



# FRANSCHÉ HOEK

AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

## 1. FRANSCHÉ HOEK ESTATE HIKING AND MTB TRAILS

### 1.1 GUIDELINES, DISCLAIMER AND MAP

The Home Owners Association recently completed its system of hiking trails, designed to provide members and their guests an opportunity to be captivated by the unique fauna and flora abounding on the estate. Walking these trails also serves as enjoyable, non-strenuous exercise.

Please take note of the below guidelines to ensure your safety and maximum enjoyment whilst using these trails.

#### 1.1.1 Gear:

Always wear proper hiking boots and take a hiking stick with you. These trails form part of the nature reserve and you may come across any number of wild creatures, including snakes, baboons, caracals, mongoose and francolins. Whilst care has been taken to reduce any potential hazards, there are a number of slippery areas, especially when wet, as well as some rough terrain. Take a warm jersey or windbreaker with you. The wind generally blows along the mountain ridge and the wind chill factor may cause it to become uncomfortably cold.

It is always a good idea to bring water on your hike.

#### 1.1.2 Planning & Timing

Take time out to enjoy the spectacular views and beautiful seasonal flowers. Never hike after dark and always plan to be off the trails by sunset. Let a friend or security know when you plan to go hiking and take the map below with you as well as a charged cell phone so that you can direct security to your position should you require help.

#### 1.1.3 Wild animals

Do not chase or scare the francolin families that you will often encounter on these trails. They have right of way.

Should you encounter baboons or other animals, do not challenge them but simply stand your ground and wait for them to move off. If you feel it necessary, retreat slowly but remain facing them.



# FRANSCHÉ HOEK

AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

## 1.1.4 Use other than hiking

With the exception of mountain bikes on Olive Grove Meander, no mountain bikes, scramblers, quad bikes or any other form of vehicle are allowed on these trails. Offenders will be penalised severely – the minimum fine equivalent to a month's levy.

Mountain bikes have a special concession on the Olive Grove Meander in order to create a complete MTB trail, but hikers have right of way. The HOA Board reserves the right to withdraw this concession if bikers prove to be a nuisance or risk to hikers.

## 1.2 DISCLAIMER

Please note that your security and safety is our concern, but it remains your responsibility. The management and directors of the HOA have taken great care to ensure that these trails are safe and do not pose excessive risks to health and safety. However, they are hiking trails and not normal pedestrian routes. You must ensure that you are fit enough and capable of handling typical hiking trails encountered in any of the national parks.

Under no circumstances will the Estate, the Home Owners Association, its directors, management or staff accept any liability of any nature whatsoever in the event that you, your family, guests or employees etc. suffer injury or harm or loss of any nature whatsoever whilst using these trails. Use of these trails are entirely at your own risk.

## 1.3 TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

The attached map of the estate indicates where you will find the various hiking trails. They are colour coded and the entrances are clearly marked by means of the trail name in a stone cement structure on the ground at the trail entrance.

### 1.3.1 Olive Grove Meander

**Distance = 646m and elevation difference start to finish = 28m**

This meander offers the hiker an easy flat walk along the La Cotte river on one side and beautiful olive groves on the other. It runs along an embankment which allows the hiker a splendid view over the olive groves and of the mountains surrounding the estate.

### 1.3.2 La Cotte Meander

**Distance = 478m and elevation difference start to finish = 60m**



# FRANSCHÉ HOEK

AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

This is a trail that can be classified as a moderately strenuous hike if done from the Kapokbos Close entrance. It runs along the La Cotte river and provides beautiful views of the river gorge and flora along its banks. There are two short but steep climbs to be mastered. A resting point at the top provides the hiker with the opportunity to rest and contemplate the beauty of nature.

### 1.3.3 Protea Forest Meander

**Distance = 414m and elevation difference start to finish = 25m**

This meander is a continuation of the La Cotte Meander but can also be accessed from the estate boundary access road. It is relatively flat but one has to make the ascent along the La Cotte meander or the Estate boundary access road to reach it. It provides a beautiful example of natural Protea forests and along the way the hiker can take a short deviation to reach the estate view point, a wooden deck that provides a magnificent view of the estate and the valley below. At certain times of the year, the haunting call of the fiery-necked nightjar can be heard in the forest at sunset.

### 1.3.4 Fynbos Meander

**Distance = 1395m and elevation difference start to finish = 86m**

The Fynbos meander runs along the mountain escarpment and passes through a number of different mini fynbos habitats. In winter time many varieties of fynbos can be seen along the way. It is a relatively easy route if hiked from the Estate boundary access road point but hiking from the Fynbos Drive end can be quite strenuous.

### 1.3.5 Sunset Dam Meander

**Distance = 563m and elevation difference start to finish = 25m**

This is an easy flat walk mainly designed to afford the hiker an easy hike along the edge of the tranquil Sunset dam. A viewing deck affords the hiker an opportunity to observe many species of duck and other water loving birds. Residents of the fynbos section of the estate will also no doubt enjoy the odd sun downer on this deck as the sun sets over the dam. It can be reached from either Heron Street or from the bottom end of Fynbos Drive.

### 1.3.6 Mountain Bike Trail

**Distance = 3400m and if travelled from the Mongoose street end (recommended) the rider will experience a total elevation gain of 116m and a total elevation loss of 150m.**



# FRANSCHÉ HOEK

AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

The mountain bike trail runs from the top end of Mongoose street along the estate boundary and finally ends at the low water bridge crossing along Serruria Crescent. This trail shares the use of the Olive Grove Meander with hikers, which is the only meander on which mountain bikes are allowed. The trail is moderately difficult with a very steep and slippery section but generally in good condition and provides the rider with a scenic route covering the fynbos, Protea Forest, and olive groves sections of the estate. Along the way the rider will encounter two running streams which are generally placid but can become quite strong during the rainy season. Please note that only hikers and mountain bikes are allowed on this route. No quad bikes, scramblers or any other form of vehicle is allowed. Penalties are severe for infringements as indicated under the general rules above.

**Enjoy hiking and biking on Fransche Hoek Estate!**

## MAP

