

# HIKES & HIKE INFORMATION

At Mount Park we offer walks through our indigenous forest which can be seen growing up the mountain. We have many natural streams flowing through our forest and we do encourage you to taste the fresh spring water. Littering is a serious offence inside the forest as we cannot clean all the litter in there - please don't do it. Our walks range from Easy to Difficult. The trails have been marked with laminated signs nailed onto poles/gate posts and trees. The names are colour coded as per the Colour in the description for each trail, with arrows pointing the direction needed to be followed. The main junctions have been marked with a letter (as seen on the maps) to help you place yourself on the map.

## DUIKERS RIDGE

**Colour:** Green

**Type:** Dead End

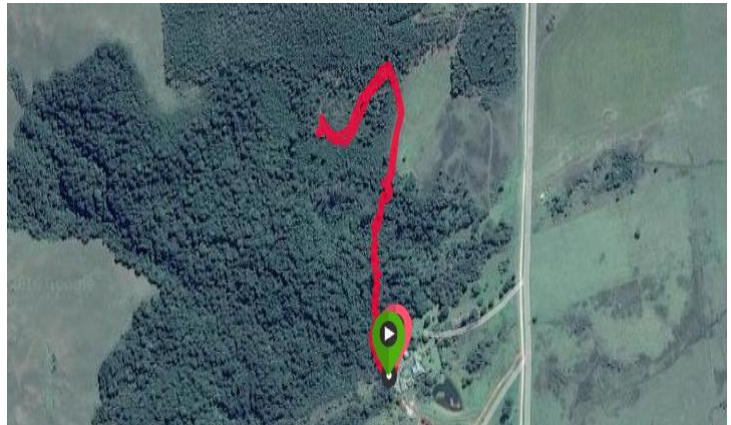
**Marked:** One way

**Rate:** One short steep section

**Time:** 40 minutes return

**Distance:** 1.45km

**Elevation Gain:** 65 metres



### Short description

This is a nice short trail that leads up through the forest, onto a grassland plateau and up again into an *ouhout* forest to a viewpoint.

### Details

This trail starts from the garden gate, keep right (at A) and head through the stile and right (at B) across the stream it will take you into the forest, up a steep climb and then a pleasant flat walk through the forest to a fence on the edge of the forest. At this point you will find the old spring down on your left that use to be used by staff to collect water for their homesteads.

You can then continue through the stile along the fence on top of this grass plateau, go through the gate, keep left at junction and follow the track up the hill through the *Ouhout* forest. (The *Ouhout* is a pioneer tree, which is the start of a new natural Forest.) Continue following the track which will come to a round-a-about which will lead you around and back onto the track down again.

### Points:

#### **Olde Gum Creek**

Just before you exit the forest there is a path to your right to "Olde Gum Creek". Here you will be able to sit and relax in a small open creek under a large old gum tree.

## LOGGING TRAIL

**Colour:** Yellow

**Type:** Circular

**Marked:** Clockwise

**Rate:** Steep sections

**Time:** +-40 minutes

**Distance:** 1.8km

**Elevation Gain:** 134 metres



### Short description

This trail starts from the garden gate and heads up the stream through the forest to Pete's Lookout (which is an open piece of grassland on the edge of the forest about a quarter way up the mountain with a wonderful view), from here it crosses over the grassland back into the forest on the other side and comes back down following the actual old logging trail back to the homestead.

### Details

Once through the garden gate go right (at A) you will go through the stile turn left (at B) cross a stream keep right (at C) and up a short steep climb where you will come to a fork in the path (D). This point is the start and end of this circular walk. Turn left at this point go down a steep slope then across another stream to point (E) where you will turn right, up into the forest following the stream, eventually coming out at Pete's Rock. On this path lookout for the Yellowwood tree (1) as it is one of the larger ones in the forest. Towards the top before junction (F) you will come across an old man-made trench running alongside the path made to divert the water from one stream to another, which eventually flowed into the old ox-bow dam, which fed the water to run the old water mill. This use to run the sawmill and mill grain etc (These old machines can be seen near the Main House)

Along this section you will come to another T in the path (F). Left will take you along Porcupine Crawl, which follows this trench and is a shortcut home. Right will continue along the Loggers Trail. You will now go up another steep section of path to a flat section of forest with a bed of wild irises (here you can rest your weary legs on Dieter's Bench). From here you will cross over another stream and head up out of the forest to Pete's Look-out. (You can just see parts of Midmar Dam from this point.) After taking in the view from Pete's Look-out you can continue across the open grassland and enter back into the forest on the opposite side. You will pass the path to the Summit and continue down past Yellowwood Rock and back down to the house following the old trail that they used to drag logs down the mountain.





