

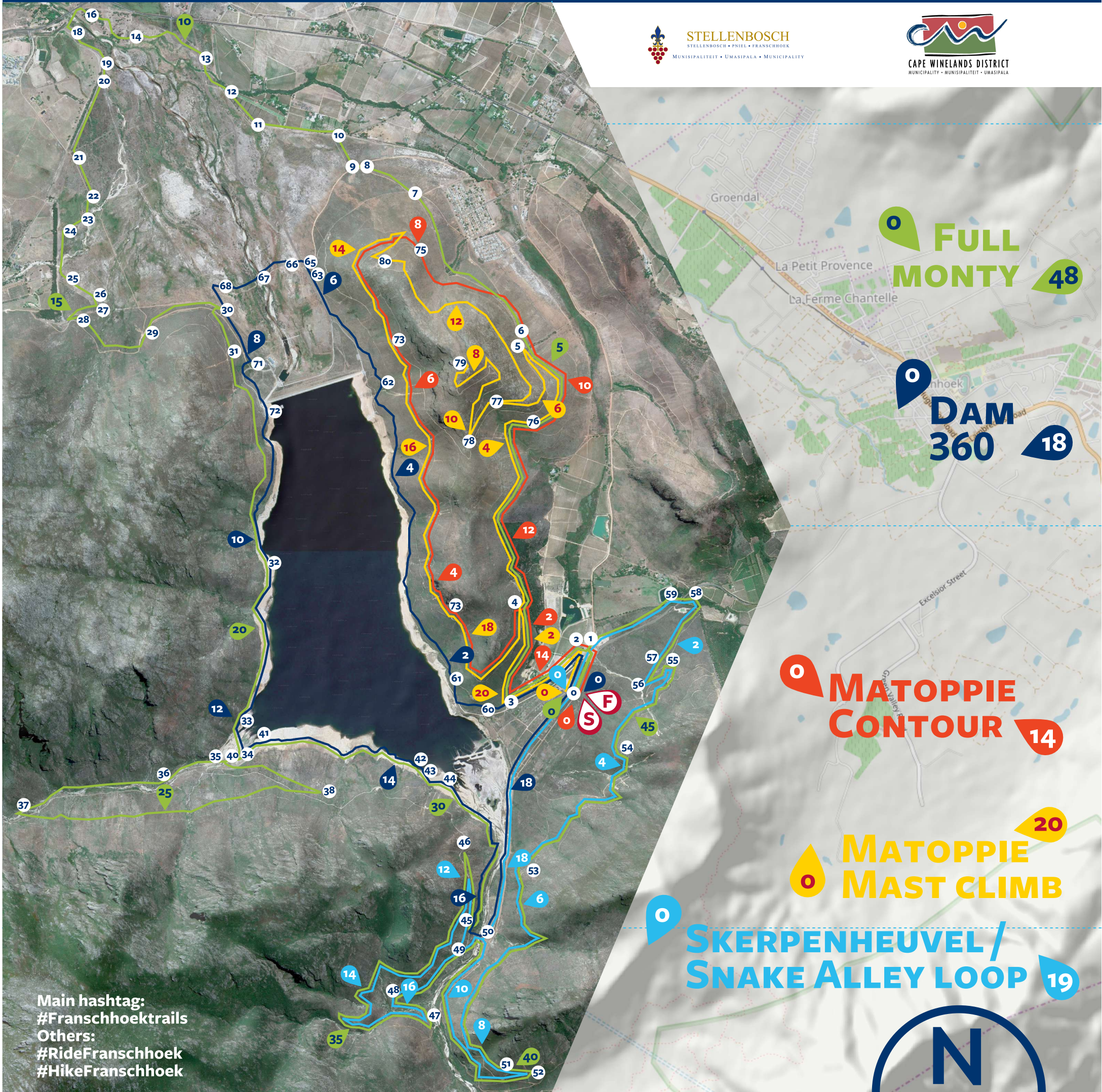
FRANSCHHOEK



BIKING & HIKEING TRAIL NETWORK



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Main hashtag:
 #Franschhoektrails
 Others:
 #RideFranschhoek
 #HikeFranschhoek

- SKERPENHEUVEL / SNAKE ALLEY LOOP
- MATOPPIE MAST CLIMB
- MATOPPIE CONTOUR
- DAM 360
- FULL MONTY
- STRAIGHT
- RIGHT
- LEFT
- MERGE
- TURNING POINT
- START
- FINISH

