

## MIDLANDS HIKING FIXTURES – APRIL – JUNE 2024

### IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING

- Hikes are graded so that members can select the activity best suited to their own level of fitness and do not cause unreasonable delay to fellow hikers.
- Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate. If you need to cancel please contact the leader as soon as possible. Numbers are often limited and there may be a waiting list.
- Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.
- If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.
- Leaders have the prerogative to exclude a member if they doubt their health condition, physical fitness or suitability of their hiking gear for a particular activity.
- Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.
- Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times. We encourage all hikers to attach their membership badges to their backpacks with these details available.

### GRADINGS OF HIKES

FF Family friendly

PF Pet friendly

Grade 1 Very easy. Minimal fitness required    Grade 3 Moderate. Physical fitness advisable.

Grade 2 Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness    Grade 4 Strenuous. Physical fitness essential.

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Grade 4 12 km 500 m Ascent	<b>MAHAI Camp Site RNNP – Camping / Hiking Weekend</b> Hike up the Mud Slide, lunch and swim in the best jacuzzi in the world at the top of Gudu Falls and then hike down the Crack back to Mahai.  There is interest in doing this as a Saturday day hike, so please contact Kevin early, so transport sharing can be arranged.	WhatsApp Kevin Stoffberg 071 434 7444
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Grade 2 PF	<b>LEMONWOOD</b> Morning hike – R50 pp. Meet at Greendale Spar top car park at 7.30 to share lifts. Petrol contribution from Howick approx. R50.	Carolee Thompson 078 482 5003
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Grade 3 for 5 days	<b>GIANTS CUP TRAIL – 5 DAY SLACKPACKING</b>	Hettie Randall 072 909 2807 hjrall01@gmail.com

Saturday 20th Sunday 21st April	Grade 1 11 km night hike Sunday Grade 2	<b>HIGHMOOR – FULL MOON HIKE/TENTING WEEKEND</b>  To do full moon hike on Saturday night, you have to tent, it will be cold, no driving out after the hike.  Sunday morning short hike - +/- 10 kms over rough ground, no paths. Those who want to come up on Sunday for this short morning hike, must be at Highmoor by 8.00am. Camping R100 pp, day entry R60 pp.  Last booking Wednesday 17th April. MEMBERS ONLY. Bring correct cash. Book by email ONLY. Please supply cell phone numbers.	Dave Sclanders  dave@bergfree.co.za
Saturday 27th April to Wednesday 1st May	Offers Grades 1 to 4	<b>SUNGUBALA ECO CAMP</b>  Self catering camp for nature lovers situated within the World Heritage Site, a short distance from the Cavern Berg resort. It is located in the heart of the pristine Drakensberg wilderness directly below Hlolela and Sungubala (2000m). All power is wind and solar generated. Gas is used for fridges, stoves and water heating. A swimming pool, comfortable lounge and braai area are added attractions. Accommodation available for 24 in en-suite thatch rondavels @R600 pppn, en-suite A-frame huts @ R600pppn, rustic thatch A-frame huts @ R500 pppn or mountain bungalow @R2600 for 6 people.	Brian Henwood  bhhenwood@gmail.com  082 655 6359
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	14 – 16 km Grade 2+	<b>HOWICK - UMGENI VALLEY</b> – Lovely local area with several different trails to choose from. Wild flowers, birds & wildlife as well as waterfalls & picnic & lunch spots. Although we have hiked in the valley many times it is always popular. 5 Giraffe have recently been relocated to the reserve.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only. Please include cell number. <a href="mailto:keimarg@iuncapped.co.za">keimarg@iuncapped.co.za</a> Entry fee R35 pp <b>Last booking by Wed 24 April</b>
Sunday 5th May	Grade 2 14 km	<b>HOWICK MEANDER</b>  Meet at Maggies just off the Karkloof road at 8.00 am. We then walk along Simmonds Stream for about 1 km and back onto the lane, then up Beacon Hill for a great panoramic view of Howick and environs. Then the Umngeni River walk back into the village with time for a coffee at the Village or Treatery.	Peter Wedge  083 777 7500
Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th May	Grade 3	<b>MOUNT PERAZIM HIKING TRAIL, ST. FORT FARM, CLARENS</b>  2 day circular route. Overnight Friday at base camp, Saturday hike up to the cave (9km\') groundsheets and mattresses supplied, ablutions, braai facilities – all you need is a sleeping bag and food. R650 per person. We could enjoy a slackpack option and have a feast laid on? Extra charge for that of course – depends on group size. Sunday walk out with option of hiking to Mushroom Rock. Breathtaking views of the Malutis. Not to be missed! Stfort.co.za – hiking.	Hettie Randall  hjrall01@gmail.com  MEMBERS ONLY
Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th May		<b>CATHEDRAL PEAK</b>  Drive up to Cathedral Peak Saturday morning 11th May and do Rainbow Gorge hike. Book into backpackers after the hike and overnight there. Hike Ribbon Falls on Sunday 12th May.  NOTE: Please make your own booking to overnight at the Cathedral Peak backpackers. Cost is R395.00. Booking details: 036 4881888 or 087 470 0175. Email is: reservations@cathedralpeak.co.za.	Luis Esteves  072 242 4842  lesteves999@gmail.com
Sunday 12th May	Grade 2	<b>FOUNTAINHILL ESTATE, REICHE TRAIL</b>  Day hike in the beautiful estate with views of the gorge and waterfall. There are buck and giraffe and a couple of dams where we can stop for lunch (depending on the water level). There are several trails – Nyala trail, Butterfly Trail and Gorge walk. Route and price to be confirmed.	Rebecca Wakeford  072 387 9217

