

## History and Location

The Lower Guinea Fowl Trail follows the Baakens River through the Settlers Park Nature Reserve. Settlers Park Nature Reserve is located in the heart of Nelson Mandela Bay and is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. The park's rich history dates back to the early 19th century.

*The Baakens River, which flows through the reserve, was previously named Kabega River. Kabega being the Khoikhoi name for "Reeds". The Xhosa derivative of Kabega (Gqeberha) is now the new name of the city of Port Elizabeth (PE).*



In 1820, the British government sent a group of settlers to South Africa to establish a colony. The area where Settlers Park is now located was initially used for grazing and agriculture, but due to developments in the lower valley, such as the tram sheds and various other buildings proliferating on the valley floor, the river system changed considerably.

Subsequently, the PE council agreed in September 1932 to set aside the Baakens River valley between Essexvale and Barnes' Quarry as a Nature Reserve. Likewise, the Walmer Municipality also decided to add other portions of land to the Reserve. Various measures were then taken to upgrade it, such as removing the exotic prickly pears and the fencing of the Reserve. This was the commencement of Settlers Park, the name given to this salvaged portion of the valley, on 28th February 1952.

## 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.
- Dogs on a leash are allowed.
- Do not litter.
- Carry at least two litres of drinking water per person.
- The trail isn't circular. Collect hikers at Settlers Park Chelmsford Ave entrance or main parking off How Avenue, Park Drive alternative loops can be used to return to starting points.



**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

<b>General Enquiries</b>	Tourism Office: +27 (0) 41 585 8884
<b>Complaints/Log a Query</b>	0800 205050
<b>Environmental Management</b>	+27 (0) 41 506 5464
<b>Trail Permits</b>	No permit required/Free entrance
<b>Associations</b>	FatTracks ( <a href="http://www.fattracks.co.za">www.fattracks.co.za</a> )



# LOWER GUINEA FOWL TRAIL

Linear Route

The lower Guinea Fowl meanders through the **Settlers Park Nature Reserve** along the edge of the Baakens River floodplain and passes through a **steep-sided valley** below the city suburbs for its full length. The trail offers an accessible walk of considerable interest and biomes, boasting a **wide variety of flora and fauna** and a **great bird-watching experience.**



DOWNLOAD THE APP  
[www.nmbt.co.za/port\\_elizabeth\\_apps.html](http://www.nmbt.co.za/port_elizabeth_apps.html)



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 Email: [info@nmbt.co.za](mailto:info@nmbt.co.za)

[www.nmbt.co.za](http://www.nmbt.co.za)

7.8km



Hiking Times:  
08h00 - 16h30



Duration:  
2 / 3 Hours

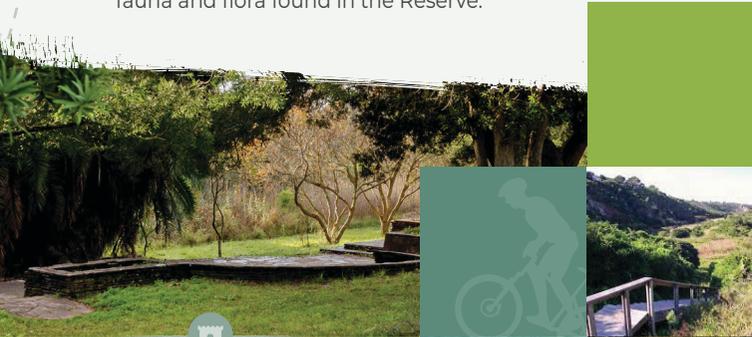


Difficulty:  
Easy

# Explore and Experience

**Lower Baakens Valley:** At the trail's end (or start) lies the Lower Baakens Valley. The area boasts various historical attractions, activities and restaurants to catch a meal or drink after the hike. These include craft beer tours, indoor mountain climbing, arts and craft classes, historical buildings and more.

