

History and Location

The trail is steeped in history, with the recent discovery of Ancient Khoisan fish traps dating back between 2000 and 4500 years providing conclusive proof of the Khoisan's significant presence in the area.



Discover the rich wildlife and intertidal marine life that served as a major food source for the Khoi. Here one gets to stand where Bartolomeu Dias's squadron of three caravels rounded the Cabo de Roca in late February 1488, and Vasco da Gama entered Algoa Bay in December 1497, naming it Cabo do Arricife.

The vast number of shipwrecks led to the building of the Cape Recife Lighthouse from 1849 to 1851. The first light beamed across the ocean on 1 April of that year to warn passing ships of the dangers of Thunderbolt Reef, a natural hazard that has claimed many a ship and offers spectacular diving opportunities. Explore the Sea Hill Military Site, built during the Second World War to protect the Bay, and witness some of the most complete collections of surviving coast artillery buildings and equipment in South Africa.

Protecting this unique biodiversity and natural beauty for future generations is the 366-hectare Cape Recife Nature Reserve, proclaimed in 1973. And for a truly unforgettable experience, witness the annual migration of whales and dolphins within Gqeberha from some of the reserve's best views.

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.
- No dogs allowed. Do not litter.
- Carry at least two litres of drinking water per person.
- Vehicle Entry past the boom requires an NMBM vehicle permit, available at Pine Lodge. A pass is required when visiting SANCCOB.



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



08h00
to
16h30

open
daily

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
Associations	Cape Recife Conservancy (www.caper Recife.co.za)



DOWNLOAD THE APP
www.nmbt.co.za/port_elizabeth_apps.html



Tel: +27 (0) 41 585 8884
 Email: info@nmbt.co.za

www.nmbt.co.za



ROSEATE TERN TRAIL

Circular Route

A magnificent and captivating hike through the **unspoilt beauty of the Cape Recife Nature Reserve** that offers **incredible views, historical landmarks**, a wide variety of terrestrial and **marine wildlife** and some of the best **birdwatching locations** in the Bay.

9.6km



Hiking Times:
08h00 - 16h30



Duration:
3 / 4 Hours



Difficulty:
Easy

Explore and Experience

Cape Recife Lighthouse: Begin your journey by exploring the historic Cape Recife Lighthouse, offering guided tours and marine safaris, at the Cape Recife Port War Signal Station. See www.caperecife.com for more information.



Thunderbolt Reef and Cobbles

Surf Spot: Take the beauty of the infamous Thunderbolt Reef, the sea stack that inspired the lighthouse's construction while Cobbles Surf Spot offers an ideal location for longboarding.



Shipping Beacon: The beacons were used in the early days to guide ships into Algoa Bay before the advent of modern navigational equipment.



Sea Hill Military Site: Take a trip to the Sea Hill Military Site, where the Old Fort Observation Post provides breathtaking views.



Old Khoi Fish Traps: The area was used extensively for fish traps and foraged the rock pools.



Pine Lodge: The Resort boasts an array of thrilling activities such as a zipline, high rope adventure course, putt-putt, and guided fat bike rentals. Don't miss out on the unforgettable experiences. See www.pinelodge.co.za for more information.

SANCCOB: Visitors can experience the Coastal Bird Rehabilitation Centre and see the volunteers helping to save our environment, particularly the endangered African Penguin. Tours and Home Pen feeds are available daily. See www.sanccob.co.za for more information.



1 **Roseate Tern Trail** 9.6km
(Circular route: easy)
Start: 34° 00' 36.1" S | 25° 41' 17.8" E
End: 34° 00' 36.1" S | 25° 41' 17.8" E

Sub-Trails Available:
a. Alternative Route: 220m

2 **Penguin Educational Walk** 600m
(Circular route: easy)
Start: 34° 00' 45.6" S | 25° 41' 24.7" E
End: 34° 00' 45.6" S | 25° 41' 24.7" E

Top Fauna:

- Freshwater Birds
- African Black Oystercatcher
- Cape Clawless Otter
- Whales & Dolphins
- Roseate & Damara Terns

Top Flora:

- Mountain Guarri
- Dune Saffronwood
- Dune Olive
- Cape Coast Cabbage Tree
- Tortoise Berry