### LOURIES FLIGHT

**Colour:** White

**Type:** Circular

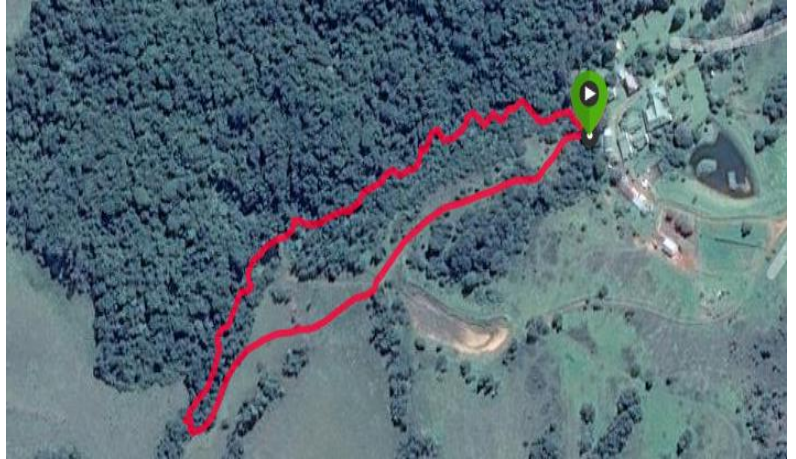
**Marked:** One way Anti Clockwise

**Rate:** Easy, boulder hopping over streams

**Time:** +-40 minutes

**Distance:** 1.04km

**Elevation Gain:** 64 metres



#### Short description

This path leads up the Oak tree stream to the quarry, quarry dam and louries cascades through the forest.

#### Details

This trail starts from the garden gate. Go right (at A) through the stile left (at B) across the stream and then left (at C). This then leads you up the Oak tree stream to the old quarry and quarry dam. Keep left at junction L (Kudu's jump). (Once at quarry dam you can either continue on the trail or you can branch off right onto the Porcupine Crawl or turn left for a short cut home via the graveyard.) Louries Flight continues along the right edge of the dam and continues up the stream until you reach Louries Cascade. (Here the stream cascades over a large rocky formation just over a meter high.) At this point you can either go back the way you came or if you are adventurous climb the ladder up the wet slope to your left out of the stream and onto the Pass Trail and turn left to continue back home down this route. Or you can extend your walk by going right to continue up Louries Flight Stage 2. Look out for the Knysna Louries as they are often seen on this walk.

**Warning:** Bridges and rocks are very slippery when wet!!!



### LOURIES FLIGHT Extension

**Colour:** White

**Type:** Circular

**Marked:** One way clockwise

**Rate:** A bit more difficult than Stage One

**Time:** 30min

**Distance:** 700m

**Elevation Gain:** 55m

#### **Short description**

This path continues up the Oak Tree Stream past the Louries Cascades and follows the stream higher up the mountain in the forest.

#### **Details**

Once climbing out of the stream bed at Louries Cascades using the steel ladder turn right and continue up the path. At the turn for the PASS keep right and cross over the Louries Stream. On the other side keep left and follow the path back into the forest.

(You will meet back at this point when you return on the path that comes down to your right).

The path continues up the Oak Tree Stream until you get to another Cascades - you will pass many little cascades as the water flows down the mountainside.

At this point you can either continue left onto Stage 3 or right out of the forest and onto the Mountain Side. Follow the path back down through the grasslands until it gets you back down and across the stream again. Follow the Pass Trail back down to the Homestead.

