

## LEKKERWATER BEACH LODGE

**Facts & Information** 

Cape Town: +27 21 001 1574 • Johannesburg: +27 82 575 5076 • reservations@naturalselection.travel • www.naturalselection.travel





Lekkerwater is located on one of the most spectacular and secluded beach destinations anywhere in South Africa. Enjoy a sense of shared discovery and adventure at this intimate coastal lodge.

## A UNIQUE BEACH EXPERIENCE

A visit to Lekkerwater Beach Lodge is an adventure. With incredible fauna and flora, pristine beaches, abundant sea life and a rich & fascinating history, our focus is on offering a comfortable and unique beach experience, where you can enjoy the simple pleasures of life. The experience offered at Lekkerwater focuses on the outdoors and the area's natural beauty, its fabulous 5km stretch of pristine beach and the rich marine life that exists along this stretch of coast. Lekkerwater is at the heart of the De Hoop Bay which enjoys some of the highest concentrations of whales during the whale-watching season between July and November and a rich concentration of dolphins and other marine life year-round.

## WHERE IS IT?

Lekkerwater Beach Lodge is situated in the De Hoop Nature Reserve, the Western Cape's premier coastal reserve.

This 34,000-hectare reserve and its offshore Marine Protected Area is a blend of fynbos, beach, rolling hills, deep ravines, dunes and wetlands, all framed by the dramatic Potberg mountains and the Indian Ocean.

## LEKKERWATER IS IDEAL FOR

Active guests who love pristine nature, the outdoors, getting off the beaten track, finding something new and different, some adventure, privacy and exclusiveness. It is ideal for those interested in sustainability, marine life, inter tidal zones, fynbos, palaeontology, walking or simply just relaxing and immersing oneself in the pristine environment.

## LEKKERWATER IS LESS SUITABLE FOR

Guests wanting luxurious and palatial sized rooms, fine dining, and refined service. Those who expect TV's, minibars, heated towel rails or air conditioning in the rooms. Those wanting to be entertained by a smorgasbord of organised activities or those seeking a more traditional game viewing safari experience.

## WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO GO?

Lekkerwater is truly a year-round destination and all activities are offered year-round, weather and tide permitting. The first Southern Right whales usually arrive in May or June but the best months for whale watching are August to October, when the bay in front of the lodge can be home to hundreds of whales at any one time.

#### **HOW DO I GET THERE?**

Lekkerwater is a little more than three hours' drive from Cape Town – and a convenient diversion for travellers exploring South Africa's scenic Garden Route. A scenic 90-minute helicopter transfer from Cape Town is available. Fixed wing aircraft can use the airstrip in the Reserve but the drive from the airstrip to the lodge takes 90 minutes which makes this option less practical.

## **FULLY INCLUSIVE RATE INCLUDES**

All meals, local drinks, and all lodge guided activities are included. Getting to and from Lekkerwater, park entrance fees, premium brand beverages, discretionary tips/gratuities, and personal travel insurance are excluded.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Lekkerwater has seven guest bedrooms each simply decorated in a bright and breezy coastal feel. Six are double (or twin) bedded stand-alone rooms with en suite bathrooms that are all the same size, all with unobstructed views onto the ocean and beaches. The larger family room is primarily reserved for families with young children. All bedrooms have two three-quarter extra length beds that can be made up as two large single beds or joined to make one super king size bed. Each guest room has a private veranda, wood burning room heater, coffee and tea making facilities and an open plan shower and vanity area. 220V charging facilities are available in bedrooms.

## WHAT WILL I EAT

The menus are inspired by the cultures & produce of the region as well as the no-fishing and no- foraging rules that govern the De Hoop Reserve and the offshore marine protected area. We use fresh, seasonal, locally produced and farmed products. Our home style meals are cooked with love and passion with an emphasis on flavour. When the weather permits, dining may be enjoyed on the beach, and lunchtime picnic baskets are available on request. Please inform reservations of any dietary requirements prior to travel.

## WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES

The main lodge area includes a comfy lounge (with a well-stocked drinks cabinet and a collection of reference books) a dining area with an interactive open kitchen, a swimming pool and a wrap-around deck offering the perfect space to admire the sunrise over morning coffee, or perhaps a sundowner to toast the end of a remarkable day.

