

# BOOSMANSBOS WILDERNESS AREA



**B**oosmansbos Wilderness Area lies in the Langeberg mountains, 22 km northwest of Heidelberg, in the south-western Cape. It is 14 200ha in extent and is incorporated into Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. The name is derived from that of a hermit who lived in the forest in the early 19th century. Boosmansbos was proclaimed a Wilderness Area in 1978 and is managed in order to maintain its natural systems and to safeguard its pristine environment. As part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, it was declared a World Heritage Site in 2004.

## *Climate and landscape*

The Langeberg mountains lie in the transitional zone between winter and all-year rainfall regions. Boosmansbos has an average annual rainfall of 1 050 mm. Drier periods are from May to July and December to January. Berg wind conditions prevail from May to July. Grootberg (1 637m) is the highest peak in Boosmansbos. Several rivers originate in the Wilderness Area, including the Duiwenhoks River and its tributary, the Noukrans River. The soils in this area are derived mainly from Table Mountain sandstone. Isolated pockets of Bokkeveld shales occur and it is on these that the indigenous forests are found.

## *Plants and animals*

Mountain fynbos and forest vegetation occur in the Wilderness Area. There are several rare species, especially amongst the Erica family: *Erica blenna*, *E. barrydaensis* and *E. langebergensis*. Mammals found here include grey rhebuck, klipspringer, grysbok, baboons, leopard, mongoose and genet. The area is particularly rich in birdlife, with 184 species recorded, including black, martial, crowned and booted eagles, redwinged and

redneck francolins, blackrumped buttonquail, striped flufftail and Layard's titbabbler.

## *Activities*

As this is a Wilderness Area, the paths are unmarked and huts provide only basic shelter. There are no toilet facilities. Hikers should be well-equipped for difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions, and must carry an accurate map of the area. A maximum of 12 people per day are allowed.

There are 64km of paths and hikers may choose their own routes. The circular two-day route of 27km is a popular option. This trail, most of which is an old jeep track, leads up Loerklip and back down Saagkuilkloof. If heavy rains are experienced during the hike it is advisable to return via the Loerklip path as the Duiwenhoks River may be in flood.

Hikers should note that all refuse must be carried out and that fires are not permitted. Advance reservations are essential.

## *Enquiries & Reservations*

**Tel: (021) 659 3500** or  
**E-mail: [bookings@capenature.co.za](mailto:bookings@capenature.co.za)**

### DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All persons entering this conservation area and using its facilities, do so entirely at their own risk. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and/or its employees and/or agents and/or its successors in title shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft, injury, accident or death suffered by any person, howsoever caused.

Right of Admission Reserved.

