

# *Kirstenbosch* National Botanical Garden



*Garden*  *Guide*

NATIONAL  
BOTANICAL  
INSTITUTE



# What to see

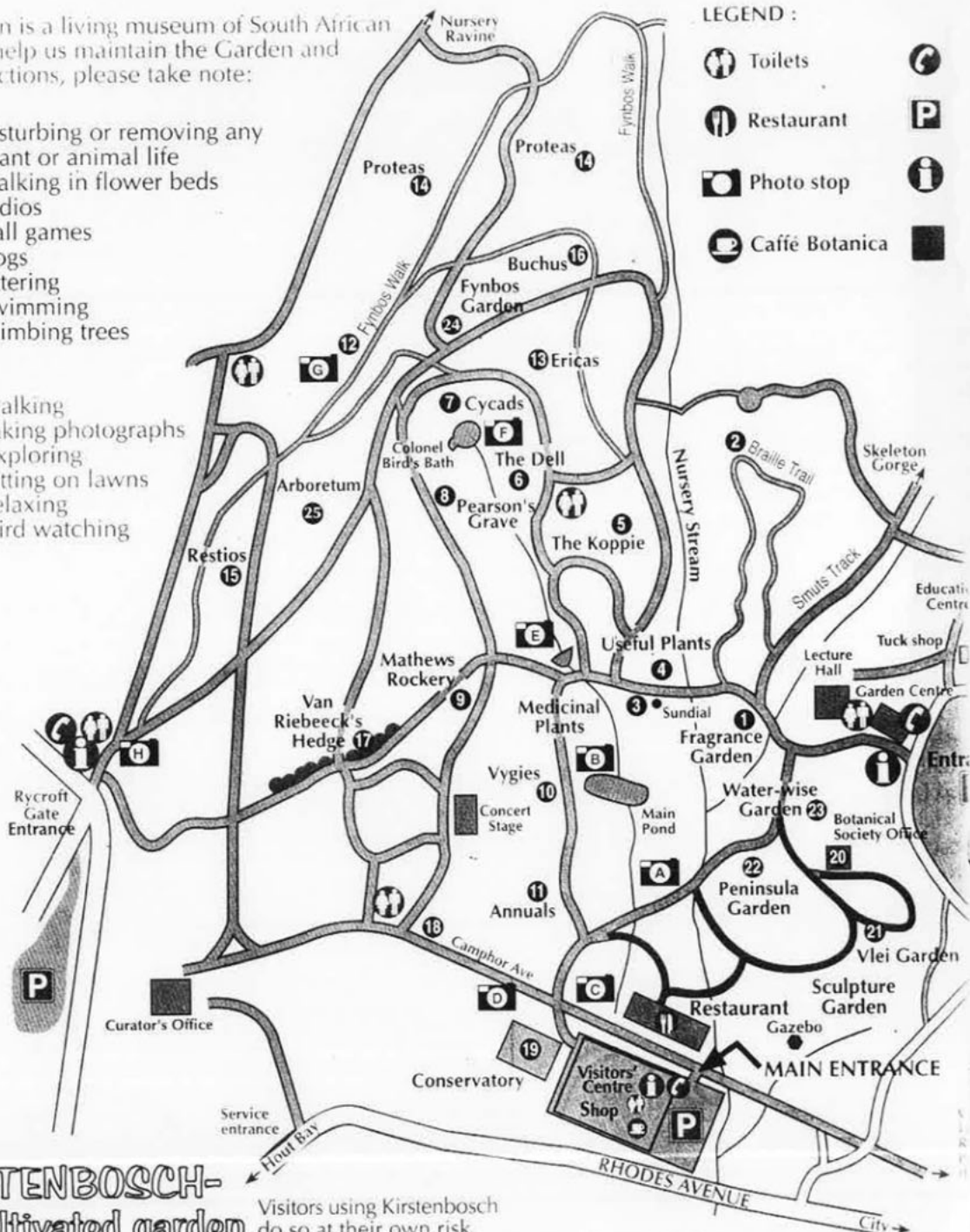
- 1** **Fragrance Garden** - features plants with unusual textures and scents.
- 2** **The Braille Trail** - a short self-guided trail which passes through a patch of wetland and natural forest.
- 3** **Medicinal Plants** - find out about the many traditional medicinal uses of South African plants.
- 4** **Useful Plants** - discover how indigenous plants are used for making tea, coffee, dyes, rope, baskets and more.
- 5** **The Koppie** - only tough, drought-resistant plants survive on this well-drained sandstone outcrop.
- 6** **The Dell** - The oldest part of the garden, featuring Colonel Bird's Bath, tree ferns and a wide variety of shade-loving plants.
- 7** **Cycad Amphitheatre** - features an ancient plant group which dates back to a time long before dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- 8** **Pearson's Grave** - Prof. Harold Pearson was the first Director of Kirstenbosch, and the man whose vision led to the establishment of the Garden in 1913.
- 9** **Mathews' Rockery** - displays succulents and bulbs from the dry parts of the country.
- 10** **Vygies** - a kaleidoscope of colour in October when these succulent plants are in full flower.
- 11** **Annuals** - enjoy a spectacular show of colour in Spring. Best viewed at midday when the Namaqualand daisies have fully opened.
- 12** **The Fynbos Walk** - this path leads from Rycroft Gate through a unique type of vegetation called 'fynbos'.

