

# Lower Tekwani Hike, Normandien Farms, Dargle

Leader: Iain

Date: 28 February 2026

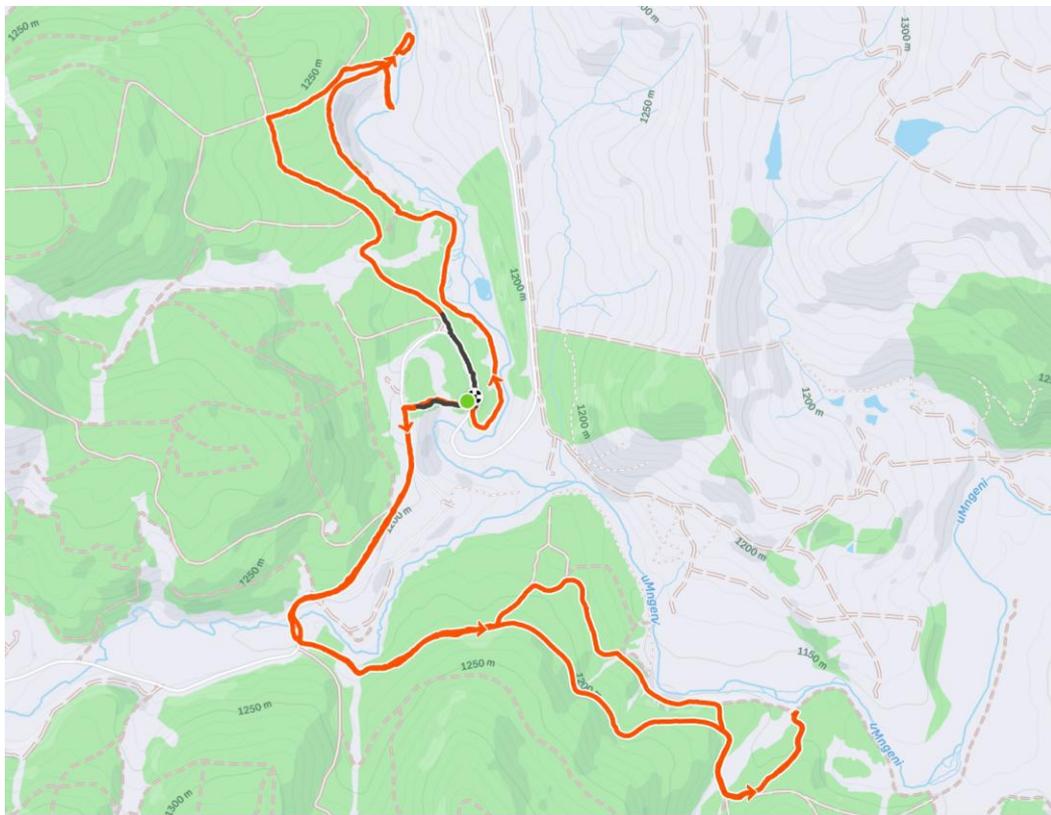
Distance: 13,3 km, Ascent 335m

Weather: Sunny with a light breeze (Max. Temp 29 degr C)

Number of hikers: 17

Severity of hike: A moderate to easy hike along the course of the Umgeni River, mainly on forestry access roads through pine plantations.

The route:



Report by: Iain

The trail starts under a canopy of well established pine trees. All hikers had arrived by 07H10 so that we could make an early start as temperatures were expected to peak at 31° C after midday. Conditions were cool as we headed up a steep single track which really got the blood flowing. After that the going was easy following the river downstream. We couldn't access the deck at the river because the holiday home, located there, was occupied so we had to satisfy ourselves with a breakfast break in the shade of the pine trees, overlooking the river.



View of deck and river



Breakfast in the shade of the pines



Walking back to the start



Group photo taken from low level bridge on first loop



Low level bridge

After that it was all the way back to the start to complete the first loop of 8.2km. Here we stopped for a bite to eat in the shade of the tall pine trees.



Back to the start on the single track



Brunch break under the pines

Thereafter it was heading upstream to the highlight of our expedition to cool down in the cold waters of the Umgeni River. We had a relaxing time at the river after a slight detour through head-high grasses next to the river.



Heading upstream towards the waterfall





Most of us took the opportunity to cool down in the river before heading back

The route back to the start was mainly in shade and the slight breeze helped to keep us cool.



A short rest break on the way back above the waterfall

Candice took some awe-inspiring pics of fauna and flora along the way:





Photo credits: Candice, Este, Alan and Iain