OLIEWENHUIS ART MUSEUM'S HIKING TRAILS

Surrounded by 12 hectares of natural vegetation on Grant’s Hill, Oliewenhuis Art Museum offers access to four marked hiking trails through the unspoilt natural areas. The hiking trails are easily accessible to young and old and offer a unique opportunity to experience the wild beauty and tranquility.

The longest trail takes approximately 30 minutes to complete while the shortest takes 20 minutes offensively hiking.

The Green Hiking Trail offers informative educational panels providing information on the various types of plant, animal, insect and bird life to be found in the area.

A popular attraction of the hiking trails is the 84 different bird species, identified here since 1988. Be on the lookout for African Red-eyed Bulbuls, Karoo Thrushes, Orange River White-eye, Yellow Canaries, Laughing and Cape Turtle Doves. Flocks of Wattled Starlings, White-backed and Red-faced Mousebirds can be observed feeding in fruiting wild olive trees. Malachite and White-bellied Sunbirds may be seen feeding in Leonrot (wildeagga) clumps in the garden during April - May, with the latter species present in all months. In summer, Diderick Cuckoos and European Bee-eaters are common in the gardens. Black-collared Barbets can occasionally be heard and seen here as well.

Most of the ground-dwelling insects found along the hiking trails belong to the Order Coleoptera, which includes all the beetles. One interesting species is the striped toktokkie (Psammodes striatus), which has a large body about 24 mm long and can be identified by the reddish-brown lines across its back. The mating habits of toktokkies involve individuals taping their abdomens against the ground, with potential mates locating one another by following the sound thus created. An interesting flightless beetle found along the trails is a beaded weevil (Phosphorus species). The common name of the insect refers to the shimmering scales or “beads” covering the insect, which can be brown, grey, silver, bronze or green. Like most other weevils, this beetle is identifiable by its prominent, elongated snout and is therefore also known as a snout beetle. A number of dung beetle species may also be found along the hiking trail. Dung beetles indicate a healthy environment and play a vital role in recycling nutrients back into the soil. Other interesting insects to be found in the trees along the trails include the spotted blister beetle, identified by its striking yellow and black spots, a number of differently coloured stink bug species and the ever-present but well-camouflaged cicadas or “Christmas beetles”.

TO HELP MAKE YOUR WALK AS ENJOYABLE AS IT WILL BE TO YOU:

- Leave flowers and other vegetation as you find them
- No littering - place all trash in the bins provided
- Treat other visitors with courtesy and respect their privacy
- Do not disturb or chase any wildlife
- Remain on the designated path at all times
- Please report any problems to the caretakers on duty
- Remember the gates close at 17:00

OM JOU UITSTAPIE AANGENAAM VIR ALMAL TE MAAK:

- Moenie blomme en plante verniel nie
- Moenie rommel strooi nie - gooi alie rommel in die asbloue op die terrein
- Wees vriendelik teenoor almal en resepkeer hulle privaatheid
- Moenie die wêreld steur nie
- Loop op padies soos aangedui
- Meld asbiefie enige probleme by die osigters aan
- Hekke sluit om 17:00

Entrance to Oliewenhuis Art Museum and the hiking trails is FREE.

Visiting Hours
Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm
Sat 9am - 4pm
Sun & Public Holidays 9am - 4pm
Closed on Good Friday & Christmas Day

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Oliewenhuis Art Museum is a satellite of the National Museum, Bloemfontein, an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture.
Green Trail / Groen-roete
Takes 20 minutes
Starts and ends at lapa or art class.
Neem 20 minute
Begin en eindig by lapa of kunsklas.

Red Trail / Rooi-roete
Takes 30 minutes
Starts and ends at lapa or art class.
Neem 30 minute
Begin en eindig by lapa of kunsklas.

Orange Trail / Oranje-roete
Takes 20 minutes
Starts behind the Reservoir (to the right) and ends at the Florisbad Offices near the main gate.
Neem 20 minute
Begin agter die Reservoir (aan die regterkant) en eindig by Florisbad-kantore (by die hoofhek).