

The Intake Walk (YellowDot)

This is a quiet, scenic route that winds its way up the Naude's River Valley for 3km and ends at the "Intake". The Intake is a junction in the river where a weir dams up the river and water is piped for pasture irrigation. A furrow that follows most of the route carries excess water into storage dams. Best in the early morning or late afternoon, this stroll takes about an hour and a half. Remember to take your 'binocs' as you are bound to see plenty of birds and buck.

It starts just behind Pecan Cottage where you will see the first yellow dot on the old shed. After crossing the log bridge, one turns left through a gate and walks through the kikuyu pasture, past the old cow shed and onto the main road.

About 200m along the road, instead of heading down to the river, the route takes you left through a gate and along one of the farm roads. When you come to a closed gate, please be sure to close it again behind you. While walking, keep your eyes open for rhebuck, duiker and bushbuck which are plentiful in this area because the river and surrounding bush provide the protection they need. Birdlife is also abundant due to the variety of habitats.

Avenues of giant Eucalyptus (gumtrees) are all that remain from days gone by when all the surrounding land was cultivated and these trees served as windbreaks.

The road ends under the huge canopy of an oak tree, next to the river. This is an ideal picnic spot so remembered to bring along a snack with you! Try to approach this area quietly as it is a favourite grazing spot of bushbuck. Also keep an eye open for the shy Cinnamon and Tambourine Doves, striking Knysna Turacos (Lourie), Black Eagles and several Kingfisher species. You can return along the same route or cross over the river and walk back through the camps making your own way home. You can't get lost!