

## Mountain Biking Trails

### Stanford Lake/ Ebenezer Dam (Blue)

This 5.3km route is suitable for families with young children. It follows the edge of Stanford Lake and Ebenezer Dam on well used roads and is fairly flat. It can be extended by 3km by following the road along Ebenezer dam further and returning the same way. It can be accessed from Stanford Lake Lodge.

### Cheerio/Sequoia (Orange)

This 5km route is suitable for families with lovely single track to test technical skills. Experienced riders can do several laps for training purposes. It passes through the pine plantations, avo orchards and the beautiful gardens of Cheerio and Sequoia along grass paths and roads. The climb to the top of the hill is made worth the effort by the spectacular views of the Wolkberg and Cheerio Valley. It can be accessed from Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort, Sequoia and Cheerio Gardens.

### Cheerio/ Wegraachbos/Zwakala/ Sequoia (Green)

This 25km route is suitable for experienced riders and weekend warriors who want to test their strength and stamina. It follows roads through plantations, gardens and natural forest, passed secluded dams and babbling streams. The climbs are steep and long but the views from the top over the Ebenezer dam towards the Wolkberg make it all worthwhile. Stop at Zwakala for a beer. It can be accessed from behind Stanford Lake College, Cheerio Gardens, Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort, Sequoia and Zwakala.

### Haenertsburg/ Ebenezer/ Broederstroom (Yellow)

This 30 km route is suitable for most riders. It follows the Blue route along the edge of Stanford Lake and Ebenezer Dam before branching off up a long climb to cross the R71. It then follows the Broederstroom on flat but sometimes grassy roads towards Cheerio. The valley has abundant bird life and the constant babble of the river is energizing. A loop through Sequoia, Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort and Cheerio Gardens joins the green route before diverting to pass Stanford Lake College and cross the R71 again. It can be accessed from Haenertsburg, Stanford Lake Lodge, behind Stanford Lake College, Sequoia, Cheerio Trout Lode and Cheerio Gardens.

### Yellow + Green

To ride a 55km route, start from Stanford Lake Lodge and follow the yellow route. At Cheerio the yellow and green routes link. Follow the Green route from here. Once you return to the link, follow the yellow route back to the start.



## Rule of Use

- Use of this mountain biking trail is at your own risk. Property owners/managers will not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage sustained on this trail.
- To use this trail you require a permit and must understand, accept and sign the indemnity form.
- **Permits are currently available from**
  - **Cheerio Trout Lodge (from where most routes can be accessed), call 0726502366 to arrange to purchase a permit and**
  - **the Tin Roof n Haenertsburg**
- In using these trails you agree to:
  - Not smoke on the trail
  - Not consume alcohol on the trail
  - Strictly no fires
  - Not picnic
  - Not litter - please take your rubbish with you
  - Not damage or remove fauna and/or flora
  - Stay on the designated trail
- Please ensure that you have the contact number for the establishment you are departing from in case of emergency.
- Water along the route is safe to drink but please take sufficient water for your needs.
- Forestry operations may be in progress on these trails and care should be taken at all times.
- Sections of the trails are shared with walkers and vehicles and care should be taken at all times.
- Please close any gates that you have opened to continue on the trail.

Updated: 07/05/2018

Tourism Magoebaskloof Association  
[www.magoebasklooftourism.co.za](http://www.magoebasklooftourism.co.za)

Chairman: Mark Harman

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Treasurer: Joe Langlois

## Detailed Route Descriptions

### Green

The route links several accommodation establishments in the Magoebaskloof area, making it easily accessible. The route is circular so can begin from behind **Stanford Lake College, Zwakala, Sequoia, Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort or Cheerio Gardens.**

