

# CUMBERLAND NATURE RESERVE



## HIKE DETAILS

**LEADER : ROB MELIS**

**22 FEB 2025**

**DISTANCE : 7KM**

**ELEVATION : 300M**

**HIKERS : 33**

**CONDITIONS : A HUMID**

**27 DEGREES**

A hike in the Cumberland Nature Reserve never seems to disappoint. After days of heavy rain, the savanna looked at its best.

The 33 eager hikers arrived at the picnic site at 7am and were welcomed by seven giraffes on the nearby hill. A group of impalas matched the good mood of the hikers as they frolicked through lush grassland interspersed with impressive paperbark acacia trees.



The hikers descended in two groups towards the Umgeni River. Armed with walking sticks, binoculars and cameras, determined to experience all that nature had to offer on this spectacular morning.

Our first stop was at the waterfall where a yellow billed kite awaited us in the nearby tree.



The Umgeni was in full flood and as we watched the cascading water, we had to think of the brave canoeists who were at that moment paddling the last leg of the Duzi marathon towards Durban. The two groups merged briefly for a short break at a viewpoint at the river where we tried unsuccessfully to find the elusive crocodile



Aubrey Offer, one of our newer members used his experience in photography to draw our attention to the many raptors watching us from the trees, the various flowers along the path, the large game as well as smaller animals such as the dung beetles and the rare kite spider.

The weather had warmed up in the meantime and the climb up to hill proved more challenging than the earlier easy downhill stroll.

However, on the way up we were greeted by a beautiful herd of Nguni cows and an Ankola bull, waiting eagerly to be photographed



Back at the waterfall our hiking stalwart Libby offered to take us on a detour to her favourite viewing point, overlooking the meandering Umgeni River.

After the brunch at the picnic site most hikers called it a day, but a small group of extreme hikers led by Vanessa and Libby decided now was the moment to scale the scenic Kranz.

