

Paardeplaatas Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Description - **FF6600Klipspringer Singel**

JAFRI WALKING & CYCLING RAMBLE

Let us enjoy what the Lord has given us, and leave only our footprints behind!

Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Klipspringer Singel: Route 1</i>	<i>(Orange Route)</i>		A short, safe walk or ride for the children with Oupa and Ouma. Klipspringers favour the krantzies in this area and are reasonably friendly and tame if not frightened away!
Hill top		0	Start next to road about 100m from the house.
Old Mine Shaft	300	300	Old mine shaft entrance on left - overgrown with bushes - dangerous to enter - often the lair of brown hyenas, rooikatte or even leopards!
Masjienkloof View Point Turnoff	500	800	View point 300m to right, from turn-off. Overlooks Paardeplaats forest and Masjienkloof.
Masjiennek	500	1300	
Compound	700	2000	Back to the house via the staff compound and the horses - the mare is Whisper and her foal is Cinnamon, the gelding is Coco.
Hill top	400	2400	Total Distance They love apples and people!

Paardeplaats Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Description - 00B0F0Gurney's Loop

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Between Father God and Mother Nature we're in good hands!			
Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Gurney's Loop: Route 2</i>	<i>(Turquoise Route)</i>		A favourite area for observing the Gurney's sugarbird amongst the proteas. If you look carefully you can see next Christmas approaching over the distant hills - on a clear day you can see forever!
Compound		0	Look out for Brunsvigia Natalensis (tumble weed) in January. Please don't pick them!
Paardefontein	500	500	From here you can either continue on The Gurney's Loop (turquoise) or keep left on the Brunsvigia Loop (violet).
Elandsfontein Link	250	750	You can take a short-cut to Elandsfontein (700m), from here.
Telephone Hill	200	950	The panoramic view from here is tremendous!
Brunsvigia Link	150	1100	Plenty of wild flowers between November and April.
Gurneys View	450	1550	This is a particularly healthy patch of Protea Roupelliae - normally good Gurney's habitat!
Elandsfontein	350	1900	A good place to have a drink of clean fountain water. There are often wild horses or eland drinking from the reservoir.
Masjiennek	300	2200	
Compound	650	2850	Total Distance NB. Remember, the horses at the compound love apples and people!
Elandsfontein link			There are lots of wild flowers between November and April.
Elandsfontein	700		

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"And silence possessed the earth" - Tennyson.

Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Brunsvigia Loop: Route 3</i>	<i>(Violet Route)</i>		The ultimate views, with wild flowers!
Paardefontein		0	
Boulders Nek	250	250	Very interesting and photogenic boulder formations and "kiepersols".
Brunsvigia	150	400	Plenty of wild flowers with a wonderful views!
Lands End	550	950	Total Distance. Worth seeing the view! The wild flowers are a bonus.
			Either return or take the link, below, to the Gurney's Loop.
Brunsvigia			The Brunsvigia Natalensis bloom in numbers in January!
Brunsvigia Link	350		

Paardeplaats Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Descriptions - 66FF33Nooitgedacht Plateau

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"Great things are done when men and mountains come together" - William Blake (used by Jan Smuts at the opening of Maclear's beacon in 1923).			
Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Nooitgedacht Plateau: Route 4</i>		<i>(Green Route)</i>	Interesting antiquity with beautiful views all the way. A great feeling of freedom.
Hill top		0	Start next to road about 100m from the house.
Bridge	200	200	Fill up your waterbottles with sufficient good spring water. In January the Schizostylis and Nerinas bloom next to the stream.
Water Tanks	250	450	
Escom power line	600	1050	Pass beneath the Escom power line.
Bobbejaanfontein	100	1150	Seasonal fountain (December to April) Top up your waterbottles!
Nooitgedacht Gate	300	1450	This is a favoured area for breeding pairs of Blue Cranes from October to November. Please don't disturb them and keep your distance!
Mining Ruins	800	2250	The view over the "Finsbury Valley" is tremendous! Up to 50 "Iron Age" kraals dating back, some 1000 years, are visible in the valley below.
Nooitgedacht Uitsig	700	2950	The mountain to the right, at the top of the range, is Mount Anderson.
Old Digging 1	450	3400	On the opposite side of Masjienkloof is the vulture roosting site - white droppings on cliffs.
Old Digging 2	250	3650	There are a breeding group of about 12 Grey Rhebuck that are virtually always present, somewhere on the plateau.
Old Digging 3	200	3850	
Vulture Restaurant	700	4550	This is the site for the establishment of our vulture "restaurant" in the near future!
Bobbejaan Boulders	700	5250	
Lodge	250	5500	Total Distance



Paardeplaats Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Descriptions - **FF99CC**Old Wagon Road

