

FIXTURES – APRIL TO JUNE 2026

NOTES ABOUT HIKING

1. Hikes are graded so that members can select the activity best suited to their own level of fitness and do not cause unreasonable delay to fellow hikers.
2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate. If you need to cancel, please contact the leader as soon as possible. Numbers are often limited and there may be a waiting list.
3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.
4. If accommodation bookings are required, please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.
5. Leaders have the prerogative to exclude a member if they doubt their health condition, physical fitness or suitability of their hiking gear for a particular activity.
6. Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.
7. Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times. We encourage all hikers to attach their membership badges to their backpacks with these details available.
8. Further information on the Rules and Regulations, for your safety, [please click here.](#)

GRADINGS OF HIKES

- ❖ FF Family friendly.
- ❖ PF Pet friendly.
- ❖ Easy - A short, flattish walk 3-8kms.
- ❖ Moderate - 8-15km hike without big and steep inclines. Physical fitness advisable.
- ❖ Difficult - 8-25kms, a **few** big and/or steep inclines and possibly some moderate rock scrambling and/or rocky paths and/or no paths and/or tricky river crossings. Physical fitness essential
- ❖ Very difficult - more than 8kms with **many** extremes. Physical fitness absolutely essential.

Exposure Scale:

- ❖ None - no exposure.
- ❖ Mild - mild exposure: the path is on steep ground or near the edge of small cliffs. Those with a fear of heights will feel uncomfortable.
- ❖ High - High exposure - the path is on very steep ground, or near the edge of high cliffs. Those with a fear of heights should not attempt this.

MIDLANDS

HIKING CLUB

DATE	LEADER	EVENT DESCRIPTION	NOTES
Saturday 4th April	Lizette	WYNNIFREDS FARM TRAIL - TALA VALLEY Ingomankulu Rd, Tala Valley This well marked trail takes us over 2 hills with lovely views of the valley below. The hike will be about 3 ½ hours. An enjoyable morning in the beautiful Tala Valley. There are 2 shorter routes as well. The coffee shop has great coffee, cake or lunch afterwards. Meet at the venue.	Grading: moderate Exposure Scale: Mild Distance: 9km Cost: min R20pp Donation Click here to join
Saturday 11th April	Rob	EMANZINI NATURE RESERVE. New hike Join us for a walk amongst wildlife, along the shores of Albert Falls. The reserve is approximately 12 km out of Pietermaritzburg on the Otto's Bluff Road.	Grading: Moderate Exposure Scale: None Distance: 12 km Cost: R60 Click here to join
Sunday 12th April	Charmaine & Kim	MQEKU RIVER PICNIC SITE, 1000 HILLS Another new venue! A shady, serviced river site, opened and maintained by the Green Corridor Initiative. A short hike which includes river crossings (sticks advisable) ending with a picnic and tubing on the rapids. High clearance vehicles advised.	Grading: Easy Exposure Scale: On Trail, None Distance: 7kms Cost: R80 Click here to join
Saturday 18th April	Andrew & Megan	BISLEY NATURE RESERVE This is a pleasant walk on the wild side in the center of Pmb, from the top of the reservoir to ambling amongst giraffes, wildebeest, nyala, zebra and impala. A gentle interlude with nature! Parking at Canterbury	Grading: Easy Exposure Scale: None Distance: 8km Cost: Free Click here to join
Sunday 19th April	Neville	MOUNT GILBOA - 1ST OF 2026 BIG 4 CHALLENGE Start from Shawswood in Karkloof Road and hike through pristine indigenous forest to the top of Gray Mare's Tail Falls for tea. Then straight up to the top of Mount Gilboa. Have lunch at the top then down the same way. This is the original, more direct route.	Grading: Difficult (Grade 4) Exposure Scale: Mild Distance: 8 hours 950 m ascent Cost: R 65 pp Click here to join

