

# Walking and Climbing Guide to the Jonkershoek Valley

Extracts from “Jonkershoek en sy Berge” by Ernst Lotz

*(with permission from Ernst Lotz)*



*Jonkershoek panorama 6 May 2007 (stitched with [AutoStitch](#) from the University of British Columbia)*

## Note on the translated version:

This translation of some parts of Ernst Lotz's excellent book on Jonkershoek is provided (with Ernst's permission) as an aid to those who can't manage the Afrikaans original; and also for those who can read Afrikaans, but have difficulty obtaining the original book. At Jonkershoek they say it is out of print but Ernst advises that it is available at Leotana Outdoor, De Wet Centre, Church St, Stellenbosch tel 021 886 4063. If you can get the original, please do so.

Jonkershoek is a wonderful mountain resource, as Ernst's descriptions so eloquently convey. This translation cannot do justice to the lyrical language of the original and does not attempt to do so. It is a fairly literal translation staying as close to the original text as possible. However, route descriptions are difficult at the best of times, and it is possible that the translation may not be entirely accurate. If there is any doubt, the original Afrikaans text must of course be taken as definitive. It is for this reason, and to encourage reading of the original text, that both languages are used side by side. If you note any translation errors, please advise me.

The route descriptions are also being amplified by a series of photographs showing the routes. Some are currently at <http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/u3a.cape> but may be moved as more become available (check the website for current details). Anyone climbing in Jonkershoek is invited to contribute photos to this collection.

**Extracts:** Besides some of the background on Jonkershoek and climbing in general, the sections reproduced here have focused only on the B and C routes. This is for two reasons: Firstly translating rock climbing routes is difficult and I felt best left to someone who has actually done many, or at least some, of the climbs; secondly I felt that many who may be interested in the D, E and F climbs would be able to read Afrikaans

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anyway. And it is always better to read the original if you can. An electronic version of the original book is available if required

**Maps:** The original book had a useful sketch map of Jonkershoek. This is not reproduced as it has been superseded by a full contour map of the area produced from the Mapsource 1:50 000 maps. These are in turn derived from the SA Trigonometric Survey series. A 1:25 000 electronic A2 map of Jonkershoek (which can be printed as 4 A4 sheets) is available from <http://groups.google.co.za/group/cape-gps-maps>

Mapsource (available from [http://www.garmap.co.za/Topo\\_Info.asp](http://www.garmap.co.za/Topo_Info.asp)) is an excellent resource for planning climbing and walking routes. The advantage of an electronic version is that views, or enlarged sections e.g. at a 1:15 000 scale, can be produced of any area – not only of the Jonkershoek, but of anywhere in the country. Some pre-prepared maps of parts of Jonkershoek are also available e.g. Twins to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ridge and the Panorama trail. **Note:** 1:10 000 is actually too big – 1:15 000 is better.

The Mapsource maps have also been annotated with GPS tracks of many of the paths in Jonkershoek. These have been drawn either by actually walking them with a GPS or from tracing in Google Earth. This electronic resource is a living entity which will be updated as more information is collected. The tracks and waypoints that are marked on the map are available as files for loading into either a Garmin or Magellan GPS. This is a cooperative effort and anyone who walks in Jonkershoek, or other Cape Mountains, is invited to contribute their tracks. See <http://groups.google.co.za/group/cape-gps-maps> for more information and to download tracks.

This guide is part of a University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A) initiative. More information about these activities and additional maps and photos are available at: <http://groups.google.co.za/group/u3a-cape-town-walking-climbing>

Watter Stellenboscher is daar wat nie al gewens het om, al is dit dan net een keer, bo op die Pieke te staan nie? In hoeveel duisende het nie al daar gestaan nie! En hoeveel het nie al, wanneer hulle daar gestaan het, gewens hullo kon ook die ander berge van Jonkershoek uitklim nie - Rifberg, die Katedraal, Victoriapiëk, Haelkop.

Maar hoe kom 'n mens bo? Die kranse lyk dan so onklimbaar! In hierdie gids word verduidelik hoe. Daar is somer baie klimroetes, sommige so maklik dat enigeen wat redelik fiks is, dit met die grootste gemak sal kan volg. Ander is moeiliker, of vereis 'n "kop vir hoogtes". Etlikes is so moeilik dat slegs die mees ervare klimmers, wat die ingewikkelde tegnieke van touwerk en rotsklim bemeester het, dit durf aanpak.

'n Mens sou graag wou weet wie heel eerste die Pieke en ook die ander berge van Jonkershoek geklim het en van watter roetes gebruik gemaak is. Ongelukkig het hierdie inligting blykbaar verlore geraak. Ons weet wel dat Stellenbosse studente reeds omstreeks 1870 bergklimuitstappies na Jonkershoek onderneem het, maar besonderhede van hulle klimtogte is nie bekend nie. Van daardie dae se voorbode was Abraham Kriel (die latere ds A.P. Kriel van die Langlaagte-weeshuis), Japie Home en Barry Hertzog.

In 1893 is 'n Afdeling van die Bergklub van Suid-Afrika in Stellenbosch gestig, met kweekskoolstudent Willie Neethling as sekretaris. Dit word vertel dat Willie en sy maats een oggend om twee-uur te voet uit Stellenbosch weg is, Victoriapiëk geklim en dieselfde aand om nege-uur weer tuis was - en dit sonder die gerieflike voetpaadjies van vandag! Ongelukkig het die aanvanklike geesdrif nie lank geduur nie en teen 1900 het die Afdeling opgehou om te bestaan.

Teen daardie tyd was, sover ons weet, net twee roetes teen die Pieke bekend, naamlik Square Tower Gully en Langrivierkloof. Toe, in 1901, laat G.F. Travers-Jackson, baanbreker klimmer van die Kaap, die oerrek toe hy 'n geselskap teen die steil kranse regs van Sentralekloof uit lei. Jackson het nie weer in Jonkershoek geklim nie en vir baie jare daarna het klimbedrywighede in die vallei feitlik tot stilstand gekom.

In die twintigerjare was daar weer 'n oplewing toe Kaapse klimmers, waaronder veral A.B. (Bert) Berrisford en K. Cameron nuwe roetes teen Rifberg en die Katedraal begin soek het. Berrisford-hulle het hul veral op rotsklimroetes toegespits en kon hulle teen 1929 reeds vier lang en

Is there any Stellenboscher who has not desired to stand on top of the Twins, even if just once? How many thousands have stood there! And how many, when they are standing there, have wished they could climb the other mountains of Jonkershoek - 1st Ridge Peak, the Cathedral, Victoria Peak, Haelkop.

But how does one get to the top? The cliffs appear to be so unclimbable! This guide explains how. There are many climbing routes, some easy, that anyone who is reasonably fit can do, others are harder, or require a head for heights. Some are so difficult that only the most experienced climbers who have mastered the complexities of ropework and rock climbing can do them.

One would like to know who first climbed the Twins and the other mountains of Jonkershoek and which routes they used. Unfortunately this information is apparently lost. It is known that in about 1870 Stellenbosch students climbed in Jonkershoek, but details of their exploits are not known. The pioneers in those days were Abraham Kriel (later ds A P Kriel of the Langlaagte orphanage), Japie Home and Barry Hertzog.

In 1893 a division of the Mountain Club of South Africa was founded in Stellenbosch, with agric student Willie Neethling as secretary. It is told that Willie and his friends set out on foot from Stellenbosch at two one morning to climb Victoria Peak, returning at nine the same evening - without the good paths of today! Unfortunately the initial enthusiasm did not endure and by 1900 the division ceased to exist.

As far as is known, just two routes up the Twins were known, namely Square Tower Gully and Langrivierkloof. In 1901 G. F. Travers-Jackson, pioneer climber of the Cape, opened eyes when he led a party up the steep cliffs to the right of Sentralekloof. Jackson didn't climb again in Jonkershoek and for years afterwards climbing in the valley virtually came to a standstill.

In the 1920s there was resurgence as Cape climbers, among which especially A B (Bert) Berrisford and K. Cameron, began to look for new routes on 1st Ridge Peak and the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak). Berrisford and others concentrated on rockclimbing routes and by 1929 had established four long and difficult routes on the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak). With the passage of time they also tamed 1st Ridge

moeilike roetes op die Katedraal bekendstel. Met verloop van tyd het hulle ook Rifberg se kranse makgemaak met roetes soos Green Arrow Arete, Boegoerif en ander.

Stellenbosse studente het intussen ook nie op hulle laat wag nie, toe veral in die dertigerjare manne soos T.B. Scheffler, J.P ver Loren van Themaat, R. Perold en C. Loubser baie bedrywig was. Aan hierdie klimmers het ons 'n aantal besonder interessante roetes te danke, onder andere Suidfront op die Pieke en Lys-en-hoek teen die Katedraal.

In 1953 word daar vir die tweede keer 'n Afdeling van die Bergklub van Suid-Afrika in Stellenbosch gestig, 'n gebeure wat hernude belangstelling in Jonkershoek as klimgebied gaande gemaak het. Lede van die Klub het dadelik begin om ou, halfvergete roetes op te soek, terwyl 'n paar nuwes ook heel gou by die lys gevoeg is. Vandag word die berge van Jonkershoek so druk besoek dat daar reeds 'n mate van kommer oor erosie op die maklike roetes bestaan.

Die grootste deel van Jonkershoek is sedert 1933 'n Staatsbos. 'n Baie belangrike een daarby, want dis een van die min plekke in die land waar navorsing oor die bestuur van bergopvanggebiede gedoen word. Hierdie navorsing is uit die aard van die saak van lewensbelang vir die Boland, wat so afhanklik is van bergwater. Dis die soort van navorsing waar jy baie jare moet werk voordat jy resultate kan toon en waar al die werk deur een onbeheerde brand nutteloos gemaak kan word. Daarom geld die goue reël: **geen vure**. Drink jy graag 'n beker koffie bo by die kruin? Dra dit dan maar in 'n vakuümfles saam. Hou jy daarvan om 'n tjoppie in die veld te braai? Gaan doen dit op 'n ander plek! Daar is ander reëls ook, maar die is so vanselfsprekend, mens hoef dit skaars vir natuur liefhebbers te herhaal: nie rommel agterlaat nie, hande af van die blomme - nou ja, al die ou dingetjies wat opgevoede mense tog in alle geval nie doen nie!

Nou iets omtrent die beskrywing van roetes. Eerstens, die benadering. In die meeste gevalle word niks genoem van motor- en voetpaadjies nie, waarvan daar 'n hele duisternis is. Die rede is eenvoudig. Bestaande voetpaadjies groei alte dikwels toe, terwyl nuwes van tyd tot tyd oopgekap word. Sekere motorpaaie is vir die publiek toeganklik, ander nie. Klimmers moet maar by die Bosbouer verneem wat die posisie is. In 'n paar beskrywings word na die "boonste voetpad" verwys. Dit is die hoogste voetpad wat teen die noorderhelling oploop na Bergriviernek.

Kom ons neem aan jy het die begin van jou roete gevind. Gaan die

Peak's cliffs with routes like Green Arrow Arête, Boegoerif and others.

Stellenbosch students had in the meanwhile also not been idle, especially in the 1930s men like T B. Scheffler, J P ver Loren van Themaat, R. Perold and C. Loubser were very active. Thanks to these climbers we have a number of highly interesting routes, among others Suidfront on the Twins and Lys-en-Hoek on Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak).

In 1953, for the second time, a division of the Mountain Club of South - Africa in Stellenbosch was founded, an event that renewed interest in Jonkershoek as a climbing area. Members of the club immediately began to look for old, half forgotten routes, while a few new ones were quickly added. Today the mountains of Jonkershoek are visited so often that already a measure of concern exists over erosion on the easy routes.

Since 1933 the biggest part of Jonkershoek has been a state forest. And a very important one at that, because it's one of the few places in the country where research about the management of mountain catchments is done. This research is of crucial importance for the Boland with its dependence on the mountains for water.

It is the sort of research which takes many years to see results and where all the work can be destroyed by one uncontrolled burn. Therefore the golden rule applies: **no fires**. Do you want to drink a mug of coffee on top? Then carry it in a vacuum flask. Want a braai? Go do it in another place! There are other rules also, but so obvious, one should scarcely have to reiterate to nature-lovers: leave behind no rubbish, hands off the flowers - ok, all the old things that well educated people are in any event not doing!

