

# NATURE'S VALLEY TRAILS GUIDE

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO

Salt River  
Kalanderkloof  
Grootkloof  
The Point  
Groot River and Pig's Head



NATURE'S VALLEY TRUST  
388 LAGOON DRIVE

Nature's Valley Trust



In Support of Conservation

Produced by: Clarisse Porcheron | Anna Klimova  
| Benedict Wilson | Brittany Arendse  
Edited by  
Brittany Arendse



# Map of Nature's Valley and the surrounding hiking trails

The Point

Groot River & Pig's Head

Kalanderkloof

NVT office

Grootkloof

Blue Rocks Cafe & Grill

Salt River

1km

N





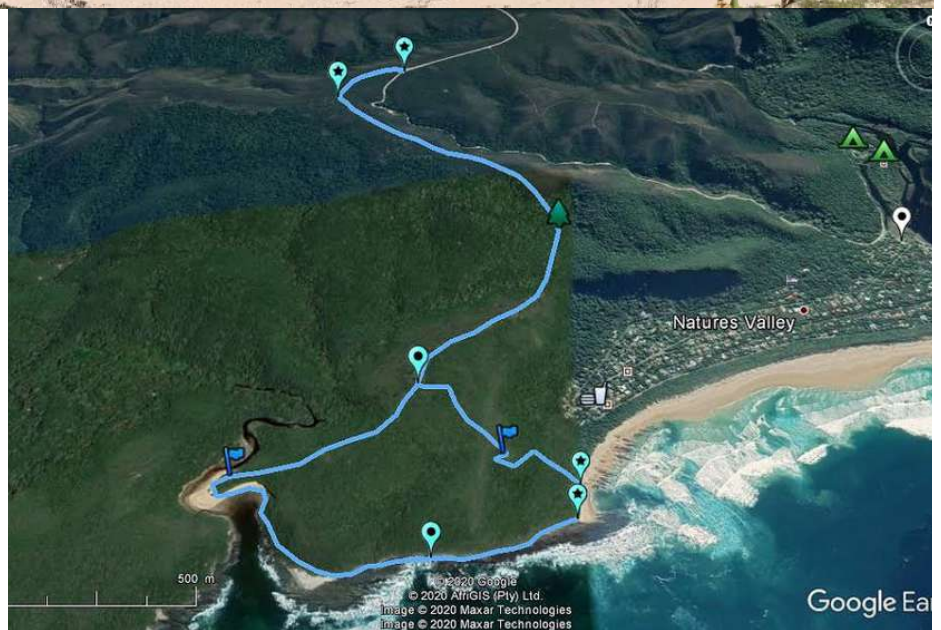
# Salt River | 5km or 2.5km



## Coastal and Fynbos

1.5/2.5 hours

A stunning coastal hike to a beautiful hidden beach at the Salt River mouth. This hike can be combined with a fynbos walk for those more adventurous travellers.



## Trail Notes

This hike is a favourite for most Nature's Valley visitors and can be completed in a couple of ways: as a 1.5 hour loop to and from the Nature's Valley Restaurant and Shop (western side of village) or a longer 2.5 hour loop to and from the parking/picnic area at the top of the R102. The longer route includes a glimpse into the flowering fynbos, in addition to the afro-montane forest hugging the coast.

## ! Check the tides

It is critical to check the tide times as the coastal section is dangerous to cross at high tide when the shale is slippery. The Salt River itself is idyllic and perfect for a picnic and a swim in the estuary mouth.

Wildlife to look out for includes the African Fish Eagle and the Cape Clawless Otter. As with all the trails, dogs are prohibited within the National Park.



# Start on the R102 (2.5hrs)



Shortly after the beginning of the trail there is the option to lengthen the hike by heading down towards Keurpad/Rugpad and looping back towards Salt River (+2Hrs).

However, for this trail continue along the path following the salt river sign.



