

Riebeek Valley - Kromrivier

Approximately 35 km – tarred and gravel road. RM indicates a Road Marker where the route changes direction. **Please do not enter private property without permission from owners.**

1. Leave Riebeek Kasteel in NW direction – R311->Main Road->Sarel Cilliers Street->Piet Retief St->Park St->Kloof St (Follow signage through town to Riebeek Cellars). Take the left fork just past the railroad track (RM Railroad Track - S33°22.933' E18°54.934') – about 600 m further on the right is the first of many small dams – look out for waterfowl. Along the route LBJ's may abound. A small seasonal vlei on the left (950 m further) is the next feature. Blue Crane may be found in the open fields and Helmeted Guineafowl is abundant.
2. Follow the gravel road – it crosses the Vis River (S33°21.375' E18°57.159') and all these small streams may deliver interesting sightings in winter. Stop at the Zonquasdrift low water crossing (S33°20.518' E18°58.740') and scan the riverine bush and tall trees for small birds – African Paradise Flycatcher had been observed regularly in season in these thickets and Kingfishers may be seen along the Berg River.
3. Retrace the route to the Deli Co turnoff (S33°21.751' E18°56.426') and turn SE. A farm dam just at the turnoff may deliver waterfowl. The bridge across the Kromrivier (S33°22.014' E18°56.743') is always productive – look out for Malachite Kingfisher flashing past. Farm dams and seasonal stream may deliver surprising sightings. The next turn is at RM Sharp Right (S33°22.594' E18°58.894'), where one should turn sharp right in SW direction to avoid running into the farm yard and proceed to Delsma Farm.
4. At RM Delsma Farm (S33°23.681' E18°58.793') turn W and proceed along the gravel road. Be on the lookout for raptors and Blue Crane along this stretch of road and cross over the rail track. Proceed towards the R46 and join the tarred road. A short detour can be made to the Du Vlei Farm Stall and then return along the R46 towards Riebeek Kasteel – the Ebenhaeser Dam next to the road can deliver some interesting water birds. In winter even the deeper ditches on the sides of the road are frequented by Yellow-billed Duck and Red-billed Teal. At S33°23.460' E18°54.374' one can return to town.

Birds: LBJs (larks, pipits and other brown birds) are abundant along the route. Blue Crane may be observed in the open fields. Look out for Cape Spurfowl in the fields and road reserve and interesting waterfowl at all the water bodies and seasonal streams. The thickets at Zonquasdrift may produce interesting birds. Raptors may include Jackal Buzzard and in summer Yellow-billed Kite and Steppe Buzzard. Black-shouldered Kite and Rock Kestrel are around and Booted Eagle had been spotted around as well.