Now something about the description of routes. First of all, the approach. In most cases nothing is mentioned about motor - and foot paths, of which there are many. The reasoning is simple. Existing paths are all too often closed, while new ones are from time to time opened. Certain roads are accessible to the public, others not. Climbers must check at the forester what the position is. In a few descriptions the "highest foot path" is referred to. It is the highest foot path on the north slope that runs up to Bergriviernek.

Let us assume you've found the beginning of your route. Will the description get you to the top? On the easy routes, say to C-standard,



beskrywing jou bo bring? Op die maklike roetes, se tot C-standaard, behoort daar geen probleme te wees nie. Hierdie roetes is normaalweg baie goed gebaken, met selfs 'n effense voetpaadjie hier en daar. Hou egter in gedagte dat bobbejane en sterk winde geneig is om bakens te verrinnweer, en dat sommige roetes op plekke baie na aan mekaar kom en die bakens gevolglik misleidend kan wees. Hou jou oë oop, en gebruik jou gesonde verstand!

By elke roetebeskrywing word 'n gradering aangegee, soos deur die Bergklub van Suid-Afrika gebruik word. Hierdie stelsel van gradering verwys na die moeilikste stukkie op die roete en het betrekking op die tegniese moeilikheid en nie hoe lank dit is, hoe blootgestel, of hoe moeg dit jou gaan maak nie. Oor gradering kan baie geredekawel word, maar gebruik maar die volgende as leidraad:

- A: Die allermaklikste. Jy doen hierdie roetes as't ware met jou hande in jou broeksakke.
- B: Sluit maklike stukkie rots in. So hier en daar mag dit vir jou nodig wees om jou hande te gebruik.
- C: Die rotsdele word steiler, en jy moet al net mooi kyk waar jy vat en trap.
- D: Op roetes van hierdie standaard neem ons gewoonlik ons klimtoue saam - nie om mekaar mee op te trek nie, net vir wedersydse beveiliging. Kennis van rotsklimtegnieke wenslik.
- E: Moeilike rotsdele! Kennis van rotsklimtegnieke noodsaaklik.
- F: Uiters moeilik. Slegs vir die mees ervare rotsklimmers.

In hierdie uitgawe word ook 'n **ster-gradering** aangegee. Daar sal sekerlik meningsverskil hieroor wees, maar dit gee tog 'n aanduiding van wat om te verwag. Gebruik die volgende definisies as leidraad:

- \* Mens doen so 'n roete gewoonlik net een keer!
- \*\* Nie te waffers nie, maar dit het tog sy oomblikke.
- \*\*\* Heel aangenaam. Sou dit weer wou doen.
- \*\*\*\* 'n Heerlike klim-ervaring. Interessant en vol afwisseling.

Geen ster : Of 'n voetpad, of die roete is te onbekend om beoordeel te kan word.

there should be no problems. These routes are normally well beaconed with cairns, with even a slight path here and there. Keep however in mind that baboons and strong winds can demolish cairns and that some routes are very close to each other so the cairns can be deceptive. Keep your eyes open, and use your head.

Every route is given a rating, like that used by the Mountain Club of South Africa. This system of rating refers to the most difficult section on the route and relates to the technical difficulty and not how long it is, how exposed, or how tired it is going to make you. Over rating can be very contentious, but the following is used as an indication:

- A:** The easiest. You can do these routes with your hands in your pockets.
- B:** Includes easy rock sections. Here and there it may be necessary to use your hands.
- C:** The rocks get steeper and you need to take care where you put your hands and feet.
- D:** On routes of this standard ropes are normally used - not to pull each other up, just for mutual safety. Knowledge of rock climbing techniques is preferable.
- E:** Difficult rock! Knowledge of rock climbing essential.
- F:** Extremely difficult. Only for the most experienced rock climbers.

In this edition a **star-rating** is also given. There'll certainly be differences in opinion, but they give an indication of what to expect.

- \* One does such a route usually just once!
- \*\* Not wonderful, but has its moments.
- \*\*\* Most pleasant. Would do it again.
- \*\*\*\* Outstanding climbing-experience. Interesting and full of variety.

No star: Either a foot path, or the route is not known well enough to rate.

**Botmaskop** is baie maklik om te klim. Mens kan of bo in Uniepark begin, of op bykans enige punt langs die Helshoogtepad. Deur gebruik te maak van Jeeppaale, brandbane, en 'n voetpad teen die boonste hellings, hoef jy nersens deur ruigtes te stap nie. (Die voetpad is in die vyftigerjare deur die uwe met groot moeite en sorg gemaak, maar is sedertdien byna onherkenbaar deur "kortpadvatters" gedegradeer. Om op 'n slingerpaadjie kortpad te steek is 'n onvergeeflike oortreding. Nie alleen veroorsaak dit erosie nie, maar dra dit absoluut niks by tot die genot van stappers nie - in teendeel!)

Mik na die oop, rotsagtige klofie wat 'n entjie links van die kruin te sien is en klim daarin op. Van die skouertjie wat bereik word is dit net 'n paar minute se klim na die kruin. Reken op 1 tot 1-1/2 uur tot bo. (As jy die kruin in minder as 'n uur vanaf Uniepark kan bereik, is jy besonder fiks!)

Daar is ook 'n twee-ster C-roete wat gebruik maak van drie rotsskeure wat in 'n reguit lyn onder die kruin lê. Stap regsom aan die voet van die kranies totdat jy 'n prominente losstaande rotstoring sien. Die skeure lê dan reg bokant jou. Klouter op oor rotsblokke en oor 'n kort grashelling. Die onderste skeur is net links van 'n prominente klein bastion. Gaan die skeur van die regterkant af binne en klouter bo aan die linkerkant uit. Die tweede skeur word met 'n sigsag-beweging verbygestap. Die derde skeur is die moeilikste van die drie. Die onderste deel is oorhangend, dus klouter mens eers net regs daarvan op en dwarsklim dan na links sodra jy bokant die oorhangende deel is. Die dwarsklim is 'n bietjie ongemaklik, maar daar is goeie vatplekke na links om die hoek. Klim wydsbeen in die skeur op en beweeg links uit so gou doenlik.

**Botmaskop** is very easy to climb. One can begin in Uniepark, or on almost any point next to the Helshoogte road. By making use of jeep tracks, firebreaks, and a foot path on the highest slopes, there is no need to go through bush anywhere. (The foot path was made in the 1950s with trouble and care, but has since then been degraded by "shortcutters". To shortcut a zigzag is an unpardonable act. Not only does it give rise to erosion, but it contributes absolutely nothing to the enjoyment of walkers - on the contrary!)

Aim for the open, rocky ravine visible a little to the left of the crest and climb it. From the little shoulder that is attained it is just a few minute's climb to the top. Bargain on 1 to 1-1/2 hours to the top. (If you reach the top in less than an hour from Uniepark, you are very fit!)

There's also a two-star C- route that uses three cracks lying in a straight line below the crest. Walk straight up to the foot of the cliff until you see a prominent freestanding pinnacle. The crack lies right above you. Scramble on over rock blocks and up a short grass slope. The lowest crack is just to the left of a prominent small bastion. Go into the right hand crack and scramble out left on top. The second crack is bypassed with a zigzag movement. The third crack is the most difficult of the three. The bottom part is overhanging, thus scramble first just to the right and climb through to the left once beyond the overhanging part. The climb through is a bit uncomfortable, but there' are good hand holds to the left around the corner. Straddle the crack and move out to the left as soon as possible.

## Die Tweelingpieke (Jonkershoek Twins)

Die Pieke, of, om die berg op sy regte naam te noem, die Jonkershoek Tweelingpieke, is natuurlik die bekendste, bemindste en mees-begane van Jonkershoek se berge. Ook nie sonder rede nie, want hier het ons darem 'n juweel van 'n berg! Interessant en boonop vol verrassings vir die beginner wat sy dosyn of wat roetes een vir een opsoek en leer ken. En dan natuurlik daardie uitsig van bo af! Dit voel sommer of jy vir die res van jou lewe daar bo by die baken wil bly sit. Maar om daar te kom moet jy nogal hard werk (mag ons tot in der ewigheid 'n sweefspoor gespaar bly!), veral as jy nie so danig fiks is nie. Maar dis altyd die moeite werd!

**Square Tower Gully (B\*)**. Die ietwat vormlose kop tussen die Pieke en Botmaskop was eers as Sonkop bekend. Met verloop van tyd het dit egter Square Tower piek geword - hoe jammer tog! Die 'Square Tower' verwys na 'n rotstoring met 'n plat kruin wat net regs van die kop sigbaar is indien mens fyn kyk. Aan weerskante van die toring is klein klofies wat agter die toring by mekaar aansluit. Die een links is Square Tower Gully, een van die oudste en maklikste roetes na die Pieke. Vermy sy heel onderste dele deur so hoog as moontlik teen die helling links daarvan op te stap en dit dan langs 'n lys binne te gaan. Agter die toring is 'n lae rotsband met 'n maklike breuk aan die regterkant. As mens eers op die waterskeiding is, is die pad verder oop. Die nek bokant Nerinakloof word binne enkele minute bereik. Vir 'n beskrywing van die roete vanaf hierdie nek, kyk beskrywing van **Nerinakloof** hier onder.

**Nerinakloof (B\*\*\*\*)** 'n Baie maklike roete wat ook dikwels as afgaanroete gebruik word. Die kloof is verruklik mooi, met boomvarings, groot inheemse bome en plate nerinas teen die hange.

Onderlangs word die kloof deur twee watervalle versper, sodat mens eers in 'n klein, onopsigtelike klofie links van die hoofkloof moet opklim, om vanaf sy bopunt die kloof langs 'n beboste lys binne te gaan. Die syklofie is baie steil en het in die jongste tyd erg verspoel. So steil, dat dit die naam **Sit-sit** gekry het! Daar is so 'n effense voetpaadjie teen die helling op na die voet van **Sit-sit**. Die paadjie begin waar die boonste kontoer-voetpad die eerste droe lopies na die Nerinakloof-stroom kruis.

Van Nerinakloofnek word die maklike helling in die aangewese rigting gevolg. Hoer op word mens in 'n klipperige klofie, wat die beskrywende naam van die **Bakoond** dra, gedwing. Enigeen wat al op 'n hete

## Die Tweelingpieke (Jonkershoek Twins)

The Peaks, or, to give its right name, the Jonkershoek Twins, is naturally the most well known, the most beautiful and most visited of the Jonkershoek mountains. Not without good reason, because here we genuinely have a jewel of a mountain! Interesting and in addition full of surprises for the beginner offering dozens of routes to learn. And then naturally that view on top! It feels as if you would just like to sit on top for the rest of your life. But to get there you must work rather hard (may we be saved in eternity from having a cableway!), especially if you are not so fit. But it's always worthwhile!

**Square Tower Gully (B\*)**. The somewhat formless kop between the Twins and Botmaskop was first known as Sonkop. With passage of time it got to be known as Square Tower Peak – unfortunately! The 'Square Tower' refers to a pinnacle with a flat top just to the right of the kop which is visible if one looks carefully. On both sides of the tower are ravines that come together behind the tower. The one to the left is Square Tower Gully, one of the oldest and easiest routes to the Twins. Avoid the bottom parts by walking as high as possible on the slope to the left and then follow a ledge into the gully. Behind the tower is a low rock band with an easy break on the right. Once on the watershed, the path is clear. The neck above Nerinakloof is reached within a few minutes. For a description of the route from this neck, look at the description of Nerinakloof below.

**Nerinakloof (B\*\*\*\*)** a very easy route that also often used as a descent route. The ravine is delightfully pretty, with tree ferns, big indigenous trees and plate nerinas against the slopes.

The bottom of the ravine is obstructed by two waterfalls, so that one must first climb a small, inconspicuous ravine to the left of the main kloof. At the top go into the adjoining ravine along a bushy ledge. The side-ravine is very steep and has badly eroded in recent times. It is so steep, that it was given the name **Sit-sit**! There is a faint path on the slope to the base of **Sit-sit**. The path begins at the first dry stream bed after the upper contour foot path crosses the Nerinakloof stream. *Note: In the 2006 revision it is noted that Sit-sit has been restored.*

From Nerinakloof nek follow the easy slope in the obvious direction. Higher up one gets into a stony ravine, which has the descriptive name

somersdag daar op of af is, sal weet waar die naam sy oorsprong het! Bokant die **Bakoond** volg die roete min of meer die rand van **Vensterkloof**, om die kloof later deur 'n natuurlike "venster" binne te gaan. Volg die kloof tot op sy nek, vanwaar die goed gebakende roete met 'n wye draai om die noordpiek kontoer. Wanneer die nek tussen die twee pieke bereik word, is dit net 'n hanetreetjie na die driehoeksmetingbaken op die suidpiek. Behalwe teen die einde van besonder droe somers sal water altyd in die vleitjie agter die suidpiek gevind word, en klimmers saal dan ook gewoonlik daar af vir middagete.

