

# MIDLANDS HIKING FIXTURES

## APRIL – JUNE 2024

### IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.
4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.
5. 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.
6. Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.
7. 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.
8. Further information on the [Rules and Regulations, for your safety, please click here.](#)

### GRADINGS OF HIKES

- ❖ FF Family friendly.
- ❖ PF Pet friendly.
- ❖ Grade 1 - Very easy. Minimal fitness required.
- ❖ Grade 2 - Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness.
- ❖ Grade 3 - Moderate. Physical fitness is advisable.
- ❖ Grade 4 - Strenuous. Physical fitness is essential.



DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADERS
Friday 12th April to Wednesday 17th April 2024	Grd 3 on all five days	GIANTS CUP TRAIL 5 DAY SLACKPACKING	Hettie Randall Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Saturday 20th April to Sunday 21st April 2024	Grd 1 for an 11 km night hike. Grd 2 for Sunday hike	<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 Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Saturday 27th April to Wednesday 1st May 2024	Offers Grds 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, a comfortable lounge and braai area are added attractions. Accommodation available for 24 in en-suite thatched rondavels @R600 pppn, en-suite A-frame huts @ R600 pppn, rustic thatch A-frame huts @ R500 pppn or mountain bungalow @R2600 for 6 people.	Brian Henwood Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 28th April 2024	Grd 3 14 to 16 kms	<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 Giraffes have recently been relocated to the reserve.	Keith Ashton Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>

<p>Sunday 5th May 2024</p>	<p>Grade 2 14 kms</p>	<p><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 Treatyery.</p>	<p>Peter Wedge Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Friday 3rd May to Sunday 5th May 2024</p>	<p>Grd 3</p>	<p><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) ground sheets and mattresses supplied, ablutions, braai facilities. All you need is a sleeping bag and food. R650 per person. We will be slackpacking at an additional cost of R80 per piece (cash on the day). It has been suggested that utility (ammo) boxes be used, in which 2 hikers could share a box. Saturday night catering will be shared between hikers. We have also been offered the knowledge of a local guide who will show us San Art, teach us about the local history, flora and the Maluti Mountains, at a charge of R50 per person. For further information go to <a href="http://www.Stfort.co.za">www.Stfort.co.za</a></p>	<p>Hettie Randall Contact: <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th May 2024</p>	<p>Grd 3</p>	<p><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: <a href="mailto:reservations@cathedralpeak.co.za">reservations@cathedralpeak.co.za</a></p>	<p>Luis Esteves Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Sunday 12th May</p>	<p>Grade 2</p>	<p><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</p>	<p>Rebecca Wakeford. Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>

		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.	
Saturday 18th to Sunday 19th May 2024	Grade 1+	<b>HIGHMOOR – AASVOEL KRANTZ CAVE</b> 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. Meet at Highmoor at 10 am – check gear and help to repack for new hikers as needed. Return back to the car park on Sunday via a different route (weather permitting) and should be back at vehicles by 10.30 am. Cost R100 per person (cash on the day). Limited to 12 people	Deon Small Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Saturday 18th May 2024	Grd 1 10 kms	<b>MICHAELHOUSE</b> Walk through the wilderness area at this beautifully placed school in the heart of the Midlands	Hettie Randall Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Tuesday 21st May 2024	Social	<b>MHC SOCIAL</b> The Orchard at St Johns. 7 pm Presentation by Connor and Janine. TOPIC: Rewilding Ferncliffe: how a local restoration project can tap into a global movement. Drinks and snacks will be served. Members only.	Members Only
Sunday 26th May 2024	Grd 3 10 kms return +/- 300 m climb	<b>MKOMAZI Nature Reserve – CYPRUS CAVE</b> Short steep to start, then rolling country, some off path sightseeing. Lunch at a lovely shaded pool. Return via a different path. Path may be badly overgrown. If brave, bring a costume. R60.00 pp entry. Please bring exact cash. Last booking Wednesday 22nd May. Book by e-mail ONLY. Please supply CELL number with booking	Dave Sclanders Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 2nd June 2024	Grd 4	<b>GREY MARES TAIL FALLS</b> Day hike to the top of the falls. Distance to the top 3.5km plus 500m to the top view point.	Deon Small Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>

		<p>Steep climb through the indigenous forest with 8 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>	<a href="#">com</a>
Saturday 8th June 2024	Grd 4	<p><b>TABLE MOUNTAIN</b> 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 will 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 will 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 Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>
Friday 14th to Monday 17th June Public Holiday on the 17th June 2024	Grd 3	<p><b>MKOMAZANA MOUNTAIN COTTAGES</b> The gateway to Sani Pass. There are 2 beds left, self catering, cozy and comfortable cottages, R1,600 per person for the weekend. R800 deposit, balance to be paid 10 days before arrival. 8kms from the border post, lunch at the highest pub in Africa, various hikes in and around the Mzimkulwana Nature Reserve from where the Giants Cup Trail is launched. Many hiking possibilities. <a href="http://www.Mkomazana.co.za">www.Mkomazana.co.za</a></p>	<p>Hettie Randall Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>
Sunday 16th June 2024	Grd 3	<p><b>BLINKWATER TRAIL</b> Come and enjoy an incredible walk through beautiful grasslands 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 12 km loop back to the Douglas Smith cottage</p>	<p>Dusty Shaw Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a></p>

		near New Hanover town.	
Saturday 22nd June 2024	Grd 2	<b>HOWICK FOREST</b> A 10 HOkm 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	Lizette Gerber Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 23rd June 2024	Grd 3 +/- 12 kms +/- 300 m climb	<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, the path may be obscured. Good possibility of snow, we will see closer to the time. Cost R60.00 pp (bring correct cash), or Golden Rhino or Wild Card. Last booking Wednesday 19 June. Book by e-mail ONLY. Please supply cell number when booking	Dave Sclanders Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
Sunday 30th June 2024	Grd 4 6 - 7 hours	<b>MOUNT GILBOA</b> 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 are highly recommended as there are some steep downhill sections. We will hike only if it is dry. Paths are too slippery when wet.	Neville Lee Contact <a href="mailto:midlandshikingclub@gmail.com">midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Midlands Hiking Club reserves the right to edit, change, cancel hikes depending on weather, terrain and leaders' advice.</b>			

ESTABLISHED 1993