Salt River mouth



Coastal path



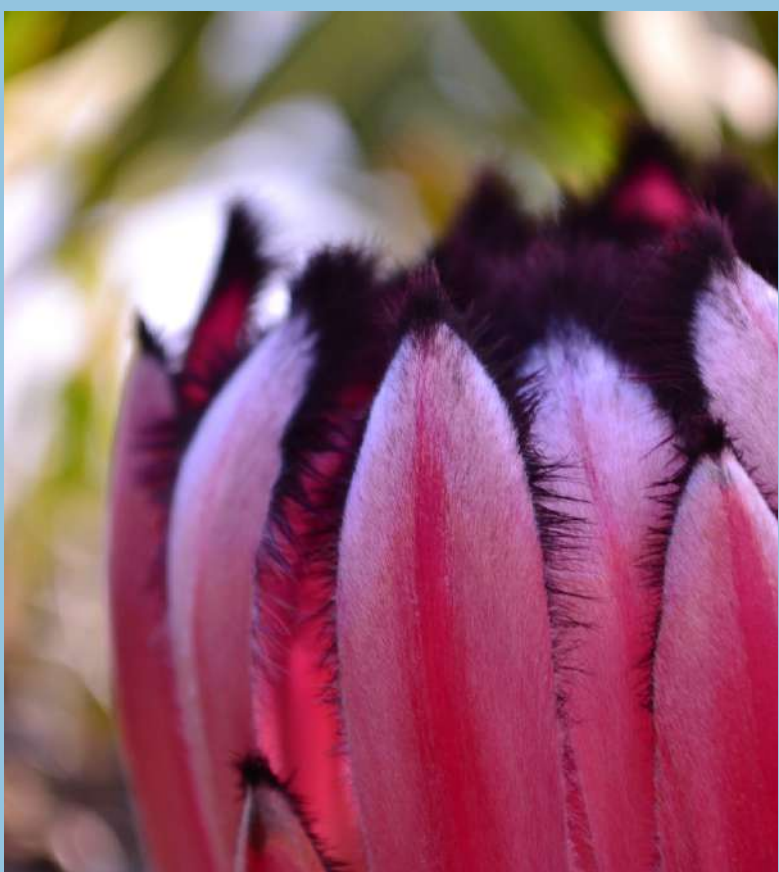
Beach start





# Salt River Gallery

Some inspiration  
for when you take the trail.





# Kanderkloof | 5km



## Forest and Fynbos

2/2.5hrs

A majestic walk beneath enormous Yellowwoods in a magical forest before a steep climb up to the wonderful Fynbos.



## Trail Notes

This trail combines the best of both worlds as hikers get to enjoy both forest and fynbos. This circular trail can be taken either clockwise or anticlockwise, but keep in mind that a very steep climb awaits you on both ends. The Forest section of the trail follows a stream - you will need to cross over the stream in some sections. Although mostly low and slow flowing, prepare to get your feet a little wet if it's been raining. In these conditions the ground may be slippery.

The forest of imposing giant, ancient yellowwood trees (thought to be around 600 years old!) impresses as you walk through the valley and follow the fairy-tale meandering stream. After a literal breathtaking ascent you are treated to an incredible vista of the whole valley and the estuary. The bird and plant life on this trail are awesome, so be sure to look up and down.



# Start

# Decision

The Kalanderkloof trail starts opposite the De Vasselot campsite (a ten minute walk from the NVT office along the road).

The loop can either be taken clockwise (Kalanderkloof) or anticlockwise (start). By taking the route clockwise and following signs for "Kalanderkloof" and "Lookout" you will be faced with a steeper ascent.