Wanneer Nerinakloof as afgaanroete gebruik word, moet mens by twee plekke mooi oplet, of jy beland in die pekel. Die eerste plek is waar die roete in Vensterkloof begin afsak. Let op waar om na regs uit te gaan – dis nett 'n kort entjie onder die nek. Ek weet van 'n geselskap wat eenkeer die hele Vensterkloof atgeklim het, vas onder die indruk dat dit Nerinakloof was, net om heel onder deur 'n hoe waterval gestuit te word. So moeg soos hulle was, moes die klimmers maar net mooi netjies weer die hele ent terugklim. Die gevolg was dat die donker hulle in Nerinakloof oorval het en hulle Sit-sit in die lig van vuurhoutjies af is.

Die tweede plek waar mens jou kan misgis, is waar die roete Nerinakloof verlaat om verby die onderste watervalle te kom. Hierdie strategiese plek is goed gebaken, onder andere met 'n wegwyser.

**Sentralekloof (B)\*\*\*\***: Stap in Sentralekloof op tot naby die plek waar dit lyk asof die kloof doodloop. Hier verlaat die roete die kloof om oor 'n grashelling aan die regterkant tot aan die voorkant van die berg om te gaan. By die eerste breuk deur die kranse klim mens in 'n steil, rotsagtige klofie op. Hier moet jy 'n bietjie klouter, maar as jy jou roete versigtig kies sal die standaard nerens meer as "B" wees nie. Mens word later in 'n sloepie aan die regterkant gedwing, en direk daarna kan jy na links na makliker terrein stap, en na 'n nekkie opklim. Nou moet jy 'n paar meter hoogte verloor voordat jy na 'n skouertjie kan opklim. Dan weer 'n entjie af, en links-om op 'n lys. (Moenie in die klofie aan die regterkant opklim nie.) Hierdie op en af patroon word nog 'n paar keer herhaal

**Suidfront (C)\*\*\*\***: Hierdie roete begin in Bobbejaankloof, 'n verskuilde klofie op die suidwestelike hoek van die berg, 'n entjie regs van waar Heuningkloof teen die kranse doodloop. Klim in Bobbejaankloof op (een lastige plek) tot op 'n skouertjie. Vandaar gaan die roete eers 'n ent op en draai dan links na die voet van 'n rotsrug wat in kort trappe na 'n nou, U-

of the **Bakoond**. Anyone who has been up or down on a hot summer's day, will know where the name comes from! Beyond the **Bakoond** the route more or less follows the ridge of **Vensterkloof**, to enter the ravine later by a natural "window". Follow the ravine to its neck, from where the good beaconed route follows the contours round the north peak with a wide turn. When the neck between the two peaks is reached, it is just a short distance to the trig beacon on the south peak. Except in the case of very dry summers, water is always available in the small vlei behind the south peak, and climbers usually go there for their lunch.

When Nerinakloof is used as a descent route, there are two places where one must be careful, or you will land in trouble. The first place is where the **Vensterkloof** route begins to descend. Take careful note where to go out on the right - it's only a short distance on the other side of the neck. I know of a group that once climbed down the whole of **Vensterkloof** under the impression that it was Nerinakloof, only to be turned back by a high waterfall near the bottom. As tired as they were, they had to climb all the way back up. The result was they were overcome by darkness in Nerinakloof and they descended Sit-sit by the light of matches.

The second place in where one can be mistaken is where the route leaves Nerinakloof to pass the bottom waterfalls. This key spot is well beaconed, among other things with a signpost.

**Sentralekloof (B)\*\*\*\***: Walk up Sentralekloof to the place where it looks as if the ravine comes to a deadend. The route leaves the ravine over a grass slope on the right to go round the front of the mountain. At the first break in the cliffs climb a steep, rocky ravine. Here you must scramble a bit, but if you choose your route with caution the standard will nowhere more than "B". Later one is forced onto a slope on the right, and directly afterwards you can go to the left onto easier terrain, and climb onto a small nek. Now you must lose a few metres height before you climb a little shoulder. Then again a little down, and to the left on a ledge. (Don't climb on the right of the ravine.) This up and down pattern repeats a few times.

**Suidfront (C)\*\*\*\***: This route begins in Bobbejaankloof, a hidden ravine on the south western corner of the mountain, a little to the right of where Heuningkloof comes to a deadend against the cliffs. Climb up Bobbejaankloof (one troublesome place) onto a small shoulder. From there the route first goes up a bit on then turns to the left after the foot



vormige klofie lei. Volg die rotsrug tot waar dit skielik heelwat steiler word. Stap dan na links na 'n kort skoorsteentjie en klim daarin op. Jy kan nou opstap na die voet van die U-klofie.

Die klofie kan geklim word, maar dit is makliker om die bree lys aan die regterkant te volg, 'n entjie op te klim en met 'n hoer lys na die bopunt van die klofie terug te stap. Die roete swaai nou eers links en dan weer regs tot in Proteakloof wat dwars in jou pad le. Kyk uit vir bakens op hierdie gedeelte van die roete! Stap in Proteakloof op tot waar jy in Sentralekloof kan afkyk. Hier kan jy gerus ankers uitgooi en die wereld 'n bietjie bekijk. Sowat van bergtonele sien mens mos nie elke dag nie!

Stap dan skuins na regs teen 'n maklike grashang op en hou in daardie rigting aan tot naby 'n prominente nekkie, waar die roete links op draai en teen 'n steil gras en rotshang uitgaan tot op die kam van die berg.

NB: Moenie in die grassloepies aan die linkerkant opklim nie. Hulle lyk bedrieglik maklik, maar lei mens in 'n doodloopstraat in! Dit is wenslik om 'n klimtou op hierdie gedeelte van die roete te gebruik. Volg die kam tot aan die voet van 'n 3m hoe rotstrappie. Die trappie kan direk geklim word (C), of mens kan eers 'n entjie na links dwarsklim voordat jy opklim. Laasgenoemde is makliker maar blootgestel. Die roete word nou heelwat makliker en die kruin word binne enkele minute bereik.

Dat die Suidfrontroete in alle weersomstandighede geklim kan word, het ons uitgevind toe ons dit eenkeer noodgedwonge in uiters gure weer moes uit. 'n Ysige stormwind uit die noordweste, digte mis en gietende reen was die dag ons voorland. Ons was op soek na 'n geselskap onervare klimmers wat deur die skielike storm betrap is en toe al twee dae vermis was. Die roete was heeltemal klimbaar en ons het geen moeite ondervind om dit in die mis te volg nie. (Die vermistes is dieselfde dag ongedeerd in Nerinakloof gevind.)

**Langrivierkloof ( B ) \*\*\*** : Hierdie roete kan sonder twyfel die **via normale** van die Pieke genoem word. Tewens, vir duisende wat al die Pieke geklim het, is dit en Nerinakloof die enigste twee roetes wat hulle ken. Langrivierkloof is met sy kenmerkende plantegroei en standhoudende water 'n tipiese Bolandse bergkloof. Dit dreineer 'n opvanggebied waar die plantegroei onaangeraak gelaat word. Stroomvloei het konstant afgeneem en daar was later geen jong plante meer nie. Dit was die toestand tot in die somer van 1988/89, toe weerlig 'n verwoestende brand in Jonkershoek veroorsaak het en Langrivierkloof ook deurgeloopt het.

of a rock spine that leads in short steps into a narrow, U-shaped ravine. Follow the rock spine to where all of a sudden it gets a lot steeper. Walk to the left to a short small chimney and climb it. You can now walk up to the foot of the U-ravine.

The ravine can be climbed, but it is easier to follow the wide ledge to the right, to climb a little and to walk back to the top of the ravine on a higher ledge. The route swings first to the left and then again to the right into Proteakloof that lies in your way. Look out for cairns on this part of the route! Walk up Proteakloof until you look down into Sentralekloof. Here you can rest awhile and admire the view. One does not see such a view everyday!

Walk sloping up to the right on an easy grass slope and keep in that direction until close to a prominent small nek, where the route turns left up a steep grass and rock slope to exit on the crest of the mountain.

NB: Don't climb up the grass slopes on the left. They appear to be easy, but lead one into a deadend! It is preferable to use a rope on this part of the route. Follow the crest to the foot of a 3m high rock step. The step can be climbed directly (C), or one can first climb a little to the left before you climb up. The latter is easier but exposed. The route gets a lot easier and the crest is reached within a few minutes.

We found out that the Suidfrontroete can be climbed in all weathers when we went out on an emergency call in extremely bad weather - an icy wind out of the north west, thick mist and driving rain. We were looking for a group of inexperienced climbers who were trapped by the weather and had been missing for two days. The route was quite climbable and we had no trouble following it in the mist (The missing climbers were found the same day unharmed in Nerinakloof.)

**Langrivierkloof ( B ) \*\*\*** : This route is indisputably the **via normale** of the Twins. For thousands who have climbed the Twins, it is this and Nerinakloof that are the only two routes they know. Langrivierkloof, with its noteworthy vegetation and perennial water is a typical Boland mountain kloof. It drains a catchment where the vegetation is left untouched. The streamflow constantly decreased until there were no young plants left. This was the situation until in the summer of 1988/89, lightning caused a devastating fire in Jonkershoek which also ran through Langrivierkloof.

Van waar die voetpad die stroom kruis stap mens 10-15 minute in die kloof op tot waar dit vork. Hier verlaat die roete die kloof om teen die helling tussen die twee strome op te gaan. Die paadjie is maar steil en bring mens heel gou by twee reenmeters, waar klimmers gewoonlik 'n wyle vertoef om asem te skep en die oorweldigende bergtonele te geniet.

Die rus by die reenmeters voel gewoonlik veels te kort, maar daar is nog 'n lang pad voor en ons moet aanstryk. Vir 'n lang ent volg die paadjie nou die steil grashang voordat dit na links swaai. Dit loop dan byna horisontaal tot op die rand van die stroom voordat dit weer opswaai.

Hoer op draai dit weer na regs en verdwyn om die hoek. Kort duskant die hoek is 'n klein oorhangetjie waar ons een nag 'n baie koue maar dankbare klimmer gaan uithaal het. Hy en sy maat het te laat begin klim, nie op die onverbiddelelike gang van die tyd gelet nie en is hier deur die donker oorval. Sy maat is voel-voel in die kloof af, maar hy het wyslik besluit om te bly waar hy is. Dit was seker om en by middernag toe ons die kerel, bibberend van die koue, 'n beker warm koffie in die hand kon stop.

Bokant die hoek waarvan bo melding gemaak is, is die laaste, maklike hang tot by die nek, ons volgende rusplek. In die onmiddellike omgewing van die nek sal die oplettende klimmer 'n hele paar oorhange sien, wat goeie skuiling bied as die elemente die dag teen 'n man is. Daar is ook 'n goeie oorhang enkele minute se stap aan die Banhoekkant van die nek af, teen die linkerkantse wand. Dit het nou wel 'n klipvloer en die dak is laag, maar dis baie beskut.

Van die nek is daar 'n ry bakens in die rigting van die kruin, verby die mooi ou vleitjie waar klimmers gewoonlik hul middagmaal geniet en oor maklike, oop terrein na die bakens. Reken op 1 1/2-2 uur van waar jy die kloof binne gegaan het tot op die nek, en 3/4-1 uur van die nek tot bo.

**Variasies en saamgestelde roetes:** Die baie lysies, klofies en skeure op die Pieke maak baie variasies op bestaande roetes moontlik. Mens kan ook dele van verskillende roetes saamvoeg en op hierdie manier heel interessante klimme doen. 'n Paar van die meer bekende variasies en roetesamestellings is die volgende:

**Sentralekloof na Suidfront:** Bokant die heel onderste rotsband aan die voorkant van die Pieke is 'n bree grashelling wat skuins van links na regs oploop. Links loop die helling tot in Sentralekloof, kort onder die groot amfiteater. Verlaat die kloof hier, en stap teen die grashelling op (ruig),oor

From where the path crosses the stream, walk 10-15 minutes up the kloof to where it forks. Here the route leaves the kloof to go up the slope between the two streams. The path is steep and brings one quickly to two rain gauges, where climbers usually rest a while and enjoy the stupendous view.

The rest at the rain gauges usually feels all too short, but a long road lies ahead and we have to get on. The path follows the steep grass slope before it swings left. It then runs nearly horizontal to the edge of the stream before it goes up again.

