



History and Location

This area is home to some of the oldest examples of natural history. The Sacramento Trail is particularly notable for its unique concentration of Southern African tufa stromatolites, one of the oldest biofilms of microorganisms, especially cyanobacteria. These formations contain fossil remains to provide vital records of early life on Earth.

It is home to a new metazoan species called 'Sinelobus stromatolitic', resembling a tiny prawn-like burrower discovered within these rare stromatolite formations. Early holidaymakers used the freshwater seepage points for camping, which were also responsible for the area's development.

The Sacramento Trail is also the site of an intriguing historical event - the story of the Portuguese galleon Sacramento sinking on 30 June 1647.



The ship ran aground near Schoenmakerskop and Sardinia Bay, with only 72 survivors making it to shore. Of those, just nine trekked the 1,300-km distance to Delagoa Bay in Mozambique, and only four of these men made it back to Portugal. The Sacramento carried a cargo of cannons that remained on the ocean floor for over 300 years before being salvaged in 1977.

Important Information

Please remember that this is a Nature Reserve:

- All plant and animal life is protected and must not be disturbed or harmed.
- Please keep on the Trail at all times.
- A minimum number of three persons is recommended as a safety precaution.
- Please do not smoke or light fires while on the Trail.
- Dogs on a leash are allowed only along the beach.
- Do not litter.
- Carry at least two litres of drinking water per person.



In case of emergency please contact:
South African Police Service: 10111
Ambulance: 10177
Fire Department: +27 (0) 41 585 1555
Search and Rescue: +27 (0) 41 585 1555



open daily

08h00
to
16h30

General Enquiries	Tourism Office: +27 (0) 41 585 8884
Complaints/Log a Query	0800 205050
Environmental Management	+27 (0) 41 506 5464
Trail Permits	No permit required/Free entrance



SACRAMENTO TRAIL

Circular Route

Offering phenomenal **panoramic views**, lush greenery, and a **tranquil ambience**, this magnificent Trail promises an **unforgettable journey filled with history**. Delight in the vibrant **marine life** and engage in a soul-stirring adventure of the **legendary Portuguese galleon wreck site**.



DOWNLOAD THE APP
www.nmbt.co.za/port_elizabeth_apps.html



Tel: +27 (0) 41 585 8884
Email: info@nmbt.co.za

www.nmbt.co.za

7.9km

Hiking Times:
08h00 - 16h30

Duration:
3 / 4 Hours

Difficulty:
Easy

Explore and Experience

The Sacramento trail offers great views of the Memorial as well as picnic spots for a quick break.



Sacramento Restaurant: From a rambunctious start as The Hut Tearoom in 1918, the restaurant showcases some of the area's rich history and offers a great spot to watch whales and enjoy lunch with a beautiful coastline view.