Starting from **Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort or Cheerio Gardens**, it climbs out of the valley through the beautiful gardens of azaleas, ornamental cherries, proteas and crab apples. Turn R on to the M road and then L into Wegraachbos Dairy. Follow the road passed the dairy and barns and through several gates before crossing a fire break to join up with the yellow route for a brief spell along plantation roads through the pine. After departing from the yellow route follow the road along the edge of the marshland and then turn L onto a well-used gravel road (A6) and L again shortly after that . Now the climb begins. Follow the A6 road towards and past Mount Merrick. After 2.6km of climbing you reach a dam with wooden cabins. Take a rest before the final onslaught. After 600m of steep climbing you reach the top and the view is amazing. Follow the road to the Long Tom Monument. Enjoy the view here of the Cheerio Valley. (If you are tired and would like to cut your ride short, you can turn left here and follow the tar road back to Cheerio Gardens.) Turn R onto the tar and then turn left to follow the gravel M road and keep right at the next fork. 300m later take a sharp right down a grassy track. Watch out for rocks! This track ends in a grove of majestic red woods. The route then passes through pine plantations for +- 2km before reaching the Broederstroom. It then follows the river (on your R) for another 2 km. Cross the river and then turn R towards the J road. Turn L onto the J road. Turn L onto the L road towards Cheerio. Pass Zwakala's bottom gate and take it easy up this steep long hill. At Zwakala's top gate turn R and go through the gate and follow the road. Stop at Zwakala for a beer! Turn left at Mina's venue and then follow the single track as it loops along the Broederstroom. You will rejoin the L road at a bridge and turn R towards Sequoia. Follow the L Road and then turn L into **Sequoia**. Pass 3 scenic dams before a short section of single track through Cheerio to lead back to Cheerio Gardens (about 1km).

Yellow

The route links several accommodation establishments in the Magoebaskloof area, making it easily accessible. The route is circular so can begin from behind **Stanford Lake Lodge, Stanford Lake College, Sequoia, Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort, Cheerio Gardens.**

**The route can also be started from Haenertsburg village. Travelling from Haenertsburg on the R71 towards Tzaneen, at the intersection of the R528 and R71, turn L onto a gravel road. Cross the bridge and turn L immediately after.**

Starting from **Stanford Lake Lodge**, follow the dirt road for 300m before turning L onto a grass path through the pine plantation. The road then follows the edge of the lake, past the boat house before turning R up a short but steep and rocky section. At the top, keep L then L again to reach the road along the edge of the Ebenezer dam. Follow this road for 2km, passing a wooden building with grass growing on the roof and then turn R. You will pass a small dam on your right before turning R to cross the wall of a larger dam. Follow the road through the pine plantations until you come to a T junction where the blue route goes R. Turn L here. After a long climb you will cross the R71. Look for the firebreak to your L shortly after this. You will then turn R to ride parallel to the R71 before turning L onto a good gravel road. After 400m, take the track to your L. You are now at the highest point on the route. Enjoy the views of the Iron Crown and Haenertsburg. Follow the track through gum plantations and pine to wind down to the Broederstroom River near **Haenertsburg**. Turn R before the old bridge. Then follow the river (on you L) until the route leaves the river to pass up through a pine plantation before crossing a large fire boundary and then back down to river level. Continue along the river, crossing it at the weir (at about 12.5km) and then on flat but sometimes grassy roads through the valley for another 5km. Just before the bridge, there is an optional 3.5km loop to your left up to the top of the ridge and down again with awesome views. If you do not feel up to this, just turn across the bridge. Turn R across the bridge and then left a short way further and climb out of the valley along a shallow gorge with many trees, shrubs and birds. At the top of the gorge turn left along the forest road and follow it through the gum plantations. Cross the firebreak and turn left to take you along the opposite side of the gorge through a pine plantation. The road then turns right and comes out on the Cheerio (L) road. Turn left, then right at **Sequoia**, a short way down the Cheerio (L) Road. Pass 3 scenic dams before a short section of single track to lead to **Cheerio Trout Fishing & Holiday Resort** and **Cheerio Gardens** (about 1km). Climb out of the valley through the beautiful gardens of azaleas, ornamental cherries, proteas and crab apples. Follow the Cheerio (L) Road towards the R71. Look for a track through the blue gums to your L and follow this crossing 2 fire breaks and then follow the plantation roads through the pine for 2km. Turn R (away from the green route) up a well used gravel road and follow the signs until you reach Stanford Lake College. Before Stanford's gate turn R to cross the R71 to Stanford Lake Lodge's entrance.

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