

Leopard's Trail 3.4 km

This **comfortable 3.4 km loop** takes you through soft sand and pristine coastal fynbos. It's a **flat and gentle walk** – quiet, open and full of animal tracks if you look closely. The path is always single track and too sandy for riding. This is an easy loop to enjoy at your own pace.

★ If you feel adventurous, you can follow the Leopard's Trail extension and join up with the **Eland's Trail**:

Walk for 750 metres, cross under the R27 and join the Eland's Trail. At this junction, choose between the long (turn left) and the short (turn right) routes. Both go via the restaurant and return on the straight gravel road through the main gates across the R27. Following this extended trail (from the starting point at the beginning of the Leopard's Trail and back again), **the long route is 14,8 km and the short route is 7,1 km.**

Springbok's Trail 4.5 km

This **comfortable 4.5 km trail** meanders through open land and renosterveld.

The path follows old farm tracks and gentle contours, until a steep climb takes you to the highest point on the farm. At the top, you're rewarded with vast 360° views across land and the sea. The trail is mainly on jeep track – **ideal for walking, riding or running together.**

The Springbok's Trail is a **social trail**, perfect for pairs and small groups. The **Boma** is a good place to rest, take in the view or enjoy a picnic.

Eland's Trail 10.3 km

A **deeper journey** through changing land... This **10.3 km trail** moves from soft sandveld, across old wheat fields, through rocky outcrops and up into renosterveld. It follows winding contours and has steady climbs and open views.

As you pass **waterholes**, keep an eye out for game. Enjoy birdwatching from the **bird hide**.

Consisting mainly of single tracks with some **steep downhills**, this route suits **hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers.**

The **Boma** makes a perfect halfway stop to enjoy the view or a picnic.

Please stay on the path and **carry water with you.** Leave only your footprints...

Walking at !Khwa ttu

Some of these trails follow old paths and animal tracks, across land still full of life. You'll walk through fynbos, renosterveld and coastal sandveld – each with its own feel, scent and sound. Look down as you go. Tracks and stories are often close to your feet.

There are three trails: Leopard, Eland and Springbok. You can walk them one by one, or link them together for a longer journey. At key crossings, you'll find maps and quiet guidance to help you choose your way.

Please walk with care and curiosity.

Stay on the paths. Take water with you, and leave only your footprints behind. Keep dogs on a lead at all times. Do not pick plants or disturb natural features. Respect wildlife – give animals space and watch quietly. **Take special care:** this is a fire-sensitive area. You may want to rest at the Boma – a place for stillness, a view or a picnic. A place to simply sit and listen...



FRIENDS
OF !Khwa ttu

Join our **Friends of !Khwa ttu** membership programme and you can help us to continue our work while receiving fantastic personal benefits.

Ask us for more information at Reception, or visit our website www.khwattu.org

!Khwa ttu Trails

walking • hiking • running • biking



Leopard's Trail extension 2.2 km

Leopard's Trail 3.4 km

Eland's Trail 10.3 km

Springbok's Trail 4.5 km

BIRD HIDE

To enjoy our feathered friends, follow the Eland's Trail for 450 m to reach our quiet bird hide



In case of emergency, contact Reception on (022) 492 2998 or the Duty Manager on 076 538 8032



!Khwa ttu Trails

walking • hiking • running • biking

Walking with Care

These trails are open to all, but they ask for respect in return. Please help us to protect this place by walking gently and mindfully.

- Carry water and sun protection – the land is generous, but the sun can be strong.
- Leave only footprints. Take only photos.
- Stay on the marked paths – they are there to protect plants, animals and you.
- Please keep dogs on a lead.
- Do not pick flowers, plants or seeds – they belong to the land and its future.
- Smoking is not allowed – this land burns easily.
- No fires or braais – ever.
- Take your litter home – even the small things.

Thank you for walking with care.

R27 WEST COAST ROAD, YZERFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA

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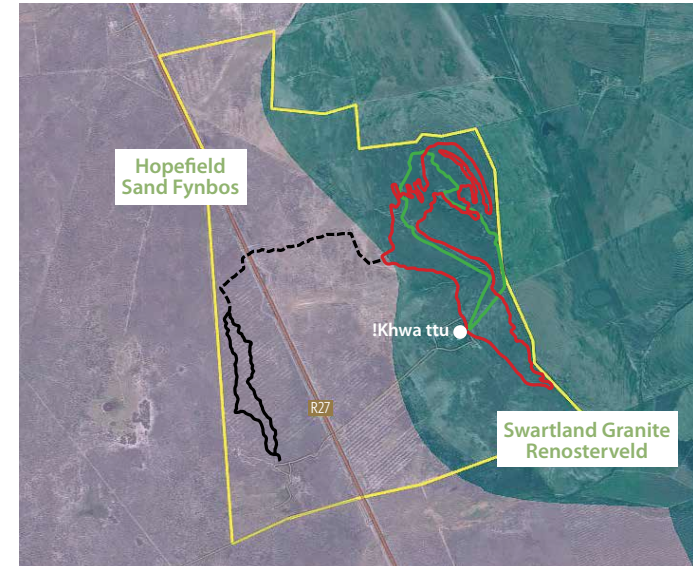
the most biodiverse places on Earth – the **Cape Floristic Region**. Our trails take you through two special vegetation types: fynbos in the lower, sandy areas and renosterveld higher up. Where the two vegetation types meet, they form a unique overlap called an **ecotone**.

