

## Riebeek Valley – Porseleinberg Directions

Approximately 62 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 along the R311 and turn onto the R46. Before leaving town obtain a permit for the Pieter Cruythoff Hiking trail at the Tourist Centre or quickly pay a visit to Kloovenburg Estate (at the road junction on the right) to obtain a permit. Then proceed on the R46 towards Hermon. Water features in winter may deliver numerous waterfowl species.
2. Turn SW at S33°25.948' E18°57.059' (RM R46-Porseleingberg) after a visit to Du Vlei Farm Stall. About 1 km from the junction a dam to the W of the road may be productive for waterfowl. Always be on the lookout for Blue Crane in the open fields and keep an eye open for raptors. LBJs are abundant. The road crosses small streams and the Doring River.
3. Turn W towards the R45 at RM Right to R45 (S33°33.719' E18°55.666') and proceed to join the tarred road. Right at the junction to R45 there are a seasonal vlei and a large farm dam which can be searched for waterfowl and wader species. The R45 takes you back towards Malmesbury. Turn NE at RM R45-R46 (S33°26.830' E18°45.883') to return to Riebeek Kasteel via the Botmas Kloof Pass. Stop in the pass at the Pieter Cruythoff Memorial (it is on the right as you go down towards the Riebeek Valley) in the new olive grove which is part of the Kloovenburg Estate. The hiking trail on the slopes of Kasteelberg may produce interesting fynbos birds. (Obtain a permit for the trail in Riebeek Kasteel or at Kloovenburg before travelling the route otherwise you will have to retrace your journey back from town). Return to town and venture out on one of the other regional routes in the Riebeek Valley

**Birds:** LBJs will be abundant as always. Keep eyes open for Blue Crane in the open fields along the route. Waterfowl and waders are numerous at water features in the wet season. The slopes of the mountain may produce good fynbos species. Raptors include Jackal Buzzard, Black-shouldered Kite and Rock Kestrel. In summer the migrant raptors include the Yellow-billed Kite and Steppe Buzzard. Lesser Kestrel may be spotted as well in summer – there is a well-known roost in Wellington which is not too far off. The Kasteelberg slopes may deliver sights of the resident pair of Verreaux's Eagle.