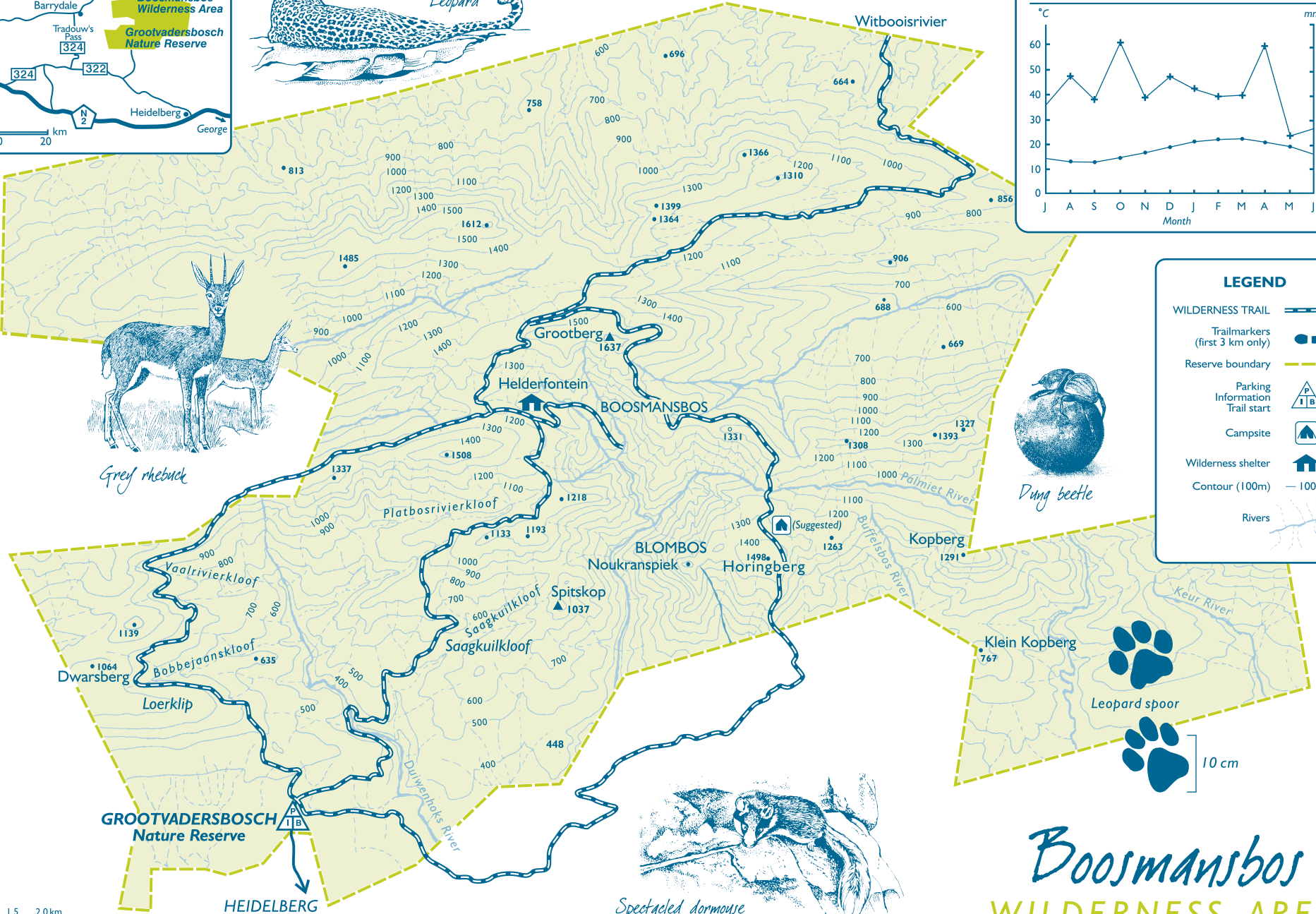
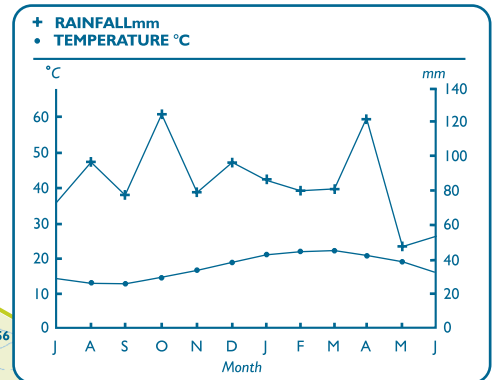
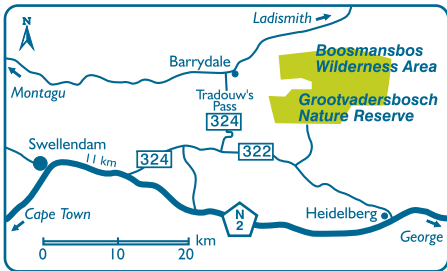


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**LEGEND**

- WILDERNESS TRAIL
- Trailmarkers (first 3 km only)
- Reserve boundary
- Parking Information Trail start
- Campsite
- Wilderness shelter
- Contour (100m)
- Rivers



Leopard spoor  
10 cm



Spectacled dormouse

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