<https://w3w.co/migrants.secretive.discovering>
 33°56'6.15"S
 19° 4'58.86"E



www.What3Words.co.com



BIKING & HIKING TRAIL NETWORK

THE FRANSCHHOEK TRAIL NETWORK HAS ITS ORIGINS IN THE ORIGINAL SUSTAINABLE UTILISATION PLAN THAT WAS MANDATED WHEN THE BERG RIVER DAM WAS BUILT. THIS PLAN WAS NEVER ROLLED OUT. IN 2014 SOME ENTHUSIASTIC LOCAL MOUNTAIN BIKERS GOT TOGETHER TO MAKE THE DREAM OF A MOUNTAIN BIKE PATH AROUND THE DAM COME ALIVE. WITH THE HELP OF FUNDING FROM VISIONARY LANDOWNERS IN THE FRANSCHHOEK VALLEY A BUSINESS PLAN WAS WRITTEN, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING WAS GRANTED TO STIMULATE ADVENTURE TOURISM AND ENHANCE SAFETY IN THE AREA. TODAY THE INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY PERMIT FEES AND A CONTRIBUTION BY THE LOCAL TOURISM OFFICE.

Most of what you will be riding is rehabilitated forestry roads as well as long stretches of newly built single track. In Franschhoek we will never take the mountain out of mountain biking. Expect some rough sections, rock gardens, wash-outs, tough climbs, fast and dangerous downhill and technical flat sections that will test your ability to stay on your bike. Franschhoek redefines rideability for many – you will leave here either feeling proud of yourself or wanting to come back to build on your skills.

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SCAN HERE TO PAY
 R50 - DAY PERMIT



SCAN HERE TO PAY
 R300 - ANNUAL PERMIT

FRANSCHHOEK

BIKING & HIKING TRAIL NETWORK

THE ROUTES ARE DESIGNED TO BE RIDDEN (OR WALKED) IN A SPECIFIC DIRECTION BUT RIDING (OR WALKING) THEM IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION IS NOT PROHIBITED. RESPECT AND BE CAREFUL OF OTHER TRAIL USERS – THE TRAILS ARE MULTI-USE. Network coverage is poor in most of the areas. You will probably ride longer than planned. All running water is drinkable and probably some of the best you will ever taste. In summer most of the streams dry up - make sure you plan for this.

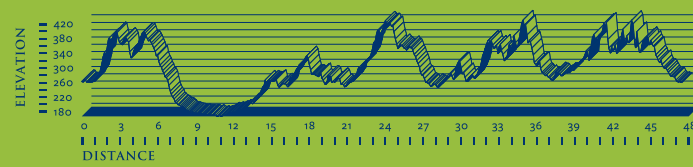
T'S & C'S XXXXXXXX

48 FULL MONTY

DISTANCE 48KM. TOTAL ELEVATION XXX.
 DURATION MTB 4 - 5 HOURS
 DURATION HIKING 7 - 8 HOURS

THIS IS THE ROUTE THAT BRINGS ALL THAT THE FRANSCHHOEK MOUNTAINS HAVE TO OFFER TOGETHER. IT HAS EVERYTHING AN ADVENTUROUS MOUNTAIN BIKER NEEDS – TOUGH, LOOSE, ROCKY CLIMBS; GNARLY DOWNHILLS; HIKE-A-BIKE RIVER CROSSINGS; LOADS OF SINGLE TRACK; AND WASHED OUT JEEP TRACKS.

Your hard work on this trail will be rewarded by the awe-inspiring views. This is the ultimate training ride for potential Cape Epic riders, but the weekend warrior with half a day to spend will not be disappointed. Take enough food, be prepared to push or carry your bike, remember your sense of humour and refresh yourself and refill your water bottle at some of the many river crossings. Not many riders complete the full route – there are plenty of bail-out options when you run out of time or legs.

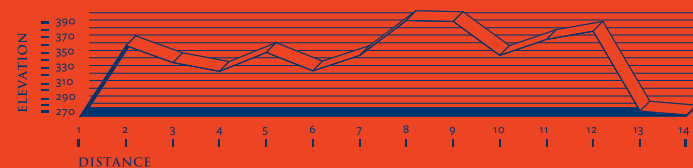


14 MATOPPIE CONTOUR

DISTANCE 14KM. TOTAL ELEVATION XXX.
 DURATION MTB 1 HOUR
 DURATION HIKING 2.5 - 3 HOURS

FOR A QUICK RIDE NOTHING BEATS OUR MATOPPIE CONTOUR RIDE. ONE OF THE OLDEST MTB ROUTES IN FRANSCHHOEK, THIS IS AS CLOSE TO AN EASY RIDE YOU WILL GET IN OUR AREA.

