

## **Information about Koensrust Sea Farm**

Thank you for booking a stay at Koensrust Sea Farm. We really do hope that you have a wonderful time at our very special piece of this earth. We have put together this information sheet to give you some more information to help you enjoy your stay and also some rules that should be abided to.

### **Essential Phone Numbers**

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Koensrust Front Gate:         | 076 940 2367                |
| 2. River Hill Gate:              | 063 759 2136                |
| 3. Louise Howell:                | 061 273 1906 / 082 573 1370 |
| 4. Hannah Saayman:               | 071 284 8058                |
| 5. Riversdale Hospital:          | 028 713 2445                |
| 6. Riversdale Doctors 8 to 5:    | 028 713 2500                |
| 7. Riversdale Doctors after hrs: | 072 055 5733                |
| 8. Riversdale Emergencies:       | 028 713 2222                |

### **Arrival and Departure**

You may arrive any time after 2pm on your first day and must leave by 10am on your last day unless you have pre-arranged a later time with Louise. Your house will be unlocked and your keys will be left in the kitchen for you. When you leave please lock your house and leave the keys in the 'post box' at the main farm gate.

### **The Gates**

The main farm front gate and the river hill gates only open to missed calls from pre-loaded cell phone numbers that have been pre-authorized, so always carry your phone with you when you come and go. The river section front gate is not always locked but just in case always take your house keys with you. The key with black triangular head is the river section front gate key.

### **Cell Phones**

Remember to keep your cell phone charged and loaded with airtime and with you whenever you want to leave the farm or go across to the river or sea section as you cannot open the gates without it. There are 2 USB ports to charge your phone in the houses.

Cell reception across the farm is not constant and you may have to communicate via SMS if you need to get hold of someone. There is however good signal at the main farm house

## **Braai and Fire Wood**

There will be 15 pieces of braai wood provided for you for each night of your stay. If you need more, you will need to bring it with you.

Please only use the grid, braai pan and tongs and none of our other kitchen pots or utensils on the fire.

**Please do not burn driftwood from the beach on the braai or in the fireplace as the heat causes the cement to crack.**

## **Our Staff:**

Our farm staff maintain, clean and prepare the houses and leave them ready for you to move in. Louise Howell does all the bookings and other arrangements for our guests. She is based in Somerset West but is available via cell phone. Should anything need fixing or resetting she will arrange for the staff to come and sort you out. From the farm SMS's work best as voice reception is not always good. Voice reception at the main farm house should be good.

Our local head staff are Jan and Hannah Saayman. They and our other local staff members all live in Vermaaklikheid, the neighboring village 10 km's away. During normal working hours the men will mostly be pottering around the farm somewhere while the women are either in the yard or cleaning houses. Over the weekends they are all at home.

## **Septic Tanks:**

**All our facilities have septic tanks and these can only have toilet paper and human waste flushed down them. So please make sure to advise ALL your guests as any other foreign substance will block the septic tank. A blocked septic tank is a nasty thing for you and our staff. Bins are provided at each toilet for everything else.**

## **Electricity**

**If you have not been to the farm before, it is very important that you understand the power supply limitations as we run on batteries that are charged via solar panels and wind turbines.**

**-You cannot leave the lights on all night. Please bring along torches.**

**-Always turn off the lights as you leave a room.**

**If you run out of power, you will need to call the staff to charge the battery bank with a portable generator.**

## **Water**

Water is pumped from a borehole on the yard. It is safe to drink. Some people do however not like the brackish taste and prefer to bring their own bottled water to drink.

## **Waste**

All garbage is collected on Thursdays and taken off to the village dump on Fridays. Keep lids on all bins to avoid encouraging mice AND the creatures that eat the mice.

**Do not throw away bait or fish guts in the bins. They bring flies and leave a revolting smell in the bin for the garbage collectors and for the next guests. Please clean your fish at the sea and throw the guts and the remainder of your bait when you leave in the sea.**

## **Mice and other creatures**

There are field mice around. This is their natural habitat after all. Please keep all doors closed so that they do not come into the rooms. They are difficult to get rid of and cause significant damage to bedding. Please bring along sealable cooler bags/boxes or the like to store dry goods, especially at the Beach Shack and River Tented Camp. There are no storage cupboards. Other creatures (otters, meerkat...?) have been known on very rare occasions to sneak through the kitchen windows at night to steal food. If this concerns you, close the windows before you go to bed.

## **Fishing Licenses and Bait Collection**

We expect that you will have the correct fishing and bait licenses with you and that you abide by all the regulations and catch limits. We are part of the Blombos Conservancy and encourage regular inspections by conservation officials. They will fine you if you are found to not have a license or exceeding the limits.

Please fish only for the pot whist staying at Koensrust and please clean your fish and throw your bait away in the sea or river.