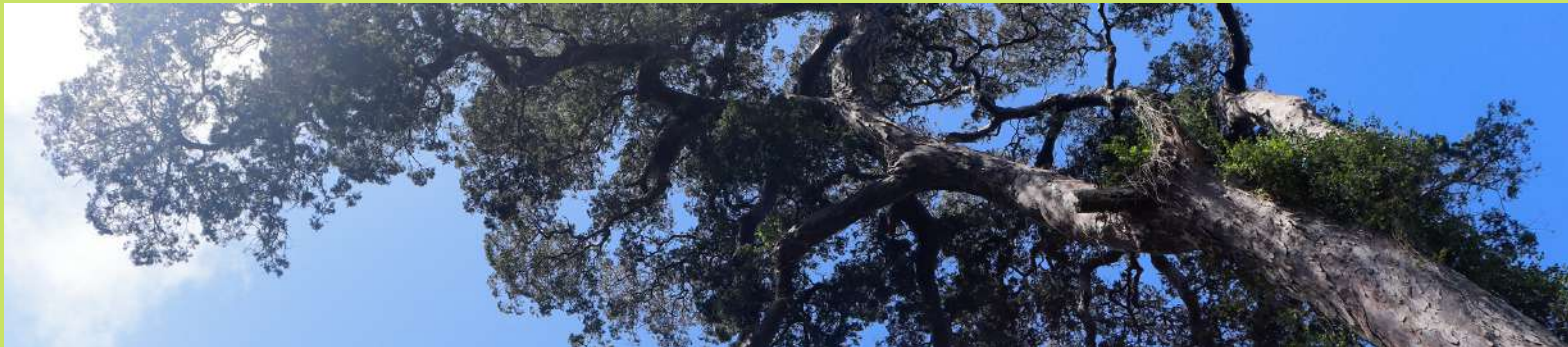
## Viewpoint





# Kalanderkloof Gallery

some inspiration  
for when you take the trail.





# Grootkloof | 6.4 km



## Forest and Estuary

2.5hrs

This hike starts as a gentle stroll alongside the Groot estuary, up through the forest, peaking with coastal Fynbos to an amazing viewpoint near the signal tower.



## Trail Notes

This trail combines sections of the Groot River and the Pig's Head walks and makes for a great hike for those looking for a longer more varied hike. About fifteen minutes (1.1 km) from the NVT office, along the road, towards the eastern pass lies the Groot River bridge. Beyond the bridge and forest boardwalk (on the right) lies a gate marked as the "Groot River Day Walk" with "Kalanderhut" signage nearby.

This trail is slightly inclined with undulation as one approaches the stream crossing.

