

Follow The Fynbos Road - Farm 215

'Farm 215' nature retreat is a 4 star country house located on the Fynbos-road between Stanford and Cape Agulhas in the Western Cape's unspoiled and more remote Southern Overberg. The lodge has been set up from the start as a sustainable operation, and this can be seen in the way it has adapted its building style to the natural surroundings and in the way it has made provision for the alternative supply of its energy requirements. It is certified by Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa and the core value is to preserve the integrity of the natural ecosystems, minimising the environmental impact of the operation and of the guests.

Farm 215 is a visionary example of sustainable tourism in the Western Cape and in South Africa. The reserve is a key part of the Cape Floristic Region, the smallest but richest floral kingdom on earth. The Western Cape, and specifically Farm 215 is actually the only habitat on earth for some of the species present. As a result it is a haven for numerous birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

The mountainous terrain of the reserve is an important local water catchment area, and waterways have been cleared of alien vegetation and re-forested with indigenous species to restore the original flow of the streams as part of a biodiversity conservation initiative. All buildings are electrified by solar-energy and have use heat exchange to regulate the temperatures by using of climate efficient building methods. The day to day operation of the guesthouse works in a supportive partnership with natural resources as much as possible.

There are numerous hiking-trails of in the reserve or botanical walks to nearby Overberg-conservancies can be arranged. The area is excellent country for horse riding. Single and multi day horse trails are offered in co-operation with new business partner, the African Horse Company. The locally bred horses live naturally on the reserve and are not stabled. These animals are particularly comfortable over the rough

and varied terrain of the Overberg, and the interest for horse back tourism is a growing trend. It is environmentally friendly way to see the countryside and low on carbon emissions.

The natural splendour of the fynbos reserve is complemented perfectly by the unique marine life in the waters of the Overberg coast. Southern right whales are abundant along the coast between July and December and choose the shores of The Cape as their favorite hangout. Great white sharks have made the area their home because of the abundance of their favorite food: the cape fur seal. African penguins and numerous rare pelagic sea birds crowd the rocks of nearby Dyer Island and pristine sandy beaches stretch into the distance around the small rocky bays and picturesque, coastal villages. There is certainly a multitude of nearby activities to consider and places to explore.

Farm 215 is clearly off the beaten track and perhaps in a rather isolated position, but here nature rules supreme. Farm 215 is not a resort, but a place where people can escape for a while from the pressures of every day life to idyllic, rural and natural surroundings.

Says owner, Maarten Groos: "We claim to cater for a niche: we appeal most to people that want to enjoy space, undisturbed views, tranquility and the special nature of the "Cape Floral Kingdom".

So – what are you waiting for?

Farm 215 – Nature Retreat & Fynbos Reserve
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farm 215 is the base station of the African Horse Company

www.africanhorseco.com