

THOMAS HUT

Thomas Hut is situated in the Hex River Mountains north of Worcester at Disa Dell (1395m) on the north-eastern flanks of Brandwacht Peak. Overlooking Meiring's Plateau, it is often the first stop on an exploration of the Hex River Mountains. It is an ideal base from which to access Brandwacht Peak, Chavonnesberg, Meiring's Plateau and its ridge peaks, Audensberg and of course Fonteintjiesberg. The Hut also forms part of the classic "Hex Traverse" to Waaihoek, Ceres or the Hex River Valley.

Co-ordinates: 33°32'57.59"S , 19°24'19.25"E **Map:** 1:50 000 - 3319CB - Worcester

Drive-time: About 1 hour 30 min from Cape Town; **Walk-in time:** 3 hours 30 min.

Height gain: Approximately 1000m from the car park.

Weather forecast: Google **yr.no Brandwagpiek Western Cape** (spelling is important!)

- **FACILITIES** at this one-room hut include, outside a stoep, roofed pergola, 'braai' fire-place, toilet and cold shower. Inside are mattresses, a kitchen area with wash-up and running water (except during droughts), cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils, solar lights and a small slow-combustion room heater ("kaggel"), which uses either wood or charcoal. Bring your own wood, toilet paper and gas stoves. Or alternatively, a butane gas canister (220g) to use with the gas stove tops, which are in the hut.
- **BOOKINGS:** All MCSA members wishing to access Thomas Hut via the Fairy Glen Estate must do so via the Hut Convenor, Erika van Niekerk at erieks@mweb.co.za at least four working days in advance.

THOMAS HUT: BOOKING AND ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS

ACCESS

- All MCSA access to the Hut is to be arranged through the Hut Convenor Erika van Niekerk at erieks@mweb.co.za.
- Under no circumstances may any MCSA member try to circumvent this agreed arrangement by communicating directly with the Estate owners or management.

BOOKINGS

- Bookings must be finalised a minimum of **four working days** prior to the day of departure. No bookings will be handled on Saturdays or Sundays.
- Hut fees (R20 per member and R45 per non-member per night) are **payable in advance** to bank account: MCSA WORCESTER, STANDARD BANK 050407, A/C NR 386248044. Please email your proof of payment to erieks@mweb.co.za .
- Note: Hut bookings are not exclusive to any one group, i.e. more than one booking may be accepted by the Hut Convenor for the period of your proposed visit.
- The use of the Hut is a privilege, not an absolute right. The Hut Convenor is mandated to use his/her discretion in approving or rejecting any booking request.
- Information required by the Hut Convenor:
 1. Name and cell phone contact number of the leader.
 2. MCSA Section and membership number of the leader (this will be verified with the relevant MCSA Section).
 3. Names and MCSA membership numbers where applicable of rest of people in the party (max 18, with a ratio restriction of 2 non-members per MCSA member).
 4. Vehicle registration numbers (max 6 vehicles).
 5. Date and time of arrival at Fairy Glen Estate (not before 07h30)
 6. Date and time of departure from the Estate (not after 17h30)
 7. [After the visit, feedback on anything requiring the attention of the Hut Convenor will be highly appreciated.]

CROSSING THE FAIRY GLEN ESTATE

PLEASE READ ALL OF THE RULES, REQUESTS AND INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BELOW AND ENSURE THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY ARE MADE AWARE OF THEM AND COMPLY FULLY WITH THEM.

- Our access across the Fairy Glen Estate is by way of a verbal 'gentleman's agreement' based solely on reciprocal goodwill. The sensitivity of this agreement dictates that all MCSA members and their guests treat the owners, their staff, their property and their requests with the utmost respect and compliance.
- The whole group must **enter (and exit) the Estate as one.**
- Keep to the speed limit and keep on moving - stopping to view/photograph game is strictly prohibited (we are not paying guests!)

Read the following with the sketch-map at hand:

At GATE 1 (The entrance gate), press the intercom button - the reception office will trigger the sliding gate to open.

Gate 2 will open automatically on approach. Travel along the tarred road to Gate 3 just past the lion encampment. Turn right and follow the road to the Lodge. Report to the Receptionist.

At Reception: All members of your party must complete an indemnity form and will receive a 'Passport' slip, one 'Passport' slip to be placed visibly inside each car's windscreen.

Drive back on this road, to the lion encampment. Turn right for gate 3.

Gates 3 and 4 must be opened **manually** and **closed again** once all the vehicles are through. Leave these two gates locked or unlocked depending on how you found them (the gate keys are with the Hut key). The area between Gates 2, 3 and 4 is a game encampment - please drive with care.

MCSA parking: All the vehicles must be parked here and be well off the road.

[Note: There is **cell phone reception** along the path to the Hut at Sitkamer, Fairview, Lemoendraai and Witklip and, sporadically, just inside the north-/stoep-facing window of the Hut.]

ON ARRIVAL AT THOMAS HUT

- The keys to the metal window shutters and the toilet hang next to the old 'Hut Fees' box.
- For solar lighting, turn the timer switch (against the shelving left of the 'kaggel') **clockwise** (never anti-clockwise) and repeat as necessary. All the lights have their own separate switches.
- If mattresses are used outside they must be protected by a groundsheet.
- Two gas stoves on the kitchen counter top use 220g butane gas canisters, which are not supplied: bring your own.
- Never overfill the 'kaggel' or force the door of the 'kaggel' (pane replacement costs > R2500!!).

BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Sign the visitors'book Remove all empties and rubbish Wash and dry crocker/cutlery
- Clean the 'kaggel' Sweep the Hut Check for paper/peels etc. outside the Hut
- Close all windows (also the two in the attic) Lock the toilet Lock the Hut

[Remember to hand in your 'Passport' slips at Reception].

MCSA ACCESS ROUTE TO TIERKLOOF

(Not to scale)