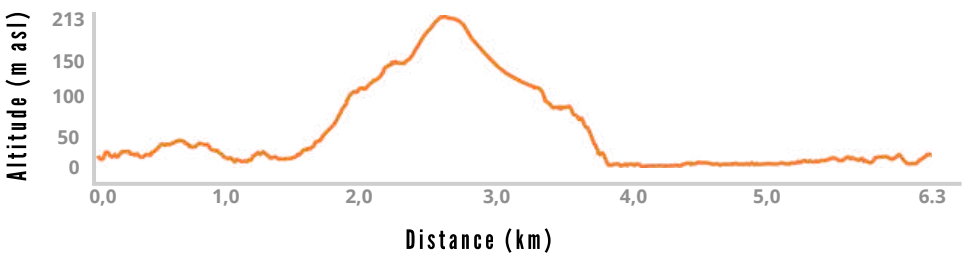
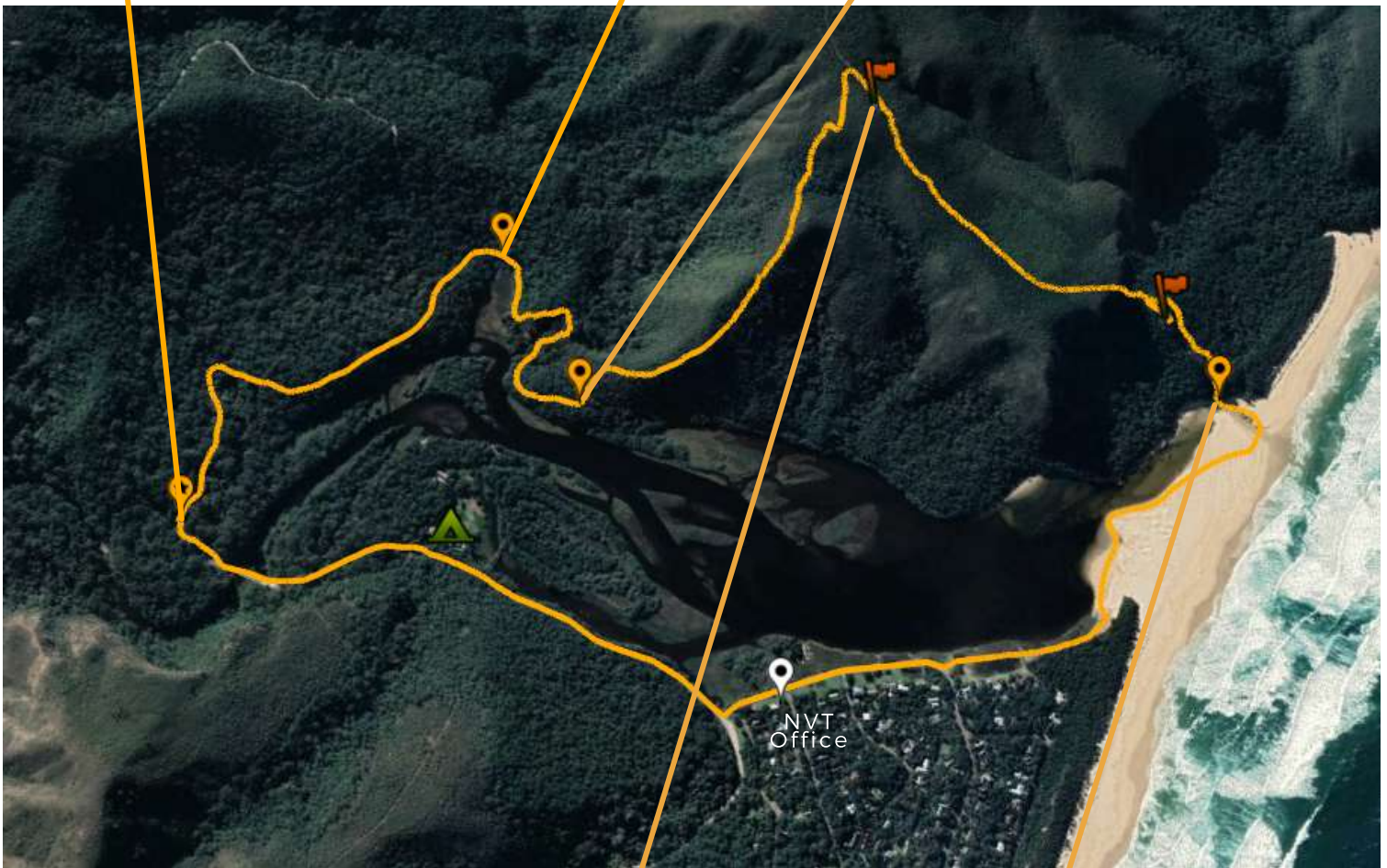
Approximately 30 mins. from the start lies the "Grootkloof Day Walk" sign, and here you start your ascent to the top. In total, from the start to the highest peak and viewpoint, it takes about 1.5 hrs. (3.7km).

After enjoying the awesome view, your descent starts and eventually meets up at the peak of the Pig's head trail. You can enjoy a second viewpoint here, from the snout of the rigid pig, before completing your traverse back down to the mouth of the Groot River. From here you can loop back over the beach, along Lagoon drive and complete the circuit back to the start.



# Start

# Stream crossing





# Grootkloof Gallery

some inspiration  
for when you take the trail.





