

Donkergat Beat (Smalblaar 3) (0.72 km) - Detailed Instructions

Parking:

Donkergat Beat (Smalblaar 3) lies on the Smalblaar River (sometimes called the Molenaars River) which runs parallel to the N1 on the east side of the Huguenot Tunnel.

Traveling east from Cape Town, drive 5.5 km from the exit of the Huguenot Tunnel on the N1 (1.5 km from the Du Kloof Lodge). Past the lodge the road dips into a valley. Be on the look-out for the parking on the left above the weir that crosses the river on the way down the hill (Figure 1).

One can park either in the tarred recess on the road's shoulder or one can drive onto the side road. (be careful not to drive too far in as 2x4 cars could have trouble reversing out on the steep gravel).

Accessing the start of the beat:

The parking is at the downstream end of the beat. Follow the path from the parking to the river and down the concrete stairs alongside the weir.

The beat starts at the artificial weir across the river (Figure 2) [GPS: S33 43.419 E19 10.178]. The water below the weir is not part of the beat.

Donkergat pool:

Upstream of the pool at the weir the beat proceeds up several rapids to Donkergat pool. The pool has high cliff like boulders on the right hand side. To progress past the pool one can find the path through the bushes on the left hand side, re-joining the river through the non-perennial river bed. Alternatively one can carefully climb high on the rocks on the right. The way down the rock face back to the river is steep, but passable if one is careful and reasonably agile.

End of the beat and exiting:

The Beat ends at the top of the rapids before the very large pool with a large boulder on the left. The boulder has a small green fish with a "4" painted on it (Figure 3). The level water before the marked boulder is not part of the beat as the beat ends at the top of the rapids.

To exit the river, backtrack down the river from the end of the beat 30 m before stepping into the bushes to find the path. There is now a 250 m hike, mostly uphill, back to the N1. The path leads straight up the hillside mostly along fairly bare rock (Figure 4). Be careful as this rock can be slippery when wet.

It is common at this point to lose the path. Continue along the rocky ground towards the top of the hill and the N1. Once atop the hill the path leads down the embankment to the right which leads to the N1. Once on the N1 follow the flow of traffic back to the parking area.

Beat marker rules

GPS:

The GPS co-ordinates are only approximate. The physical description of the start and end points of beats take precedence.

Where to fish and walk:

One may fish and walk freely between the start and end points of the booked beat. One may not fish outside of this range, even if one is standing within one's beat. Walking in or close to the river outside of the range is prohibited except when accessing a designated footpath into, or away from one's booked beat.

Photographs and Descriptions

The photographs and descriptions in the document can be readily changed. Please email improved photos or descriptions to the CPS office for consideration in the next update.



Figure 1. Parking at the weir. One can park either in the tarred recess on the road's shoulder or one can drive down the side road. Be careful not to drive too far as 2x4 cars could have trouble reversing out on the steep gravel.

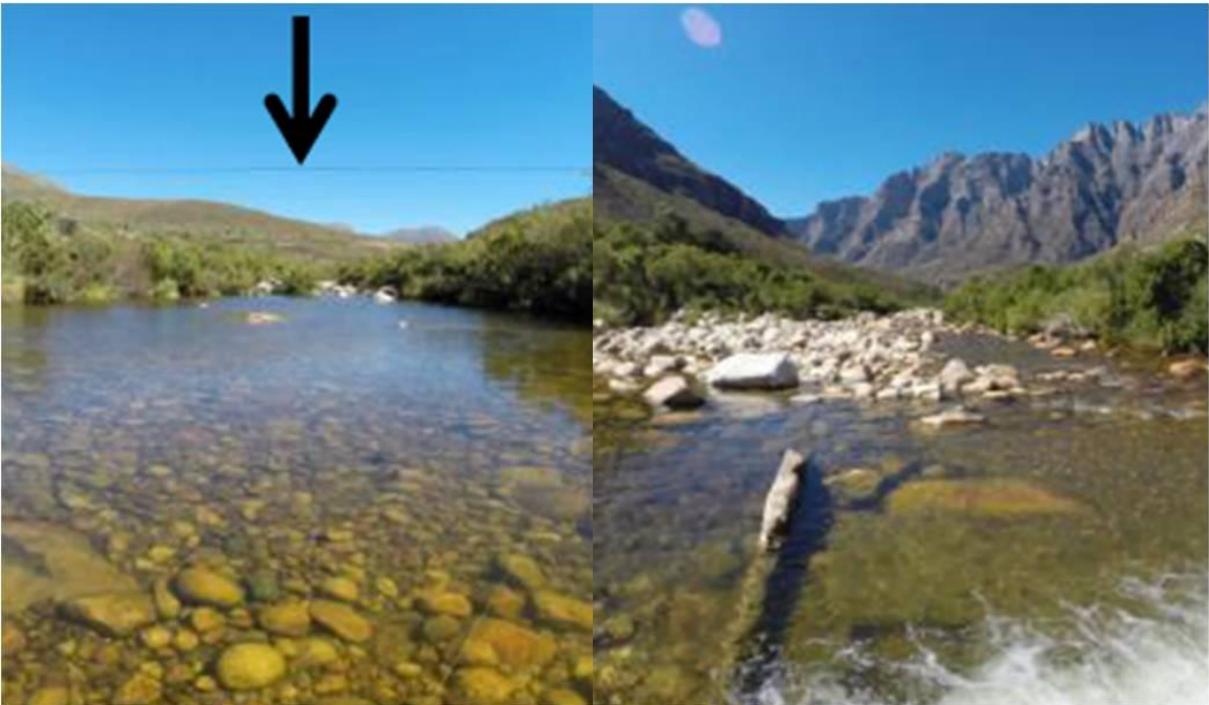


Figure 2. Left, the pool above the weir. Right, the downstream view from the weir. Be careful not to get your line caught in the cable that runs above the pool, arrowed on the left against the blue sky.



Figure 3. (Left & Right) Large boulder marking the end of the beat. The level pool water is NOT part of the beat.

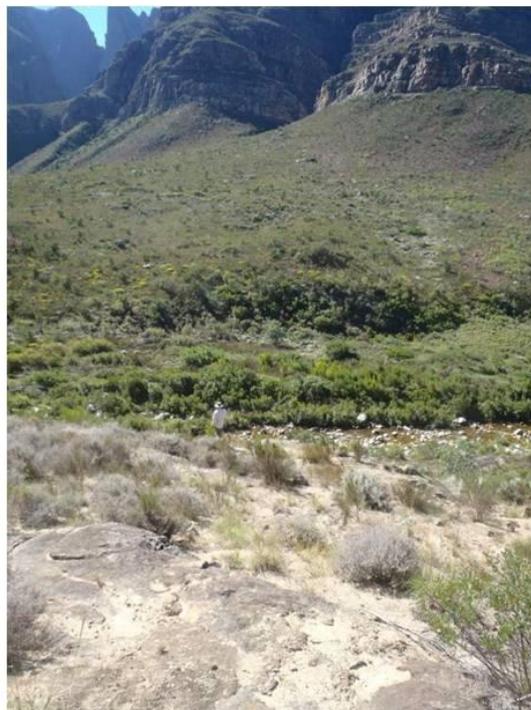


Figure 4. Looking down the bare rock face along the path towards the river