

Klipgat Cave/Walker Bay Nature Reserve – 7 June 2021 – Western Cape, South Africa

My guess is unless you live in South Africa you don't know Walker Bay Nature Reserve much less have ever visited here.

I have no recollection as to why I thought this was a good stop but most likely it was noted in *Lonely Planet* and was on our route to our next stop, Cape Auglhas. One of the advantages of our slow travel is we can stop when and where we want to, and Walker Bay Nature Reserve was a great stop to stretch the legs.

But first things first, we had to leave Hermanus. We were up and on the road before ten, heck it may have been by 9:00 am. I don't keep track of our time on the road but I know we got off at a reasonable time for us.

We left the hotel and headed towards Rotary Way for its view.



Looking down on Hermanus from the Rotary Way dirt track above the town.

OK back to Walker Bay Nature Reserve.



We didn't wake up the young lady at the entrance gate but I do think we surprised her. We spent more than an hour walking and driving and didn't see another soul or evidence of another soul. We had the Reserve to ourselves.

We drove into the Reserve and followed the dirt track to parking for Klipgat Cave. The sign giving directions to the Cave: "Accessible via a boardwalk, and a small amount of rock-hopping". Nancy and I both agreed the word, "small" was misleading. However, neither of us fell and therefore no need for a rescue by others.



Entered the cave from the landside and walked though the cave to the ocean side.

Per the sign: "Klipgat Cave was home to Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age people and is one of the most remarkable examples of early human dwellings in South Africa.

The remains found in the cave date back to between 65,000 and 85,000 years and the ocean was at a distance of around 5 km/3 miles from the cave.

Excavations in Klipgat Cave between 1969 and 1995 produced stone artefacts, preserved bone tools and remains of humans and some of the earliest sheep bones in the Western Cape."

After “a small amount of rock-hopping” we walked along the beach.





No, it isn't one of the Big Five African Animals but was interesting and gave us a chance to catch our breathes.





You can make out the railing of the boardwalk in the top center of the photograph.



All-in-all for people with nothing that must be done, this was another enjoyable stop along the way to somewhere we don't have to be.