# Groot River & Pig's Head trails

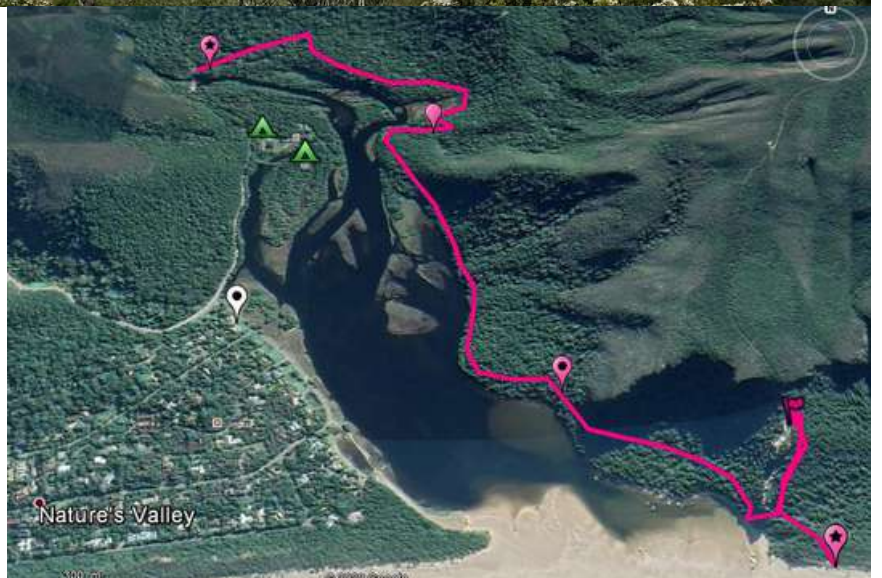
3.5 km



## Forest, Fynbos and Estuary

1/1.5hrs

A gentle uphill stroll alongside the Groot estuary, through the forest, and leading to a short, steep climb to an amazing viewpoint.



## Trail Notes

Combining the Groot River walk and the Pig's Head makes for a great hike. Fifteen-minute (1.1 km) from the NVT office, along the road, towards the eastern pass lies the Groot River. Just over the bridge, on the right, lies the entrance to a short boardwalk trail through the forest. Carrying on past this walk is a gate, to the right, that brings you to the start of the Groot River trail. You can also join this trail via the boardwalk; at the end of the boardwalk turn left and on to the Groot River trail.

This upwards sloping trail follows along the edge of the estuary and is a great place to catch a glimpse of Narina trogon and Knysna turacos. Make sure to follow signs for "Kalanderhut" and to cross over a small stream before taking the left at The Pig's Head sign. After enjoying the awesome view you could head on to the beach and The Point trail or turn back through the forest.