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"Here they heard a subtler music and saw wider visions" - General Jan Smuts.(Maclear's Beacon 1923)			
Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Old Wagon Road: Route 5</i>	<i>(Majenta Route)</i>		Beautiful views and lovely swimming spots in the river below. The whole route has a large variety of wetland plants and orchids from January to April. There is a small herd of about 10 Grey Rheebuck that live on the grassland, year round.
Jesus Hill		0	Starting point at the gate across the road from the "Jesus" hill
Jock's Junction	400	400	The "Old wagon road" was the wagon route over "Mauchsberg" to Delagoa Bay in the late 1800's. Percy Fitzpatrick & Jock country!
Garden of Eden	1300	1700	Beautiful spot for a picnic and to explore the rock faces and the forest.
Nature's Valley	1000	2700	A wonderful variety of sub alpine trees and shrubs, plus a beautiful view into and over the valley below.
Sterkspruit Uitsig	250	2950	A stunning view over the Sterkspruit Valley with a good swimming spot in the valley immediately below.
Jock's Junction	500	3450	Back on the historic old wagon road.
Jesus Hill	400	3850	Total Distance

Paardeplaats Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Descriptions - Oribi Trail

"God made wild animals, and He saw that it was good" - Book of Genesis.

Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
<i>Oribi Trail: (Yellow Route)</i> <i>Route 6</i>			"The hills are alive with the sound of music" and beautiful views, flowers and animals.
Jesus Hill		0	Starting point is at the gate across the road from the "Jesus" hill
Sterkspruit Plateau	500	500	The route sticks to the top of the "Sterkspruit Plateau". Lots of Protea Roupelliae, Protea Caffra and Gurneys Sugar Birds, with beautiful views.
Paardeplaats Beacon	1500	2000	The original farm beacon set in concrete (dated September 1874) has a Martini Henry rifle barrel as its peg.
Worlds View	200	2200	This must be one of the best views ever!
Boereoorlog Fort 1	150	2350	Boereoorlog Forts used by both the Boere and Rooinekke.
Main Road Crossing	200	2550	Excuse the rubbish left behind by messy travellers! Pease leave only your footprints behind!
Boereoorlog Fort 2	150	2700	The ridge on which these forts are situated was hotly contested by Sir Redvers Buller and Louis Botha during the second phase of the "Boere Oorlog". Louis Botha actually won the war of nerves!
Boereoorlog Fort 3	450	3150	Because it is so remote and quiet , this area is a favoured spot in October, for breeding groups of Stanley Bustards and Blue Crane pairs - also keep your eyes open for the Oribi - they have become very rare.
Boereoorlog Fort 4	100	3250	A popular area for Grey Rhebuck throughout the year.
Oribi Vlei	1500	4750	Very wet vlei area in summer. Spring and early summer is a good time to spot Oribi and Eland in this area.
Oribi Fountain	500	5250	Perrenial fountain under the trees. Good clean water to drink! About 500 meters further on, between March and April, on the south eastern slope of the hill, and beneath the boulders one finds a very rare
Rothmania Capensis	1000	6250	orchid "Brownleea Graminicola" which is exclusive to this hill. Another 150 meters further on is a beautiful specimen of a small Rothmania Capensis tree (Wild Katjiepiering) on the left of the old wagon road -
Masjiennek	500	6750	Total Distance. it blooms in January

Paardeplaats Nature Retreat: Hiking Trail Route Descriptions - FF66FF Waterfall Gorge

JAFRI WALKING & CYCLING RAMBLE

"Our love of the things of the mind does not make us soft" Aristotle (expounding the "Knosis" philosophy)

Route Description	Distance in meters	Accumulative Distance in meters	Comments
Waterfall Gorge: (Pink Route) Route 7			God's silent presence, the towering, red cliff faces, the ferns, the "fynbos" and the flowers, together with the swimming pool are the attraction here!
Note: This is strictly a walking route only, and needs adult supervision! It is short but quite difficult and very slippery . However the rewards are worth the effort, especially on a hot summers day! Pack yourselves a picnic lunch and some cold beers to make it worth your while! A good pair of hiking boots and a walking stick are essential - bathing costumes optional!			
Paardeplaats House		0	The starting point is at the house.
Vegetable Garden Gate	100	100	Walk up past the vegetable garden then turn left after the gate.
River Junction	300	400	Follow the path along the rocky plateau and down to the river junction below. Baboons, brown hyenas and klipspringers often visit this area.
Swimming Pool (Johan se gat)	300	700	Stick to the footpath along the river bed. Careful you don't slip - make sure of your foot and hand holds at all times! - good, basic climbing principals!
Waterfall	100	800	Tree ferns (Alsophila dregei) and Aloe arborescens occur in numbers all along the valley. In summer between, December and February, Nerina filifolia, Agapanthus inapertus and Schizostylis bloom close to the water.
			"Johan se gat" is 1.5 meters deep and a wonderful place in summer for a family "skinny dip" and a picnic!
			The view from the top of the waterfall, 100 meters further on, is quite spectacular, with a birds eye view of the indigenous forest below.
Return the same route?	800		Please take note and be very careful! Children should not be left unattended! The rocks are very slippery and the waterfall is high!
			Note: If a thunderstorm threatens while on this hike, it would be wise to get out , due to the dangers of an electric storm and possible "flash floods" while in the valley.
		1600	Total Distance.