

# Sunset Rock Hike - Ferncliffe Reserve

With the temperature predicted to be in the mid 30s an early start to our hike made sense. So at just after 7.30am 9 of us (Angela, Charmaine Thenjiwe, Beth, Lawrence, Cynthia, Rob, Dale and Graham), with our water bottles filled to the brim and our hearts loaded with enthusiasm set off on our 8km "Sunset Rock "hike in the Ferncliffe forest.

After about 30mins we took a break at "Maiden Fern" water fall. Nestled in a little valley, with the coolness and the tinkel of water running down a 4 meter rock it was a good resting spot, before tackling some hefty climbs which led us to the main contour road.

A short walk along this road brought us back into the indigenous forest where we made our way along the "Lower Bat cave" path eventually ending up at the base of "Sunset Rock " where 4 brave souls scrambled up to enjoy some lovely views of Pietermaritzburg. It was then a bushwack along a little used path to the picturesque and inviting "Lemonwood Falls " This was fairly close to the main picnic site where we had a break for lunch.

It was now time to start our homeward trek. Passing "Boulder Dam" and following the bicycle track down through the gum plantation we found ourselves at the base of the "Bamboo Forest " This was our last and interesting challenge before returning back to the spot where we had started our hike some 5 hours previously.

Thank you all for making it such an enjoyable occasion

