



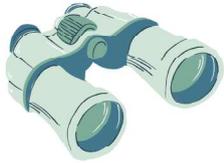
MKHOMAZI CYPRUS CAVE DAY HIKE SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

Mkhomazi is a remote KZN Wildlife reserve, about 85 km from Howick, the last 15 km being on gravel. (Care to be taken on the gravel).

Cyprus cave is ideal for first-time backpackers to sleep in the cave as it is less than 5km from the office & allows plenty of time to explore the beautiful area, the waterfalls & several pools for swimming. Today was a day hike to Cyprus cave & 13 members arrived at the office by 07h45 & after signing KZN Wildlife Indemnities etc. we made our way to cross the Nzinga River which is only about 500 metres from the office.

The Nzinga River although narrow at this point, & often can be crossed by boulder hopping, today it was boots off as the waters reached close to our knees. On a previous occasion, when we were to sleep in the cave it was nearly waist deep.

Then we were on our way to a steep 2km climb on a beautiful sunny morning with just a few wispy clouds. The track was overgrown but easy to see on the steep sections & keeping our eyes out for hidden snakes. No rush was needed & we appreciated the beautiful scenery as we climbed.



After the climb it was easy going along undulating ground (except for some of the track being completely overgrown), before our descent towards the cave area, looking down to the junction of two lovely streams & valleys beyond. Cyprus Cave looked very inviting as we approached it, with the Nzinga River strongly cascading over the top of the cave.

We had lunch at the cave as we viewed & listened to the roar of the Nzinga River gushing over. Then it was time for relaxation & swimming in the lovely pool below the cave or paddling in the river to cool us off. I asked if any members would like to join me to view the "Annex" which required crossing the river above the cave (boots off again or using water shoes or strops), then a short walk & a scramble down a very steep section to reach the "Annex" hidden under bushes.

We used to sleep in the Annex but now all the straw has either been washed or blown away & is not suitable for sleeping now unless you are prepared to cut grass. However, there is a lovely pool just below the Annex.

We returned to Cyprus Cave & our group prepared for the return hike back to the office & parking area as clouds started to gather. Very dark clouds had built up as we re-crossed the Nzinga River & headed back to our vehicles just as the rain started.

But we were a very happy group after an enjoyable hike & lovely swimming spots to cool off. Thanks to all our members for your participation & company & here's to the next hike.

