

EXPLORING MILLSTREAM FARM:

GUIDELINES AND WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

While enjoying the scenic walking trails, bird hides, and dams at Millstream Farm, please adhere to these important guidelines to protect the natural beauty and wildlife of the area.



Farm Guidelines

Help us preserve the beauty of Millstream Farm by not picking wildflowers, seeds, or collecting natural items like bones or wood. Please avoid disturbing bird nests, swimming in dams or weirs, or lighting fires. The use of firearms or fireworks is strictly prohibited. Smokers, kindly use a portable ashtray and dispose of waste responsibly. If you spot a wild fire or incident, please report it immediately to 013 253 9911 or 083 463 0267. Together, we can keep this sanctuary pristine for all to enjoy.

Wildlife at Millstream Farm

Millstream Farm is home to a diverse range of mammals, birds, and indigenous flora. For a bird list or flower list, please visit reception. Here are some of the larger mammals you may encounter during your visit:

Common Sightings:

- Blesbuck
- Slender mongoose
- Water mongoose
- Common (Grey) duiker
- Grey rhebuck
- Plains zebra (Burchell's)
- Cape clawless otter

Rare Sightings

- Black-backed jackal
- Side-striped jackal
- Yellow mongoose
- Porcupine
- Scrub hare
- Rock hyrax
- Oribi
- Warthog
- Bushpig

Indigenous Trees at Millstream Farm

Millstream is home to various indigenous trees, many of which thrive naturally or have been planted to enhance the landscape:

Natural Trees:

- Ouhout
- Wild peach
- Tree fuchsia
- Common spikethorn
- Nannaberry
- Red crowberry
- Common parsley tree

Botanical Species Name:

- Leucosidea sericea*
- Kiggelaria africana*
- Halleria lucida*
- Gymnosporia buxifolia*
- Diospyros lycioides*
- Searsia dentata*
- Heteromorpha arborescens*

Planted Trees:

- Karee
- Wild olive
- Yellowwood species
- River bush willow
- White stinkwood
- Buffalo thorn
- Sage
- Sweet thorn
- Common hook thorn

Botanical Species Names:

- Searsia lancea*
- Olea europaea subsp. africana*
- Podocarpus spp.*
- Combretum erythrophyllum*
- Celtis africana*
- Ziziphus mucronata*
- Buddleja saligna*
- Vachellia karroo*
- Acacia caffra*

Enjoy your adventure at Millstream Farm and discover the natural wonders that make this place truly special!

MILLSTREAM WALKS:

MILLSTREAM FARM OFFERS A BEAUTIFUL VARIETY OF MARKED WALKING AND CYCLE TRAILS, WITH MORE ROUTES PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE. WHILE THERE ARE MANY INFORMAL PATHS, FOUR OFFICIAL TRAILS ARE CURRENTLY SIGNPOSTED.

Before You Go – Trail Safety & Etiquette

- Hydrate: Always carry water, especially on longer routes.
- Footwear: Wear closed, comfortable shoes. During early morning walks, expect dew or frost—waterproof or leather shoes are best.
- Sun protection: Use sunscreen, wear a hat, and cyclists should always wear helmets. Millstream's altitude makes the sun deceptively harsh.
- Wildlife awareness: Animals may appear tame, but they are wild. Always maintain a respectful distance.
- Reptiles: Although rare due to the cool climate, reptiles do exist. Never touch a snake—even if it appears dead.
- Safety first: Let someone know where you're going and carry a cellphone if possible. Mist can descend quickly; never stray from the path in low visibility.
- Trail design: Some routes zigzag to prevent erosion—stick to the trail even if it's not the most direct path.

The Dam Walk Distance: ±1.75 km | Trail Marker: Orange | Difficulty: Easy



A scenic circular route around Lake Millstream with gentle terrain, a few steps, and some uneven patches.

Route Overview:

Starts opposite Cottage 20 (or 14). Cross the bridge over the Witpoort River and follow the strip road past Cottages 19–17. After the turnoff to Cottage 17, the trail veers left along the lake's edge. Cross the pedestrian bridge over the spillway, then turn left and go over the dam wall. The trail dips to the right just before Cottage 15, passes behind Cottage 14's carport, then loops between Cottages 14 and 13. It follows the shoreline in front of Cottages 13 and 12, crossing a small stream (keep left after the footbridge). Continue past the island and onto a raised 100m wooden walkway, leading back to the T-jetty near Cottage 20.

