

FIXTURES – OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

(FINAL EDITION 2 OCTOBER 2024)

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	LEADER
Saturday 5th October	Grade 4 elevation 500m	<p>BULWER MOUNTAIN The first of the Big 4 Challenge - Not to be missed.</p> <p>Meet in the Mountain Park Hotel car park at 8.30, departing 9 am. A slow climb to the rock paintings, then back to the main path for a steady climb to the summit. There will be regular stops to admire the view and drink water. We will spend some time on top before descending to the hotel along the hang glider route. The hotel has kindly offered competitive overnight rates at R1000 per couple or R1600 for 4 adults, including breakfast. Bring your own booze.</p>	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 6th October	Grade 1-2 10Km	<p>CURRY'S POST - GROUNDCOVER / OLD HALLIWELL</p> <p>Meeting at Groundcover at 7:00am on Curry's Post Road. From Groundcover, we'll walk 5km, past a dam and up a steep hill, from there drop back down to the Curry's Post Road. A short walk along the road to Old Halliwell, where there is another 5km walk, which includes a short section through the forest with an ascent up the hill along a farm road, with views of the surrounding valley. The walk back is along a farm road back to Old Halliwell where it ends. For most of the walk there is no shade, please bring hats and enough water. At Old Halliwell there is an option for tea/ coffee and scones – cost to be confirmed or for those that would like to, they have a restaurant for lunch.</p>	<p>MEMBERS ONLY</p> <p>Contact MHC for further details.</p>
Friday the 11th to Sunday the 13th October.	Grade 3 to 4 500 to 600 m ascent	<p>THE CRACK & MUDSLIDE WEEKEND</p> <p>Another attempt at the Crack and the Mudslide at Royal Natal National Park (RNNP). Rained out on previous attempts. Those that enjoy camping, Mahai is one of the best camp sites in SA and those that would prefer more comfort, Thendele, within RNNP or other accommodation outside of RNNP is an option. The distance is only 12 km but it will take 6 to 7 hours with a refreshing break at the top of iGudu falls at the best jacuzzi in the world. Arrive on Friday, hike on Sat and leave on Sunday after a short hike weather and legs permitting.</p> <p><u>Warning:</u> Lots of climbing up short wooden ladders and one chain assisted rock slope climb at the summit of the Mudslide!</p>	Contact MHC for further details.
Saturday 12th October	Grade 2-3 9 kms elevation 350m	<p>FERNCLIFFE NATURE RESERVE</p> <p>Situated at the top of Town Bush Road, PMB. A state owned reserve in the mist belt forest. Join us in this mystical place where secretive creatures dwell in the profusion of the indigenous plants that grow here. Please note there are some steep climbs, bring hiking poles. Meet outside Hedgehog, 585 Town Bush Road PMB at 07:00 AM. A donation of R50 per hiker towards rewilding of indigenous trees would be appreciated.</p>	Contact MHC for further details.

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Saturday 19th October	Grade 2+ 12-14kms	UMGENI VALLEY Lovely local area with several different trails to choose from.. Wildflowers, birds and wildlife as well as waterfalls and picnic lunch spots. We have not done this route for quite awhile, so I intend to include Indulo Camp and Cycad Camp. LAST BOOKING BY FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER AS WE ARE AWAY FROM MONDAY 14-18 OCTOBER	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 20th October		SWARTKOP The second of the Big 4 Challenge Start from Cedara College. Steady climb with a short sharp ascent to the top. 4-5 hours. Views back over to Midmar/Berg.	Contact MHC for further details.
Saturday 26th October	Grade 4 17kms elevation 500m	GIANTS CASTLE Hike up Bannerman trail - contour - down Langalibalele trail.	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 27th October	Grade 1-2	BISLEY NATURE RESERVE (Pietermaritzburg) Join us for approximately 10 km of fenceline checks and snare patrol. Whilst walking you can enjoy the sights of Giraffe, Wildebeest, Zebra, Nyala and Impala. Walk is fairly easy on good paths with some uphill. For those who wish, you can join together in the picnic site afterwards, bring your own afternoon sundowner and snack. Ablution facilities and benches are in the picnic area. No entry fee.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Saturday 2nd November	Grade 3 10kms	HILTON COLLEGE NATURE RESERVE This trail offers breathtaking views of Ottos Bluff and Albert Falls, featuring meandering paths through peaceful pine forests and enchanting acacia grasslands. The aloe-lined climbs will add sightings of antelope, zebra and giraffe, adding a touch of magic to the journey. Conservation Fee applies: R70 pp	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 3rd November	Grade 4 7 hours	MOUNT GILBOA The third of the Big 4 Challenge 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. The paths are too slippery when wet.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.