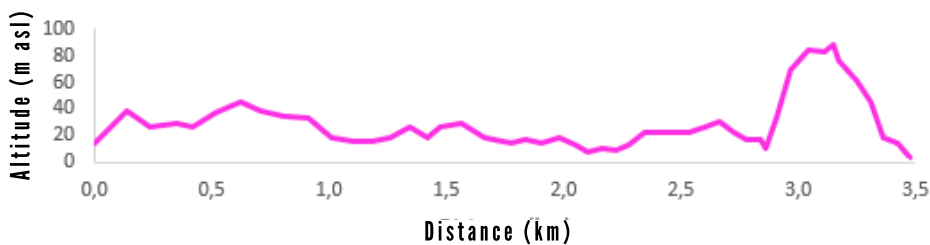
# Start



# Stream crossing



# Water

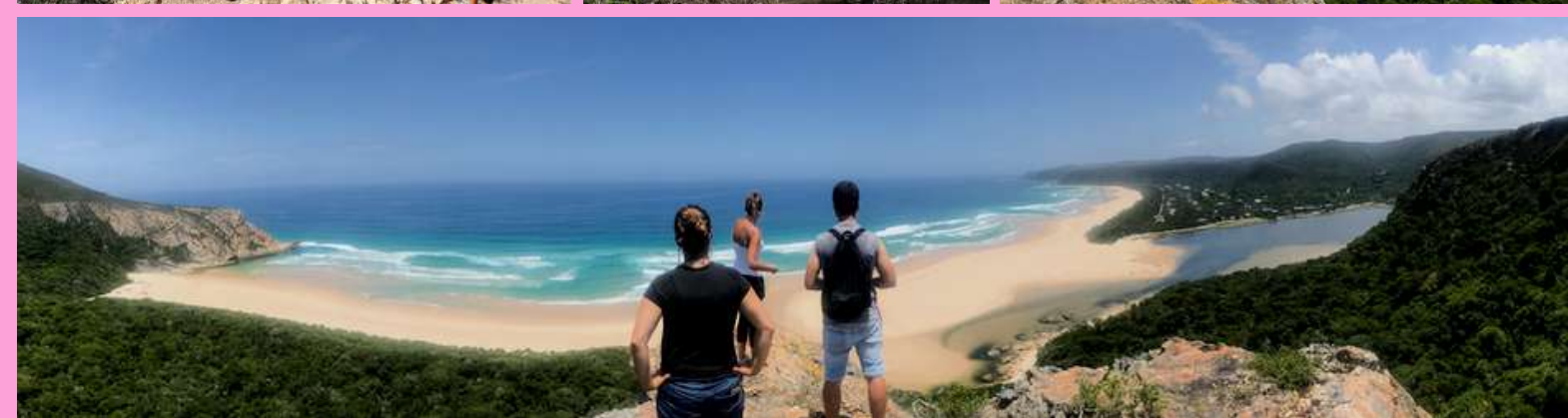
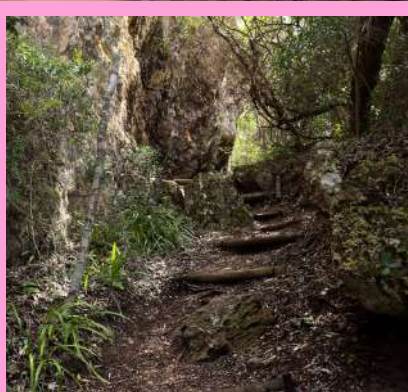


We recommend starting the trail in the forest so you end with Pig's Head. However, if you want to just go up to the head or start the trail from the beach there are two entrances below it on the beach, found across from the estuary mouth.



# Groot River and Pig's Head gallery

Some inspiration for when you take the trail.





# The Point | 0.6 km



## Coastal

---

0.5hrs

A Short star climb from the beach to a lovely lookout over the Gully, crashing waves and passing marine life.



## TRAIL NOTES

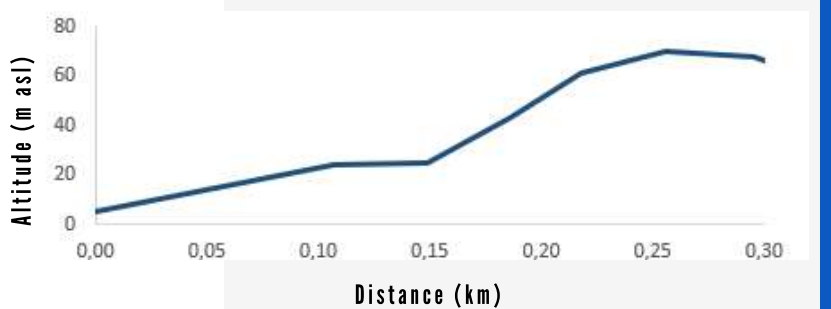
---

Despite being the shortest trail of the four in this guide, The Point makes up for it in its marine views. The trail begins near the end of the beach (east of the Groot estuary mouth) and winds up a set of stairs to the point itself. Snap some photos of the gully on the way up - if you are very lucky you may see some Spotted Gully sharks in the shallows! Stick to the trail it is dangerous to jump/dive from the rocks.