**Botanical Display:** Display of some of the local fauna and flora found in the Reserve.



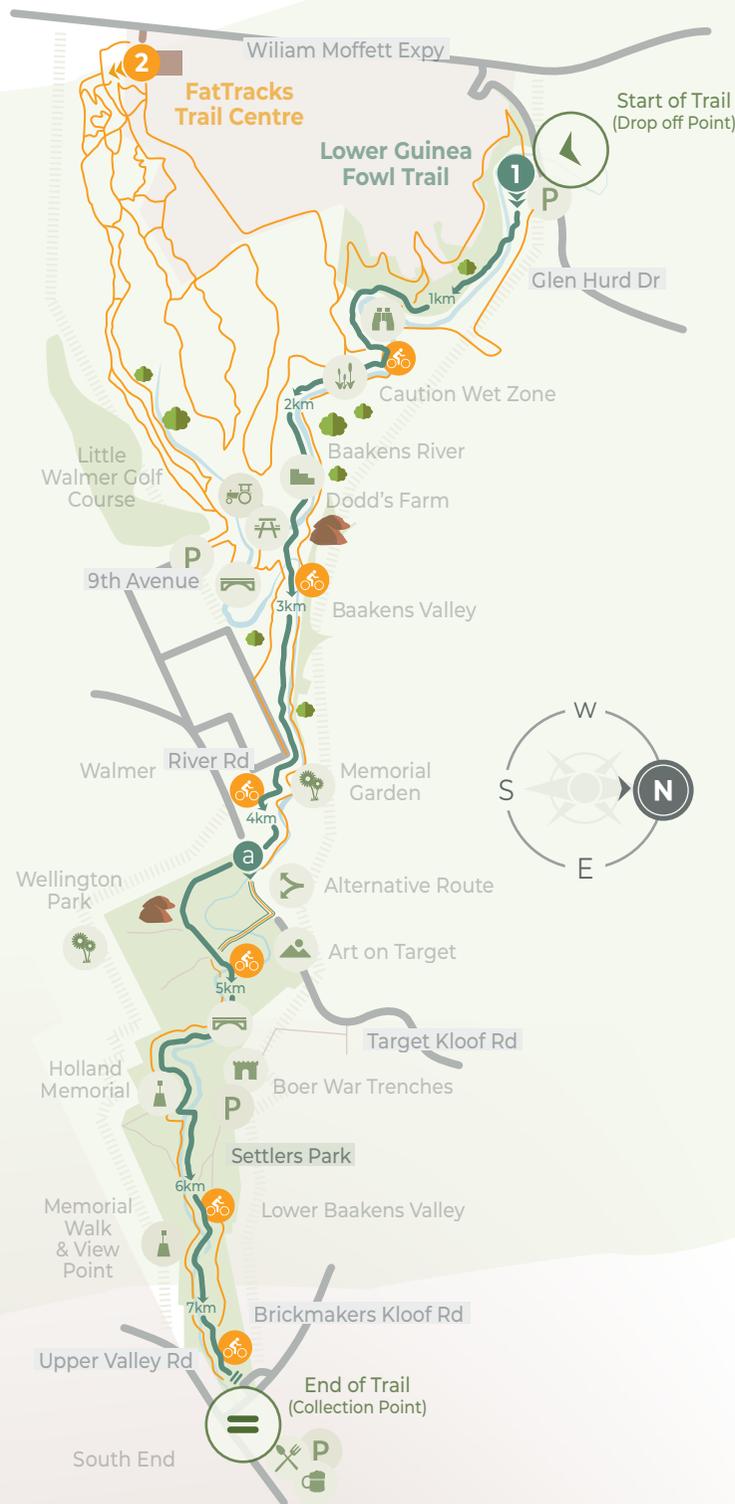
**Boer War Trenches:** At some stage during the war, the British received word of a possible Boer invasion and started setting up town defences. Part of these were a series of forts and trenches around the area.

**Holland Memorial:** This Memorial was erected in honour of Frederick Huntley Holland. A South African businessman and philanthropist.

**Dodds Farm:** As the Baakens River slowly flows down towards the Bay, it passes through Dodd's Farm in Walmer, where it is joined by the Klein Kabega, the longest tributary of the Baakens River, and widens into a pool with some cliffs behind and lots of vegetation around it. The area is ideal for a picnic, bird watching and quiet time. There is also parking here for those wanting to do shorter hikes.



**FatTracks Trail Network:** FatTracks Mountain Bike Trails offer an exciting way to explore the valley with various trails, outrides, skill rides, and events for all levels. [www.fattracks.co.za](http://www.fattracks.co.za).



**1 Lower Guinea Fowl Trail** 7.8km  
*(Linear route: easy. Trail shared with the FatTracks Mountain Biking Trail. Pedestrian right of way)*

**Sub-Trails Available:**  
**a. Alternative Route: 350m**

**2 FatTracks Trail Network**  
*(Linear route shared with the Lower Guinea Fowl Hiking Trail. Pedestrian right of way)*

**Sub-Trails Available:**  
**Conti Loop: 7.6 km**  
**Waudcray Loop: 13 km**  
**Bridge Street Loop: 17.2 km**  
**Dodds Farm Loop: 9.46 km**

**Top Fauna & Flora:**

- Outeniqua Yellow Wood
- Khuni-bush Species
- Orchid, Iris & Buchu Families
- Butterflies & Moths
- Yellow Mongoose
- Cape Clawless Otter
- Rock Hyrax and Water Monitor
- Half-Collared & Malachite Kingfisher

