

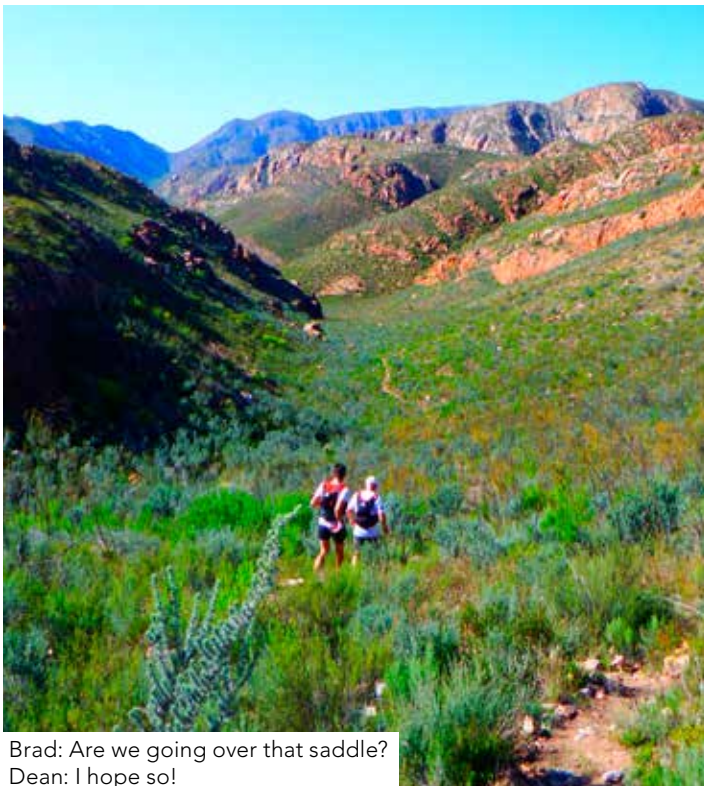
# Leopard Trail EC



**Access**  
By prior arrangement  
**Dogs** No

Entry **R870** / Trails **2** / Best route **61km** / Ascent **1,900m** / Difficulty **Hard** / Time **12h**

PHOTO ANDY WESSON



Brad: Are we going over that saddle?  
Dean: I hope so!

Looking back down the gorge we had ascended it was obvious why the final climb is called Fond Farewell. The Leopard Trail, in the western Baviaanskloof, encapsulates my idea of paradise. The trail is set up as a two day run; with Cedar Falls as base camp. Accommodation is great and the Afrikaans-speaking staff are gems. After a quick uphill called Kickstart, day one is predominantly fast flowing running on gorgeous compact trail with two climbs later on, and several scenic detours. Day two, however, will ask much more from your legs and the rocky technical sections and climbing had us power hiking and nimble footed. The middle section is again fast-flowing and then you enter a stunning gorge which you traverse to the final ascent. Water is marked on the supplied map and route markings on the trail are yellow boards. By prior arrangement we ran the entire trail in a day and carried appropriate gear. You can too! We poked our noses into most marked detours, indulged in quality trail running, watched the sun set from a mountain top and finished off with a night stretch down and back to base camp. Sunday was used to explore the scenic 8km Cedar Falls Route. Follow the waterfall signs and be prepared to swim: you won't be sorry! What a weekend!

ANDY WESSON



Andy Wesson is a passionate trail explorer and PE native.



## Get there

**How far?** An hour and a half from Uniondale. Four and a half hours from Port Elizabeth via Willowmore. Six hours from Patensie.

You must book in advance, and when you do, directions here will be sent. Exciting stuff!

-33°34.52' S, 23°42.95' E

## Want more info?

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