The Weirs Walk Distance: ±3.5 km | Trail Marker: Green | Difficulty: Moderate



A diverse and scenic route with moderate gradients and uneven ground—minimal shade after the first 800m.

Route Overview:

Start at Reception or opposite Cottage 23. Head down the concrete strip road and turn off at the sign to Cottage 23. Pass between Cottages 23 and 24, descending toward the Weirs. Walk past Marie's Bridge (named after Millstream's beloved first Front Office Manager). Continue past the last Weir (Canterbury Pond), then ascend the trail to the top of the ridge—pause to enjoy the valley views.

At the top, turn right onto a gravel service road, with the Koppie on your left. Watch for Rock Hyrax among the rocks. The trail continues along the Koppie's base to a ridge with views of Solitary Reaper, Coleridge, and Tintern Dams. Pass through a saddle and descend via the "Toilet with a View" to Lake Coleridge, where the walk ends back at Reception. You may also choose to combine with the Blue Walk here—cross the dam wall, turn right, then left after 60m to join the trail behind the Blue Gum forest.

Lookout Point Walk Distance: ±3.2 km (return) | Trail Marker: Yellow | Difficulty: Moderate



A peaceful offshoot of the Green Trail that rewards you with panoramic views over Millstream — perfect for a quiet moment on the benches at the top.

Route Overview:

Follow the Weirs Walk (Green Trail) from Reception or opposite Cottage 23. Head past Cottage 23 and 24, dipping toward the Weirs. About 150m from the last weir, on the Green Trail, take the clearly marked path to the Left, marked "Vincent's View". Cross the small bridge and continue along the open path. The trail gently climbs toward the benches at the Lookout Point, offering sweeping views of the lakes, cottages, and ridges.

Mid-Farm & Ridge Walk Distance: ±4.5 km | Trail Marker: Blue | Difficulty: Moderate



A varied trail with mostly flat sections, some uneven ground, and mild inclines toward the end.

Route Overview:

Start opposite Cottage 3 near Reception. Walk behind the Manager's house and cross the wall of Lake Tintern. Enter the Blue Gum forest, passing a bird hide turnoff on the right. Exit the forest, cross an old dam wall, and veer right toward Lake Crystabel. Cross its wall, then turn sharply left and follow the dam's edge for about 200m.

The trail curves uphill to the concrete road, crosses it, and continues past the pine trees. Upon reaching the Old Airstrip, turn right, walk 80m, then cross to a grass track running south along the Eastern Ridge. You'll now join the Red Bike Trail.

Roughly 200m past The Ridge's peak, head north to the strip road, cross it, and continue through the gum trees (keeping them on your right). Turn left onto the strip road, walk down past Cottage 6, continue past Cottage 7, cross the Thistle Pond dam wall, and take the wooden bridge to arrive back at Cottage 1 and Reception.

Old Quarry & Serengeti Plains Trail (Cycle/Walk) Distance: Red section 7 km + 1.3 km | Trail Marker: Red | Difficulty: Moderate



A rewarding and slightly more challenging trail with rocky descents, minimal shade, and excellent game viewing opportunities.

Route Overview:

Start near Reception, between it and Cottage 3. Head east between the Manager's house and the Workshop, keeping the paddock fence to your left. Cross Lake Tintern's wall, follow the edge up to Lake Coleridge, and then curve away from the dams toward the Northern boundary, crossing a firebreak near the fence.

Climb toward the high ground along the Eastern boundary and turn right at the ridge. (Missed the turn? Retrace 150m.) Pass an old stone quarry, then curve left into a shallow valley past another quarry, emerging on the firebreak next to the boundary fence—now over 2000m above sea level.

Descend steeply toward Lake Crystabel (caution: steep and rocky for cyclists). Follow the wetland's edge, cross the top (very muddy in summer), and ascend to the Main Gate. Cross the strip road (now 4.6 km in) and continue through the Blue Gum plantation to the top of the Old Airstrip, entering the "Serengeti Plains"—a great spot to see herds of blesbuck, springbuck, and zebra.

Head southwest toward The Ridge. Watch for a colony of yellow mongoose. Ascend to the top, then descend toward Cottages 12–15, with a small dogleg along the way. At the fork, you can either:

- Join the Blue Walk, or
- Complete the full route: Continue toward Cottages 14 & 15, cross the Lake Millstream dam wall, the pedestrian bridge over the spillway, then go up between Cottages 16 & 17, back to Reception.