

FIXTURES – JANUARY TO MARCH 2025

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
Tuesday 31st December - Wednesday 1st January	GRADE 2+ for the not so fit a 3	<p>CARACAL CAVE NEW YEAR OVERNIGHT</p> <p>Let's welcome in the New Year in style in the Berg, while staying over in Caracal Cave. Meet at Highmoor Camp at 9.00. Walk down to Caracal Cave via Fultons Rock and return via Windy Knoll. 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 the New Year in the mountains.</p> <p>Cost R110 per person.</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Deon Small</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Sunday 5th January	Grade 1	<p>MIDMAR DAM</p> <p>Meet at Blackhurst peninsula and enjoy a walk to the old cascades parking, back around past the powerboat club to DukuDuku. Bring some binoculars to hopefully see some bird species. We'll gather back at Blackhurst for a bring and share picnic, bring a plate of goodies to share, bring your own drinks/chairs/blanket.</p> <p>There is an entrance fee or Golden Rhino card.</p> <p>No dogs allowed.</p>	<p>Hike Leaders: Andrew and Megan Loots</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th January	Grade 1	<p>AASVOEL KRANTZ CAVE OVERNIGHT HIKE</p> <p>This is an easy overnight hiking trip of only 4,5km, and ideal for people wanting to start expanding their hiking experience to include a bit more.</p> <p>Sleeping in the cave is a new experience for most people and the pool below the cave is a pleasure to swim in.</p> <p>Cost R110 per person per night.</p> <p>Meeting at the main office at 9:00</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Deon Small</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Sunday 12th January	Grade 2 14 kms	<p>FOUNTAIN HILL ESTATE - REICHE TRAIL</p> <p>Day hike in the beautiful estate with views of the gorge and waterfall. There are buck and giraffe and a couple of dams. There are several trails - Nyala, Butterfly and Gorge walk. Route to be confirmed depending on the weather. The cost is R50 per person.</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Libby Deysel</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Tuesday 14th to Sunday 19th January	Grade 3	<p>Whale Trail 5 day-hike De Hoop Nature Reserve</p>	Fully Booked

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Sunday 19th January	Grade 2 10kms	SWARTKOP/CEDARA COLLEGE HIKE This hike is weather dependent. If the temperature is excessive we will do the alternative, gentler Cedara College farm.	Hike Leader: Alistair Nixon For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Sunday 26th January	Grade 2-3 12kms PF	TEKWANI FOREST - Dargle This hike consists of 2 loops. The first, (9km) runs downstream along the Umgeni River, then turns inland up a fairly steep incline away from the river, dropping down into the valley and back along the river to a wooden deck stretching into the river. Tea/breakfast quick swim spot. The return to the car park is partially along forestry roads. The second loop goes upstream along the banks of the Umgeni to a waterfall and a good swimming spot, then back along a forestry road to the car park (4km). There is an option to opt out of the hike after the first loop, because we return to the starting point before embarking on the second loop.	Hike Leaders: Nonhlanhla & Sthabiso For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Sunday 2nd February	Grade 2 10km	KARKLOOF PLANTATION HIKE Meander through the Karkloof Plantations, using the SAPPI roads and the Karkloof Cycle tracks. Start from the Clubhouse at 7.30am to be back by 12 noon. Cost is R80 for non members.	Hike Leader: Luis Esteves For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Saturday 8th February	Grade 2 8.5km	FERNCLIFFE NATURE RESERVE Meet at 7.30am, at the top of Town Bush Road (DV Harris water plant) Set off following the undulating track to the picnic site. The path then drops into indigenous forest following the Lemonwood Trail skirting around Sunset Rock, continuing along Bat Cave path, we will end at Boulder Dam to have a brunch break (interested in climbing Breakfast Rock?) Return to cars along the contour road.	Hike Leader: Graham Keit For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Saturday 15th February	Grade 2	BROADLEAZE FARM - Bellevue, Pietermaritzburg Guided walk. Distance is approximately 5km to 7km on mainly grassland, farm roads with some hills. Possibility of seeing zebra, nyala, kudu and reedbuck. Cost R50 pp.	Hike Leader: Beth Bester For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Tuesday 18th February Social		MHC SOCIAL - Orchard House, St Johns Village Speaker: Arthur Duncan World Renowned Veteran Cyclist 90 years young on 15th February!! will talk about a personal tragedy that radically changed his life forever going on to becoming a World Champion	MEMBERS ONLY. For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com RSVP by 16th February.

