

Apostles Approach

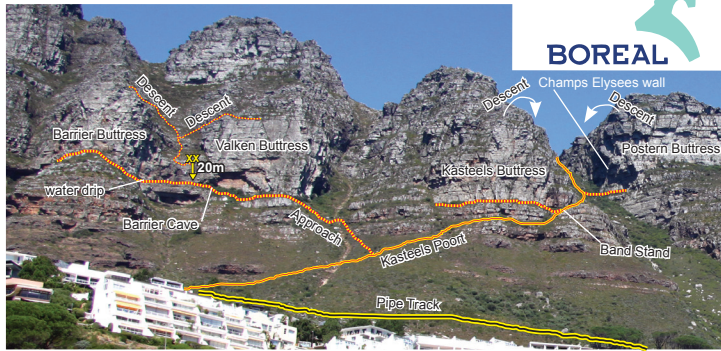
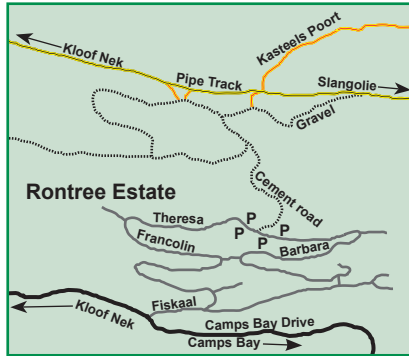
Approach route to Barrier, Valken, Kasteels & Postern Buttresses, Apostles – Table Mountain

The Contour Path on this side of the mountain is called the Pipe Track and runs at an elevation of about 300 metres above sea level. Starting at Kloof Nek on the left, it passes beneath all the Apostles ending in Slangolie Ravine, which creates a very convenient platform for approaching any of the buttresses.

The first part of the approach is the same for all the buttresses, so you will park at the top of Rontree Estate in Camps Bay, regardless of where you will be climbing on the Apostles, with the exception of Bee Buttress.

How to get there

From Kloof Nek, follow Camps Bay Drive for about 2.5 kilometres to the Fiskaal Road turn-off on the left. Take this turn and continue up, always taking the upward-trending road at the forks. You will shortly find yourself in Theresa Avenue which runs just below the top row of houses, and past a little cul-de-sac which goes up to the left, ending in a gate. Park in this area, but please do not park in front of the gate and have some consideration for the residents.



BOREAL

Disclaimer: Blueline topos are designed for climbers as a guide and in no way encourages people with little experience to do these routes. Climbing is inherently dangerous and using this topo means that you accept full responsibility for your own safety. Read full disclaimer at bluelinetopos.co.za before use.

Approach – 1hr to 1hr 15min

Walk through the gate and follow the steep cement road, keeping right at the first fork and at the second fork. After the second fork, walk another 50 or 60 metres till you see a path leading steeply up on your left. Take this path, which leads up to the Pipe Track at the start of *Kasteels Poort*.

Follow *Kasteels Poort*, which gradually rises as it traverses rightwards below Barrier Ravine and Valken Buttriss, before crossing Valken Ravine. A few minutes past this crossing, you will see a vague path leading off to the left around a little fence. If you are headed for **Barrier or Valken Buttriss** then take this path and follow it, negotiating a few easy rock steps to the lower reaches of Kasteels Buttriss at a fairly big, black- and orange-streaked rock band, where the path almost enters Valken Ravine. Cross the ravine here, moving slightly down, and follow the vague path up to the huge hanging corner of Valken Buttriss, then left to the foot of the buttriss. Follow the path along the base of the buttriss for 5 to 10 minutes to reach Barrier Cave on the left side of Valken Buttriss, just before you exit the trees onto the big ledge that crosses Barrier Ravine. Dump your packs and kit up here.

You are now at the base of Valken Buttriss. To get to the base of Barrier Buttriss, cross Barrier Ravine on the big ledge to gain the very left side at the water drip. Step down here and continue around the side of the buttriss, until able to scramble up to gain the front of the buttriss.

For **Kasteels Buttriss** do not take the vague path leading off to the left around a little fence, but rather carry on with the main *Kasteels Poort* path beneath

Kasteels Buttriss before finally cresting the Band Stand rock platform on the corner. At this point traverse left along the base of the wall to the start of the routes. For **Postern Buttriss** continue round the corner from the Band Stand, into the Poort itself. Continue with the path until just above the first rock buttriss that appears in the middle of the ravine. Carry on till slightly higher than the huge flat slab/block lying in the middle of the ravine, then traverse across into a thicket of indigenous trees below the impressive grey overhangs. You are now at the base of the wall.

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Descent (Barrier & Valken) – 40min

From the top of Barrier Buttriss, scramble along the side, or top of the buttriss (depending on the route you have just done), then down into Barrier Ravine. Scramble down the ravine, keeping to the right (facing out), to where it steepens, then continue down carefully to eventually gain the bolted rap station. A 20-metre abseil takes you to the big ledge below, just to the left of Barrier Cave. From the top of Valken, follow the vague path left to enter Barrier Ravine, then proceed as above.

Descent (Kasteels) – 30min

From the top of the routes, scramble up and around to the right, following a scrambly route, to the top of the buttriss and eventually gain the main Apostle path. Turn right here to reach the top of *Kasteels Poort* and down this back to your packs.

Descent (Postern) – 30min

Make your way across the top of the buttriss to the main Apostle path, then go left to gain the top of *Kasteels Poort*. Descend till able to traverse across to the base of the wall (as described in the approach).

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