Higher on it turns to the right again and then disappears around the corner. Just after the corner is a small overhang where one night we found a very cold but thankful climber. He and his mate began climbing too late, did not note the relentless passage of time and were overcome by dark. His mate crept down the ravine, but he wisely decided to remain where he was. It was close to midnight when we found him chattering from the cold, which only a mug of hot coffee could stop.

Above the corner mentioned above, lies the last, easy slope until the neck, our next resting spot. In the immediate vicinity of the neck the observant climber will see several overhangs that offer good shelter if the elements turn against one. There's also a good overhang a few minutes walking down the Banhoek side of the neck, on the left hand wall. It has a stone floor and the roof is low, but it's very sheltered.

From the neck a row of cairns follows the crest, past the pretty small vlei where climbers usually enjoy their lunch and over easy open terrain to the beacon. Bargain on 1 1/2-2 hours from where you entered the ravine to the neck, and 3/4-1 hours from the neck to the top.

**Variations and compounded routes:** The many ledges, ravines and cracks on the Peaks make many variations of existing routes possible. One can also merge parts of different routes and in this fashion most interesting climbs can be done. A few of the more known variations and route compilations follow:

**Sentralekloof via Suidfront:** Above the bottom rock band at the front of the Peaks is a wide grass slope sloping up from left to right. To the left the slope runs into Sentralekloof, just below the big amphitheatre. Leave the kloof here; walk up the grass slope over the large scree,

'n groot steenveld (Eng. **scree**) en mik na die heel regterkantse punt, waar die helling teen 'n rotsrif doodloop. Hier sal jy 'n rotslys vind wat regs om die rif loop. Die lys kan gevolg word tot waar dit op maklike terrein uitloop. Kontoer dan na regs na die rotsruggie wat in maklike trappies na die U-kloof oploop.

**Suidfront na Tierkloof:** Dit is moontlik om die bodele van Tierkloof, bokant die moeilike watervalle, van die **Suidfrontroete** af te bereik. Klim langs die **Suidfrontroete** op tot aan die voet van die baie steil grashang wat na die laaste rotstrappie op die hoofrif van die berg lei. Die oortog na Tierkloof begin in hierdie omgewing en volg 'n duidelike, plek-plek ruie grashelling wat skuins afloop in die rigting van die kloof. Daar is geen tegniese probleme nie, maar wees nietemin versigtig - daar is groot afgronde aan die regterkant! Nadat Tierkloof binnegegaan is, moet nog twee kort rotsbande van C-standaard geklim word voordat mens by die nek uitkom. Wees op die uitkyk vir los klippe op hierdie twee trajekte. Van die nek is dit net 'n hanetreetjie na die middagete-vleitjie. Mens kan ook reguit na die kruin klim, wat meer interessant is. 'n Derde alternatief is om min of meer op die hoogte van die nek te kontoer in die rigting van Rifberg. Dit bring jou by die "Paddagat", waar altyd water gevind sal word, selfs wanneer die vleitjie hoer op droog is.

*(Die 'Paddagat' is 'n rorspoel onder die eerste watervalletjie in die stroom wat die vleitjie agter die suidpiek dreineer.)*

**Langrivierkloof na Paddagat:** Sowat 100m onder die nek van Langrivierkloof sal 'n bree, skuins-oplopende lys aan die Pieke-kant gesien word. Volg hierdie lys vir 'n aansienlike ent, klouter dan op na 'n hoer lys, volg die 'n entjie na links en klim dan weer teen 'n steil grashangetjie op na 'n kort maar blootgestelde C-trajek net onder die Paddagat.

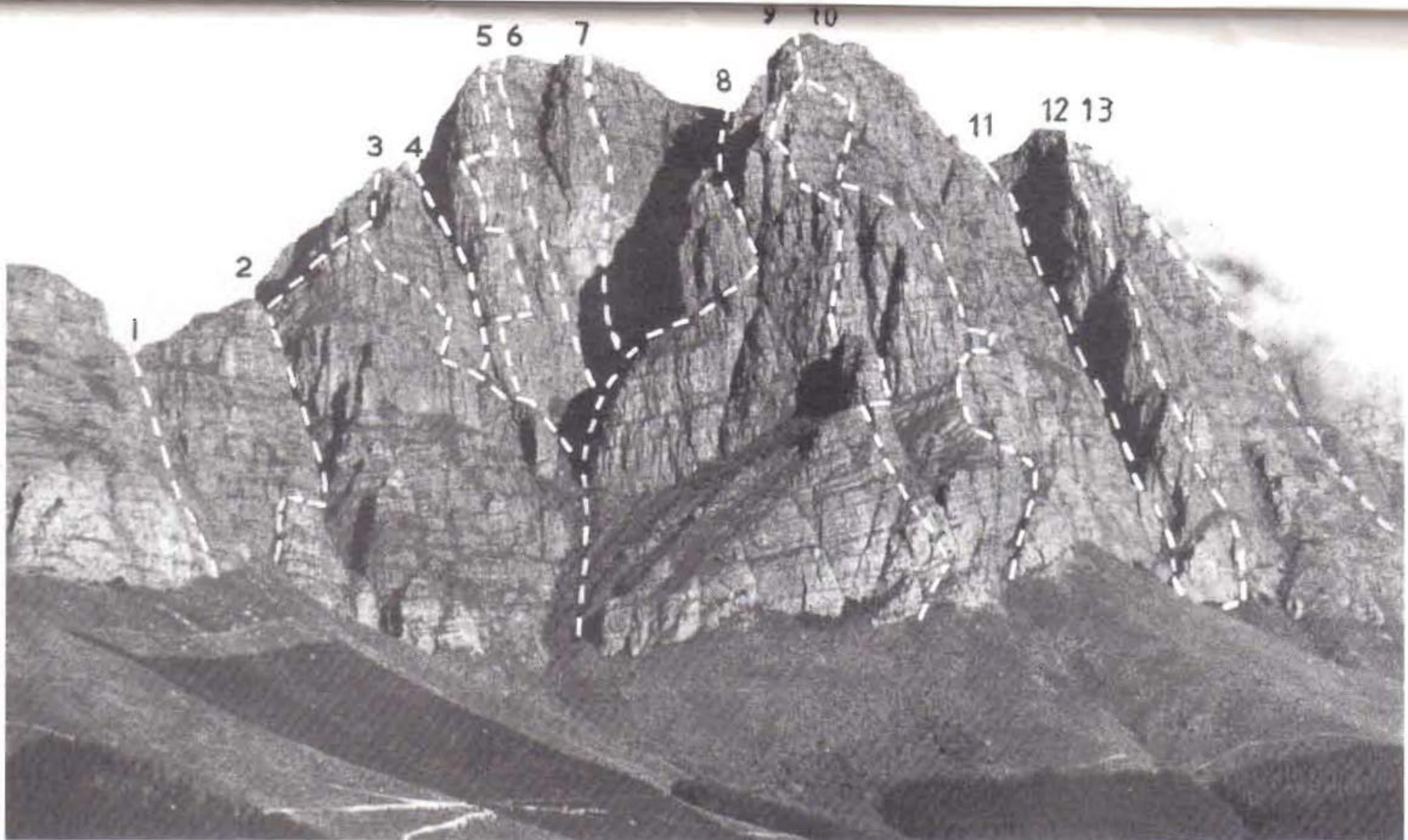
aiming for the far right point, where the slope comes to a deadend at a rock ridge. Here you will find a rock ledge that runs to the right around the ridge. The ledge can be followed to where it on exits on an easy terrace. Contour then to the right after the rock spine that climbs the U-kloof in easy steps.

**Suidfront via Tierkloof:** It's possible to get to the upper reaches of Tierkloof, beyond the difficult waterfalls, from the Suidfront route. Climb next to the Suidfront route up to the foot of the very steep grass slope which leads to the last rock step on the main ridge. The crossing to Tierkloof begins nearby and follows a clear, 'plek-plek' bushy grass slope that slopes in the direction of the kloof. There are no technical problems, but be cautious nevertheless - there's a big drop on the right! After going into Tierkloof, one must still climb two short rock pitches of C- standard before one comes out at the neck. Look out for loose stones on these two pitches! From the neck is it just a short distance to the lunch-vlei. One can also climb directly out to the crest which is more interesting. A third alternative is to contour more or less at the height of the neck in the direction of 1st Ridge Peak. This brings you to the "Paddagat", where water will always be found, even when the small vlei higher up dries up.

*(The 'Paddagat' is a waterhole below the first small waterfall in the stream that drains the small vlei behind the South Peak.)*

**Langrivierkloof via Paddagat:** About 100 m below the neck of Langrivierkloof a wide, sloping-up ledge can be seen on the Twins - side. Follow this ledge for a considerable distance, then scramble up to a higher ledge, follow this a little to the left and then climb up a steep grass slope to a short but exposed C-pitch just below the Paddagat.





**Roetes op die Pieke:**

1. Square Tower Gully, 2. Nerinakloof, 3. Linkerskouer, 4. Vensterkloof. 5. Moolookrans, 6. Shady Lane, 7. Weswand, 8. Sentralekloof, 9. Linkerfront, 10. Suidfront, 11. Tierkloof, 12. Regterskouer, 13. Suidoostelike hoek.



## Rifberg (First Ridge Peak)

Rifberg is net agter die Pieke en alhoewel dit effens hoër is as sowel die Pieke as die Katedraal, word dit nie so dikwels geklim nie. Tog is daar 'n paar interessante en betreklik maklike roetes teen die berg uit, asook een van die aangenaamste rotsklimroetes (**Scimitar Ridge**) in Jonkershoek.

**Uit Langrivierkloof (B)\*\*\*** Volg vir eers die Langrivierkloof-roete na die Pieke tot so 3-4 minute se klim bokant die boonste reënmeter. Kontoeer dan na regs en kruis die regterkantse tak van Langrivierkloof. Klim teen die steil-oplopende grashelling op (beste om teenaan die rotswand aan die linkerkant te hou) en draai links op sodra dit moontlik word. Mik na die prominente punt-in-die-wind oorhang 'n entjie hoër op. Jy nader dan 'n rotswand wat die enigste noemenswaardige versperring op die roete is en jy het 'n keuse van drie variasies deur die versperring:

(1) Hou reguit aan tot waar jou pad deur 'n "watervalletjie" versper word (selde indien ooit is daar water). Klouter teen die rotsplaat aan die regterkant uit, beweeg bo links uit en klouter oor makliker terrein op na die volgende rotswand, waar die drie variasies by mekaar aansluit.

(2) Klim 'n klein entjie verby die oorhang teen die steil grashang aan die regterkant uit. Van die hoogste punt op die grashang sal jy oplet dat die rotswand voor jou 'n "dakkie" vorm. Klouter regop tot onder die dakkie, dwarsklim na links, klim tot bo op 'n groot rotsblok en klouter skuins links uit. Die kloutery is makliker as wat dit lyk, maar daar is 'n mate van blootstelling. Die roete word daarna geleidelik makliker, en die rotswand waar die drie variasies by mekaar aansluit word spoedig bereik.

(3) Gebruik dieselfde benadering as vir die voorafgaande variasie, maar stap verder met die grashang tot by 'n 3-4m hoe breuk in die rotswand: Klim in die breuk op en beweeg enkele meters na regs na nog 'n grashang. Stap dan skuins na links op (steil op een of twee plekke) na die rotswand waar die drie variasies by mekaar aansluit. Persoonlik verkies ek hierdie variasie.

Van waar die drie variasies by mekaar aansluit (onder 'n groot krans), lei die roete oor 'n rotslys aan die regterkant na die laaste grashang onder die waterskeiding. Klim eers skuins na regs teen die grashang op, swaai dan links aan die voet van die volgende rotswand en dan weer skuins na regs

## Rifberg (First Ridge Peak)

1st Ridge Peak lies just behind the Twins and even though it is slightly higher than Twins and the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak), it not so often climbed. Yet there are a few easy, interesting and attractive routes on it, as well as one of the most attractive rockclimbs (Scimitar Ridge) in Jonkershoek.

From **Langrivierkloof (B)\*\*\*** Follow the Langrivierkloof route to the Twins at first until 3-4 minutes climb above the highest rain gauge. Then contour right and cross the right hand branch of Langrivierkloof. Climb up the steep grass slope (best to keep left against the rock wall) and turn up left as soon as possible. Aim for the prominent 'punt-in-die-wind' overhang a little higher on. You then approach a rockband which is the only noteworthy obstacle on the route. You've got a choice of three variations past this obstacle :

(1) Keep straight ahead where your way is obstructed by a small waterfall (seldom if ever any water). Scramble up the rock slab to the right, move on top out to the left and scramble over easier terrain to the next rockband, where the three variations come together.