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		Cyclist in two disciplines, Road and Time Trial. Snacks and drinks will be served. 6.30 start.	
Saturday 22nd February	Grade 2	CUMBERLAND NATURE RESERVE Two very different hikes for the price of one! We will meet at the Impala picnic site at 07h00. Our first hike takes us through savanna grasslands, frequented by giraffes, zebras and kudu, to the meandering Umgeni river. We will follow the river, while hoping to spot the elusive crocodile. After a brunch back at the picnic site we will tackle the krantz on the other side of the game reserve to reach an amazing viewpoint. Cost is R70 pp	Hike Leader: Rob Melis For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Friday 28th February - Sunday 2nd March	Grade 2	LAKE ELAND GAME RESERVE - ORIBI GORGE. Inland from Port Shepstone. Hiking in the game reserve with awesome views of the gorge from the suspension bridge. Also a zipline for the 'adrenalin junkies'. Accommodation and restaurant at the top dam: 2 sleeper Chalets @ R1220 pn and 6 sleeper chalets @ R 2340 pn, or camping site @ R350 pn for 2, thereafter R100 pppn. Check out the website for more details.	Hike Leader: Brian Henwood For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Sunday 9th March	Grade 2	GWEN'S SPRUIT TRAIL: Hilton College An opportunity to relish in the splendour of the Umgeni at the base of the Hilton College Nature Reserve. This relatively easy trail starts at the Henley Lapa and follows the Impala link up through Rolling Stones with a steady climb to Pinnacles. From this point, are opportunities to visit all four Gwen's waterfalls, following Gwen's Spruit and the Fig Tree link back to the Lapa for a picnic and possibly a dip in the river. Conservation fee of R100 pp applies.	Hike Leaders: Janna and Robby de Gouveia For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com
Saturday 15th March	Grade 3	KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, KLOOF Meet at the picnic site off Kloof Falls Road at 8:30. Use Ezemvelo KZN Rhino card or pay R60 entrance fee. This is a 4hr/10km hike through indigenous forest and grassland. We climb gently along the Beacon Trail enjoying beautiful views of the Molweni Gorge, rock cliffs, waterfalls and the zebras. We then descend steeply along the Molweni Trail into the gorge and return to the picnic site along the river bank. All invited to a gathering at the leader's home where boerewors rolls will be provided. Bring drinks and a	Hike Leader: Brian Henwood For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com

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		small salad.	
Sunday 23 March	Grade 2	<p>MKHOMAZI - Cyprus Cave day hike - Lovely isolated reserve. First part, after crossing a stream, is a fairly steep climb until you reach a plateau for a while with lovely views. This is followed by a gradual descent to the cave which has a waterfall above it & a lovely pool to cool off. Cyprus cave is named after the grass which grows nearby.</p> <p>KZN Wildlife day entry fee R70 or use your Wildcard</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Keith Ashton</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd March	Grade 2 to 3	<p>MARBLE BATHS CAVE OVERNIGHT HIKE</p> <p>This is a moderate intensity hiking trip of 8,5km or about 4 hrs. The natural waterslide is ideal to swim in and to experience the beauty of the Drakensberg without too much effort. A moderate fitness level will make this trip a lot more enjoyable. We will sleep in Marble Baths Cave for the night.</p> <p>This trip is ideal for those wanting to join us on the Giants Cup and wanting to improve their fitness level.</p> <p>Cost R110 per person per night.</p> <p>Meeting at the Injisuthi Office at 8:00</p>	<p>Hik Leader Deon Small</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Saturday 22nd March	Grade 2	<p>Sundowner Night Walk - Karkloof Plantations</p> <p>An easy stroll starting at the Karkloof Club and meandering along the trails to enjoy a sundowner and picnic.</p> <p>This is not a hike for those who wish to stride out.</p> <p>Stroll back in the dark to enjoy the sounds of night and nature. If you have a UV torch bring it along and be surprised at what shines. I envisage to start around 4.00 pm and to finish around 8pm.</p> <p>Pet friendly - please ensure your dog stays on lead as there will be wild animal movement at that time.</p> <p>Children friendly - parents take full responsibility not to lose their kids. 🤪</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Ali Engelbrecht</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>
Sunday 30th March	Grade 3 7kms	<p>CUNNINGHAMS CASTLE - Minerva Nature Reserve, Byrne Valley, Richmond.</p> <p>Hike to the Beacon and picnic spot. Bring lunch, snacks and water (no water on this hike). Magnificent views of Byrne Valley and Conservancy. R25 pp (no ablutions)</p>	<p>Hike Leader: Renata Ruggeri</p> <p>For more information contact: midlandshikingclub@gmail.com</p>

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Friday 11th April - Wednesday 16th April		GIANTS CUP TRAIL - SLACKPACKING Hike is full but let me know if you are keen, I am happy to waitlist you in case of cancellations. hjrandall01@gmail.com	Hike Leader: Deon Small

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

BIG 5 - 2025 CHALLENGE (MAY TO NOVEMBER)

Bulwer Mountain 644m 9kms (*tentative date early August*)

Byrne Peak 224m 7kms (*tentative date 2/11*)

Mt Gilboa 920m 15kms (*tentative date 4/5*)

Nhlosane 489m 6kms (*tentative date June*)

Swartkop 532m 14kms (*tentative date September*)

ULTIMATE TRIO CHALLENGE

Cathedral Peak 1529m 17,7kms - May - Leader: Luis Esteves (time trial pre-qualifier on Mt Gilboa [Big 5 leg] before being accepted)

Rhino Peak 1270m 19,3kms - 15 June - Leader: Dusty Shaw

Langalibalele Pass to Carbineers Memorial 1337m 20,4kms - 5 July - Leader: Deon Small

BATTLEFIELDS 3 NIGHT MIDWEEK STAY (5-8 May)

Full day Anglo-Boer history tour of Spionkop and surrounding battlefields

Full day Anglo-Zulu history tour of Blood River/Isandlwana/Rorkes Drift

To be able to call in quotes, please indicate if interested in joining us via email hjrandall01@gmail.com