

HOW TO BE BABOON WISE

A visitor's guide to the laws and guidelines regarding baboons on the Cape Peninsula



The Cape Peninsula is one of the most biodiverse places in the world. Baboons fulfill important ecological roles in the Cape Peninsula ecosystem, which contribute towards the preservation of biodiversity. Biodiversity is a major contributor towards the local economy and livelihoods, thus we need to do everything we can to protect it

Baboons are one of the most widespread and successful among the primate genera, largely due to their adaptability, agility and intelligence. Consequently they are adept at exploiting human-derived food sources which results in unrivalled levels of contact with humans. The Cape chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*) populations in the Cape Peninsula are no exception.

Millions of tourists come to Cape Town each year and visitors are likely to encounter baboons along the urban edge or when exploring the natural areas of the Peninsula.

Please help to keep baboons safe and wild by adhering to the following laws and guidelines.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE BABOONS

- Feeding baboons human food poses risks to their welfare. It encourages them to stay close to roads and urban areas where they can be injured or killed by vehicles.
- When baboons learn to access human-derived foods, they can become assertive in their efforts to continue obtaining it. This is a public safety concern and can lead to their lethal removal.
- Feeding baboons is punishable by law and can lead to a fine and/or imprisonment.

CHOOSE YOUR PICNIC SITE CAREFULLY

- Baboons can be surprisingly stealthy and their appearance can quickly ruin a picnic!
- Please plan your picnic spot carefully and stay close to your car so that most of your food can be secured within it.
- Please take all your rubbish home with you. When possible please make a conscious choice not to picnic in baboon ranging areas.

MAKE MEMORIES RESPONSIBLY

- Take photographs from inside your car when possible.
- When outside your car please maintain a minimum distance of 20 metres from the baboons.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

- Baboons have very little road sense and can behave unpredictably on and near the road.
- The youngsters are particularly unaware of the dangers vehicles pose.
- Please drive very slowly past them and put on your hazard lights to warn other road users of their presence.

HIKING

- Try to avoid carrying food with you in baboon ranging areas. If you must take food please ensure it is vacuum packed or in a well sealed container.
- Never try to grab anything back from a baboon.

STAYING IN A BABOON RANGING AREA

- Please make sure that windows and external doors are kept closed when baboons are in the area. Young baboons can squeeze through gaps as small as 7cm!
- Keep food and drink out of sight of windows. This will help to avoid potential damage to property by baboons looking for an easy meal.

**BABOON
HOTLINE**
071 588 6540

**PLEASE PHONE THE CITY'S DEDICATED BABOON HOTLINE TO
ALERT US TO THE PRESENCE OF BABOONS IN THE URBAN AREA,
TO REPORT PEOPLE FEEDING OR HARMING BABOONS OR IF YOU
SPOT INJURED BABOONS**



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