



KLEINRIVIER

MOUNTAIN ESCAPES

TRAILS ON KLEINRIVIER

All the hiking trails on Kleinrivier have been developed by us, the owners. We have tried to preserve as many of the trees as possible as all the initial cutting has been done by our own hands. We are all passionate hikers and nature enthusiasts and utilise these trails often to access the area. We believe our trails to be well marked. Please let us know if you struggled to find your way.

We would like to share Kleinrivier with you, mainly through these hiking trails, which open up the wilderness to as many people as possible and afford them the opportunity to appreciate its great natural beauty.

You can spend a week on Kleinrivier, hiking a different trail each day. Study the map and build your own trails by integrating existing trails with the 4x4 tracks or adding sections of trails together.

Our Mountain Biking trails were made, not for speed, or to test a particular set of skills, but to give mountain bikers an opportunity to enjoy their sport in a scenic, Karoo environment. All routes are marked with painted rocks specific to that routes' colour as well as direction sign boards at certain turns. The routes are also shared with game and despite regular attention, some markers may have moved. Some of the trails, namely Blue, Green, Yellow and Red, can effectively be joined and ridden as one long trail as they start and end at reception.

Important: Do not attempt any trail without a map and the descriptions in your possession. The full descriptions are available on our website; please review this carefully to ensure you enjoy the available trails safely and within your personal ability.



Emergency Contacts:

Farm Management:
(083 201 1005 or 083 991 7021)

Mountain Search and Rescue:
(072 324 4985 or 073 755 2250)

Medical:
10177

HIKING TRAILS

● **Winterhoek Trail** †10 km ⌚5-6 hrs 3/5

This hike offers the most spectacular panoramic views of the Winterhoek and Tsitsikamma mountain ranges and the Karoo. Starting from the lodge, it's an easy 2km walk along a contour to Dwarsberg ridge. The trail then gently undulates along the ridge towards Strydomskop. The main challenge is a single, steep 200m uphill section. The route continues along the northern slope, traversing intricate ledges and a mini-forest before circling back along the same path.

Note: No water is available on the trail, so you must carry your own. Be prepared for rapid weather changes. An optional, unmarked scramble to the top of Strydomskop offers 360° views.

● **Geelhoutkloof** †2km ⌚~2 hrs 3/5

A connector trail that links the Winterhoek and Two Gorges trails, best experienced as part of a scenic loop from the lodge. The trail offers close-up views of cliffs and eagle-eye perspectives of the kloof below. It enters a narrow, dense kloof with tall Geelhout trees and a formidable cliff face. There is usually running water here for drinking or swimming. A short, steep climb exits the kloof, joining the Winterhoek Trail for the final 500m return to the lodge.

● **Kantiensrivier Trail** †4 km ⌚2.5-3 hrs 3/5

Accessing the start of this trail requires driving or a very strenuous walk up a steep 4x4 track (permission needed). The trail zig-zags down through cycad-dotted grassland into the shady Kwarkloof. It follows the kloof down to the Kantiensrivier, where clear running water is likely to be found. The path then turns upriver before climbing out of the gorge onto "easy ridge," which offers views of valleys on both sides before rejoining the 4x4 track.

● **Middelkop Hike** †800 m ⌚~1 hr 4/5

A short, steep 800m one-way climb to the top of the second highest peak on the property. It's an excellent choice for a sundowner, offering stunning 360° views. The track has some steep drop-offs to the side.

Warning: Ensure you leave enough daylight to safely find your footing on the way down.

● **Wegkruipkloof** †~1.5 km ⌚~1 hr 3/5

A steep but interesting trail that serves as the quickest route from the Two Gorges trailhead to the Eastern Plateau. It can be hiked in either direction and is a good alternative to the 4x4 track or the more difficult Tierhout Trail descent. It features beautiful rock shapes and succulent flora.

● **Olifantspoot Trail** †6 km ⌚~3 hrs 3/5

This trail showcases the Karoo portion of the property. It begins with a gradual traverse of the "koedoe krans," with a steep hillside to your right—requiring careful footing. The landscape is dotted with unique flora like spekboom and olifantspoot. After crossing a 4x4 track, the trail descends into and out of a dry riverbed.

Note: Marked with yellow leopard prints. Following these markers is essential to avoid getting lost on the numerous game paths. You must carry your own water. Best hiked in the early morning on hot days.

● **Two Gorges Trail** †21km ⌚2 days 4/5

This trail offers a comprehensive experience of the area's diverse landscapes.

Day 1 (10km, ~7 hrs): Starting at Black Eagle Camp, the trail follows the Kleinrivier gorge for about 3-3.5 hours. This section is shared with the Tierhout Trail and features spectacular rock formations, pools, and opportunities for swimming. After crossing a 4x4 track, the path ascends through "Drieling kloof," notable for its Protea cynaroides bushes. It then climbs to a ridge with wonderful views of Uitenhage and the Kirkwood valley before descending to the overnight lodge.

Day 2 (11km, ~6-7 hrs): The trail descends from the lodge into the Palmiet Rivier Gorge, which offers plenty of water and swimming. The scenery shifts from open fynbos to dense forest canopies. The hike's main challenge is a steep, 60-minute climb up a rocky ridge to the Western Plateau. From the plateau, it is a continuous downhill trek. The final section into the Kleinrivier gorge is extremely steep, slippery, and very hard on the knees.