**NOTE:** in places this path takes you up in the stream's boulder hopping – in the wet months your feet will get wet.



### LOURIES FLIGHT STAGE 3

**Colour:** White

**Type:**

**Marked:**

**Rate:**

**Time:**

**Distance:**

**Elevation Gain:**

**Short description:** THIS TRAIL IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEEN COMPLETED

#### **Details**



## LEOPARDS LEAP

**Colour:** Green

**Type:** Circular

**Marked:** Anti clockwise

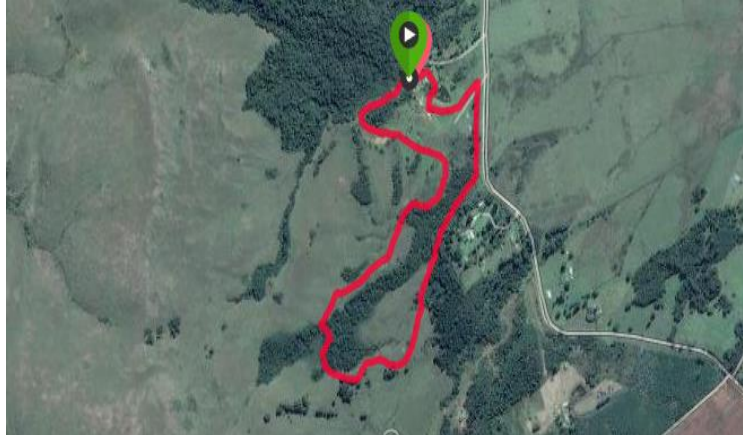
**Rate:** Reasonably easy

**Time:** +-50 minutes

**Distance:** 3km

**Elevation Gain:** 123 metres

**Falls** – From T inside Forest – 700m  
Elevation Gain 151m

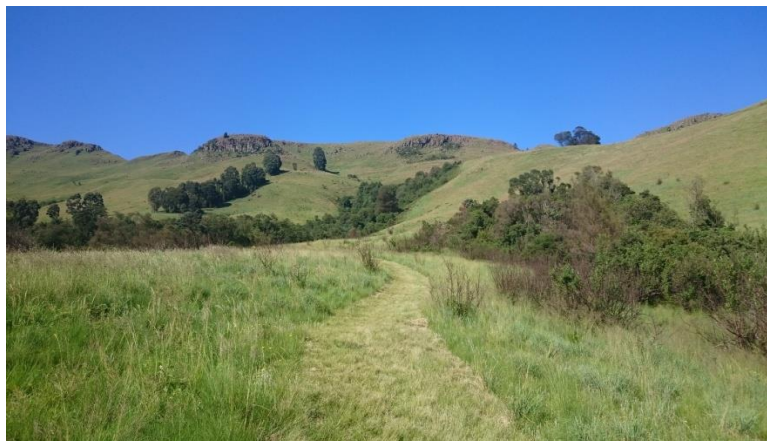


### Short description

This walk goes past the graveyard, across Ox-bow dam wall, around the plateau and up the hill and through a smaller forest and back down to the homestead, on mostly farm tracks.

### Details

This trail starts from the garden gate and goes past the graveyard; at the Oxbow-dam it goes left (at K) across the dam wall. It then follows the road around the edge of the plateau. Here you have a good view over the homestead, vlei across the road and surrounding countryside without much effort involved. Continue along this route, branching left while it continues up the tractor track, which will lead you up the mountain side (this is the only real steep part), where you will leave the road and head left into Leopards Leap forest. Just as you enter the forest you will see a sign pointing right that will take you on a really steep path to Ingwe (Leopards) Falls – a high rocky fall. Otherwise continue straight and you'll walk a short distance through the forest and come out on the other side. You'll then follow the road down the mountain side and come to Bishops (froggy) pond, from here it's an easy walk back along the farm road next to the wattle plantation and through the kikuyu pasture back up the delivery entrance to the homestead coming back in via the work shop or Dairy Dam gate and animal farm.



## THE PASS

**Colour:** Red

**Type:** One way return or continue up to Summit

**Marked:** Upwards

**Rate:** Steep

**Time:** 1h20 minutes (Return)

**Distance:** 1.6km to Gate / 3.2km Return

**Elevation Gain:** 272metres

### Short description

The easiest route to the top of range, you can then add to it by continuing along the Ridge or Contour Path to the Summit.