Saturday 25th April	Iain	<p>Western Route to Firetower (from Protea Gardens, Howick)</p> <p>Follow various mountain bike trails through the plantation forests to the firetower and on to the dams below for a picnic. Return via a different route</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: 15km</p> <p>Cost: R35 for pensioners(Over 65) & R55 for others Click here to join</p>
Monday 27th April (public hol)	Libby	<p>KILGOBBIN</p> <p>Walk through an indigenous forest and some grasslands. Lovely views over the valley. Weather permitting, maybe a dip in the dam. Route to be decided depending on access to grasslands due to FMD.</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: 12 km</p> <p>Cost: TBA Click here to join</p>
Sunday 3rd May	Janna	<p>TWIN FALLS FARM - KARKLOOF</p> <p>Join us for a scenic hike from the stunning 'Braco', 14 acres of prime gardens, through this mist-belt grassland and forest biome. Surrounded by rolling green hills, wild natural bush, indigenous fauna and flora to the two twin falls deep in the forest.</p>	<p>Grading: Easy to Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: 8.5km</p> <p>Cost: R75 Click here to join</p>
Friday 1st to Monday 4th May	Hettie	<p>DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAIN RETREAT - OLIVIERSHOEK</p> <p>An opportunity to share the breathtaking views from this rooftop Pass overlooking the Free State and Natal in all their beauty, following trails that are steeped in history. There is something for all levels in the luxury of The Barn, a communal facility where we can enjoy each other's company while sharing this unforgettable experience!</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: Varied</p> <p>Cost: R500pppn</p>
Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May	Hettie	<p>MOUNT PERAZIM HIKING TRAIL, ST FORT FARM, CLARENS</p> <p>2 day slackpack, circular route. Overnight Friday at base camp, Saturday hike up to the cave (9km). Groundsheets and mattresses supplied, ablutions, braai facilities - all you need is a sleeping bag and food. Sunday walk out with the option of hiking to Mushroom Rock. Breathtaking views of the Malutis. Not to be missed! Stfort.co.za - hiking</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Minimal</p> <p>Distance: +/- 18kms round trip</p> <p>Cost: R750 + R200 slackpacking fee Click here to join</p>

Saturday 9th May	Nonhlanhla & Sthabiso	<p>KENNETH STAINBANK NATURE RESERVE, YELLOWWOOD PARK</p> <p>We will hike through the gorgeous grasslands and yellowwood tree coastal forests. A chance to spot zebras, bushbuck, mongoose and birds and the ruins of Coedmore Castle.</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: mild</p> <p>Distance: 13km</p> <p>Cost: R60</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
Sunday 10th May	Renata	<p>MINERVA HEIGHTS, Byrne Valley</p> <p>A challenging but spectacular hike through the natural forest at Enon Forestry. A steep climb from the carpark up onto the krantz above.</p> <p>Beautiful views</p>	<p>Grading: Very Difficult</p> <p>Exposure Scale: High</p> <p>Distance: 10kms</p> <p>Cost: R25</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
Sunday 17th May	Ali	<p>NHLOSANE - 2ND OF 2026 BIG 4 CHALLENGE</p> <p>A great trail which starts and ends at Mount Park Guest Farm who charge a small fee to be paid on arrival. Natural forests with rivers and little waterfalls open up to grasslands with beautiful wildflowers. Great views over the entire Dargle Valley on a clear day. You can drink water from the rivers. A lot is under the canopy of the lush forest until you start heading for the summit. It's worth the heavy breathing, sore thighs and knees for the views from the top.</p>	<p>Grading: Difficult with sections of very steep inclines. Physical fitness absolutely essential.</p> <p>Exposure Scale: High</p> <p>Distance: approx 6 kms (route dependant)</p> <p>Cost: TBA</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
Saturday 23 to 24 May	Deon Small	<p>MAHAI CAMPING WEEKEND - RNNP</p> <p>Camping Weekend, Saturday and Sunday (possibly Friday). Meet at RNNP Main Office at 8:00am Please make own bookings with QEP Sat - day walk to Tugela Gorge and Tunnel - 14 km total. Sun - Walk to Tiger Falls - 11 km total. MEMBERS ONLY</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Nil</p> <p>Distance: 14 & 11 km</p> <p>Cost: R180 pppn</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
Sunday 24th May	Hettie Randall	<p>TWEEFONTEIN FARM, RIETVLEI</p> <p>A walk through a nature conservation project which is home to a diverse biome with its associated attraction to birdlife and their introduction to several antelope species wandering through the grasslands and forest areas. The farm boasts magnificent views across the Midlands.</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: approx 10 km</p> <p>Cost: Free</p> <p>Click here to join</p>

