



Breakfast Rock Challenge - Ferncliffe 8 November 2025

Report by:
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The brief was simple.

A 10km hike elevation gain of about 600m with some challenging, technical and slippery sections.

The execution!! Well let's just say we all returned safely.

The weather was great. The mood positive with a hint of trepidation. The challenge was on!

Our first stop after about 20 minutes was at the lovely Maidenfern waterfall.

From here we entered the indigenous forest of Ferncliffe.

Another 30 minutes saw us cross the forest contour road as we negotiated our way up the slippery slopes before emerging at the highest point of the walk.

Here we were rewarded with lovely views across Hilton, the iNhlosane and further into the Midlands.

It was now time to head through the interesting "Sunbird Spring Valley" pausing at a little river where we had a refreshment stop.

Well rested, it was now up through the "Forgotten trail" to the top of the escarpment once again.

Without stopping, we made our way down through an unmarked area of trees and shrubs to emerge at a spot just above "Breakfast Rock."

The challenge here was a beehive and a 2.5m drop all within close proximity and both of which had to be dealt with.

The next challenge was how to coax a very "grey looking" Kalina through these obstacles.

Fortunately we had a length of rope to assist.

So with a lot of coaxing, encouraging and positive reinforcement we were able to get Kalina safely down. Whew!

Breakfast Rock with a panoramic view over Pietermaritzburg, Table Mountain and beyond was a good lunch spot and thanks to the Ramblers we were able to make use of a stone bench constructed in 1992.

So lunch done, we headed down the valley through the gum plantations to the base of the bamboo forest.

After the cacophony of bird calls, frog croaks and other interesting indigenous forest noises, the bamboo forest had an eerie quietness about it.

Having completed our walk through the bamboo we only had another 500m back to our starting point.

So here we were, 6.5 hours later. having hiked 11.5km, ascended 622m, negotiated some tricky ups and downs, we were able to say: WE DID IT!

Well done team!