### Details

This walk starts at the garden gate and leads past the graveyard. (Keep left at A straight to K to the gates just past Oxbow dam.) You will head through the left stile at this gate and follow the path leading up the mountain. It will follow the edge of the stream for a short while past point J and then turns sharp left and starts meandering up the mountainside. (Follow the path and its steel standard markers.) You will notice in places the old erosion. This was caused by the wagons when this route was used as a pass in days gone by. Halfway up you will reach point N where there is a path that goes off left to the top of Leopard Leaps Falls. Continue straight up to the pass. Further up next to a large rock is point O where you can go right onto the contour path – this will take you under the cliffs to the Summit Path. For the Pass and Ridge continue straight up to the top of the pass where you will come to an old pedestrian gate. This is the end of the Pass. From here you can either return home on the same path you came up on or go right up onto the Ridge, which is very beautiful and has wonderful views both ways. (The path is mowed going up the right side) Take a walk along the Ridge towards the Summit; the grass is normally fairly short up here and has no marked route. At the end of this ridge you will see some old stone walls and also find a pile of rocks – this marks your route down onto the Summit Path.

From the bottom of this Saddle you can either carry on up to the Summit or head back down the Summit Trail down through the Forest (Very Steep & can be slippery when wet) or go back to the Pass Trail to have an easier walk down via the Contour Path.





### Height of 1950 metres

#### Via the Logging Trail

**Colour:** Red

**Type:** One way

**Marked:** One way

**Rate:** Steep

**Time:** 2Hours to Summit

1Hours to Return

**Total 3Hours**

**Distance:** 2.6km to the Summit

2.4km Return (Via Logging)

**Total 5km**

**Elevation Gain:** 455metres



#### Via the Pass

**Colour:** Red

**Type:** One way

**Marked:** One way

**Rate:** Slightly less Steep

**Time:** 1H40 minutes via Contour (Add 15min if go Ridge Route) to Summit Not Return

**Distance:** 3.4km (Not Return)

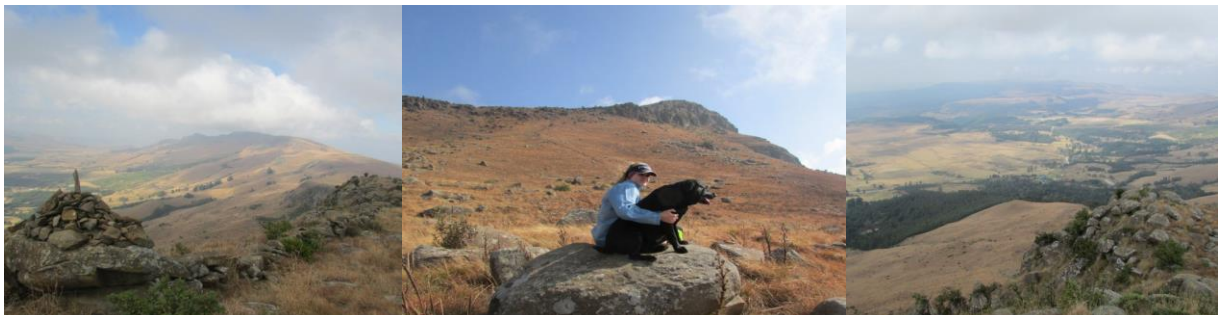
**Elevation Gain:** 455metres

**ADD the Distance of which Route you take down to get total Return Distance**

#### Details

Follow the route as per the logging trail, when you come out the forest onto the grassland at Pete's Lookout follow the path back into the forest on the opposite side - go across the stream and take the first path on your left - Marked Summit. Follow the trail up through the forest. You will eventually come out of the forest higher up the mountain back into grassland. The path will lead to your left and meander up the hill to the saddle. Halfway up you will pass point Q (the path to your left will take you along the contour path)

When you reach the top of the path you will come to a T (Point P) Left will take you up to the Ridge and right takes you to the Summit. To Summit go right - this path will lead you up between the rocks onto the top of the mountain – stay right and make your way towards the summit – the path is not mowed but the grass is normally short up here – please stay this side of the fence. You will pass some old stone walls which were built as fences to stop cattle before wire was available. Make your way to the Beacon at the highest point of the summit. (The beacon is 800m from the T (Point P) – but you will climb 99m and will take around 20min)(Why not take a photo of your group at the beacon and give a copy to management to put up on our new wall of fame!!) Return the same route as you came or go along the contour path and back down The Pass.







