

NATURAL



SELECTION

SAFARIS OF CHARACTER

THE DE HOOP CAMINO

Luxury Coastal Walking Trail



5 days/4 nights of guided and unguided walking in the pristine environment of De Hoop Nature Reserve exploring the reserve's rich marine, plant and wildlife. Staying in comfortable off-grid accommodation at Lekkerwater Beach Lodge and Morukuru Beach Lodge.





EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE ON FOOT... A MIX OF BEACH WALKS, SEA LIFE, FYNBOS AND WONDER.

Follow the spectacular nature walks along the scenic trails and footpaths, secluded beaches, secret coves and rugged fynbos covered coastline of De Hoop Nature Reserve, on an unforgettable nature walk. Your 5 days of blissful walking will take you from the comfort of Lekkerwater Beach Lodge to the luxury of Morukuru Beach Lodge, where you will uncover this unspoilt, untouched reserve, filled with a treasure trove of fauna, flora, fynbos, pristine beaches and abundant sea life. This is an exceptional nature based experience. The indulgence of wide-open spaces, peacefulness and gorgeous sea views will take you on an exciting journey. Simply breathe in the salty sea air and escape. This is a walk for those seeking solace in nature ... all to be enjoyed at your own pace.

ENDLESS OCEAN VIEWS WITH A WHOLE LOT OF WONDERMENT IN-BETWEEN...

DAY 1 AND 2 GUIDED AND UNGUIDED MARINE AND NATURE WALKS AROUND LEKKERWATER BEACH LODGE

Your first day on this walking trail starts with an optional 6km walk from the parking area, into Lekkerwater Beach Lodge where you will spend your first two glorious nights. The De Hoop Nature Reserve extends along the southern coast of the Western Cape and Lekkerwater is situated approximately half way along this spectacular reserve. This is an off-grid coastal escape surrounded by the rich natural history of the region, from the endemic fynbos and inter-tidal ecosystems to the remarkable mammal and birdlife.

You may spot schools of surfing dolphins, countless bird sightings (including the endangered black oystercatcher) while enjoying marine life thriving amongst the gullies and rock pools. Between July and November, Southern Right whales migrate here from the Antarctica to calve and breed in the warmer waters close to shore – making this an exceptional whale watching experience.

On day two you have the whole day to enjoy guided marine and nature walks exploring the coastline, or unguided beach and fynbos walks, swimming in rock pools (weather and tide dependant), discovering interesting fauna and flora or relaxing at the lodge soaking up the breathtaking views and glorious sunshine. Here you'll be staying in one of seven intimate suites, with a private deck overlooking a five-km stretch of pristine beach. Enjoy delicious food and your nights lying in total comfort, listening to the crashing ocean waves while breathing in the salty sea air. This couldn't be a better place to start.



“ HERE WE OFFER A NEW KIND OF LUXURY. THE INDULGENCE OF **WIDE OPEN SPACES**, PEACEFULNESS AND PRIVACY, GORGEOUS SEA VIEWS, THE **SMELL OF THE OCEAN**, BAREFOOT BEACH WALKS AND **INCREDIBLE SUNSETS...”**





DAY 3
FULL DAY COASTAL WALK TO
MORUKURU BEACH LODGE

It's time to hit the long trail! You'll spend today embarking on a leisurely self-guided 6.5-8 hour coastal walk along a walking trail from Lekkerwater Beach Lodge to Morukuru Beach Lodge, further west (your luggage will go on ahead of you). The De Hoop Nature Reserve is a 34 000-hectare conservancy, often referred to as the 'jewel of the Western Cape'. The waters of this remarkable coastal reserve have been designated as a Marine Protected Area, and the sea life flourishes here.

Today you walk the most breath-taking section of the remarkable Whale Trail (The walk between the two lodges is a significant chunk of the Whale Trail's Day 4 and all of Day 5). Enjoy 15km of endless Indian Ocean views, surrounding hills, gorges, caves and ravines. The landscape along the walk consists of a combination of beautiful sandy beaches, limestone karst rock platforms, cliffs and secluded beaches. Inland from the coast, discover large lowland fynbos.

The first section of the walk starts with lovely sandy beaches, limestone rock platforms, and at low-tide it is possible to go into the water of the rock platforms to explore the rock pools looking for the sea-life clinging to the rocks.

Once you get to the 'whale watching sign' the path drops down to a dry river bed with a deep valley entering the beach. Follow the path to explore the secluded beach and fynbos that greets you along the way. From here you stretch out into the cliff tops, with many places to stop and take in the spectacular views from the cliff's edges as you meander. This is a walk to enjoy at your own pace, we encourage regular stops and to thoroughly explore the rock pools and secluded beaches.