(2) Climb a little past the overhang up the steep grass slope to the right. From the highest point on the grass slope you will notice that the rockband before you forms a roof. Scramble straight ahead under the roof, climb through to the left, climb on top on a big block and scramble out left. The scrambling is easier than it looks, but there's a measure of exposure. After this the route gets gradually easier, and the rockband where the three variations come together is soon reached.

(3) Use the same approach as for the preceding variation, but walk further along the grass slope until a 3-4m high break in the rockband: Climb the break and move a few meters to the right to another grass slope. Then walk sloping up to the left (steep in one or two places) to the rockband where the three variations come together. Personally I prefer this variation.

From where the three variations come together (under a high cliff), the route leads over a rock ledge to the right after the last grass slope under the watershed. Climb first sloping to the right up the grass slope, then swing to the left at the foot of the next rockband and then again

tot op die waterskeiding.

Hier verander die karakter van die roete dramaties. Klim nou met 'n boog regs om en op totdat jy weer op die kam van die berg kom. Volg die kam vir 'n klein entjie en draai links af waar dit steil begin word. Die roete gaan voor 'n diep grot verby en op in 'n grasklofie. Van die bopunt van die klofie klim mens weer skuins na regs uit om hoer op aan die Jonkershoekkant om te stap na 'n nou nekkie op die kam. Van daar volg die roete min of meer die kam van die berg tot bo.

**Deur Fynboskloof (B)\*\*\*\*** Fynboskloof is die regterkantse tak van Langrivierkloof. Daar is 'n paar lastige watervalletjies onder langs, sodat mens eers 'n ent met die Pieke-paadjie moet opklim om die kloof hoer op bokant die valle binne te gaan. Bokant die reenmeters in Langrivierkloof gaan die roete na die Pieke aanvanklik reg teen die helling op, swaai dan na links en gaan tot op die rand van die kloof voordat dit weer steil teen die helling op gaan. Verlaat die paadjie na ongeveer twee minute se klim op hierdie steil gedeelte en kontoer na regs na 'n nekkie op die rand van Fynboskloof. Mens moet nou sowat 30m afklim en die beste is om eers skuins na links tot by 'n boompie en vandaar regaf te klim. Klim dan deur fynbos en oor rotspuin in die kloof op tot waar dit vurk. (Hierdie plek kan ook vanaf Langrivierkloof se nek bereik word deuraan die Banhoekkant om te stap na Fynboskloof se nek en vandaar 'n entjie in die kloof af te stap.) Hier moet mens die kloof verlaat en na regs opklim tot op die waterskeiding.

Klim dan enkele meters aan die Banhoekkant af en stap verby die rotstorings wat kenmerkend van hierdie deel van die roete is. Bly steeds aan die Banhoekkant van die rug. Die roete lei later na 'n klein nekkie op die rug. Mens kan dan of direk teen die kam opklim of, wat makliker is, enkele meters aan die Jonkershoekkant afklim, teen 'n rotsplaat uitklouter en opstap na die volgende nek. Hier sluit ons roete aan by die een uit Langrivierkloof, en vir 'n beskrywing verder kyk vanaf "Hier verander die karakter van die roete dramaties" op bl. 28.

Wanneer hierdie roete as afgaanroete gebruik word, is dit maklik om die plek waar mens Fynboskloof moet verlaat te herken - dis waar die eerste bome tegeekom word en die nekkie waarna mens moet opklim om by die Langrivierkloof-voetpad aan te sluit kan nie mis gekyk word nie. Indien daar egter 'n tou in die geselskap is, is dit nie nodig om na die nekkie op te klim nie. Stap verder in die kloof af, en gebruik die tou om by die twee mosbegroeide valletjies verby te kom. Laer af is 'n waterval wat sonder

sloping right to the watershed.

Here the character of the route changes dramatically. Climb in an arc to the right till you are again on the crest of the mountain. Follow the crest for a short distance and turn to the left where it begins to get steep. The route goes past a deep cave and up a grass ravine. From the top of the ravine climb out right in order to walk to a narrow nek on the ridge higher on Jonkershoek side. From there the route more or less follows the ridge to the top

Through **Fynboskloof (B)\*\*\*\*** Fynboskloof is the right hand branch of Langrivierkloof. There are a few troublesome small waterfalls near the bottom, so that one must first climb the Twins path in order to enter the ravine above the waterfalls. Beyond the rain gauges the route to the Twins in Langrivierkloof goes right up the slope, swings then to the left and goes to the border of the ravine before it again goes up a steep slope. Leave the path after approximately two minutes climb on this steep part and contour to the right after a small nek on the border of Fynboskloof. One must now climb down about 30m and the best is to first move to the left to a small tree and then climb down. Climb through the fynbos and over piles of rocks in the ravine up to where it forks. (This place can also be reached from Langrivierkloof's neck by walking round the Banhoek side to Fynboskloof's neck and from there walk a little down the ravine.) Here one must leave the ravine and climb to the right up to on the watershed.

Climb down a few meters on the Bankoek side and walk past the pinnacles that are characteristic of this part of the route. Remain on the Bankoek side of the ridge. The route leads later on to a small nek on the ridge. One can then climb directly up the crest or, what is easier, climb down a few meters on the Jonkershoek side, scramble out on a rock slab and walk up to the next neck. Here the route joins the one out of Langrivierkloof, and for a further description look at "Here the character of the route changes dramatically" above.

When this route is used as descent route, is it easy to recognise the place where one must leave Fynboskloof - it is where the first trees are encountered and the small nek which one must climb up to join Langrivierkloof path can't be missed. If however you have a rope, it is not necessary to climb up to the small nek. Walk further down the ravine and use the rope to pass the two mossy waterfalls. Lower down is a waterfall that can be passed without difficulty on the left (as one

moeite aan die linkerkant (soos mens afkyk) verby gegaan kan word. 'n Ent laer af verlaat mens die kloof by 'n groot baken en stap na regs uit tot op die Langrivierkloof-voetpad.

**Frontroete (C)\*\*\*\*** 'n: Interessante en aangename klouterroete, blootgestel op 'n paar plekke. Nie vir onervare klimmers geskik nie. Saamgestel uit die makliker gedeeltes van Bert Berrisford en Ken Cameron se minder bekende roetes. Die roete begin by 'n kort kloof aan die regterkant van die berg, duidelik sigbaar vanaf die boonste voetpad. Moet dit nie verwar met 'n dieper, digbebooste kloof nog verder na regs nie. Die kloof word bereik deur die voetpad te verlaat sowat 15 minute se stap anderkant die Langrivierkloofkruising en kan teen die oop helling op te stap.

Klouter vereers teen die kam regs van die kloof op en kontoer na links sodra jy op dieselfde hoogte as die voet van die oranje-gekleurde krans is. Dit bring jou by 'n skuins rotsplaat wat teenaan die krans geklim word en makliker is as wat dit lyk. Stap dan na links tot op die gesigslyn. Waar jy een van Berrisfordhulle se bakens 'n entjie laer af sien, moet jy teen 'n blootgestelde C-trajek opklim. Klouter eers 'n paar meter regop, tree dan na links en klim op in die hoek met die krakie. Klim vervolgens die ooglopende geut of skoorsteen aan die regterkant.

Dit bring jou aan die voet van 'n skuins rotsplaat met 'n kraak links daarvan. Klim teen die rotsplaat uit en stap op na die volgende rotswand. 'n Klein entjie na links is 'n verskuilde skoorsteen agter 'n rotsblok. Klim die skoorsteen en die ergste is verby! Stap nou na links tot op die rand van 'n kloof en klim teen die rand op tot waar die steil begin word. Kontoer dan tot in die kloof en klim daarin op. Hou links waar die kloof vork. Waar dit lyk asof die kloof doodloop kan mens links uit tot op 'n nekkie. Terloops, hier rond mag jy in die vroeë lente die baie skaars *Protea rupicola* in blom sien.

Van die nekkie klouter mens eers 'n ent regop, stap bo links om, klim 'n paar meter af en stap na links na makliker terrein vanwaar jy sonder veel moeite tot op die kam van die berg kan opklouter. Soek die maklikste pad en hou steeds in gedagte dat daar laer af groot afgronde is. As jy eers op die kam van die berg is, is dit net 'n hanetreetjie na die kruin.

**"Slab"-roete (B) \*\*\*** Hierdie is een van die heel maklikste roetes teen Rifberg uit en word gevolglik ook dikwels as afgaanroete gebruik. Laag af tussen Rifberg en die Katedraal sal skuins begroeide rotsplate (die

looks down). A short distance lower down leave the ravine at a big beacon and walk to the right to the Langrivierkloof path.

**Frontroete (C)\*\*\*\*** An interesting and enjoyable climbing route, exposed on a few places. Not suitable for inexperienced climbers, the route is composed out of the easier sections of Bert Berrisford's and Ken Cameron's less known routes. The route begins at a short ravine to the right of the mountain, clearly visible from the upper foot path. Do not confuse it with a deeper, busy ravine further away to the right. The ravine is reached by leaving the foot path about 15 minutes walking the other side of the Langrivierkloof crossing and then up the open slope.

Scramble initially up the ridge to the right of the ravine and contour left once you are on the same height as the foot of the orange coloured cliff. This brings you to a sloping rock slab which is climbed close to the cliff. It is easier than it looks. Then walk to the left to the line of sight. Where you see one of Berrisford's cairns a little lower down, you must climb an exposed C-pitch. Scramble first a few metres straight ahead, stepping then to the left and climb up in the corner in the small crack. Climb subsequently the conspicuous gutter or chimney to the right.

This brings you to the foot of a sloping rock slab with a crack to the left. Climb up the rock slab and walk up to the next rockband. A little further on to the left is a hidden chimney behind a block. Climb the chimney and the worst is over! Now walk left to the edge of a ravine and climb up the edge to where it starts getting steep. Then contour into the ravine and climb up it. Keep to the left where the ravine forks. Where it looks as if the ravine comes to a deadend one can exit to the left onto a small neck. Incidentally, around here in the early spring the rare *Protea rupicola* can be seen in flower.

From the small neck scramble at first straight up, then walk left, climb a few metres down and walk to the left to easier terrain. From there you can without much trouble scramble up to on the crest. Look for the easiest way and keep in mind that lower down there are big voids. Once on the crest, is it just a short distance to the summit.

**"Slab"- route (B) \*\*\*** This is one of the easiest routes up 1st Ridge Peak and is also often used as a descent route. Low down between 1st Ridge Peak and the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak) sloping vegetated rock

"slabs") gesien word. Net regs daarvan is 'n opvallende oranjekleurige krans. Die roete begin tussen bome aan die voet van hierdie krans. Kruis die stroompie wat van die rotsplate afkom net bokant 'n klein watervalletjie (droog in die somer). Klouter enkele meters op en volg dan 'n bree rotslys na links. Die lys lei na 'n grashelling wat op sy beurt na die rand van die rotsplate lei. Hier draai mens regs en klouter teen kort, maklike rotstrappies op tot bo-op die ruggie wat die rotsplate van die klofie links daarvan skei. Stap dan teen die grashang op tot op 'n nou nekkie regs van 'n prominente rotstoring. Stap agter om die toring na 'n hoer nekkie, vanwaar die roete min of meer die kam van die berg volg. Hierdie gedeelte is goed gebaken en maklik om te kry. As daar tyd is, is dit die roete werd om ook die "prominente rotstoring" te klim. Gebruik die bree graslys aan die Banhoekkant wat in die omgewing van die hoer nekkie begin.

**Kortpad:** Mens kan ook van die bopunt van die rotstrappies direk na die nekkie links van die rotstoring opklim, maar die roete soos beskryf is verkieslik.

**Variasie:** Kontour linksom, ongeveer op die hoogte van die nekkie links van die groot rotstoring. Mens bereik heel gou die begin van die "skuinsoplopende grasstrook" van die Suidwandroete (kyk beskrywing hier onder) wat dan tot bo gevolg word. Op 'n warm dag is hierdie variasie aan te beveel, aangesien die grootste gedeelte daarvan gewoonlik in die skadu is.