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Sunday 10th November	Grade 2+ PF	GIBA GORGE SKELETON TRAIL Join us with your adventurous spirit and experience the thrill of the magnificent Skeleton Trail, winding through the beautiful forest and up alongside the beautiful cascade. Studded with a few wooden ladders, there is one slightly challenging section. However, there is a rope to assist. Skeleton Trail, showing off with Cascades and the beautiful McIntosh waterfall, which never disappoints. Meet at 7.45 to leave at 08.00 at the top car park on the right at Giba Gorge Mountain Bike Park, 1 Ingweni Road, Westmead (Off Stockville Road). Cost R45 pp pay at the entrance gate.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Midweek 12-14th November	Grade 2	ZULU FALLS - MIDDELDRUS AREA Accommodation in chalets, but bring your own towels. Fully equipped kitchen, boma and braai area. Swimming pool, lovely walks and game in the reserve. Cost R300 pppn plus share of staff costs depending on number of participants. Booking by no later than 2 November.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 17th November	Grade 3 4 to 5 hours	NHLOSANE The fourth of the Big 4 Challenge Meet at 08:00 to start at Mt Park Guest Farm at 8:30 Initial steep climb to contour path, then onwards to the beacon for the 360 degree view. Option for refreshments at Mt Park after the hike. R60 pp for day visitors. Approximately 5 Km.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 24th November		YEAR END FUNCTION WITH PRIZE GIVING Join us for an afternoon of fun in the sun at our Year End bring and braai from 11am. Bring your own meat and a salad to share. We will supply fires, dessert, wine and a coffee station. We will be handing out awards for the best photograph of the year, as well as to the successful achievers who completed the BIG 4 CHALLENGE.	RSVP by 17th November MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Friday 29th, Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December	Grade 3 to 4	MOUNTAIN SPLENDOUR ECO RESORT, CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG We are hiking in the Central Drakensberg from Mountain Splendour, which offers beautiful mountain scenery, a swimming pool, quality ablution facilities with reasonable camping costs. Options are camping in your own tent or their permanent tents, caravanning, glamping or log cabins. Book directly at www.mountainsplendour.co.za , or email info@mountainsplendour.co.za . The hikes will be chosen on the day according to the	Contact MHC for further details.

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		weather conditions, but we hope to do a long hike, possibly to Blind Man's Corner (Grade 4), on Saturday and a morning hike on Sunday (Grade 3). We will get together for a braai on Friday and Saturday.	
Sunday 1st December	Grade 2 10kms	BEACONS FROM HILTON COLLEGE Beacons is a ramble through the top of Hilton College Estate. Whilst the trail parallels the jeep track that takes you directly to the famous Beacons lookout point, the single-track meander is far quainter, and offers more for curious eyes to feast on. Mostly under the thick of the forest, there are some grassland areas so remember to pack a hat. Along the way, there may be opportunities to say hello to giraffes in the distance, identify spoor and mingle with the Ngunis. There will be time for tea enroute before making our way back up to the school.	MEMBERS ONLY Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 8th December	Grade 2 PF	KARKLOOF FALLS Morning hike, from KCC to waterfall view. Approximately 10km. If it's hot we'll take a dip in the river. Option for cold refreshments (beer) etc at the Clubhouse afterwards. R30pp TBC	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 15th December	Grade 2 12-14 kms	OLD KILGOBBIN FARM, DARGLE Walk from the farmhouse through a beautiful indigenous forest up onto the grasslands. Walk along the stone wall boundary, past the stone ruin up to have lunch under the 150yr old oak tree. There is a dam where we can stop for a swim. We may be lucky enough to see the Samango monkeys. The cost is R50 per person.	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 22nd December	Grade 2 14 kms	HOWICK CONSERVANCY – SIMMONDS STREAM Day hike, includes Simmonds Stream and Beacon Hill with panoramic views over Howick, down to the river and then refreshments at the Treatery afterwards.	Contact MHC for further details.
Sunday 29th December	Grade 2 14 kms	CUMBERLAND NATURE RESERVE Hike from the picnic site along the top of the gorge up to the krantz. Have a tea break and admire the view. Hike back to the picnic site for lunch. After lunch, hike along the horseshoe trail. Wildlife to be seen. Cost approx R60 pp to be confirmed.	Contact MHC for further details.
Tuesday 31st December	Grade 2+ & for the not so fit	CARACAL CAVE NEW YEAR OVERNIGHT	Contact MHC for further details.

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	3	<p>Let's welcome in the New Year in style in the Berg, while staying over in Caracal Cave.</p> <p>Meet at Highmoor Camp at 9:00.</p> <p>Walk down to Caracal Cave via Fultons Rock and return via Windy Knoll.</p> <p>Please bring an extra water container for water as the water at Caracal Cave is not always reliable. Bring along all your goodies you would like to enjoy celebrating in the New Year in the mountains.</p> <p>Cost Approx. R100 pppn - TBC</p>	