#### PACKING

We suggest you pack reef walking shoes (something that you don't mind getting wet for walking on sharp rocks), good walking or running shoes, binoculars, wide brimmed hats, sunblock, a flashlight, sunglasses, a warm and windproof jacket, long sleeve shirts, shorts, a swimming costume and maybe a wetsuit if you are wanting to snorkel in the rock pools. Please remember a good book and something warm for the cool mornings & evenings.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Lekkerwater works on set arrival days every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Minimum 2 night stay
- The lodge operates on solar power. 220V charging facilities are available
- We welcome children aged 6 years and older. Please note that we do not offer childminding facilities
- There is a limited cell phone signal at Lekkerwater
- · The Wi-Fi is generally reliable
- The terrain surrounding the lodge is unsuitable for people with mobility issues
- Unfortunately no pets are allowed into the reserve



## WHAT WILL I DO HERE?

- Lekkerwater is located on one of the most spectacular and secluded beach destinations anywhere in South Africa
- Guided marine explorations and intertidal zone walks to thriving rock-pools and caves
- Guided fynbos and nature walks and explorations
- · Dolphin watching year round
- Whale watching (July to November)
- One of the planet's best "hot tubs" with a view!
- Learn about the fascinating history of the area from 100,000 years ago till today.
- Beach sundowners
- Feet-in-sand surprises
- A place to fully recharge, re-connect and recalibrate



## LEKKERWATER BEACH LODGE

Frequently Asked Questions

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# WHY DOES LEKKERWATER HAVE SET ARRIVAL DAYS?

Lekkerwater works on set arrival days every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The lodge and its location are packed with stories – historical, environmental, marine life and more. Lekkerwater works best when guests arrive together and enjoy the same unfolding experiences through similar eyes. A strong sense of camaraderie develops through these shared experiences. We understand that the set arrival days can be an inconvenience to itinerary planning, but our past guests have found that the benefits gained from everyone arriving on set arrival days are immensely positive.

## **HOW LONG SHOULD WE STAY?**

While the set arrival days every Monday, Wednesday and Friday results in 2, 2 and 3 night stays, longer stays can be accommodated. We feel that a 3 to 4 night stay is optimal for Lekkerwater if you enjoy the outdoors. If you opt for a longer stay, please note that some hosted/guided activities could be recurring and you would need to be comfortable with repeating or doing your own self-guided activities or else spending more time relaxing on the beach, in the lodge or around the environs. We do have requests for one night stays which we decline because a one night stay does not do justice to the remoteness of the destination, the travelling time and the overall experience.

# WHAT IS INCLUDED AND EXCLUDED IN THE PRICE?

Lekkerwater tries to be as all-inclusive as possible. Our tariff includes return transfers between the Lekkerwater car park and the lodge, the lodge guided activities and all meals from afternoon tea on the arrival day to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. As our check-in time at the Lekkerwater car park is 14:00 we do not offer lunch on arrival day. Please make sure that you enjoy a brunch or lunch en-route as you will only be getting into Lekkerwater at around 3pm and your next full meal will be at dinner time. Our offering also includes all local drinks in reasonable quantity and includes a variety of soft drinks, beers, a choice of house wines and a selection of gins & local spirits. We also have a selection of premium wines available at an additional cost. If you are celebrating a special occasion and / or wish to bring your own premium drinks and champagnes, you are welcome to do so and no corkage will be charged.

Excluded in the price is getting to and from Lekkerwater, premier brand drinks and wines on our reserve list; discretionary gratuities to staff and guides; Cape Nature Park entrance fees (must be paid in cash at the Park gate) and comprehensive travel insurance. Lodge extras can be paid by either Visa or MasterCard on check-out.

### MEALS AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Our menus are inspired by the cultures & produce of the region as well as the no-fishing and no- foraging rules that govern the De Hoop Reserve and the offshore marine protected area. We use fresh, seasonal, locally produced and farmed product to serve home style meals cooked with love and passion.

Please inform reservations of any dietary requirements prior to travel and we will do our best to cater to various dietary requirements. Due to the logistical constraints of our location we generally do not serve fish, unless specifically required by pescatarians, in which case we will do our best to source what is available.

Please note that we can accommodate Halaal guests with vegetarian food and possibly Halaal meat if available from our suppliers in nearby Bredasdorp, however we do not operate a fully Halaal kitchen.