With respect to our neighbour please avoid fishing beyond our border which is about 500m east of the beach shack as they also appreciate their privacy when they are there.

## **The River**

Cottage, Kapstyl and beach shack guests may all use the boma and jetty (but not the boathouse or tented camp) at the river.

The weather at the river is quite different from the seaside so is often nice when the sea is too windy or cold. The river boma has a braai, nice shade for a picnic and a huge lawn for games but you will have to share with any other farm guests. (not the river camp as they have their own spot behind the boathouse).

Do not take any white towels or clothes. The brown river water and mud is very hard to wash out.

Take running shoes or sandals with an ankle strap to walk down the hill.

The entrance to the river section of the farm is about 50 meters left beyond our main front entrance towards Puntjie but on the other side of the road.

The river section front gate key is the black triangular headed computer cut key on your bunch of house keys. The river section front gate is not always locked but take your house keys with you just in case. And of course, your cell phone to open the sea section front gate.

Park at the top of the river hill and walk the last 200m to the river (unless you have a 4x4 and have signed the indemnity form and had your cell phone authorised to open the river gate at the top of the hill)

Do not allow anyone to dive off the jetty as you cannot see the bottom where there are rocks. Jump from the middle only.

## **The Beaches**

Cottage, Kapstyl and River guests may likewise use the beaches.

The beaches are generally best in the mornings.

Always take shoes for exploring to the rock pools and for walking as there are some rocks to cross on both beaches.

There is a well sign posted footpath down to both the main and shack beaches that does not disturb the other guests.

The main beach is at the bottom of the sea hill road next to the solar panels.

It is best for exploring the rock pools at low tide. It is nice and flat for walks off to the right in almost any tide although low tide is always best. There are many good spots for swimming as soon as the water is deep enough.

The beach shack beach parking lot is further down the road to the left.

There are many huge rock pools for exploring from above or snorkeling through at low tide. The swimming spots are further east off to the right.

## **Fynbos Walks**

You are welcome to roam through the farm along the roads, paths and firebreaks to enjoy the flowers, birds and game. Early mornings and late in the afternoons are best.

Please do not go onto our neighbor's property. Our eastern boundary with our neighbors is unfenced to allow the game to roam over a bigger area. The poles are still there between the two firebreaks and the roads have no entry signs on them so it should not be too hard to recognise.

There are also good walks along the ridge above the river.

Walking off the paths is not advised as it will significantly increase your chances of meeting a snake.

Your dogs do not have to be on a lead unless they are going to be a danger to other people or animals.

## Dangers on the farm:

None of the insects, spiders or animals on the farm are dangerous.

## Blue Bottles:

There are times when there are blue bottles in the sea. While the stings are very sore, they are not fatal. If anyone is stung by a bluebottle apply meat tenderiser, vinegar or ammonia or even urine. Anything to change the ph to breakdown the sting.

## Bees:

As with most Fynbos, there are bees around and if you are allergic to bee stings you need to bring an epi-pen or anti-histamines with you in case of a sting.

## Snakes:

We do have snakes on the farm as is the case in most of South Africa, including three venomous species. But the chances of being bitten are minimal. **We rarely see snakes and have not had anyone bitten by a snake on the farm since 1982 when we bought the farm.**

Here are, however, some rules and guidelines for snakes: -

- (a) do not climb the milkwood trees.
- (b) only walk in the firebreaks when you walk in the veld.
- (c) look where you walk to ensure that you do not stand on a snake.
- (d) keep doors closed in summer if you are away from the cottages.

If you are bitten by a venomous snake you must take the following action:

1. **Immobilise the limb** and apply a pressure bandage as soon as possible
2. If you can, try and determine the identity of the snake
3. Drive to Riversdale Hospital (45 minutes away) and keep the victim as still as possible. You can phone the hospital on the way to let them know and get extra advice. Phoning Louise will be of no use.

### 1. Boomslang



The Boomslang is a shy snake that lives mainly in the milkwood trees and preys on small birds. **Do not climb the trees.** Although highly venomous, you are unlikely to be bitten by a Boomslang if you stay out of the trees as they are very shy and tend to avoid human contact.

### 2. Cape Cobra



The Cape Cobra also prefers to avoid people, but if you disturb one it will hiss at you and hood and rear. **The best defense is to remain motionless** and let the snake move away from you and to safety. While it is feeling threatened it will hood and rear up.

### 3. Puffadder



The puffadder is the most likely snake to bite you due to its nature of lying in paths and not moving away. For this reason you need to be vigilant and **look where you walk** when walking through the veld. If you see a puffadder, you need to ensure that you give it a wide berth.

Its colour ranges from this brown above to a bright yellow.

4. The plain black **Mole Snake** is NOT VENOMOUS but can give a nasty bite. Keep away.