

## Fernkloof Nature Reserve

Fernkloof nature reserve boasts unrivalled birds-eye views of Walker Bay for those willing to put a little effort into their walking. Over 50km of hiking trails traverse the reserve, offering spectacular panoramic views of the Hemel-en-Aarde valley and Walker Bay.

For the less fit, the relatively flat cliff paths that trace the coastline of Hermanus from one end to the other afford enjoyment of rugged coastal scenery and some excellent whale watching.

Fernkloof showcases a diverse and spectacular variety of unspoilt coastal mountain fynbos. The reserve offers an array of proteas, ericas and many other fascinating fynbos plant species. Peak flowering time is in spring (September &ndash; October) but there are different plants in flower throughout the year. Many of the 42 protea species flower during the winter months (June, July and August). Fernkloof has more to offer than just nature trails. There is also a well-stocked indigenous nursery run by the Hermanus Botanical Society.

The gardens in Fernkloof are an ideal place to have a picnic, take gentle walks, and learn about the traditional uses of some local plants in the herb garden. There is also a mountain biking trail. Coinciding with the Whale Festival (end September) is a wild flower show, a spectacular showcase of the bounty of spring.