

# Rocky Bay and Umndoni hike - 16 & 17 August 2025

Leaders: Nonhlanhla and Sthabiso Chiliza

## Day 1: Rocky Bay - Park Rynie: Sea, Sand and Soul

Distance: 11km

Hikers: 21

Weather: Cloudy and cool

We decided to bring our Midlands Hiking Club members to the South Coast for them to enjoy our warm winter weather and the beach.

The Rocky Bay Resort offers self-catering log cabins, caravan and camping, MTB and running trails.



We welcomed our youngest member of the club, Michelle Jordaan on her first hike and it was heart-warming to see how she was embraced by all members during the hike.

We were also joined by three old club members (Lynda Bache, Eric Essenwein and Barry Stapleton) whom have relocated to the South Coast and it has been difficult for them to attend Midlands hikes on a regular basis.



Our hike started along the sugarcane fields and we enjoyed the sea views and cool breeze. Most of the sugarcane was recently harvested thus giving us better views of the area. We had our lunch just before experiencing the 2km stretch of the indigenous forest.

We had planned to go for a swim after the hike, but unfortunately it was extremely windy and some hikers had to set up their camping tents.

We are grateful that none of the tents were blown away by the wind.

## Day 2: Umndoni Park

Distance: 10km

Hikers: 18

Weather: Sunny and hot

Umndoni Park derives its name from the water-loving Umndoni trees that are scattered throughout the estate. The Umndoni Park Trust was set up in 1920 to maintain the golf course and for conservation, battling the never-ending invasive alien vegetation.

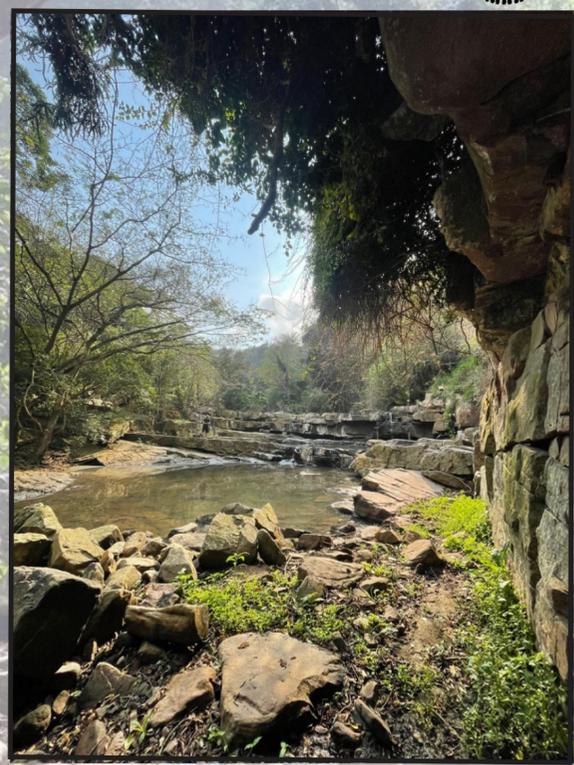


It was great adventurous hiking along the Umkhumbane river and through the beautiful forest. The paths were all cleaned and well sign-posted for the various routes.

Mary, the hike leader for the day, gave us a detailed history of the area and how the alien plants are invading the forest, pointing out the different invasive species.

Our first route took us to the Raptor's Flight where we viewed the Eagle's Nest and we were lucky to spot one or two raptors.

We had planned to do a 12km hike but due to the hot weather and difficult terrain, we settled for 10km. General Louis Both's house is located in the middle of the forest and is available for group bookings.



We rushed back to Umndoni Park restaurant for a well-deserved lunch and drink.

We would like to thank Steve for organising the Sunday hike and the enthusiastic hikers who made another memorable Midlands Hiking Club hiking day.