Finally, you get to Morukuru Beach Lodge. Where luxury awaits! Enjoy a special evening enjoying the comfort of this stylish lodge and reminiscing on the discoveries of the day. It's in reflecting back that you will get to truly value the journey that you've just taken.





“FIND YOURSELF HIKING THE MOST BREATH-TAKING SECTION OF THE REMARKABLE WHALE TRAIL ... WHICH FORMS PART OF THE WALK...”



**DAY 4
GUIDED AND UNGUIDED
MARINE AND NATURE WALKS
AROUND MORUKURU BEACH
LODGE**

Spend the day exploring the pristine coastline around Morukuru. Indulging in various activities including guided nature and tidal walks, encountering the rich diversity of sea life. There is also a guided fynbos experience which introduces you to various species of seasonal flowers. Each of these activities is a delight to experience.

This lodge is ideal for those seeking an eco-beach holiday where you can immerse yourself in the coastal nature experience. The roof top terrace at the lodge offers expansive views of the ocean, while the swimming pool and hot-tub are yours to marvel in.

Your day will be spent in total bliss. Discovering this wild wilderness, enjoying the culinary delights of the lodge and sipping sun-downers under the night sky, while listening to the crashing waves as you settle in around the crackling firepit.

De Hoop is a beautiful destination year-round. Aside from great walking, it also offers activities like nature drives, mountain biking and sandboarding. It's gentle charms changing with the seasons. During summer (Nov-March) the days are perfect for coastal adventure. Use the fresh morning air to hike out into the fynbos, then cool off with a swim in the tidal pools during the heat of the day or enjoy a beach picnic on a private dune. In autumn (April-May) and spring (September-October) the fynbos comes to life, and sunsets are all about lazy evenings enjoyed with a glass of fine South African wine in hand.

Winter (July and August) is when the Southern Right whales arrive, congregating offshore to calve, mate and generally cavort in the warm seas. This walk is without doubt a spectacular luxury walking adventure, no matter what time of the year you go on vacation.

**DAY 5
HOMEWARD BOUND**

After a delicious breakfast, you will be transferred by road back to your car at the Lekkerwater carpark. Here we bid you farewell in preparation for your onward journey.



“AFTER 5 DAYS OF WALKING ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET, WHILE REFLECTING ON THE **UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE** YOU HAVE JUST HAD AND THE **UNIQUE JOURNEY** YOU HAVE JUST BEEN ON...”



TWO PROPERTIES, TWO INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES AND SO MUCH IN-BETWEEN!

THINGS I NEED TO KNOW

- ✓ Your luggage will be transported for you between the two lodges.
- ✓ A guide is available at an additional cost for the section between Lekkerwater and Morukuru, should you not wish to walk unguided.
- ✓ De Hoop Nature Reserve is located little more than three hours' drive from Cape Town.
- ✓ The walk between Lekkerwater and Morukuru is around 15km. With stops and explorations, this section will take a good part of the day. The length of the walks at both Lekkerwater and Morukuru will depend on the levels of fitness and enthusiasm which could push the total distance walked over the five days up to 45km-50km.
- ✓ This walk needs a minimum of two guests and small groups are highly recommended.
- ✓ To get the maximum enjoyment of this experience guests need to be reasonably fit, active and agile.
- ✓ Departure days starting at Lekkerwater Beach Lodge: every Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (subject to lodge availability).

WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ A sense of fun and adventure!
- ✓ A small backpack with drinking water and a lunch-pack, sun block, swimming costume, sarong, a wide brimmed hat, binoculars and camera.
- ✓ Comfortable closed walking shoes, as well as reef shoes if you have a pair.
- ✓ A small first aid kit

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

Road transfer of you and/or your luggage from Lekkerwater carpark to Lekkerwater Beach Lodge; two nights at Lekkerwater Beach Lodge; two nights at Morukuru Beach Lodge; luggage transfers from Lekkerwater to Morukuru Beach Lodge; road transfer from Morukuru Beach Lodge to Lekkerwater carpark; all meals; all local drinks and in-lodge activities. The walk between the lodges is self-guided. But, at an extra cost, we can include the services of a guide.

WHAT IS EXCLUDED:

Transfers by road (or airplane/helicopter) to and from De Hoop Nature Reserve; park entrance fees (R50 per person per night paid in cash to Cape Nature on arrival at De Hoop Nature Reserve gate); laundry service at Morukuru; fully comprehensive travel insurance; gratuities to lodge staff and guides; and premium wines, spirits and champagnes not on the "house" list. Conservation, Community and Reserve fee (R 500 pp, pn) at Lekkerwater. Conservation & Community fee (R 100 pp, pn) at Morukuru Beach Lodge.