

TILLIETUDLEM NATURE RESERVE HIKE – Saturday, 14 June 2025

At 08:30, under a crisp but beautiful blue Winter's sky, 18 happy Hikers, under the leadership of Hettie Randall, strode out from the iconic main house of the Tillietudlem Nature Reserve, which is a 1 928-ha reserve situated in the Upper Dargle, three kilometres north of the Impendle Nature Reserve. The reserve serves to protect one of the most threatened eco-systems in Africa, the mountain mist-belt grasslands, and is a macro-ecological corridor and home to endemic and endangered species such as Blue Swallow, Wattled Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Blue Crane, Southern Ground Hornbill, Oribi and Midlands Dwarf Chameleon, to name a few.

We were privileged to spot a Fish Eagle scanning for breakfast over the stocked Trout Dam, whilst Wildebeest, Eland, and Nguni cattle grazed the grasslands. Anne Price's wish was granted when a skittish Oribi came scampering past us, at one point.



Photo credit: Sarah Allen



Photo credit: Tracy van Vugt

The Reserve employs anti-poaching rangers, who are on constant patrol against trespassers intending to poach some of the most endangered species in Africa. One of their rangers, Danny Raath, gallantly led us around the reserve. Due to trees having fallen over in the recent storm, an alternate route was taken, which saw us covering a total of 11.4 kms through grasslands. We did a little boulder hopping over a stream and negotiated some steep areas. Our youngest member, Maya, did incredibly well, considering that the bramble was as tall as she was, in places.



Photo credit: Miss Maja

Report from eyewitness account of Tracy van Vugt

The natural beauty of this hike is awe inspiring and not done justice by the few photos included in this report. You will just have to go see for yourselves!



Photo credit: Tracy van Vugt



Photo credit: Tanya Adey

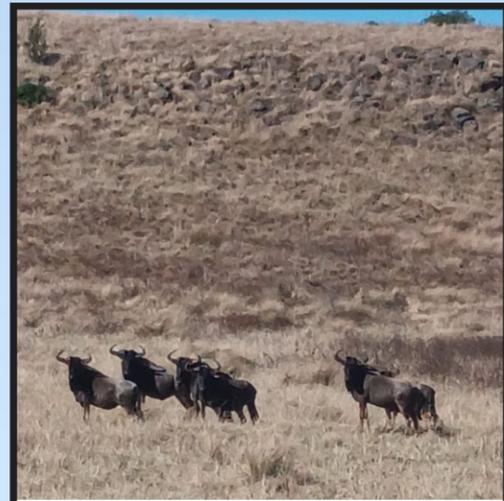


Photo credit: Johan Van Dyk



Photo credit: Rebecca Wakefield

After a very happy morning, well spent in the best of company, we were delighted to sit down on the sunny verandah of the Tillietudlem House, to a feast of cream scones, tangy Marmite muffins, tea and coffee, which came included in our hike fee of 50 ronts! Happiness all round and the reward for our endeavours thoroughly enjoyed. Until next time...



Photo credit: Tanya Adey

Report from eyewitness account of Tracy van Vugt