**Suidwand (B)\*\*\*** 'n Baie ou roete wat van die onderste gedeelte van die "Slab"-roete gebruik maak. Mik vir eers na die nekkie links van die groot rotstoring op die waterskeiding. Die roete op na die nekkie word deur 'n aantal "watervalletjies" (gewoonlik droog) gekenmerk. Sodra jy bokant die tweede valletjie is moet jy na links aan die voet van 'n rotswand kontoer. 'n Entjie verder sal jy 'n standhoudende stroompie teekom en kort daarna moet jy teen 'n maklike rotstrappie opklouter. Stap dan enkele meters na regs en klouter dan regop, min of meer ewewydig aan die roete op na die nekkie links van die rotstoring. Jy klouter later oor 'n rotstrap met buitengewone goeie vat- en trapplekke en onmiddellik daarna draai die roete na links om 'n duidelike skuins-oplopende grasstrook te volg. Van waar die grasstrook op 'n skouertjie eindig klouter mens regop na die kruin.

slabs ( the "slabs") can be seen. Just to the right is a conspicuous orange coloured cliff. The route begins between the trees at the foot of this cliff. Cross the small stream that comes down from the rock slabs just beyond a small waterfall (dry in the summer). Scramble up a few meters and follow a wide rock ledge to the left. The ledge leads to a grass slope that leads in turn to the edge of the rock slabs. Here turn to the right and scramble up the short, easy rock steps to the ridge that separates the rock slabs from the ravine to the left. Walk up the grass slope to a narrow nek to the right of a prominent pinnacle. Walk behind the pinnacle to a higher small nek, from where the route more or less follows the crest. This part is well beaconed and easy to follow. If there is time, it is worth the effort to also climb the "prominent pinnacle". Use the wide grass ledge on the Banhoek side that begins in the vicinity of the higher small nek.

**Shortcut :** One can also climb up directly from the top of the rock steps to the small nek to the left of the pinnacle , but the route as described is preferable

**Variation:** Contour to the left, approximately at the height of the small nek to the left of the big pinnacle. One quickly reaches the beginning of the "sloping grass strip" of the Suidwand route. (See the description below) which is then followed to the top. On a hot day this variation is recommend, considering that most of it is usually in the shade.

**Suidwand (B)\*\*\*** a very old route which makes use of the bottom part of the "Slab"- route. Aim first for the small nek to the left of the big pinnacle on the watershed. The route to the small nek is characterised by a number of small waterfalls (usually dry). Once beyond the second waterfall you must contour left at the foot of a rockband. A little further you will arrive at a perennial stream and shortly afterwards you must scramble up an easy rock step. Walk a few meters to the right and then scramble straight up, more or less parallel to the route to the small nek to the left of the pinnacle. Further on you scramble over a rock step with very good foot and hand holds and immediately afterwards the route turns left to follow an obvious sloping grass ramp. From where the grass ramp ends on a little shoulder scramble directly up to the crest.





**Roetes op Rifberg:** 1. *Green Arrow Arête*, 2. *Scimitar Ridge*, 3. *Langrivier bastion*, 4. *Boegoerif*, 5. *Frontroete*, 6. *Cameron se roete*, 7. *Suidwand*, 8. *"Slab"-roete*.

## 2nd & 3rd Ridge Peaks (Die Katedraal)

WATTER indrukwekkende berg is hierdie Katedraal van ons nie! Mens kan jou verkyk aan die torings, rotsriwwe en skeuragtige klowe en die oningewyde sal wonder of dit moontlik is om die berg langs 'n maklike roete te klim. Jy kan! Wat meer is, jy het 'n keuse van maklike roetes: 'Slab'-roete ( B ), Diagonale roete ( B ), Bergriviernek-roete (B), en selfs die besonder interessante Lysen- hoekroete (C), alhoewel ek laasgenoemde nie vir beginners sal aanbeveel nie

**Slab-roete (B):**\*\*\* Die onderste deel van hierdie roete word ook gebruik om Rifberg mee te klim, en word op bl. 35 volledig beskryf. Om die Katedraal te klim, gebruik jy dieselfde benadering, maar draai regs in die bree, grasbedekte gang op voordat die kam tussen Rifberg en die Katedraal bereik word. Dit is een van die dinge wat bergklim so interessant maak - mens sou mos nooit kon droom dat daar so 'n grootpad agter daardie ruwe kranse is nie! By die bopunt van die gang kyk jy af in 'n kloof wat teen die voorkant van die berg afloop. Die roete hou aanvanklik op die linkerkantse rand van die kloof, gaan dit 'n entjie hoer op langs 'n lys binne en verlaat dit weer na links kort voordat dit teen 'n rotswand doodloop. Net 'n kort, maklike hang skei jou dan nog van die kruin. As hierdie roete vir die afgaan gebruik word, moet mens mooi oplet waar om die kloof langs die lys te verlaat, want laer af raak die kloof self heeltemal onbegaanbaar.

**Variasie:** In plaas van regs in die grasbedekte gang op te draai, kan mens opstap na die nekkie vanwaar jy in Banhoekkloof kan afkyk, en vandaar 'n lys aan die Jonkershoekkant volg tot in die bodele van die gang. Die lys is nogal nouerig en op een of twee plekke ietwat blootgestel.

**Die Kloktoring:** Tussen Rifberg en die Katedraal troon 'n paar indrukwekkende rotstorings die lug in. Die hoogste een, die Katedraal se Kloktoring, het 'n betreklik maklike klouterroete (B-C) aan die Katedraal se kant. Dit word aan die avontuurlustiges oorgelaat om self die kort, interessante roetetjie te vind. Die uitsig van bo af gaan nog wereldberoemd word!

**Lys-en-hoek (C) \*\*\*\*** 'n. Besonder interessante roete met aansienlike blootstelling op 'n paar plekke. Nie vir onervare klimmers nie! Hierdie roete en sy variasie die Diagonale roete is op die suidwestelike flank van die

## 2nd & 3rd Ridge Peaks (Die Katedraal)

What an impressive mountain is this Cathedral of ours! Looking at the towers, rock ridges and jagged kloofs, the uninitiated will wonder if it is possible to climb the peak by an easy route. You can! What's more, you've got a choice of easy routes: 'Slab'- route (B), Diagonal route (B), Bergrivier nek route (B), and even the highly interesting Lys-en-hoek route (C), even though the latter is not recommended for beginners.

**Slab- route (B):**\*\*\* The bottom part of this route is also used to climb 1st Ridge Peak, as described above. To climb Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak) you use the same approach, but turn up right in the wide, grassy passage before the ridge between 1st Ridge Peak and the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak). It is one of the things that makes mountain climbing so interesting - one would never dream that there was such an obvious way behind the enormous cliffs! At the top of the passage look down into a ravine that runs down from the front of the mountain. The route keeps at the outset to the left hand ridge of the ravine, goes into it a little higher on a ledge and leaves it again to the left shortly before it comes to a deadend against a rockband. Just a short, easy wall separates you then from the crest. If this route is used for descending, one must carefully note where the ledge leaves the ravine, because lower down the ravine is impassable.

**Variation:** Instead of turning right up the grassy passage, one can walk up to the small nek from where you look down into Banhoekkloof, and from there follow a ledge on the Jonkershoek side to the upper reaches of the passage. The ledge is rather narrow and is somewhat exposed in one or two places.

**Die Kloktoring (The Clock Tower):** Between 1st Ridge Peak and the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak) there are a few impressive pinnacles. The highest one, the Cathedral's Clock Tower, has got a relatively easy scrambling route (B-C) on the 2nd Ridge peak's side. I will leave it to the adventurous to find this short, interesting route. The view from top can be called world famous!

**Lys-en-Hoek (C) \*\*\*\*** A very interesting route with a lot of exposure in a few places. Not for inexperienced climbers! This route and its variation Diagonal route, is on the South Western side of the ridge, here also

berg, hier ook as Third Ridge Peak bekend. Stap van die Witbrug parkeerterrein op in die rigting van Bergriviernek, tot waar die voetpad by die boonste kontoerpaadjie aansluit. As jy opkyk sal jy effens na links 'n lae rotstoring teenaan die krans sien. Klim op na die nekkie tussen die toring en die krans. Klouter dan teen maklike rotstrappies op totdat 'n grashelling bereik word. Stap dan skuins na regs op totdat 'n punt bereik word waarvandaan mens in 'n vlak klofie afkyk. Volg die linkerkantse rand van die klofie tot reg onder 'n prominente, konkawe oorhang. (Die laaste deel is taamlik steil, sodat jy 'n bietjie op lysies langs moet sigsag).

Die lys, wat die sleutel tot die roete is, begin reg onder die oorhang en loop skuins na regs op (bakens). Volg die lys met die nodige versigtigheid. Van die end van die lys klim jy eers skuins na regs uit en dan regop tot op 'n gerieflike grasbedekte staanplek (C met blootstelling). Stap dan na links en beweeg versigtig om die hoek (makliker as wat dit lyk!) Anderkant die hoek kan jy weer asemhaal, want die wereld word heelwat makliker. Klouter skuins na links op, waar 'n groot platform bokant die steil deel spoedig bereik word. Ontspan.

Van die platform stap 'n mens op na 'n grasstrook onder 'n vertikale rotsband en volg die na links. Dit word heel gou moontlik om weer oor skuins rotsplate op te klouter. Waar die bietjie steil begin word, moet jy na links afdraai en na die klein nekkie opklouter. Jy bevind jou dan op 'n maklike grashelling. Kontoer in die aangewese rigting, met 'n geleidelike styging tot byna op die waterskeiding. Net voordat die waterskeiding bereik word, moet mens ongelukkig weer sowat 50m aan die Jonkershoekkant afklim om 'n onklimbare "venster" te vermy. Daarna sal geen verdere probleme ondervind word nie en 'n paar minute later behoort jy op die kruin te wees. (Mens kan ook aan die Banhoekkant afklim en deur die "venster" gaan.)

**Diagonale roete (B)\*\*\*:** Hierdie is eintlik 'n maklike variasie van die voorafgaande roete. Kan ook as afgaanroete gebruik word, maar leer dit eers van onder af ken!

Volg die Lys-en-hoekroete tot waar die helling 'n entjie onder die konkawe oorhang heelwat steiler begin word (baken). Stap dan na regs oor 'n gebroke grashelling wat spoedig oorgaan in 'n gebroke lys. Die lys styg eers en word dan nouer met effense blootstelling. Klim versigtig af op die end van die lys, terwyl jy so na aan die krans hou as moontlik - jy beweeg eintlik half onder die krans in. Hierdie manewer bring jou op makliker terrein, waar jy jou roete heelwat kan varieer. Die eenvoudigste is om

known as Third Ridge peak. Walk from the Witbrug parking in the direction of Bergrivier nek, where the path meets the upper contour path. If you look up you will see slightly to the left a low pinnacle against the cliff. Climb up to the small nek between the tower and the cliff. Then scramble up easy rock steps until a grass slope is reached. Walk up sloping to the right till a point is reached from where one looks down into a shallow ravine. Follow the left hand edge of the ravine to the right under a prominent, concave overhang. (The last part is a little steep, so that you must zigzag up some ledges.)

The ledge, which is the key to the route, begins right under the overhang and runs sloping to the right (cairns). Follow the ledge with the necessary caution. From the end of the ledge climb out sloping to the right and then straight ahead to a comfortable grassy stance (C with exposure). Walk to the left and move cautiously around the corner (easier than it looks!) On the other side of the corner you can breathe again, because it gets a lot easier. Scramble up to the left, where a big platform beyond the steep part is quickly reached. Relax.

From the platform walk up a grass strip under a vertical rock band and follow it to the left. It quickly becomes possible to scramble up over sloping rock slabs. Where the steep bit begins, you must turn off left and scramble up to little small nek. You find yourself on an easy grass slope. Contour in the obvious direction, with a gradual rise to nearly on the watershed. Just before the watershed is reached, one must unfortunately climb down about 50m on the Jonkershoek side to avoid an unclimbable "window". After that there are no further problems and a few minutes later you should be on the summit. (One can also climb down on the Banhoek side and go through the "window".)

**Diagonal route (B)\*\*\*:** This is an easy variation of the preceding route. Can also be used as a descent route, but learn it first by climbing up.

Follow the **Lys-en-Hoek route** to where the slope begins to get a lot steeper a little under the concave overhang (cairn). Walk to the right over a broken grass slope that quickly changes to a broken ledge. The ledge rises first and then narrows with slight exposure. Climb cautiously down at the end of the ledge, keeping as close to the cliff as possible - you actually move half under the cliff. This brings you to easier terrain, where your route can vary a lot. The simplest is to scramble up to the right next to ledges and short rock steps to the prominent small nek a



skuins na regs langs lysies en teen kort rotstrappies op te klouter na die prominente nekkie 'n ent hoer op (moenie te gou probeer opklim nie). Die groot platform regs van die nekkie is 'n ideale plek om so 'n bietjie asem te skep en die wereld te bekyk.