## ! CHECK TIDES

Upon reaching the top take your time to take in the view and watch the world go by. The Point marks the end of the world-renowned Otter Trail, day hikers are not allowed beyond the gate at the top. If you are very patient you may get to see a pod of dolphins or maybe a whale at the right time of year. If the estuary mouth is open be sure to wear something you don't mind getting wet in order to cross over the channel.

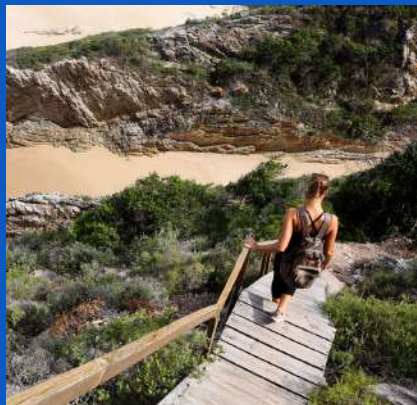






# The Point gallery

some inspiration  
for when you take the trail.





# What to Bring



Trails are free, but fishing permits are required.  
NO DOGS allowed on any of the trails and only in  
designated sections of the beach.  
Dogs to be on-leash at all times in the residential area.



**Your are walking in a National Park. Please adhere to the rules and guideline.**

Take away nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints behind.





## Vision

To maintain the environmental integrity of Nature's Valley and surrounds for future generations.

## Purpose

To be a catalytic conservation initiative that is inclusive and effective.

## Mission

To enable an integrated stakeholder effort that is proactively involved in issues that impact on the environmental resilience of the area.



### Tsitsikamma Fynbos Programme

includes a wide range of ecological research studies to better understand the ecosystem functioning of the biome and provide valuable insights to improve management practices of the area and safeguarding natural resources for sustainable use.

### Forest Programme

is aimed at researching, conserving and restoring Southern Cape Afrotemperate Forests in the Tsitsikamma section of the Garden Route National Park.



### Rivers & Estuaries Programme

to incorporate an ecosystems approach and catchment-wide study in the exploration of the unique biodiversity assemblages that rely on the system as well as the various levels of anthropogenic impacts that have bearing on the health of the system.

### Marine & Coastal Programmes

consist of several long-term research projects that investigate anthropogenic impacts on coastal environments and wildlife.



### Education & Awareness Programmes

aim to encourage learners and learning institutions to be more environmentally aware and sustainable through our curriculum-based initiatives and outdoor classes. We work alongside local communities to create and improve livelihoods and surroundings through creative conservation initiatives.



# Partner with Us

We currently have a mixed funding model for the core NVT costs, using funds from:

- Individual donors
- Corporate CSI funding
- Project income
- Project funding
- Holiday programme funds
- MySchool programme
- Internship income

Benefits for individuals or corporates who partner financially with us:

- 1** NVT is a registered Section 18A NPO, ensuring tax benefits to all donors who provide funding for us.
- 2** We also carry a level 4 BBBEE certification, enabling corporates to consider us as a beneficiary for their CSI funding.
- 3** If you are unable to partner with us in these ways, please consider signing up for the MySchool programme – we earn cash each time you shop at participating outlets at no costs to you!

# Internships

The programme is ideal for young conservationist and social studies majors looking to get more experience or field knowledge. Students who need to complete an internship programme for their studies will also benefit!

# Contact Us

✉ [info@naresvalleytrust.co.za](mailto:info@naresvalleytrust.co.za)

☎ +27 (0) 44 531 6820

🌐 [www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za](http://www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za)

📍 388 Lagoon Drive,  
Nature's Valley,  
6602

# Donate here

Donations are tax deductible

## Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Nature's Valley Trust

Bank Name: Standard Bank

Account number: 001913859

Branch Code: 051001

SWIFT: SBZAJJ