# CAN THE LODGE ACCOMMODATE GUESTS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES?

Lekkerwater is perched high up on stabilized coastal dune. All our activities are focused on walking the hills or along the coastline. There is a long and steep walk to and from the beach to the lodge. Hence, we are not ideally suited for guests with mobility issues, unless they are happy to relax in the main area and enjoy the views with a good book.

## IS THE LODGE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN?

We welcome children aged 6 years and older. Please note that we do not offer childminding facilities. If you have young children, it is your responsibility to ensure their whereabouts and safety. Lekkerwater has an unfenced swimming pool & high drop-off area. Lekkerwater has one family bedroom of around 80 square meters which has a downstairs master bedroom and an upstairs loft area with two single beds.

The bedroom shares an open plan shower and vanity area. All other bedrooms at Lekkerwater are standalone rooms that are not suitable for children under 12 years unless accompanied by one adult.

From time to time Lekkerwater does offer exclusive use options where a family or families can book out the entire lodge for their exclusive use. On these occasions we welcome children of all ages, provided that all the parties in the group are informed and understand that we have an open swimming pool with no fences or nets and furthermore that there are high drop-offs around the lodge that are protected solely by rope balustrades.

# WHAT CAN YOU ARRANGE FOR HONEYMOONERS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS?

For those planning your special occasion like a honeymoon or anniversary we want to make sure that there is a harmonious fit between what you are wanting and what the lodge can realistically deliver. Lekkerwater is a small, remote, off-the-grid lodge tucked away in an isolated part of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Lekkerwater's focus is on delivering memorable experiences in the beautiful environment and not on the bricks and mortar, gold taps, rose petals in a bath or spas that many larger resort-type hotels and lodges provide. If however, you are looking for a truly remote and pristine destination and lots of outdoor activities, then Lekkerwater is your spot!

We can pack a picnic for you to enjoy privately along the pristine coastline or a cooler box for sundowners over and above our regular activities and surprises. If the weather, winds, and tides are favourable, all or nearly all our guests want to partake in a beach lunch or beach dinner, so we are unable to offer this privately. We will do our upmost to make those who are celebrating a special occasion or honeymooner's stays as memorable as possible so long as you are happy with the constraints that we live with at Lekkerwater.

## **CAN WE BRING OUR PETS?**

As De Hoop is a gazetted provincial nature reserve, no pets are allowed into the reserve. So unfortunately, we are unable to accept a visit from your fury friends.

### CAN WE BRING OUR BICYCLES?

Yes and no! The best cycling is within the interior of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. If you do bring your mountain bike or ebike, we recommend that you arrive early and enjoy a cycle within the interior of the De Hoop Reserve finishing up at our car park which is 6km away from the lodge itself. You can then leave your bicycle locked in your vehicle or on your bicycle rack before transferring to the lodge.

There is a steep and technical 6km jeep track between the Lekkerwater car park and the lodge that requires a high level of riding competence. Once you are at the lodge there are no other cycling options unless one heads back to the car park and from there into the reserve interior. The beach itself is very soft sand making MTB cycling, even on fat bikes almost impossible.

# WHAT ARE LEKKERWATER'S CHECK IN & CHECK OUT TIMES?

The scheduled collection time at the Lekkerwater car park is 14:00. This car park is located 6km inland from the lodge. We ask guests to arrive at the car park as close to 14:00 as possible so that you are not kept waiting or keep others waiting. Our check out time from Lekkerwater Lodge is at 10:15 to be back at the car park at around 11:00. Due to the remote location of the Lodge and transfers to/from the car park we are unable to assist with early check-ins or a late check-out.

# HOW LONG DO I NEED FOR CONNECTING FLIGHTS INTO & OUT OF CAPE TOWN AIRPORT?

If you are flying into Cape Town Airport and planning to drive directly to the lodge, please allow for at least 4,5 hours from the landing of your flight to your arrival at Lekkerwater Beach Lodge.

As the Potberg gate to De Hoop only opens at 07:30 each morning, the earliest flight that you can take out of Cape Town Airport is a 13:00 for a local flight or 14:00 for an international flight. If this is not possible then consider a helicopter transfer however bear in mind that helicopters can only take off and land in daylight hours.