

SAN LEGACY

Gecko Creek Lodge, a self-catering bush camp on a 517 hectare private nature reserve, borders the 80 000 hectare Cedarberg Reserve and is part of the Cape Leopard Reserve. Offering comfortable twin or double cabins and tents overlooking the valley, there is also a cool Lapa for gathering and cooking, a fire-warmed open air boma, salt water swimming pool, 5 star showers/toilets and a stunning setting makes this the ideal hub from which to explore the Cedarberg with all its hiking, rock climbing and history. A short distance away is the Olifants River, offering picnics, fishing, canoeing and swimming. The river has the richest variety of endemic fish species of all rivers south of the Zambezi, including yellow fish and red-fin minnow.

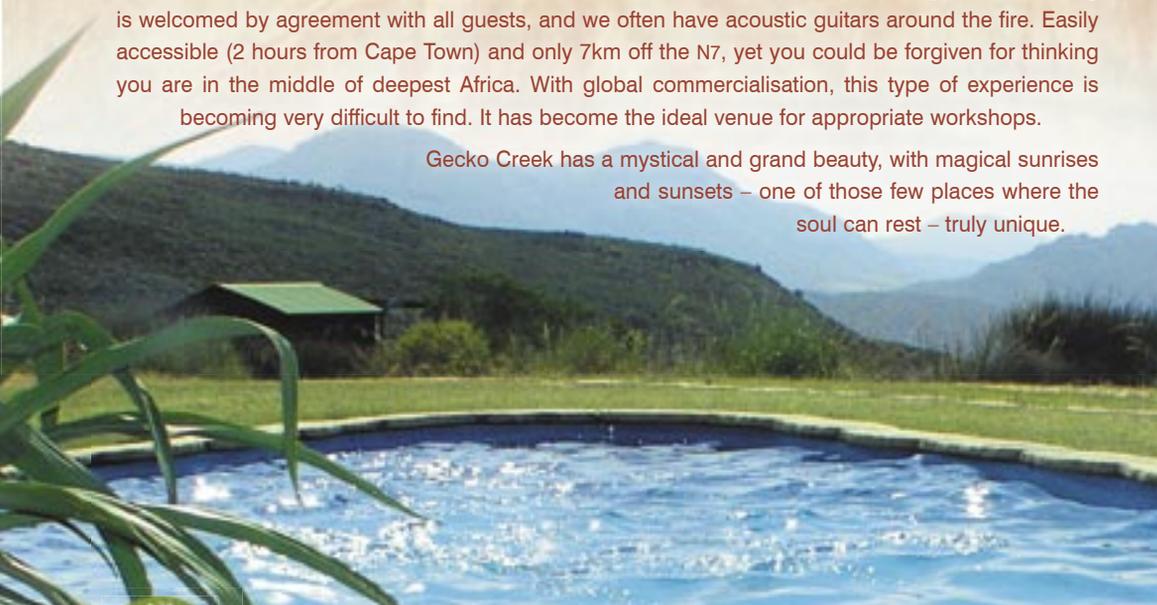
The Cedarberg Mountains, home to the San Bushmen for thousands of years, is a heritage to these remarkable and gentle people. Their rock art (dated between 300 and 20000 years old), combined with the natural surreal rock structures imply this could well be the cradle of humanity. The land is so unspoilt by light that the stars are said to look like diamonds on velvet – one can see a shooting star every 10 minutes. This region has one of the most intense species and subspecies of plants in the world – an intricate floral kingdom astonishing in its delicate beauty, populated by the Cape leopard, baboon, antelope, lynx, aardwolf and 165 bird species including the magnificent black eagle.

Two years since opening, Gecko Creek has received endless compliments on the setting and facilities, with responses like 'jewel of the Cedarberg' and 'a place of profound beauty and silence'. Owner Linton Pope says 'it has been the realisation of a lifetime dream and my vision is to create an affordable oasis for all who appreciate the beauty of nature and space'. It is also a place where travellers share their stories around the fire. Solar power is used extensively, and the intention is to create a natural lake to attract more birdlife and animals. Limited accommodation options are being added (caves with beds) while keeping with the focus of maintaining the camp's characteristic intimacy and tranquility. There is a strict limit of 24 visitors at a time and no music devices are allowed. However, djembe drumming is welcomed by agreement with all guests, and we often have acoustic guitars around the fire. Easily accessible (2 hours from Cape Town) and only 7km off the N7, yet you could be forgiven for thinking you are in the middle of deepest Africa. With global commercialisation, this type of experience is becoming very difficult to find. It has become the ideal venue for appropriate workshops.

Gecko Creek has a mystical and grand beauty, with magical sunrises and sunsets – one of those few places where the soul can rest – truly unique.



With its 20000 year-old San Bushmen legacy, the Cedarberg Mountains could well hold the secrets to the origins of the first human.



Due to a Timber Wolf on the property, no children under 16 or pets allowed
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