This Garden is a living museum of South African plants. To help us maintain the Garden and plant collections, please take note:

- X

  - disturbing or removing any plant or animal life
  - walking in flower beds
  - radios
  - ball games
  - dogs
  - littering
  - swimming
  - climbing trees
- ✓




  - walking
  - taking photographs
  - exploring
  - sitting on lawns
  - relaxing
  - bird watching



**KIRSTENBOSCH-**  
the cultivated garden

Visitors using Kirstenbosch do so at their own risk

LEGEND :

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Toilets       |  Telephone         |
|  Restaurant    |  Parking           |
|  Photo stop    |  Information       |
|  Café Botanica |  Kirstenbosch Shop |



# Take Kirstenbosch home on film



Look for the photo stops on the map overleaf. These indicate some of the best places to capture memories of your visit. A wide angle lens (28 to 35mm) gives excellent results. A good all-purpose film for close-up and distance photography is 200 ASA. Both print and slide film are available at the Visitors' Centre.



**Old Oaks** - from these trees you can capture a good view of the central Garden. Include some overhanging branches to frame the picture - this will give greater depth and perspective.



**Reflecting Pool** - balance the above water and reflected images for a picturesque effect, or ask your friends to pose on the opposite bank.



**The Entrance Gate** - a perfect view of Castle Rock. Try to avoid taking the picture directly into the late afternoon sun. Use the shade of your hand or Garden Guide to prevent direct sun from hitting the lens.



**Camphor Avenue** - turn your camera sideways for a vertical portrait, looking up the avenue.



**Otter Pond** - a peaceful, green area which is rich in textures. Sit on the wall or kneel down to have some plants or foliage showing in the foreground.



**Dell Magic** - take a picture from the start of the stepping stones, with tree ferns framing the stream. Or go to Colonel Bird's Bath and capture the beauty of this crystal clear pool.



**Fynbos Walk** - position the frame so that the brick path leads from the bottom left to the top right corner of your picture, Or try some close-ups of proteas and pincushions.



**Rycroft Gate** - here you can take a 'classic' fynbos composition with a colourful mix of proteas, ericas and restios.



# Welcome

to Kirstenbosch - a living display of the floral riches of southern Africa

Kirstenbosch was established in 1913 to promote and conserve the indigenous flora of southern Africa. Situated on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, the estate covers 528 hectares and includes both a cultivated Garden and a nature reserve. The developed Garden (36 ha.) displays collections of southern African plants, and includes many rare and endangered species.

Take time to explore the theme gardens - the Fynbos Walk, Fragrance and Medicinal Gardens and the Waterwise Demonstration Garden. And don't forget to visit the Conservatory. With over 4 500 plant species in cultivation Kirstenbosch has a lot to offer.

## Why we need botanical gardens

Botanical gardens are living museums. They contain collections of plants which are used for display, scientific research and education, and play a vital role in the conservation of plant biodiversity.

## The National Botanical Institute

Kirstenbosch is the largest of a country-wide network of eight botanical gardens administered by the National Botanical Institute. The NBI also maintains plant reference collections at three national herbaria and is actively involved in botanical research and environmental education.

*The mission of the NBI is to promote the sustainable use, conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the exceptionally rich plant life of South Africa for the benefit of all people.*

Your comments would be appreciated.  
Please contact:  
The Curator, Kirstenbosch NBI  
Private Bag X7, Claremont, 735.  
Tel: (021) 762 9120 Fax: (021) 762 3229  
Website: <http://www.nbi.ac.za>

# General Information

**Hours:** The Garden is open every day of the year from 08h00 to 18h00 (April - August) and 08h00 to 19h00 (September - March). The Conservatory is open from 09h00 to 17h00 daily.

**Entrance fees:** A nominal entry fee is charged with concessions for children and students. SA senior citizens (with ID) admitted free on Tuesdays.

**Wheelchairs:** Bookings at the Information Office.

**Information:** Phone (021) 762 9120. (761 4916 on weekends).

## Walks and Trails

Guided walks through the Garden and Conservatory can be arranged for groups (Tel: 761 4916). Several trails lead through the natural forest and fynbos surrounding the cultivated Garden. They range from 1.5 km (45 mins) to 7.8 km (3 hrs). Access to Table Mountain is possible via well-marked routes up Skeleton Gorge and Nursery Ravine. A separate Trails Map is available at Information.

## Visitors' Centre

Browse for gifts at the Kirstenbosch Shop (Tel: 762 2510) or enjoy a cup of coffee and a light snack at Caffé Botanica (Tel: 762 6841). The Botanical Society Bookshop is located in the Kirstenbosch Shop. The Old Mutual Conference and Exhibition Centre is situated in the Visitors' Centre.

## Garden Centre

Visit the Garden Centre for a wide variety of indigenous plants. Open daily from 09h00 to 17h00, except Christmas Day and Good Friday. (Tel: 762 1621).

## Restaurant

The Kirstenbosch Restaurant is open daily; The *Fynbos* self-service from 09h00 to 18h00, The *Silver Tree* a la carte from 11h00 to 15h00 for lunch and 18h00 to 22h00 for dinner. (Tel: 762 9585).

## School groups

A variety of exciting educational programmes are available. Bookings: Gold Fields Education Centre (Tel: 762 1166).

## Become a member

Join the Botanical Society and enjoy free entrance to the eight National Botanical Gardens, a subscription to *Veld & Flora* magazine and other benefits. For more information about the Society Tel: 797 2090 or Fax: 797 2376.



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