



Lord of the Manor

In spitting distance of the Valley of Desolation is Winterhoek homestead. Experience the timeless grace of the Karoo while staying in a 170-year-old homestead with views to forever. **By Nick Dall**



The Winterhoek homestead is 170 years old but has recently been spruced up.

Your dreams of going back in time to the grand old days of 19th century Karoo hospitality just came true. Whether you're after a week of rest and relaxation for the whole family or want to commemorate a special occasion with a few good friends, the historic Winterhoek homestead will not disappoint.

It features gorgeous details such as brass light switches and antique furniture sourced from the immediate surrounds, but the restoration team has also made a few concessions to modern expectations. The bathrooms are opulent, the four-poster beds are made up with fine linen and the mattresses are certainly not stuffed with straw. There's a vast farm-style kitchen

and dining room, and a portable braai that can be enjoyed in half a dozen locales. There's even DStv if you want a break from the captivating show put on by nature.

An escape to Winterhoek is about the simple things. Enjoy your morning coffee and rusk with only the birds for company. Spend your days reading a book (turn to page 28 for suggestions) or play cards in the elegant living room. Sip sundowners on the stoep while pinks turn to grey over the Ouhoek, Goewermentskop and Groot-hoek mountains in the distance.

Plains game roam the area surrounding the homestead and the Valley of Desolation is so close you'll be able to check it out at sunrise and be back in time for breakfast. 🐾



Camdeboo National Park lies around two-and-a-half hours' drive from Port Elizabeth.

TRIP PLANNER

GETTING THERE Winterhoek is located in the Valley of Desolation section of the Camdeboo National Park, a few kilometres from Graaff-Reinet on the Murraysburg Road (R63).

ACCOMMODATION At the time of going to print, the guest house was due to open. Please check rates with the park on 049-892-3456.