<p>Saturday 30th May</p>	<p>Graham Keit</p>	<p>KRANTZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, KLOOF</p> <p>Meet in the carpark off Kloof Falls Road at 8:30. This is a 4hr/10km hike through indigenous forest and grassland. Along the Beacon Trail we have views of the Molweni Gorge, rock cliffs and waterfalls. We switch to the Molweni Trail and descend into the gorge, returning to the carpark along the river bank, with a steep climb out at the end.</p>	<p>Grading: Difficult</p> <p>Exposure Scale: High Elevation Gain: 600m</p> <p>Distance: 11 km</p> <p>Cost:</p>
<p>Saturday 30th May</p>	<p>Graham Keit</p>	<p>Ferncliffe Nature Reserve</p> <p>Our hike will start at the Ferncliffe Nature Reserve picnic site. Dating back to the eighteen eighty's the area has an interesting history where it was used to mine sandstone, much of what was used for construction of buildings in Pietermaritzburg. The hike about six kilometers will traverse indigenous forests and gum plantations. We will have a good view of Pietermaritzburg from Sunset Rock and an interesting scramble to Bat Cave. After descending down the "Forgotten Trail " we will make our way back along the forest road. I would pitch the hike at a level 3. Quite within the reach of moderately fit persons. For those who feel that they have not been "Streched" enough we can do an extra two kms taking us to the top of the escarpment and favoring us with good views over Hilton and the "Midlands"</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild Elevation Gain:</p> <p>Distance: 6- 8 kms</p> <p>Cost: R50 Donation</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
<p>Sunday 31st May</p>	<p>Carol</p>	<p>KWAWULA GAME ESTATE, Karkloof</p> <p>A lovely tour of this estate, along paths in an undulating grassland and indigenous forest landscape, with the added attraction of seeing a wide range of antelope. We will have lunch at a lovely tranquil campsite</p> <p>Limited to 12 hikers as this is a private Estate</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: 8km</p> <p>Click here to join</p>

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<p>Saturday 6th to 7th June</p>	<p>Deon</p>	<p>Christmas in June - MEANDER HUT</p> <p>Why wait for Christmas?</p> <p>Join me on this winter hike to Meander Hut, a moderate walk in with a scenic walk back to the camp. Bunk beds in shared rooms, toilets and even showers.</p> <p>Please note that this will be a semi - slack packing trip - our bags will be driven up (cost approx R150 per person - to confirm) and we need to only carry our bags back.</p> <p>A waiting list will apply for extra bookings.</p> <p>Limited to 8 people - Club members only</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Nil</p> <p>Distance: 13.2km Total</p> <p>Cost: 150pppn</p> <p>Contact: Deon</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
<p>Sunday 7th June</p>	<p>Dusty</p>	<p>CYPRUS CAVE - MKHOMAZI day hike -</p> <p>Lovely isolated reserve. First part, after crossing a stream, is a fairly steep climb until you reach a plateau for a while with lovely views.</p> <p>This is followed by a gradual descent to the cave which has a waterfall above it & a lovely pool to cool off. Cyprus cave is named after the grass which grows nearby</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: 10kms</p> <p>Cost: R80</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
<p>Sunday 14th June</p>	<p>Libby</p>	<p>FOUNTAINHILL ESTATE - REICHE TRAIL</p> <p>Day hike in the nature reserve with game viewing, bird watching and a view of the falls from the bottom. Walk along the top of the gorge with lovely views towards Albert Falls dam.</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: 12/14 kms</p> <p>COST: TBA</p> <p>Click here to join</p>
<p>Saturday 13th to Tuesday 16th June</p>	<p>Janna</p>	<p>MTENTU AMBLE - 3 nights/4 days on the Wild Side!</p> <p>Toss the winter blues for the ocean blues - waves lapping serenely, the soft sands and exquisitely mined rock shelves along this volatile coastline. Evidence of shipwrecks and broken trees strewn along its length tell a story of violent storms through summer. We are hosted at local homestays, full catering with a chance to be absorbed into the local community by a share at the local shebeen!</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: 45 kms</p> <p>Cost: R4700pp+R200pp - slackpacking fee</p> <p>Click here to join</p>