A short but rocky climb takes you onto the contour path with magnificent views of the Berg River Dam. Watch out for some washed out sections. The northern side of the mountain is a biodiversity dream following frequent fires. Stop to admire the diverse flora that includes some rare Serruria (also known as the Blushing Bride). The downhill that takes you home can be loose and rocky at times - take care here.

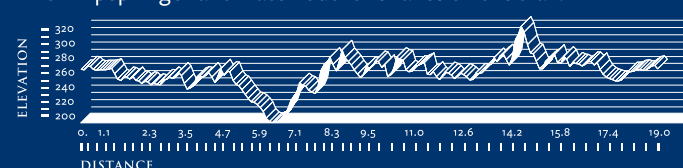


18 DAM 360

DISTANCE 18KM. TOTAL ELEVATION XXX.
 DURATION MTB 1.5 - 2 HOURS
 DURATION HIKING 3 - 4 HOURS

DON'T LET THE FLAT PROFILE OF THIS ROUTE FOOL YOU. TECHNICAL TERRAIN AND SHARP STEEP CLIMBS WILL MAKE YOU WORK HARD FOR THE VIEWS OF THE BERG RIVER DAM.

The building of this single track was a dream come true for locals. Spare a thought for the trail builders as you cross washed out river crossings and rocky outcrops that drop down to dam level. Certain segments of this route are flooded when the dam is full. Check with the locals before venturing out in the rainy season. Wet lube is compulsory year-round as there are some muddy segments. During early mornings you might be accompanied by the resident fish eagles along the lower dam contour. Scan the mountain ledges for klipspringer and watch out for snakes on the trail.

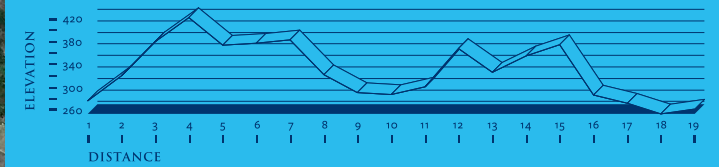


19 SKERPENHEUVEL / SNAKE ALLEY LOOP

DISTANCE 19KM. TOTAL ELEVATION XXX.
 DURATION MTB 2 - 3 HOURS
 DURATION HIKING 4 - 5 HOURS

SKERPENHEUVEL IS AN ARCHAIC FORM OF AN AFRIKAANS WORD THAT MEANS 'SHARP HILL'. YOU WILL SOON LEARN THE LITERAL MEANING OF THIS WORD AS A STEEP WASHED OUT CLIMB TAKES YOU UP THIS ANCIENT MOUNTAIN. Fortunately, you will soon be directed right onto a flowing contour path that offers a panoramic perspective of the Berg River Dam. Stop at one of the waterfalls along the route to refresh, recover and fill your water bottle. A tricky rock garden is followed by a steep loose climb after which you will be rewarded by a fast and gnarly decent taking you down to the Berg River. Novice and unskilled riders should take care here.

A welcoming section of jeep track will allow you to catch up on some conversation before a sharp left takes you onto a steep cement path that will leave you panting. This climb is soon rewarded with a flowing segment of contour riding taking you into the belly of the Franschhoek mountains on what is known by locals as 'Snake Alley'. Watch out for a fast and grainy downhill leading into a sharp left turn that takes you down to the river and a compulsory splash on a hot day. You might even spot the resident boomslang that gives this trail its name. A section of single track through the riverine habitat of the Berg River brings you onto an easy gravel road for a gentle ride back home.



20 MATOPPIE MAST CLIMB

DISTANCE 20KM. TOTAL ELEVATION XXX.
 DURATION MTB 2 - 3 HOURS
 DURATION HIKING 4 - 5 HOURS

MATOPPIE IS ONE OF THE ICONIC CLIMBS AROUND FRANSCHHOEK. THE ROUTE WILL TAKE YOU STRAIGHT ONTO A LOOSE AND ROCKY JEEP TRACK. A PATCH OF CORK OAKS FROM PREVIOUS CENTURIES PROVIDES WELCOME SHADE BEFORE YOU TURN LEFT ONTO MORE LOOSE JEEP TRACK THAT WILL MAKE YOU WORK HARD FOR THE REWARDING 360-DEGREE VIEWS THAT AWAIT YOU AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

This is the highest point on our trail network. Getting back down is loose and fast; take care that you don't miss the turn off to the left which will take you right around the mountain on a most beautiful piece of single track. The views of the village, surrounding farms and the Berg River Dam will leave you speechless until a final segment of fast and technical downhill gets you off the mountain quickly.

