

BABOON **ENCOUNTER** GUIDELINES

If you encounter Chacma baboons.... cherish the moment.

These charismatic, protected primates are indigenous to South Africa and fascinating to observe in their ancestral habitat and territory.

Tips for hiking encounters - On the mountain

- Avoid carrying **FOOD**, as they may target your bag. Feeding them is illegal, with fines up to R40,000 or imprisonment. The tallest person should carry children's backpacks. If a baboon takes something, retrieve it later.
- Keep **DOGS** on a lead, as they may provoke defensive reactions from baboons. A barking dog on a lead will not be attacked.
- Male baboons have sharp **CANINE TEETH**, longer than a lion's! Don't worry though, they are used to deter predators or intimidate rivals. Displaying them to rivals often resolves conflicts **WITHOUT FIGHTING**.
- Keep at least a 10-meter **DISTANCE** when photographing baboons. Share responsibly on social media, highlighting them and their habitat respectfully.
- Avoid approaching or **TOUCHING** baby baboons; adults are protective. If they approach you, **STAY CALM**, avoid sudden moves or loud noises, and **SPEAK SOFTLY**. Gently move away.
- Avoid eye contact or dominant behaviour; **OBSERVE QUIETLY** without disturbing.

At the Beach: Swim, keep your distance, respect, and enjoy!

1. If you have a **PICNIC** or large bag, secure it. Put a towel on, and sit, near it.
2. Baboons are good swimmers and like to **DIVE** and **SWIM**, particularly on hot days. If you are in the water, let them be around you, **IGNORE** them as they ignore you.
3. Baboons at the beach **FORAGE** on molluscs and seaweeds, do not prevent access to these resources.

Info: <https://greengroupsimonstown.org/>

