**BEAUMONT HIKING TRAILS**

Set at the heart of the Groenlandberg (Green Mountains), the historic Compagnes Drift Farm and Beaumont Wines lie just an hour from Cape Town. Well known for its wines and welcoming atmosphere, the farm has dedicated over three quarters of its land to conservation; it is also part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Wines aside, the area is most famous for its fynbos flora. An astonishing 1650 flowering plants have been recorded in the Biosphere – such diversity is unmatched anywhere else in the world. Spring (August to November) is generally the best time for flowers but there is always something in flower in the fynbos. Prepare for dazzling proteas, shy orchids and honey-scented heathers to name just a few!

It’s a great birding destination too. Around 200 bird species are found here, resulting in the area’s classification as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by Birdlife South Africa. Among the feathered highlights at Beaumont Wines are raptors such as Verreaux’s Eagle and Black Harrier plus local endemics like Victorin’s Warbler, Cape Sugarbird and Ground Woodpecker. There is also the chance to spot some of the Groenlandberg’s mammals: antelope such as Klipspringer and Grysbok are regularly seen while Baboons, Rock Hyrax and Cape Hares are fairly common. Less often seen are the region’s ‘mega sightings’: Cape Leopard, Caracal (Lynx), and Cape Clawless Otter.

With over 20 kilometers of cut trails on the farm to explore, it’s easy to enjoy a half-day or full day hike in these beautiful mountains. You can either hike on your own or be in the company of a professional wilderness guide who will share with you their knowledge of the environment and local history – you could even travel along an old ox-wagon trail! And after exercising the body and mind, what could be better than a wine tasting and delicious picnic lunch back at the farm? If the weather is warm enough, you can even cool off in the farm’s swimming dam.

Should you require a specialist guide to focus specifically on fynbos or birds or the heritage of the area, just let us know. We have some of the best guides in the area available and your visit to the Groenlandberg will be greatly enhanced by their knowledge and experience.