Stap dan links om die rotstoring voor jou en klouter in die hoek op. Kort bokant die toring sluit die roete aan by een wat van Bergriviernek af opkom en kan die talle bakens en effense voetpaadjie maklik gevolg word. Dis ook nie lank nie, of jy beland op die grasstrook waar jy by die Lys-en-hoekroete aansluit. Vir 'n verdere beskrywing van die roete, kyk op bl. 42

**Van Bergriviernek (B):** Maklik, maar lank! Die uitsigte aan die Bergrivierkant is besonder indrukwekkend, wat seker een rede is waarom die roete so gewild is. Stap met die boonste voetpad op tot by Bergriviernek. Die roete op na die Katedraal volg die waterskeiding sonder enige tegniese probleme. Op een plek lyk dit asof 'n vertikale trap moeilikheid gaan maak, maar Moeder Natuur was ook daar ons bergklimmers goedgesind. Klim op tot teenaan die trap en stap dan na links langs 'n rotslys. Die lys lei na 'n steil grasklofie wat netjies by die versperring verbyloop. Bokant die klofie hou die roete aanvanklik links van die waterskeiding, om 'n entjie hoer op by die Lys-en-hoekroete aan te sluit. Vir die verdere verloop van die roete, kyk die beskrywing van die boonste gedeelte van die Lys-en-hoekroete op bl. 40.

bit higher on (don't try to climb up too quickly). The big platform to the right of the small nek is an ideal place to catch your breath and view the world.

Walk to the left around the pinnacle before you and scramble up in the corner. Shortly beyond the pinnacle the route meets the one that comes up from Bergrivier nek and the many cairns and slight path can easily be followed. It's also not long before you land on the grass strip where you join the **Lys-en-Hoek route**. See above for the further description of the route.

**From Bergrivier nek (B):** Easy, but long! The view on the Berg river side is impressive, which is one reason why the route is so popular. Walk up the path to Bergrivier nek. The route to the Cathedral (2nd Ridge peak) follows the watershed without any technical problems. In one place it does look as if a vertical step will be difficult, but Mother Nature looks after mountain climbers. Climb up to the step and then walk to the left along a rock ledge. The ledge leads to a steep grass ravine that neatly bypasses the obstacle. Beyond the ravine the route keeps at the outset to the left of the watershed, to join the **Lys-en-Hoek route** a little higher up. For the rest of the route, see the description for the **Lys-en-Hoek route**.





**Roetes op die Katedraal:** 1. "Slab"-roete, 2. Direkte roete, 3. Hoofbastion, 4. Kruinbastion, 5. Pisarif, 6. Pinnacle Ridge, 7. Lys-en-Hoek, 8. Diagonaal, 9. Van Bergriviernek.

**Swartbosrand (B/C)\*\*:** Hierdie roete volg die prominente kam links van Swartboskloof. Mens kan die onderpunt van die kam bereik deur of direk van die sirkelpad soontoe op te stap, of eers vir omtrent 30 minute op die Swartboskloof-voetpad te stap en waar die skerp na regs draai die voetpad te verlaat en teen die helling op te stap. Kontouer na links onder die kransies en stap op na die kam. Laasgenoemde benadering is verkieslik op 'n warm dag. Die eerste rotstrap word net regs van die kam geklim - op in 'n grassloepie, dan links uit. Onmiddellik daarna volg nog 'n regs-om maneuvre. Verder aan is dit die beste om presies op die kam te bly. Dis wel makliker links daarvan, maar die rots is voos.

Die volgende rotstrap lyk kwaai, maar dit kan met 'n goedgeplaaste lysie aan die kloof se kant omseil word. (Daar is ook 'n lekker C-trajek vir die wat van klouter hou: Let op die hoek met die kraak daarin links van die kam. Klouter links van die kraak op en beweeg bo na regs uit.) Onmiddellik bokant hierdie rotstrap moet mens links om kontoer om 'n breuk in die rif te vermy. Die roete hou dan vir 'n entjie net links van die kam, maar doen tog die moeite en stap eers op na die nou nekkie bokant die breuk en loer daar af. As dit jou nie koue rillings gee nie, het jy senuwees van staal!

Die volgende trap word regs van die kam geklim, waarna die roete die kam, wat nou minder steil is, sonder enige verdere probleme volg. Mens kan nou op die kam bly totdat jy die Panorama-voetpad bereik, of, wat ek kan aanbeveel, na links stap na 'n nek vanwaar jy 'n klein entjie na die bolope van die Eerste Waterval-stroom kan afsak. Volg dan die stroompie vir sowat 30 minute, en jy is op die voetpad.

Aan die bopunt van Swartboskloof is 'n piek met die onwaarskynlike naam van **Pic-Sans-Nom** (Piek sonder naam). Probeer hierdie een uitredeneer! Pic-Sans-Nom vertoon soos 'n klein koepeltjie skuins regs van die vleitjie bo in Swartboskloof. Dis heel maklik om daar te kom - sowat twee uur se stap met die voetpad bring jou by genoetnde vleitjie. Hier kruis die voetpad die stroom tweekeer en kort na die tweede kruising sal jy 'n paadjie wat na regs afdraai opmerk. Volg die na 'n uitsigpunt en stap vandaar na links al met die waterskeiding langs. Wanneer jy dink jy is nou-nou bo, moet jy skielik weer 'n ent afklim en dan teen 'n effens blootgestelde rotstrap opklouter (B). Die uitsig van bo is regtig iets besonder!

Die volgende noemenswaardige piek is **Haelkop** (Guardian Peak), wat ook die hoogste in hierdie ongewing is. Haelkop is 'n besondere

**Swartbosrand (B/C)\*\*:** This route follows the prominent ridge to the left of Swartboskloof. One can reach the bottom of the ridge directly from the circular road, or walk for about 30 minutes up the Swartboskloof path to where the path turns sharp right. Leave the path at this point and walk up the slope. Contour to the left under the cliff and walk up the ridge. The latter approach is preferable on a hot day. The first rock step is climbed to the right of the ridge on a grass slope, then out to the left. Immediately afterwards move to the right. Further on it is best to stay exactly on the ridge. It's easier to the left, but the rock is rotten.

The next rock step appears to be difficult, but can be bypassed on the kloof side using a well placed ledge. (There is also a nice C-pitch for those who like to scramble: notice the crack in the corner to the left of the ridge. Scramble to the left of the crack and then move up and out to the right.) Immediately above this rock step contour left to avoid a break in the ridge. The route then keeps a little to the left of the ridge, but do take the trouble to walk to the narrow small nek beyond the break and peep down. If that does not give you the cold shivers, then you have nerves of steel!

The next step is climbed to the right of the ridge, after which the route follows the ridge, which is now less steep, without any further problems. One can stay on the ridge until the Panorama path is reached, or, what I can recommend is to walk to the left to a neck from where you can descend the upper reaches of the First Waterfall stream. Follow the stream for about 30 minutes, and you are on the foot path.

At the top of Swartboskloof is a peak with the improbable name of **Pic-Sans-Nom** (peak without name). Try to puzzle that one out! Pic-Sans-Nom appears as a small dome to the right of the small vlei at the top of Swartboskloof. It's easy to get there - about two hours walk up the path brings you to the above mentioned small vlei. Here the path crosses the stream twice and shortly after the second crossing you will notice a faint path to the right. Follow it to a viewpoint and walk from there to the left along the watershed. Just when you think you are about to reach the top, you must all of a sudden climb down a short distance and then scramble up a slightly exposed rock step (B). The view from on top is really exceptional!

The next peak worth noting is **Haelkop** (Guardian Peak), the highest in

uitsigpunt. Bekyk gerus die wereld wanneer jy weer bo kom: Voor jou le die hele Skiereiland, van Kaappunt tot by Tafelberg, met ook Robbeneiland duidelik sigbaar (wanneer die lugbesoedeling nie te erg is nie!) Ook Valsbaai, half bedek deur Helderberg en die Somerset-Wesvallei le soos 'n kaart voor jou oopgesprei. Doer links le die saagtand van Klein Hangklip by Rooiels. Dan die berge: Die hoe koepel in die Hottentots-Holland-reeks is die Somerset-Sneeukop, hoogste piek in hierdie omgewing (net mooi een meter hoer as Victoriapiek!) Links van die Sneekop sien jy twee van die kruine van die Drieling. Kyk nou na die oorkant van die vallei. Links van die Pieke kom die Groot-Drakenstein massief te voorskyn, met die bekende saagtand van Dutoitspiek reg agter Groot-Drakensteinpiek. Verder na links die Paarlvallei, met die Voelvlendam wat ver in die agtergrond blink. Skuins regs bokant die dam troon die twee spitse van die Groot- en Klein-Winterhoekpieke die lug in... Van Kaappunt tot by die Winterhoekberge - voorwaar 'n toneel om te onthou!

**Haelkop** het veral twee roetes wat die moeite werd is, en as mens die een opgaan en die ander af, kry jy 'n wonderlike dag se bergklim! Die eerste roete begin in Sosyskloof en volg dan die suidoostelike kam van die berg (C)\*\*\*. Daar is 'n voetpad in Sosyskloof op, en die kan uit verskillende rigtings benader word. Persoonlik verkies ek die een wat 'n klein entjie bokant die uitkykhuise begin, en dan na links tot in die kloof kontoer. Dit bring jou onder andere by die mooi waterval waar twee pragtige waterbomme (Ilex mites) met hulle voete in die stroom staan.

Die waterskeiding, ongeveer 1000 meter bo seespieel, word na sowat 1 1/2 uur se klim bereik. Daar eindig die voetpad.

Volg die waterskeiding tot aan die voet van die eerste rotstrap en stap dan na regs totdat dit weer moontlik word om links uit te werk na die karn van die berg (bakens). Die roete volg dan die karn tot bo. Op een plek moet jy deur die takke van rankende geelhoutbome worstel na die rotstrap wat vir die enigste C-trajek op die roete verantwoordelik is. Klim in die steil hoek in op en klouter dan na die klein nekkie hoer op. Klouter dan regs uit en hou maar taamlik ver regs om 'n maklike afklimplek na die volgende nek te kry. Verder aan is die pad oop en maklik om te vind. Reken op 1 1/2 uur se klim vanaf Sosyskloofnek tot bo.

Die tweede roete maak gebruik van 'n voetpad links van Baviaanskloof. Dis nie so maklik om die begin van die voetpad te kry nie, maar die volgende aanwysings behoort te help. Parkeer by die kontrolehek en volg

this area. Haelkop is an exceptional viewpoint. Look over the world when you are on top: before you lies the whole peninsula, from Cape Point to Table Mountain, with Robben Island clearly visible (when the air pollution is not too bad!). False Bay, half obscured by Helderberg and the Somerset West valley lies spread out like a map before you. Fat to the left lies the saw tooth of Klein Hangklip near Rooiels. Then the mountains: the high dome in the Hottentots Holland series is Somerset-Sneeukop, highest peak in this area (just one metre higher than Victoria Peak!) To the left of Sneekop you can see two of the peaks of the Triplets. Look now to the opposite side of the valley. To the left of the Twins the Groot Drakenstein massif appears, with the well known saw tooth of du Toits Peak right behind Groot Drakenstein. Further to the left the Paarl valley, with the Voelvlendam shining far in the background. To the right beyond the dam the two spires of the Groot- and Klein-Winterhoek Peaks pierce the air... From Cape Point to the Winterhoekberge - truly a scene to remember!

**Haelkop** has two routes which are worth climbing, and if one walks up one and down the other, you get a marvellous days climbing! The first route begins in Sosyskloof and follows the South East ridge to the top (C)\*\*\*. There is a path in Sosyskloof, which can be approached from different directions. Personally I prefer the one that begins a little beyond the lookout house, and then contours to the left into the ravine. It brings you, among other things, to the attractive waterfall where two beautiful hollies (Ilex mites) stand with their feet in the stream.

The watershed, which is at approximately 1000 metres, is reached after about 1 1/2 hours climb. The path ends there.

Follow the watershed to the foot of the first rock step and walk to the right until it is again possible to work out to the left onto the ridge (cairns). The route then follows the ridge to the top. In one place you must struggle through the branches of a rambling yellowwood to the rock step that is responsible for the only C-pitch on the route. Climb the steep corner and then scramble to the small nek higher up. Scramble out to the right and keep quite far to the right to an easy place to climb down to the next neck. Further on the way is open and easy to find. Reckon on 1 1/2 hours climb from Sosyskloof nek to the top.

