



KEY:

- Rest Points
- Markers
- Mine walk
- Mine shafts
- Explosive store
- Ruins
- Mill site
- Whisky Spruit
- Farm Road
- Cliff face

View Points

- Hatchery View Rest Point
- Mine View Rest Point
- Mine Shaft Rest Point
- Spekboom View Rest Point

Spioenkop Mine Walk



Duration: 2 hour walk

Distance: 2 Km

Communication: Cell phones (MTN) is accessible near Mill site.

What to take: Refreshments, windbreaker/jacket, torch & binoculars

Route: Refer to map.

Turn right after W6 at the Spioenkop Mine Walk signpost. From the parking area, the path crosses a footbridge, past a grave site and continues up the hill past a marker to the *hatchery view rest point*. The path then follows the guide rope to the hill top to the *mine view rest point*. There is no fixed path across the plateau, head for the marker. After passing 2 markers, the path joins the alternate route at Marker 3 which directs you to the *mine shaft rest point*. The path then meanders through the mining area, past marker 4 to the mill site and *Spekboom view rest point*. Continuing past Marker 5, the path takes you past miners dwellings, store rooms & domestic animal pens. The path back to the road passes several prospecting trenches and claim sites. Continue along the road, where you have clear view of the Whisky Spruit, back to the parking area.

Alternative route

This route cuts out the walk up to the hilltop.

Walk along the mountain road from the parking area or continue by vehicle past the parking area along the mountain road to the clearing. Please be aware that this road is not for the faint hearted, proceed with caution.

Route: Refer to map

Follow the path from marker 1, past several prospecting trenches to marker 2, which directs you to marker 3 to the *mine shaft rest point*. Follow the path from marker 3 back to marker 6 and back to Marker 1 as described above.

Alternative Route Markers and Rest Points

- **Marker 1 to Marker 3**

The path from the road passes various prospecting trenches, illustrating how a reef is followed to establish if it is financially viable to mine. The trench at Marker 1 has been cleared for viewing, however please exercise caution if you enter other prospecting trenches.

- **Mine Shaft Rest Point**



CAUTION: Please do not go past the no entry signs or lean on the walls.

The shaft was excavated over 50 years ago and must be considered as fragile.

The area surrounding the rest point has been mined. As the reef ran deeper so the open cast mine progressed into shaft mining. The shafts were established in the pay chute area, namely the economically viable portion of the reef. The open cast mine stretches over 500m within which 5 shafts (that we know of) were excavated.

This shaft is referred to as an additt (horizontal shaft), after 30m the shaft inclines following the reef and ends at 40m. There are two side shafts (drives) one near the entrance to the left and one to the right at 25m and a cross-cut at 35m. Ore is mined between drives. Overhead at the shaft entrance is the hanging wall (black nail) and below is the foot wall (green nail) which are both composed of non gold bearing rock normally granite, schist & shale. In between the hanging and foot wall is the reef or gold bearing ore (white nail). You will notice that the reef is made up of quartz and rock that has a 'flaky' and concrete appearance, which typifies gold bearing rock in this area. Notice the entire section between the cross cut at the entrance and the drive on the right was removed to extract gold. When the reef on the right of the additt was mined, the stope was supported by wooden props. The section of rock in front was not mined but left as a rock support or pillar (rock with the nail markers). Once mined, the stope was waste-packed with waste ore. Apart from securing the shaft, backfilling is a time saver as the waste ore does not need to be transported out of the shaft to be dumped at another site. On the right of the pillar the waste packed stope is also visible.

- **Mine shaft rest point to marker 4**



The path follows the open cast mine along the shaft face where two further shafts can be seen. The path opens up, to your left is the mining wall and to your right is waste ore. At marker 4 the path directs you to above the mining area. This section of the paths offers a good view of the extent of the open cast mine. Approximately 40m along the path you will notice a small enclosure with a stone door. This is an explosive store or 24 hour magazine. Primed explosives, to be utilized in a working day, were stored here as a safety precaution.

- **Spekboom Rest Point**

Follow the path past marker 5 around the mill site to the rest point. This site offers spectacular views of the Spekboom valley & Highland Run.

The ore may have been transported to the mill site and tipped into a crushing plant. The concrete slabs on the mill floor would have housed the crusher and a diesel generator.

At the entrance to the mill to the left is a dump constituting finer rock material as opposed to waste ore at the shafts. This may be waste generated from a crusher at the mill.

- **Marker 5 to the mountain road**

Follow the path from Marker 5, the path passes the dwellings of the miners. When viewing them take care not to lean on the walls. Follow the path via Marker 2 to the parking area.

Hiking Route

- **Miners Graves**

These graves are of one Shangaan adult Fabiyawa Slinda and three Swazi children who lived in the homes to your right which are now used as staff quarters. The path follows an old miner's path to a claim site visible on the hilltop

- **Hatchery View Rest Point**

Catch your breath and take in the view of the confluence of the Kliprots, Whisky and Spekboom, where the office complex and hatchery have been established.

- **Mine View Rest Point**

A view of the various mining sites in the area. Little Joker mine, Finsbury Mill, Jackpot diggings, Whisky diggings, Kliprots diggings and the miners cottage.

Future Developments

- A map of the mine, including the shafts will be displayed at the entrance to the shaft at the *Mine Shaft Rest Point* and possibly battery operated lighting within this shaft.
- The rest site benches will be put in place once completed.
- This pamphlet will be updated as new information is gathered concerning mining in this area.