

## History and Location

Located on the little Swartkops River, Bethelsdorp was established in June 1803 by Dr Johannes Theodorus Van Der Kemp and was the first organised settlement in the Algoa Bay area, bar the military command post at Fort Frederick.



The British authorities looked upon such a mission as a means of reconciling with the Khoikhoi who had taken up arms against the colonial authorities and was established as a refuge for the destitute.

*At the entrance of the reserve, one can still see the original historical treasures of the settlement.*

The nature part of the Trail proceeds up the kloof into the Van Der Kemp's kloof Nature Reserve returning along the plateau through botanically interesting grassy Fynbos, with magnificent views across the Swartkops Valley and Algoa Bay.

Visitors to the Reserve can enjoy hiking trails, picnic areas, and stunning views of the indigenous vegetation and rugged valley. The Reserve is dedicated to protecting and preserving the unique flora and fauna of the Eastern Cape region and offers educational programs and opportunities for community engagement in environmental stewardship.

## Important Information

Please remember that this is a Nature Reserve:

- All plant and animal life is protected and must not be disturbed or harmed.
- Please keep on the Trail at all times.
- A minimum number of three persons is recommended as a safety precaution.
- Please do not smoke or light fires while on the Trail. Make use of the picnic area at the start of the Trail.
- No dogs allowed.
- Do not litter.
- Carry at least two litres of drinking water per person.



**In case of emergency** please contact:  
South African Police Service: 10111  
Ambulance: 10177  
Fire Department: +27 (0) 41 585 1555  
Search and Rescue: +27 (0) 41 585 1555



open  
daily

08h00  
to  
16h30

General Enquiries	Tourism Office: +27 (0) 41 585 8884
Complaints/Log a Query	0800 205050
Environmental Management	+27 (0) 41 506 5464
Trail Permits	No permit required/Free entrance

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## VAN DER KEMP'S KLOOF TRAIL

Circular Route

Get a **glimpse into the past** and an escape into nature's wonderland. Located in the quaint and **historic Bethelsdorp Village**, where the Trail begins, just past the Van der Kemp's Kloof Church. As you make your way up the Kloof, you'll be enveloped by an **untouched wilderness atmosphere**. Embark on a journey through time and nature.

6.7km



Hiking Times:  
08h00 - 16h30



Duration:  
1 / 2 Hours



Difficulty:  
Easy/Moderate

# Explore and Experience



## The Van Der Kemp's Kloof Church

**Church:** Erected by the Khoikhoi alongside reed and mud huts in 1803 (rebuilt in 1903 and 1926), and that still houses some of the treasured relics used by the church. These include Van Der Kemp's Dutch Bible, the oldest in the country, printed in Holland in 1664, as well as his pulpit chair and baptismal font.



**Mission Bell:** Erected in 1815, The mission bell tower was used to bring order in the village or for special announcements, and it became a symbol of the mission's influence and authority in the area. Over time, the mission station grew and became a community activity hub. The bell tower remained a vital part of the mission's identity and was often used to mark significant milestones.



**Livingstone Cottage:** a Square stone house, reported to have hosted Dr David Livingstone in 1841.

**Alms houses:** Built in 1822 to accommodate the destitute and aided the crew from the London Missionary Society. Across from Alms houses in the bamboo reeds there are still wash basins to be found that was used to do linen and washing for Van Der Kemp.



## Bethelsdorp Khoi Experience: Tiqua God of the Khoi

Returning in time, immerse yourself in the Khoi people's company and explore the area's fascinating biomes and unique wildlife.

### For bookings, please contact:

Belinda Brown on +27 (0) 61 189 8097,  
Brian Campher on +27 (0) 83 525 3412 or  
email [tourismvibes.tiqua@gmail.com](mailto:tourismvibes.tiqua@gmail.com)



1

## Van Der Kemp's Kloof Trail

6.7km

(Circular route: easy/moderate)

Start: 33° 53' 15.4" S | 25° 29' 50.3" E

End: 33° 53' 15.4" S | 25° 29' 50.3" E

### Sub-Trails Available:

- a. Alternative Route: 462m
- b. Alternative Route: 265m
- c. Alternative Route: 417m
- d. Alternative Route: 516m
- e. Alternative Route: 468m
- f. Alternative Route: 372m

2

## Link Trail

3.7km

(Linear trail as a link between Van Der Kemp's Kloof Trail and Grootkloof Trail)

Start: 33° 53' 48.4" S | 25° 29' 48.5" E

End: 33° 54' 21.6" S | 25° 31' 57.2" E

Link Trail to Grootkloof Trail

### Top Fauna:



- Parrot-beaked Tortoise
- Cape Cobra
- Varied Insect & Arachnid Life
- Smith's Dwarf Chameleon
- Cape Snake Lizard

### Top Flora:

- Varied Milkweed & Aloe Family, Rush-leaved Strelizia
- Thickfoot or Bobejaankos Species
- Candlewood & Cheesewood
- Euphorbia Family Species
- Dogbane Family Species

