



Libby Deyzel



FOUNTAIN HILL ESTATE HIKING ON 14 JUNE 2026



Libby Deysel was leading the hike again with initially only 5 people but by close of play we had 9 as follows:

Libby Deysel – Leader
Kate Brown
Carolee Thompson
Este Blundell
Nelly Melis
Susan van Malsen Rob
Melis
Alan Blundell
Peter Wedge



The day started looking a bit grey and cool but by the time we all arrived at Fountain Hill, about an hour from Howick off the Wartburg Road – the weather had improved with the promise of a warm to fairly hot morning.

We started the hike at 09h00 and took the Gorge trail. Initially we walked for probably 3 or 4 kms or so before turning into the gorge itself. On the way we saw a small group of nyala – looked like mother and several foals and also a herd of wildebeest – they always look curious until they bound away as you get closer.

The walk in the gorge valley, until you get to the waterfall, is quite shady with the temperature approaching 25°C (probably) and the descent into the narrow valley is a bit treacherous with loose rock which is a bit hard on the feet. Peter having some difficulty here but also suffering slight withdrawal symptoms from Comrades Day.

Arrival at the waterfall around 10h30 with a short tea/coffee break. The waterfall at this time of year is more like a wares tail. Similar to the waterfall at Mt Gilboa. The fall is probably 40m or so and the narrow valley must have been formed from successive flooding over millennia.

We walked back along the route following the stream and then up to the escarpment with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

Albert Falls on the horizon – somewhere! We had a lunch break at an overnight cottage near the top of the escarpment – didn't look as if it had been used recently but in fair condition. A weekend break staying overnight in the cottage worth consideration.

The view into the gorge from the escarpment is dramatic – probably 150/200m below.

A fairly easy walk to the gravel road – about 3kms but again quite rocky in places – we saw several giraffes on this return to the start.





The gravel road is welcome for walking after the rocky and uneven trail but the cars, probably 2kms away never seem to get closer!

We were back at the starting point at 14h00 with about 12kms in total.

Fountain Hill Estate and trails is really a hardy annual and should remain atleast an annual event in the hiking calendar. Well led by Libby who has made this her hike. A great day with good company.

PGW

