


## Accommodation Facilities

a trail is regarded as having (A)  excellent, (B)  standard and (C)  rustic accommodation according to the following facilities:

- ✓ Pending and Protea  (sleeps 8)
- ✓ **Accommodation:** (A) Good quality hut/lux.tent/house with several sleeping rooms  
 (B) Basic hut or tent(s) provided  
 (C) Shelter against elements for sleeping or tent site only
- ✓ **Toilet:** (A) Flush toilet inside hut (1:6 people) and toilet paper  
 (B) Separate toilet building, flush facilities outside hut (toilet paper provided)  
 (C) Pit toilet (max 50 m min 20 m from hut) or alt. hygienic system (toilet paper)
- Beds:** (A) Single / double beds only  
 ✓ (B) Bunk beds OR  
 (C) No beds provided
- ✓ **Mattresses:** (A) Thick (10 cm) high density foam or spring  
 (B) Thin  
 (C) None
- ✓ **Washing:** (A) Shower and/or bath: with geyser or "donkey" pre-lit by attendant  
 (B) Shower and/or bath (hot and cold with "donkey")  
 (C) Shower (cold) or natural place to bath
- Braai area:** (A) Under cover barbecue, with windshield, lapa (1:10 people)  
 ✓ (B) Barbeque area, covered only, with grate,  
 (C) Barbeque (open) area with grate only or no fires allowed or possible
- ✓ **Fire wood provided:** (A) Ample chopped wood (also for campfire)  
 (B) One only bundle for braai  
 (C) Dry tree/logs with saw/axe provided or no fires allowed/possible (delete one)
- Kitchenware:** (A) Fridge/cooler and cutlery/crockery: provided  
 (B) Fridge/cooler or cutlery/crockery: provided (delete one)  
 ✓ (C) NOT provided
- Kitchen:** (A) Separate "kitchen"/common room with basin and tap inside hut  
 (B) Dish washing / cooking place near or adjacent to hut (with table/surface)  
 ✓ (C) No separate facilities provided
- Lighting:** (A) Electric/gas/solar  
 (B) Candles/paraffin lamps or similar  
 ✓ (C) None of these provided
- Heating:** (A) Air conditioning or stoves in all rooms  
 (B) Heating by means of fire place; coal/wood stove in common room  
 ✓ (C) None of these
- Cooking facilities:** (A) Stove/hot plate/burner and kettle, pots & pans  
 ✓ (B) Stove/Hot plate/burner or kettle, pots & pans  
 (C) None of these

## Basic Trail Description

The nature reserve comprises 4000 hectares of rolling Bankenveld grassland, with a number of wetlands and two dams, one being the large Rietvlei dam. It is fully fenced with security gate at the entrance. It is being used extensively for environmental education programmes. There are an extensive list of birds and 1 500 head of game.

The network of trails covers the whole area. Trails of various distances can thus be used according to the level of fitness of the hikers. Hikers arrive Friday afternoon and walk for 2 km to the first overnight hut at. On Saturday the trail runs for 14 km through the reserve to the second hut. On Sunday the last 6 km to the entrance gate is an easy walk. There is also a 10 km day walk. The trails are guided but self-catering and all equipment has to be carried by the hiker. Various cultural and natural features occur along the trail.

## Trail Facilities & Safety

- Booking facilities and information:** Internet, postal, telephone & fax
- Reception office:** On site
- Road signs:** Clear road signs to start
- Access road:** Last section tar
- Parking:** Some shade trees
- Trail Format:** Circular
- Map:** Generalized map
- Brochure:** General basic information on trail and environment
- Markers:** None. Guided
- Environmental education:** Informative
- Safety:**  
*Accommodation:* Safe  
*Warning signs:* Dangerous places marked  
*Crossings:* Safe and effective river/road crossing  
*Telephone:* At start and end of trail  
*Medical Aid:* Basic aid near start and end of trail  
*Hikers' safety en route:* Safe  
*Water:* None *en route*  
*Parking:* Safe from public areas/veld fires

## Environmental Character: Definitions

A **PRISTINE** environment depicts an area where nature still exists in its more-or-less pure form: clean drinking water in streams, indigenous vegetation and animal life with no trace of human constructions, activities or sounds nearby.



In a **NATURAL** environment one could expect to see and hear human activities to a limited extent; such as e.g. associated with farming and forestry. Exotic plants (e.g. pine plantations) might be prevalent; as well as cattle, fences and constructions such as earth dams.




To hike through a **RURAL** environment would imply close contact with rural development and its associated noise, crossing of public roads, hiking on forestry/ farm roads, visual contact with agricultural fields, cement dams, domesticated animals, etc.



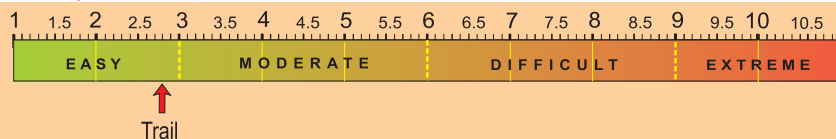
A **SEMI-URBAN** environment will be typically an urban green belt or city park or similar where the built environment is adjacent to the trail and where the noise of vehicles and associated aspects of pollution will often be prominent.



### Generalized Classification

 41% Pristine			
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## Difficulty Grading



## Contact /Booking Information

**The Reserve Manager**  
 Rietvlei Nature Reserve  
 PO Box 1454  
 Pretoria  
 0001

Tel: 012 358 1811/2

# Rietvlei Nature Reserve Hiking Trail



## Classification

A guided, self-catering circular hiking trail with shorter loops  
**Environment:** *pristine*  
**Accommodation:** *excellent*  
**Difficulty Rating:** *easy*  
**Facilities and safety:** *good*



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Accreditation underwritten by:  
 South African Hiking Trail Owners Association (SAHTOA) and the  
 Hiking Organization of Southern Africa (HOSA)