Saturday 18th to Sunday 19th May	Grade 1+	<p><b>HIGHMOOR – AASVOEL KRANTZ CAVE</b></p> <p>Beginners overnight hike to the cave 4.5km one way with a waterfall at the cave for a swim. Ideal for first time hikers and those that want to sleep in a cave.</p> <p>Meet at Highmoor at 10 am – check gear and help to repack for new people as needed. Return back to car park on Sunday via a different route (weather permitting) and should be back at vehicles by 10.30.</p> <p>Cost R100 per person (cash on the day). Limited to 12 people.</p>	<p>Deon Small</p> <p>drakhike@gmail.com</p> <p>082 679 4244</p>
Saturday 18th May	Grade 1 10 kms	<p><b>MICHAELHOUSE</b></p> <p>Walk through the wilderness area at this beautifully placed school in the heart of the Midlands.</p>	<p>Hettie Randall</p> <p>hjrall01@gmail.com</p> <p>MEMBERS ONLY</p>
Sunday 26th May	Grade 3 10k return +- 300 m climb	<p><b>MKOMAZI Nature Reserve – CYPRUS CAVE</b></p> <p>Short steep to start, then rolling country, some off path sightseeing. Lunch at a lovely shaded pool. Return via different way. Path maybe badly overgrown. If brave, bring costume. CLUB MEMBERS ONLY.</p> <p>R60.00 pp entry. Please bring exact cash</p> <p>Last booking Wednesday, 22 May. Book by e mail ONLY.</p> <p>Please supply CELL number with booking.</p>	<p>Dave Sclanders</p> <p>dave@bergfree.co.za</p>
Sunday 2nd June	Grade 4	<p><b>GREY MARES TAIL FALLS</b></p> <p>Day hike to the top of the falls. Distance to the top 3.5km plus 500m to the top view point. Steep climb through the indigenous forest with slippery sections – good sturdy boots recommended with good grip and a walking stick is a must. Picnic at the top by the river. Will meet at Shawswood at 7.30 – cost R50 (to be confirmed).</p>	<p>Deon Small</p> <p>drakhike@gmail.com</p> <p>082 679 4244</p>
Saturday 8th June	Grade 2	<p><b>TABLE MOUNTAIN</b></p> <p>Our very own KZN Table Mountain, which is not normally accessible to the general public, rich in local folklore, includes tales of giant snakes and cannibals. This is also considered a sacred place. We'll summit the mountain where stunning vistas await as we circumnavigate the top. Distant views of Pietermaritzburg and the Umsunduzi River across to the Umngeni River and the hilltop panorama of the Valley of 1000 Hills. We will have lunch overlooking the impressive Nagle Dam. We'll meet and drive in convoy. R80 pp includes local guide (compulsory), off road secure fenced gated parking at a local homestead. Transport to the foot of the mountain and back to your vehicle. Distance is an undulating 13 kms.</p>	<p>Vanessa Taylor</p> <p>071 851 4005</p>
Friday 14th to Monday 17th June P/H Monday 17th		<p><b>MKOMAZANA MOUNTAIN COTTAGES</b></p> <p>The gateway to Sani Pass. 8kms from the border post, lunch at the highest pub in Africa? Climb up the ridge to Salt and Pepper? Hike to Ngwenya Pools for a dip over lunch? We will be staying in the comfortable and tastefully furnished self catering cottages R1600 pp for the 3 nights (R800 deposit with balance due 10 days prior to arrival). Mkomazana.co.za</p>	<p>Hettie Randall</p> <p>hjrall01@gmail.com</p> <p>MEMBERS ONLY</p>
Sunday 16th June	Grade 3	<p><b>BLINKWATER TRAIL</b></p> <p>Come and enjoy an incredible walk through beautiful grass lands and Indigenous forest as we traverse the Blinkwater Mountain crossing hidden streams, a bit of scrambling and the coolness of the forest as we complete the 12km loop back to the Douglas Smith cottage near New Hanover town</p>	<p>Dusty Shaw</p> <p>dusty.shaw@gmail.com</p>

Saturday 22nd June	Grade 2	<p><b>HOWICK FOREST</b></p> <p>A 10km hike in the Howick Forest between Amber Ridge and The Old Mushroom farm. This is an enjoyable morning out with coffee at the Mushroom Farm.</p>	Lizette Gerber 079 978 2217
Sunday 23rd June	Grade 3 +/- 12 kms Climb 300m	<p><b>KAMBERG NATURE RESERVE – GLADSTONE’S NOSE</b> - Round hike up to the famous Gladstone Nose Rock outcrop. Lovely views of the high berg. Some rough and steep ground to cover, path may be obscured. Good possibility of snow, we will see closer the time. Cost R60.00 pp, or Golden Rhino or Wild Card, bring correct cash. Last booking Wednesday 19 June. Book by e mail ONLY. Please supply cell number when booking</p>	Dave Sclanders dave@bergfree.co.za
Sunday 30th June	Grade 4 6-7 hours	<p><b>MOUNT GILBOA</b></p> <p>Hike from Bushwillow Caravan Park in Karkloof, Howick, through pristine indigenous forest and then via the ridge to the top. You will touch the beacon at the highest point in the KZN Midlands Hiking poles highly recommended as there are some steep downhill sections. Will hike only if dry – too slippery when wet.</p>	Neville Lee 083 626 9983 Book by whatsapp R40 per person