local stores to buy and provide for last-minute requests.

We have sourced most of our wines from the surrounding Overberg Region, a notable farming and wine producing region that stretches from the Elgin Valley in the west to Swellendam and Malgas in the east. We do our best to keep to our wine list, but it may change from time to time depending on supplies & suggestions. We hope that you will enjoy exploring what the region has to offer. If you would like a copy of our wine list, please let us know.

SPECIAL REQUESTS & PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Please advise us if you are celebrating a special occasion. Our team will do everything possible to make your stay a happy and memorable one. It is difficult for us to specify in advance exactly what the lodge will arrange as our options depend on the weather and the tides. For this reason we leave it up to the lodge management team to determine on the day how to best spoil our guests taking the weather, tides and guests into consideration. It should be noted that if the weather and tides are in our favour, all our guests usually want to enjoy a lunch on the beach, so it is impossible for us to offer private dining on the beach. We can however set up a private table apart from the other guests for you to enjoy the experience.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

Surfing and fishing not allowed

We offer an integrated hosted experience at Lekkerwater Lodge. This means that we do not have a long list of activities available for guests to choose from, but specialise on guided and educational experiences that highlight what the area has to offer. Our activities are focused on the fynbos and the pristine coastline and consist mainly of exploring on foot, gorge and cave exploring and/or enjoying some feet in the sand dining when the tides and weather allows. There are a range of self guided trail options available of different difficulty and distances. As we are in the heart of a thriving Marine Protected Area no surfing, boating or fishing is permitted. You can however explore the rock pools and view the marine life with goggles and snorkels.

GUESTS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES

Lekkerwater is perched high up on stabilised coastal dune. All our activities are focused on walking the hills or along the coastline. There is a long and fairly steep walk to and from the beach to the lodge. Hence we are not ideally suited for guests with mobility issues, unless they are happy to relax in the main area and enjoy the views with a good book.

BEDROOMS

Lekkerwater has seven guest bedrooms in total. Six are double (or twin) bedded stand-alone rooms that are all the same size, all with unobstructed views onto the ocean and beaches below. In addition Lekkerwater has one larger family room. The rooms have an open plan shower and vanity area and separate toilet. The family room is larger than the other guest rooms but is reserved for families with young children. The family room consists of a double bed downstairs and a loft area with two single beds and a mattress for a third child if needed. This family bedroom shares an open plan shower and vanity area with separate toilet.

It is not recommended that children under 12 years of age stay in a standalone room unless accompanied by an adult.

All Lekkerwater bedrooms have two three quarter extra length beds that can be made up as two large singles or combined to make a super king sized bed. The beds are made up as super kings, unless specifically requested otherwise.

CAN WE BRING OUR BICYCLES

The best mountain biking or eBike cycling is within the interior of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. There is only one access road into and out of Lekkerwater Lodge which is a steep and technical and a difficult ride for most cyclists. Once you are at the lodge there are no other cycling options as off-road cycling is impossible due to the terrain park rules. The beach is very soft sand making MTB cycling, even on fat bikes almost impossible. If you do bring you bike we recommend that you arrive early and do a cycle route to and from the car park within the interior of the De Hoop Reserve and then leave your bicycle locked in your vehicle or locked on your bicycle rack. The Lekkerwater car park is unfenced and whilst we have not had any security issues, we do recommend that the bike and or trailer is locked.

WIFI

There is limited and highly unreliable cell phone signal at Lekkerwater. The lodge is connected to the outside world by satellite and that WIFI is generally reliable. There are however times when the the wifi won’t work and due to the remote location of the lodge it could take a few days to rectify. The back-up plan is to walk to the top of the hill behind the lodge where the cell phone reception is stronger.

TRAVELLING WITH PETS

It is a Cape Nature & De Hoop Reserve rule that pets are not permitted in the reserve. So unfortunately we are unable to accept a visit from your furry friends.

WHALE SEASON

The record number of whales in the De Hoop Bay in front of Lekkerwater has been 1100 whales at any one time – and the lowest has been a few hundred. The first individual whales start to arrive in mid-May/June and the last have usually departed by late November. If you are specifically wanting to view the whales, the best time for whale viewing is from mid-July to October, maybe early November. Outside of those months marine life is still abundant with regular viewings of super pods of dolphins cavorting in the waves.

DAY VISITORS

We are unfortunately unable to accommodate day visitors due to access issues; our main area which is designed to accommodate just our existing guests and our limited number of staff that we can accommodate on site.