

Meander Hut, Giants Castle

Leader: Deon Small

Date: 13 to 14 September 2025

Distance: \pm 13 km

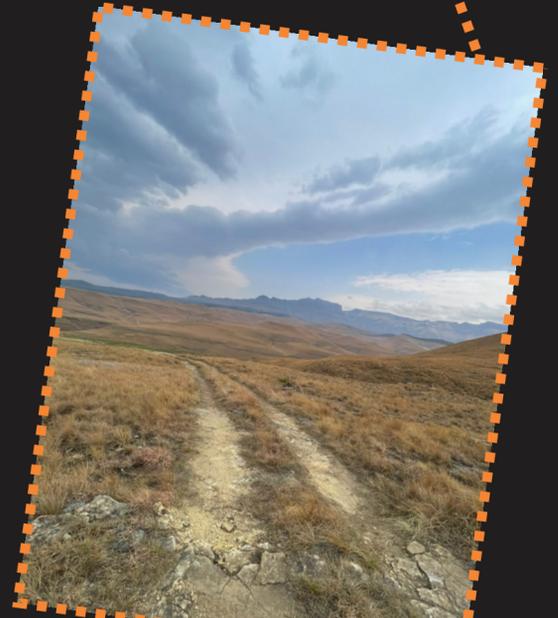
Weather: Partly cloudy and warm, return walk in misty cold conditions

Number of hikers: 8

Severity of hike: An easy to moderate walk to and from the hut

Report by: Deon Small

Meander Hut burned down a number of years ago and was restored into a "luxury" hut, this is now in terms of hiking huts. The hut has solar power, hot water, flushing toilets and even hot water showers. The hut sleeps 8 people with ease and the bunk beds are furnished with thick mattresses, the kitchen/living room has doors opening onto the front veranda, giving you one of the most amazing views over the Meander Stream and onwards to Giants Castle.



We all met at the Giants Castle camp, and due to some logistical issues, we had to split the group in two, the first group would walk to Meander Hut and once there, I would walk back to fetch the second group and walk them to the hut. The weather was warm and sunny with a slight breeze cooling things down, and making it a relatively easy walk. The plan was to walk up the jeep track to the hut and although there were a few steep sections, it made it easy to follow the route to the hut and the second team would be able to start the walk without getting lost even if the weather changed. The walk up to the hut is a mere 6,5 km with us following the original foot path to the hut. Once everyone was settled, I returned to fetch the second team, and found them right on the path up making it a short walk to the hut.



Once we were all settled in at the hut, a quick lunch was in order, but this turned into an extended lunch with cheese and biscuits coming out and a very extensive conversation developed on various topics. The weather looked very gloomy outside with a huge storm brewing over the high berg. The wind picked up and it looked like we were in for a bit of a lightning display, unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, the storm moved past us and we had only a few drops here and there. This unfortunately did hamper the plan to go and explore and look for the lost cave with paintings in it, however this meant that we will have to come back for another trip.

Rooms were allocated, girls one side, boys the other, and once everyone was settled in, we all had a cold shower. Unfortunately, the hot water system is solar power and due to the partly to cloudy conditions, we did not have any hot water, however a cold shower can also be very refreshing after a long day's hike.



We were hoping for a spectacular Drakensberg sunrise, unfortunately we woke up in cold misty conditions, a cold to freezing wind blowing. It rained a bit during the night but for now it was dry and we hoped it would stay like this. The return walk was to follow the spur up to the trig beacon and from there on to the Berg View route and back to camp – this route is also about 6,5 km and on a good day with ideal weather, it will give you some of the best views in the Drakensberg. We had some rain and freezing winds; however, we took it in our stride, and soon we walked down the last downhill and onwards to the main camp. I signed us out and some of us took the opportunity to enjoy a hot cup of coffee and Milo. Unfortunately the other part of our group still had a long way to travel home and could not join us.

It was a delightful weekend break away and I know that this will soon become a permanent fixture on our fixture list.