Saturday 20th June	Iain	<p>More Karkloof Country Club trails</p> <p>Following the 21km trail running route and then branching off on various trails that not many people cover on foot.</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: 12 to 14km</p> <p>Cost: R35 for pensioners (Over 65) & R55 for others Click here to join</p>
Sunday 21st June	Beth	<p>ROMAN BATHS, KAMBERG</p> <p>We follow an old road to the river with a huge pool and some smaller splash pools, bring your swimgear, hats and sunscreen. No shade along the way.</p> <p>An easy walk in this beautiful valley in the shadow of the majestic Giant.</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild on climb down to the pools</p> <p>Distance: 10km</p> <p>Cost: R80pp Click here to join</p>
Saturday 27th June	Dusty	<p>BLINKWATER TRAIL</p> <p>An adventure all wrapped up in one amazing outing. Walk through indigenous forest, highveld grasslands and Eucalyptus plantation. Crossing bubbling streams underground as you walk under the arch. Meet at New Hanover 7:30 travel to Douglas Smith cottage start Hiking 8:30</p>	<p>Grading: Moderate</p> <p>Exposure Scale: Mild</p> <p>Distance: 12k</p> <p>Cost: R60pp Click here to join</p>
Sunday 28th June	Carolee	<p>LEMONWOOD FOREST, DARGLE</p> <p>A morning hike with a fairly steep ascent through the magical forest, with tea break at the top to enjoy 360 degree views of the Dargle Valley. Meet at Greendale Spar upper parking lot to carpool. Capped at 20 hikers.</p>	<p>Grading: Easy</p> <p>Exposure Scale: None</p> <p>Distance: 6kms</p> <p>Cost approx R50pp Click here to join</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

BIG 4 CHALLENGE 2026

23 August - Bulwer Mountain

06 September - Swartkop

3 - 6 August 2026 - Base Camp Wilderness Trail - Umfolozi Nature Reserve (limited to 8) - full

7 - 10 August 2026 - Umlalazi Nature Reserve - Mtunzini [Click here to join](#)

9 - 14 September 2026 - Whale Trail - full - waitlisting applies

25-29 October 2026 - Sungazer Pilgrimage Camino - Dirty Harry Route - total distance 43kms.
Leader Carolee Thompson [Click here to join](#) . Cost R6385.50pp + R2970/group for slackpacking.
Deposit: R2000 payable on registration R1192.75 payable end May with balance payable by 28 September. Limited to 10 hikers.

31st Dec 2026 to 2nd Jan 2027 - Meander Hut - New Years Hike - this will be a semi-slack packing trip to welcome the New Year in and an extra day in the mountain to recover. Limited to 8 hikers (book with Deon [Click here to join](#) - an accommodation commitment required).

10-14 May 2027 - Fish River Canyon, hike is full - waitlisting applies. [Click here to join](#)

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