

MKOMAZANA MOUNTAIN COTTAGES

Southern Drakensberg: uKhahlamba

Drakensberg Park

Dates: 22-24 August

Number of Hikers: 11

Leader: Hettie Randall

Report by: Dawn Norton

What a fun filled weekend exploring the breathtaking Sani Valley from the picture perfect Mkomazana Cottages. We laughed, we climbed, we walked, sometimes in perfect quietness and others with the normal banter. We enjoyed the most amazing scones freshly baked each morning and delivered to our cottages and cold Maluti beer at the end of the hike each day.



Day 1:

We hiked the salt and pepper trail in the UKhahlamba Mountains (the barrier of Spears) also known as The Dragon Mountain. It was a steady climb in fairly hectic winds and then along the ridge but the 11 determined hikers were not disappointed with spectacular views of both valleys and our very own version of the balancing rocks.



We continued down the valley to Sani Back Packer lodge where we enjoyed a well earned cold Maluti beer and then transported back to the Lodge by Betty in her Bakkie. A fun filled day for sure.

Distance : 12,1km

Elevation: 540m



Day 2:

We hiked the Gxalingenwa trail which followed the Emerald Stream, past indigenous forest to a spectacular pools suitable for swimming in summer. There were no takers this hike.

After a quick lunch we continued through Gxalingenwa cave and then along Stromness before arriving at the Sani Backpackers lodge for lunch arranged by our awesome leader Hettie.

Distance : 11,5km

Elevation: 392m



After lunch we said goodbye to five of our hikers and headed back to the lodge for a well-earned rest before tucking into home-made toasties supplied by Hettie. All in all a fantastic weekend where memories were made and hiking stories told.