Day-Hike Option: A 5km (2-2.5 hr) alternative on Day 1 involves turning left at the 4x4 track and looping back to the start.

Side Trip: A short scramble (not officially part of the trail) leads to Kaalgat, a crystal-clear rock pool. Use the provided rope with caution.

● **Tierhout Trail** †6 km ⌚3-4 hrs 5/5

An intense and scenic route designed for experienced hikers, which must be walked anti-clockwise. The trail begins with a relaxed 2-hour walk up the Kleinrivier gorge, shared with the Two Gorges Trail. It then splits off for a dangerous and very steep 40-minute climb up a knife-edged ridge to the eastern plateau. After an easy, flat walk across the plateau (look out for Klipspringer and Waterbuck), the trail concludes with an extremely steep and hazardous 45-minute descent back into the gorge.

Warning: This trail demands a good head for heights, agility, and balance. The descent is particularly perilous, and following the markers precisely is critical for safety.

● **Riverside Trail** †4 km ⌚2.5-3.5 hrs 1-2/5

A very relaxed and pleasant walk along the meandering Kleinrivier, perfect for birding and game-spotting. Starting near Reception, the trail is mostly shaded. It involves several river crossings that may require boulder hopping or wading through the water. Good shoes are needed to protect against spike thorns. The trail eventually meets a 4x4 track, which you follow to return to the start.

● **Nieshout Trail** †5 km ⌚3-4 hrs 4-5/5

This trail captures the unique soul of the area. It begins with a pleasant uphill walk through "Pruimkloof." Upon reaching a 4x4 track, hikers face a choice:

Easy Option (1 hr, 2/5 difficulty): Turn left and follow the 4x4 track back.

Main Route: Turn right on the track, then left to descend into Nieshoutkloof. This section is an intimate experience with rock formations, diverse trees (Nieshout, Forest elder), and succulents. It involves steep climbs to bypass waterfalls. After the kloof, the trail opens onto the eastern plateau with chances of spotting game.

Final Choice: To return, you can take the easier 4x4 track or the extremely challenging and steep Tierhout Trail descent.

Note: Water is unlikely to be found in Nieshoutkloof. The Tierhout descent is only for experienced hikers.

● **Cycad Trail** †4 km ⌚2.5-305 hrs 3/5

A great option for lodge guests seeking activity. It starts with a steep downhill section shared with the Two Gorges Trail, which is hard on the knees but offers views of abundant cycads and cliffs. The trail then splits off, following the Palmietrivier upstream in a gradual ascent. You will encounter a rope and makeshift ladder to help with steep inclines. The final section follows a 4x4 track back to the lodge.

Note: Be cautious on slippery, wet rocks and check the condition of the ropes and ladder before use.

BIKING TRAILS

Blue Route †2.3km ⌚20 mins 1/5

This is the easiest and shortest route, making it ideal for young riders, families, or anyone wanting a gentle introduction to the trails. It's a great warm-up ride.

Highlights: The route is considered the best for seeing game, with the highest chances of sightings if you head out at sunrise.

Green Route †2.2km ⌚30 mins 2/5

A short but engaging ride that serves as a great test of skill for progressing riders. The main feature is a fun, flowing single track that weaves through trees and passes a small dam before heading back.

Highlights: Focuses on fun, flowing single track rather than climbing.

Yellow Route †4.1km ⌚45 mins 3/5

This route offers great variation. It begins with a relatively intense but short climb. The effort is rewarded with a fun, flowing single track that eventually follows the kleinrivier into a beautiful valley on the northern side of the farm. Despite the initial climb, the route has no other significant elevation changes.

Red Route †3km ⌚45 mins 4/5

A challenging route for its length. It shares the same start as the Yellow Route but features a longer and more intense climb. The reward is a fun but highly technical single-track descent that is not suitable for beginners.

Warning: The enjoyability of this route is directly impacted by your fitness level due to the steep climb. The descent includes loose rocks, roots, and sharp switchbacks.

Purple Route †12km ⌚1.5 - 2 hrs 4/5

The longest and most demanding trail, offering amazing rewards for the effort. The route starts similarly to the Green Route before heading to a largely unexplored part of the farm. The main challenge is a steep, long climb on a gravel road. Once at the top, you're rewarded with a long single track along a mountain ridgeline, offering spectacular views of the Cockscomb mountain range. The trail then descends into an adjacent valley before a moderate climb brings you back to ride the ridgeline in reverse.

Highlights: Epic views and a long, rewarding single track that makes the "serious sweat tax" of the climb worthwhile

4x4 TRACKS

4x4 TRACKS Marked in light blue on your map are NOT routes where you can test your own or your vehicle's abilities. They are merely a practical means to reach various parts of the farm and to manage our game and fences. We do not encourage people to drive around in their 4x4's on these tracks.

The 4x4 track leading uphill from next to the shed, can only be traversed by vehicles with a low range 4x4 gearbox, AS WELL AS an extra diff-lock and ample ground clearance. You need to be an experienced 4x4 driver to travel on this track. We do not take any responsibility for people and vehicles on these tracks and do not perform "recovery" actions.

No one may drive on our 4x4 trails without getting prior permission from our manager.

HIKING TRAILS & ACCOMMODATION



MOUNTAIN BIKING ROUTES