## SHORT CUTS

**Colour:** **Blue**

### **Hyrax's Branch (Junction G & H)**

This links the Duikers Ridge trail to the Loggers trail. It also cuts out the slippery steep climb at the start of Duikers Ridge.

### **Kudu's Jump (Junction L & E)**

This links the Louries Flight with Loggers trail. This can make an easy short walk by starting off on Louries and instead of turning left at the end of Kudu's Jump go right and return on the lower section of Logger's. This can be taken further by continuing onto the Hyrax Branch. This will give one a reasonable level walk.

### **Porcupine Crawl (Junction I & F)**

This links Loggers trail with Louries Flight. It can be used either way. Either a short cut home off the Loggers trail before the final steep climb to Pete's rock or as a short cut from the Louries Flight onto Logging trail to Pete's Rock by missing out meandering up the stream on the lower part of Logging. This crawl will also take you into the old quarry.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Colour:** **Grey**

### **Graveyard**

This is the graveyard of the original family of Mount Park, the Spiers. Take note of the spears on the gate and the old Yellowwoods in the yard.

### **Quarry dam**

This is the dam just below the quarry, which supplies water to the garden and cattle troughs.

### **Quarry**

This is the original quarry used to supply materials to repair the district roads.

### **Ox-bow Dam and old trench**

This is the original dam that use to be fed via channels from the forest streams and used to supply water to run the water mill down by the workshops. The trenches in the forest can still be seen on parts of the Logging trail and Porcupine Crawl. The source of this trench can be seen on off loop of Loggers trail.

### **Pete's Outlook**

This is a grass clearing out the forest where Pete use to sit on the rock (who helped with the making of these trails) and use to have his morning coffee and quite time. It is at the top of the Loggers Trail loop and has a real nice view over the farm and countryside. When Midmar Dam is full you can see it peeping through the distant hills.

### **Yellowwood Rock**

This is also just a small outcrop of rocks that has a small Yellowwood tree growing out of it in the forest, that when stood on allows for a view out the forest.

### **Louries Cascades**

A small outcrop of rocks with the Louries stream flowing over. In the wet months it is beautiful.

### **Louries Cascades 2**

Here the Louries Stream flows down a sloping Rock Formation

### **Louries Cascades 3**

Small Creek with a small 2.5m waterfall which you can stand under when we have had good rains.

### **Logging trench**

Look out for this trench, which was caused by the dragging of logs down the mountain through the forest. It can be seen on the downward section of the Logging trail.

### **Ingwe (Leopard's) falls**

Just as you enter the leopards leap forest there is a path to your right that takes you up to the Ingwe Falls.

There are steep sections where one might need to be on all fours!! (*Distance from T is 700m but you climb 151m to bottom of Fall*)

These falls normally only have a trickle of water – but is really beautiful after a wet period. There is a path leading up to the second section of the falls and then continues out onto the top of the falls (This is very Steep and has really high Steps to climb, but if fit enough worth the effort) Falls are about 16m in Hgt– you can then either go back down the same way or follow the path out that will join onto the Pass Trail, which you can follow back down to the Homestead.

### **Old Gum Creek**

This is a close quite spot in the middle of the forest off the Duikers Ridge, where you will find a bench under a very large old gum tree.

### **Speirs Creek - Spring & Water Storage**

This spring was the only supply of water to the homestead.

This is the source of the Speirs Stream – a spring coming out of the bank that's situated just below the Graveyard, where the water is collected into another smaller storage bath. The water from this is then piped down to a larger storage tank, from where it is then fed to the homestead.

This system was used right up to about 1995 – when due to a bad drought a borehole was dug on the side of the volleyball court. It is still able to function if connected