For over 100,000 years this landscape sustained the early humans of the Cape: they gathered food, made medicine and followed the tracks of animals. How much of this knowledge still lives in us today?

Hopefield Sand Fynbos

(Leopard's Trail and extension)

This **unique and threatened fynbos** grows in poor, sandy soils and is found only in a small part of the West Coast, including the lower sections of !Khwa ttu. The soil may seem dry at first glance, but look closer... proteas, ericas, reeds, fragrant buchu and other tiny flowers support bees, birds and insects. These plants return each year with the rain.



Swartland Granite Renosterveld

(Eland's and Springbok's Trail)

This **critically endangered vegetation** grows in richer, finer soils. It looks shrubby, but hides many bulb plants – such as spider lilies, viooltjies and chinkerinchees – that bloom in bursts of colour. Small trees like the wild olive, renosterbos, kraalbos and wild rosemary are also part of the mix. Only a small portion of renosterveld remains today.

Conservation at Work

Restoring threatened habitats

Before !Khwa ttu was established, the land was used to farm wheat, cattle and sheep. Invasive trees like Port Jackson and rooikrans had spread widely. Since the inception of !Khwa ttu in 1999, the teams have been involved with healing the land – clearing invasive plants, planting indigenous species and reintroducing animals such as eland, which were once common across the West Coast.

Between 2015 and 2018, a long drought hit the West Coast. For three years the rain didn't come, and plants and animals began to suffer. At !Khwa ttu, the drought led to biodiversity loss, soil damage and overgrazing as wildlife searched for food.

In 2022, we launched a two-year, San-led **restoration pilot project** to test the best ways to heal the damaged land. We loosened compacted soil, removed invasive trees, replanted native species and put up owl boxes to support natural pest control. We also fenced a critical area of 50 hectares on the higher part of the koppie to protect it from heavy grazing.

The lessons from this pilot now guide a full restoration plan, led by the !Khwa ttu Green Team.



Moraea fugax (Soet untjie)

Why it matters

The land around us is central to the stories we tell and the food we serve. Many ingredients in our kitchen, as well as our Wellness Brew, are foraged right here, lowering our footprint and deepening our connection to place.

But these plant communities – the Hopefield Sand Fynbos and Swartland Granite Renosterveld – are in trouble. Over 40% of the fynbos and more than 95% of the renosterveld has been lost to agriculture and development. What remains is isolated and fragile.

These ecosystems are not only beautiful... they clean water, protect soil, support pollinators and store carbon. For the San, they are also living heritage: places of food, medicine and memory.

Our restoration work is about more than plants... It's about healing the land and honouring a way of life that sees humans as part of nature, not separate from it.

Be Part of the Story

- Join one of our San-guided fynbos-based experiences or purchase one of our *Gathering Fynbos* books.
- Support our restoration work by helping us list the biodiversity of our 850-hectare conservation area – join the !Khwa ttu project on iNaturalist.
- Become a Friend of !Khwa ttu and walk this journey with us. Chat to Reception, they will be happy to help

Species to Spot

Who shares these trails with you?

Eland, bontebok and leopard once roamed freely across the West Coast. Over time, their numbers dropped – some nearly vanished. At !Khwa ttu, we've brought back eland (revered by the San), endangered bontebok, vulnerable Cape mountain zebra, black wildebeest and springbok. Indigenous species such as steenbok, duiker, caracal, Cape fox, porcupine and African wildcat have returned on their own, along with many birds and reptiles. And recently, we've spotted a Cape leopard again – caught on our security cameras, moving quietly through the landscape.

You might not see them all, but you'll know that they are near – watch for tracks, scat, feathers and quills as you walk.

Scan the QR code to view our bird list or visit reception for a printed copy.



Plant portraits

The true splendour of fynbos and renosterveld comes to light during August and September. But with over 300 indigenous plant species recorded in the conservation area, there's always something to see along the trails. Grab a copy of our *Gathering Fynbos: Archaeobotany of the West Coast* booklet from the shop to learn more.

Here are a few favourites you might spot:



Saldanha Pincushion Endangered
Leucospermum tomentosum

A striking member of the protea family that grows only near the coast. Many can be seen on the Leopard's Trail. Stop and inhale the sweet scent of the flowers.



Chandelier Lily/Kandelaarblom
Brunsvigia orientalis

This poisonous plant was used for arrow poison and wound dressing, and is commonly used medicinally to this day. It flowers in late summer.



Spider Lily/Spinnekopblom
Ferraria crispa

Flowering in the renosterveld from July to September, the Spider Lily produces carrion-scented, star-shaped blooms. The edible corms (underground storage organs) were traditionally baked in a fire and eaten as a source of starch.



Chinkerinchee/Tjienkerientjee
Ornithogalum thyrsoides

'Chinks', with their star-shaped white flowers, appear in the renosterveld during spring, often in spectacular mass displays. The Afrikaans vernacular name *Tjienkerientjee* is a reference to the 'chink' sound made when fresh stalks rub against one another.