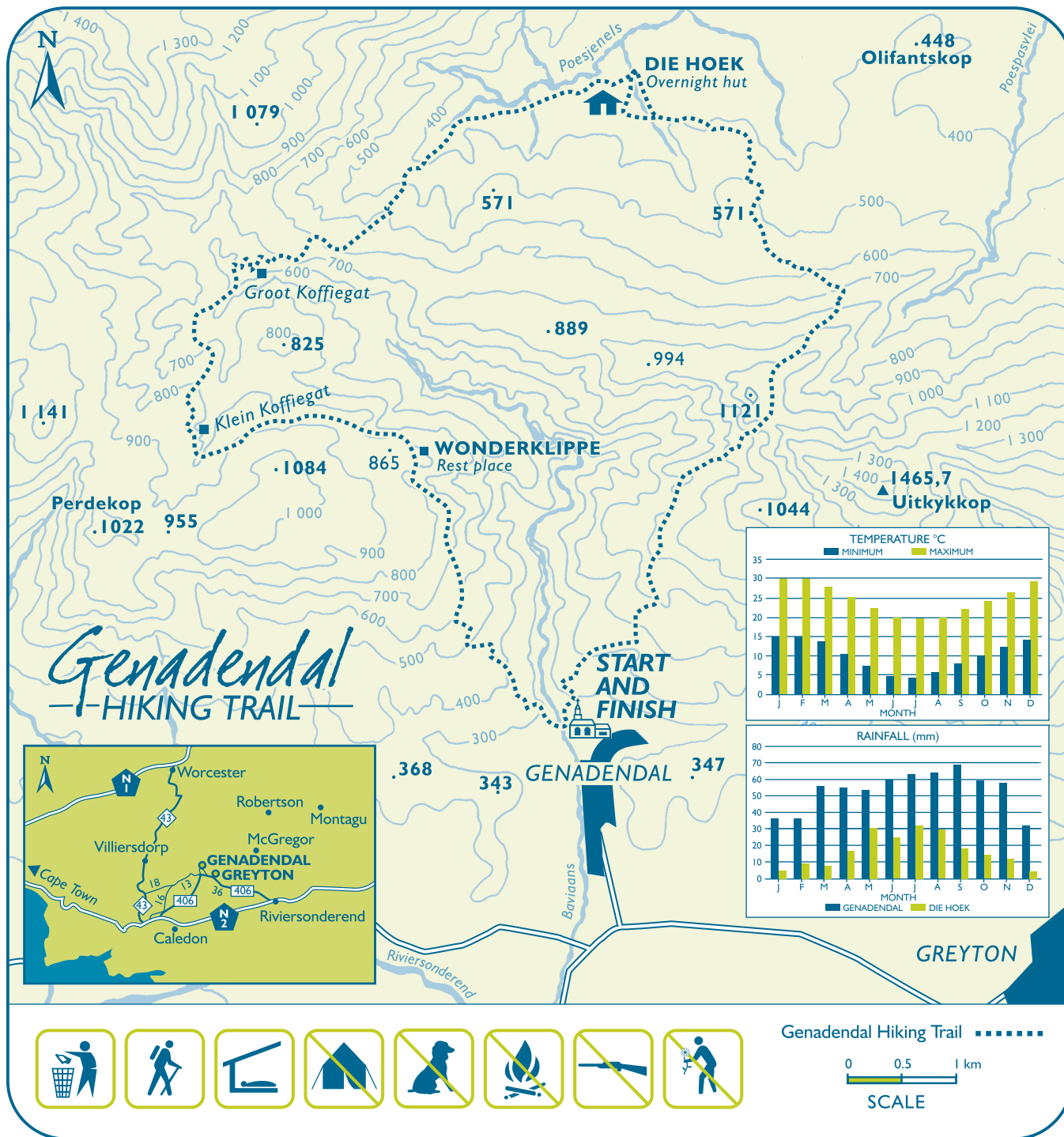




GENADENDAL HIKING TRAIL

GENADENDAL HIKING TRAIL

The Genadendal Hiking Trail winds through the Riviersonderend Conservation Area which lies between the towns of McGregor, Riviersonderend, Greyton and Villiersdorp in the south-western Cape. The area is approximately 69 500 ha and includes sections of proclaimed, privately-owned mountain catchment areas, state property, as well as private and municipal nature reserves. Riviersonderend Conservation Area is mountainous and rugged, with rivers, forested kloofs, gorges and high peaks, making it ideal for adventurous hikers.

Plants and animals

The area's varied topography and Mediterranean climate support a rich variety of plants. Mountain fynbos is the predominant vegetation with several species of everlastings, ericas and proteas, including the giant protea, *Protea cynaroides*. Dense riverine vegetation occurs along the many water courses, featuring species such as the stream conebrush and the wild almond.

Mammals include grey duiker, grey rhebuck, klip-springer, baboon and dassie. Leopards occur in these mountains but are seldom seen. Hikers may see leopard tracks in the sand and scratch marks on the trunks of old waboom trees. The large tracts of sugarbush attract sugarbirds and brightly coloured orangebreasted sunbirds. Raptors, including black eagles, booted eagles, jackal buzzards and rock kestrels, are likely to be seen.



Route information

The trail is fairly strenuous, leading through private property and traversing the conservation area on both sides of the Riviersonderend mountain range. It offers panoramic views of the Overberg as well as the Worcester-Robertson Karoo.

The trail is a circular route of 25.3 km and takes two days to complete. It begins and ends in Genadendal at the historic Moravian Mission Church which dates back to 1738. Overnight facilities are available at the church for hikers who prefer to overnight before starting the route. The first day's stretch is 14.3 km ($\pm$ 8 hours) and leads past two pools at Groot and Klein Koffiegat, ending at the farm Die Hoek on the north side of the mountain. Overnight accommodation, including braai facilities, is available here. The following day's route is 11 km ($\pm$ 7 hours), returning to Genadendal.

Hikers please note:

- You should be fit and well-equipped.
- In summer the area can be extremely hot and you are advised to carry water.
- Winters are cold and wet and you should adhere to weather warnings as the trail can be dangerous in extreme conditions.
- A maximum of 24 people per day is allowed, with a maximum of 14 to a group.
- The trail and overnight accommodation need to be booked separately.



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.

ENQUIRIES

Tel: (023) 625 1621

RESERVATIONS

Tel: 0861 CAPENATURE
(227 362 8873)

www.capenature.co.za