The second route uses a foot path to the left of Baviaanskloof. It's not easy to find the beginning of the path, but the following directions should help. Park at the gate into Jonkershoek and follow the circular



die sirkelpad. Hou regs waar die pad vork en kruis die Eersterivier. 'n Ent anderkant die brug (as Swartbrug bekend) vork die pad weer - hou weer regs. 'n Entjie verder gaan die pad 'n plantasie binne. Hier rond moet mens die pad verlaat en in die plantasie opstap tot in 'n kontoer-motorpad, 30-40 minute se stap vanaf die kontrolehek. Die voetpad begin op 'n draai in hierdie pad, omtrent 100m vanwaar die pad op die rand van die plantasie eindig.

Na sowat twee uur se stap van die hek af behoort mens naby die waterskeiding te wees. Hier draai die voetpad na regs en gaan dit vir 'n lang ent in die 'verkeerde' rigting. Mens kan tyd spaar deur hier direk na die waterskeiding op te klim. Volg vereers die waterskeiding, maar hou regs daarvan by versperrings. Die roete is hierlangs goed gebaken met 'n dowwe paadjie hier en daar.

**Stellenboschberg** word gewoonlik nie vanuit Jonkershoek geklim nie, maar daar is 'n voetpad wat by die Assegaibos Natuureservaat begin en oor die nek suid van die kruin gaan. Stap by die kantore en die Kaap-Hollandse huis verby en let op waar 'n tweespoorpad na regs afdraai. Volg die tweespoorpad en bly op die uitkyk vir die voetpad wat 'n ent hoer op na links afdraai. Ongelukkig is die reservaat oor naweke gesluit, maar 'n permit om in te gaan kan gedurende kantoortyd verkry word. Mens kan ook met die Baviaanskloof-voetpad opstap, die waterskeiding tot op die nek suid van Stellenboschberg volg en dan met die voetpad na die reservaat terugstap - 'n aangename tog!

### ***Verdwaal in die mis!***

AS daar een ding is wat my altyd ongemaklik laat voel, is dit mis in 'n berg - enige berg. Hoe dikwels het ons nie al gedink ons ken elke sentimeter van 'n roete nie, net om hopeloos van koers af te raak in die mis! Jou rigting hoef net 'n paar grade uit te wees en jy beland op terrein wat vir jou totaal onbekend is. Dit is een rede waarom ons op sommige plekke elke paar meter 'n klipbakentjie gepak het. Wanneer die son lekker skyn, lyk so 'n string bakens skoon verspot en ek weet van klimmers wat hulle goedsmoeds omskop. Asseblief, moenie! Wanneer die mis regtig dig raak, is elke baken vir jou goud werd.

road. Keep to the right where the road forks and cross the Eersterivier. Shortly after the bridge (known as Swartbrug) the road forks again - keep to the right. A little further on the road goes into a plantation. Near here one must leave the road to the left and walk up through the plantation to a contour road, about 30-40 minutes from the gate. The path starts on a turn in this road, about 100m from where the road ends on the edge of the plantation.

About two hours walk from the gate should bring one close to the watershed. Here the path turns to the right and goes for a long way in the 'wrong' direction. One can save time by climbing directly up to the watershed. Follow the watershed at first, but keep to the right of it at obstacles. The route along here is well beaconed with a faint path here and there.

**Stellenboschberg** is usually not climbed out of Jonkershoek, but there is a path that begins at the Assegaibos Nature Reserve and goes over the neck south of the summit. Walk past the offices and Cape Dutch house and note where a jeep track turns off to the right. Follow the jeep track and remain on the look out for the foot path that turns off left a little higher on. Unfortunately the Reserve is closed over weekends, but a permit can be obtained during office hours. One can also walk up the Baviaanskloof path, then follow the watershed to the neck south of Stellenboschberg and then walk back on the path to the Reserve— an enjoyable outing!

### ***Lost in the mist!***

If there is one thing that always makes me feel uncomfortable, is it mist on a mountain - any mountain. How often do we not think we know every inch of a route, just to end up hopelessly lost in the mist! One's direction needs to be just a few degrees out and you land in unknown terrain. It is one good reason why in some places a cairn is built every few metres. When the sun is shining, this string of cairns can appear to be absurd and I know of climbers who cheerfully kick them over. Please don't! When the mist is really thick, every cairn is like gold.

Which does one do if the mist descends on you all of a sudden and you



Wat doen mens as die mis skielik op jou toesak en jy raak onseker van die roete? Alles hang natuurlik van omstandighede af, maar dit is goed om die volgende in gedagte te hou:

- 1 Dit is altyd makliker om die kruin in die mis te bereik as om die pad af te vind. Riglyne wat opwaarts saamloop, loop mos afwaarts uitmekaar!
- 2 Deur na links of regs te kontoer, kan jy op 'n plek afkom wat aan jou bekend is en kan jy jou dus weer orienteer.
- 3 Roetes in klowe of langs waterstroompies is uit die aard van die saak baie makliker om te volg as die op oop hellings. Pasop vir 'n rand of rug - daar is dikwels afdraaipaadjies en voor jy weet waar jy is, gaap daar 'n afgrond voor jou.
- 4 Dink. Dit is dikwels beter om in een rigting te fouteer as in 'n ander. Ek sal hierdie stelling illustreer in onderstaande voorbeelde.
- 5 As jy heeltenial verdwaal het en dit begin donker raak, bly waar jy is, soek skuiling uit die wind ( bou desnoods 'n beskermende muurtjie) en probeer droog bly.
- 6 'n Voorkomende maatreef is natuurlik om altyd 'n kompas saani te neem. Ek het al te dikwels gesien hoe mense stry oor waar noord is!

Gestel nou jy sit nog so lekker op die Pieke en skielik trek die mis toe (dit gebeur!) Die beste plan van aksie sal wees om eers die nek van Sentralekloof te vind. Jy weet min of meer in watter rigting die nek lê (of jy behoort te weet!), maar hou eerder meer links as regs as jy onseker is. As jy te verlinks hou, sal steil kranse jou gou genoeg voorkeer, maar hou jy te veel regs, kan jy die nekkie baie maklik misloop.

Op die nek aangekom, moet jy soek na 'n dowwe voetpaadjie wat na regs afloop en dit volg. Die paadjie gaan verby die plek waar klimmers gewoonlik middagete geniet, bly dan aanvanklik langs die stroompie en draai later met 'n wye boog na links af na Langrivierkloofnek. Die paadjie is redelik goed gebaken. Ons kies Langrivierkloof as afgaanroete aangesien dit so maklik is om te volg. Van die nek behoort daar geen probleme te wees nie. Daar is 'n effense paadjie en genoeg bakens. Onthou net dat die boonste en middelste dele van die roete nie langs die stroombedding selfs nie, maar wel links daarvan soos jy afgaan.

Die Katedraal kan ook maar lastig wees om af te gaan in mis. Veronderstel jy het die kruin bereik, en die mis trek toe. Die 'Slab'- roete is jou aangewese pad af. Volg eers die kam van die berg in 'n

are unsure of the route? Everything depends naturally on the circumstances, but it is useful to keep the following in mind:

- 1 It is always easier to go up in the mist than it is to find the way down. Directions that make sense upwards, come apart going down!
- 2 By traversing left or right, you may come upon a place you recognise and so re-orientate yourself.
- 3 Routes in kloofs or next to streams are by their nature much easier to follow than open slopes. Beware of a ridge or spine – there are often turn-off paths and before you know where you are, a huge drop gapes before you.
- 4 Think. It is often better to explore in one direction rather than another. I will illustrate this in the examples below.
- 5 If you are completely lost and it starts to get dark, stay where you are, look for shelter out of the wind (if necessary build a small wall for shelter) and try to stay dry.
- 6 A preventative measure is to always take a compass. I have all too often seen how people argue over in where north is!

Imagine you are on a comfortable spot on the Twins and all of a sudden the mist descends (it does happen!) The best plan of action will be to first find the neck of Sentralekloof. You know more or less in which direction the neck is (or you should know!), but if unsure, keep rather more to the left than to the right. If you go too far left, the steep cliffs will turn you quickly enough, but if you veer too far to the right, you can easily miss the small nek.

Once on the neck, look out for faint path which descends to the right and follow it. The path passes the place where climbers usually have lunch, stays initially next to the stream and then turns in a wide curve to the left down to Langrivierkloof nek. The path is quite well beacons. We choose Langrivierkloof as the descent route because it is easy to follow. From the neck there should be no problems. There's a slight path and enough cairns. Just remember that the top and middle parts of the route are not next to the stream bed itself, but well to the left of it as you come down.

2nd Ridge peak can also be difficult to get off in the mist. Suppose you've got to the summit, and the mist closes in. The 'Slab'- route is your obvious way down. First follow the ridge in a north westerly

noordwestelike rigting (kompas!) vir sowat 50m, waar 'n baken die aanvang van die afgaanroete aandui. Hier moet jy nou regs afdraai en 'n entjie teen die helling afklim om die bodele van 'n kloof, wat aan die Jonkershoekkant afdraai, te bereik. As jy die bakens verloor, hou dan eerder meer links as regs. Hou jy dan te veel links, sal jy waarskynlik die kloof bereik op 'n plek waar jy dit nie kan binnegaan nie. Al wat jy dan doen, is om die rand van die kloof na regs te volg tot by die afklimplek. Hou jy egter te veel na regs, kan jy onder in Banhoekkloof beland!

Die roete gaan eers 'n klein entjie in die kloof af en verlaat dit dan langs 'n lysie aan die regterkant. Sorg dat jy hierdie plek vind (bakens), want die kloof raak laer af heeltemal onbegaanbaar. Die roete gaan dan na links af oor rotsplate en maklike rotsbankies tot op 'n grashelling met rotswande aan weerskante. Volg die grashelling wat later links swaai en uitloop op 'n rotsrug tussen twee klofies. Let mooi op na bakens, want jy moet heel gou die rotsrug verlaat en na links in 'n digte boskasie afklim. 'n Effense paadjie sal hier gevind word. Die paadjie lei na 'n reeks maklike rotstrappies. Draai links onder die laaste trap, en volg die grashelling na die bree lys wat jou uiteindelik op die maklike hellings onder die kranse uitbring.

Die Dwarsbergplato is nog 'n plek wat mens lelik kan laat koprap wanneer die sig beperk is. Die beste is om die stroompie wat naby die reenmeter verbyloop, te probeer vind en die te volg. As die mis so dig is dat jy by die reenmeter verbyloop, sal jy later by 'n waterval uitkom. Verlaat die stroom onder die val en klim na regs teen die helling uit min of meer loodreg op die stroom. Wanneer jy op 'n nek kom, kontoer na regs en jy behoort die Kurktrekkernekvoetpad binne enkele minute te bereik.

Om op te som: hou kop, dink jou roete sorgvuldig uit en moenie sommer enige plek probeer afgaan nie.

direction (compass!) for about 50m, where a beacon indicates the beginning of the descent route. Here you must turn down right and climb down the slope a little to reach the upper reaches of a ravine that runs down the Jonkershoek side. If you lose the cairns, keep rather more to the left than to the right. If you keep too far to the left, you will probably reach the ravine at a place where you cannot enter it. All you then do is to follow the brink of the ravine to the right to the place where one can climb down. If you keep too far to the right, you can land in Banhoekkloof!

The route goes first a little way down the ravine and next leaves it by a ledge on the right. Make sure that you find this place (cairns), because lower down the ravine is impassable. The route then goes to the left down over rock slabs and easy rock shelves to a grass slope with rock bands on both sides. Follow the grass slope that later on swings to the left and exits on a rock spine between two ravines. Look carefully for cairns, because you need to quite quickly leave the rock spine and climb down to the left through thick bush. A slight path will be found here. The path leads to a series of easy rock steps. Turn to the left under the last step, and follow the grass slope to the wide ledge that finally brings you out on the easy slopes under the cliffs.

The Dwarsberg plateau is another place that can be difficult when visibility is limited. The best is to try to find and follow the stream that runs close to the rain gauge. If the mist is so dense that you miss the rain gauge, you will later on come out at a waterfall. Leave the stream under the waterfall and climb to the right up the slope more or less perpendicular to the stream. When you come to a neck, contour to the right and you should reach the Kurktrekker nek path within a few minutes.

To recapitulate: keep your head, think about your route carefully and don't try to simply descend anywhere.

*Version record:*

1.1 - 29 May 2007, minor edits & corrections

1.2 - 2 May 2008, minor edits & corrections