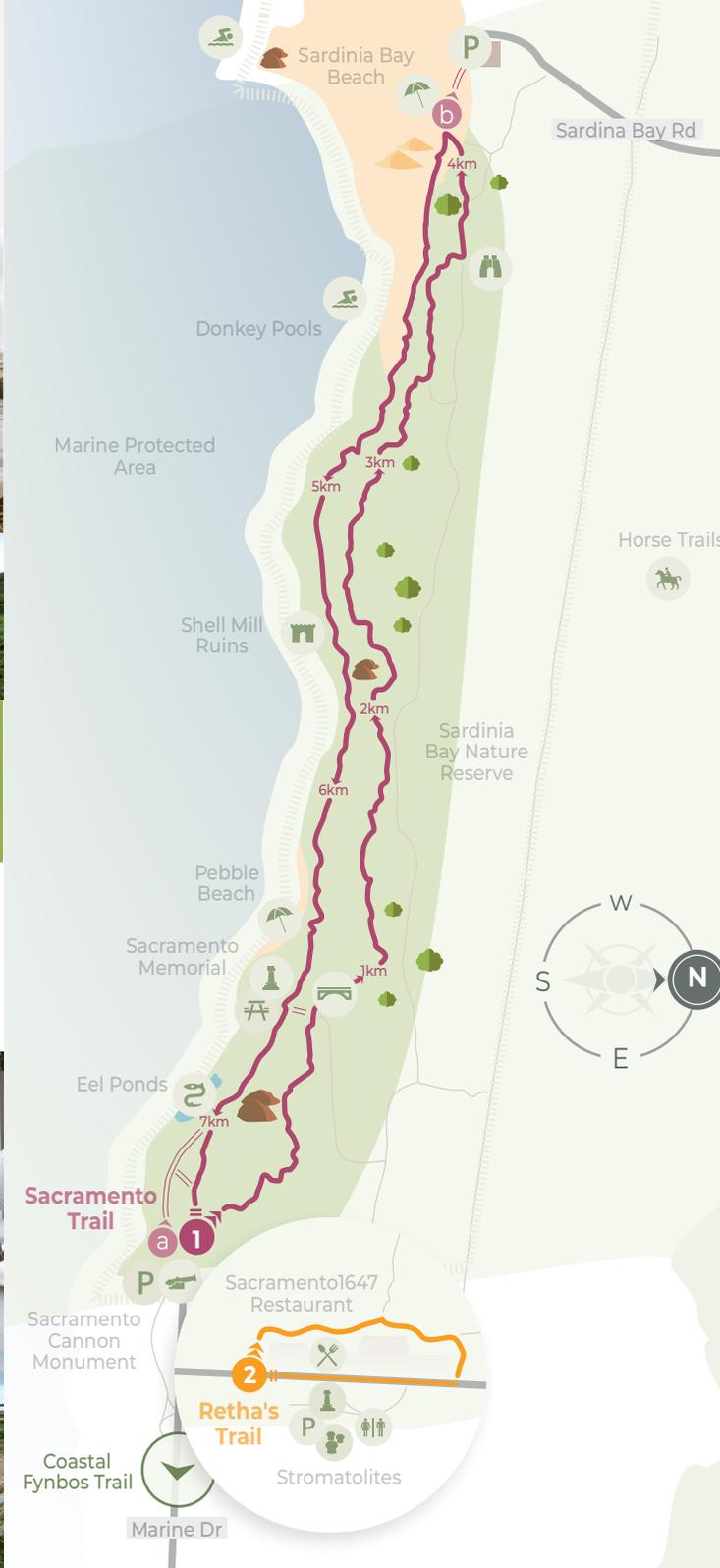
Retha's Trail: A hidden gem in Schoenies is Retha's Trail which runs just behind the Sacramento Restaurant. There is a small labyrinth and a beautiful garden with many different areas to explore.



Shell Mill Ruins: Shell crushing mills were used for crushing and grinding various types of shells. These mills were commonly used in industries such as agriculture, construction, and road building, where the ground shells could be used.



Sacramento Canon is one of the original canons from the Sacramento pointed towards the wreck's site.



1

Sacramento Trail

7.9km

(Circular route: easy)

Start: 34° 02' 24.0" S | 25° 32' 02.3" E
End: 34° 02' 24.0" S | 25° 32' 02.3" E

Sub-Trails Available:

a. Beach Walk: 405m
b. Alternative Route: 207m

2

Retha's Trail

710m

(circular route: easy)

Start: 34° 02' 24.5" S | 25° 32' 14.4" E
End: 34° 02' 25.0" S | 25° 32' 25.6" E

Top Fauna:

- Karoo Scrub-Robin
- Karoo Prinia
- Cape Porcupine
- Cape Clawless Otter
- Bushbuck & Cape Grysbok
- Dune Dung Beetles
- Whales & Dolphins

Top Flora:

- Coast Oxtongue
- Red Satyres
- Cobra Lilies
- Potatoes
- Dune Grasses