

UMDONI PARK HIKE

Sunday, 18 October 2026 Led by Sthabiso and Nonhlanhla

Hike report Felicity Elliot

A lovely morning in the forest

A beautiful sunny morning brought 15 hikers together at Umdoni Golf Course for a walk through the wonderful Umdoni indigenous coastal forest. Situated in Pennington on KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast, this protected 200-hectare forest surrounds Umdoni Park Golf Club and offers a peaceful escape into nature.



Photo credits Sthabiso, Felicity Elliot, Pat Jennings

Following the Mkhumbane River

We set off along the Mkhumbane River trail, making our way towards the waterfall and across and up the gorge path. From there, we enjoyed a view of the Crown Eagle nest before continuing to the top of the ridge and returning along the Raptor Flight Path.

After a welcome pause at the Mkhumbane viewpoint, we headed up along the river towards the dam wall. We crossed the river and followed the bank for a while before turning uphill through the forest. The final climb up the stairs certainly gave everyone a good workout!

Birdlife, shade and small discoveries

The forest was wonderfully cool beneath the trees—just right for a warm day. In the early morning, birdsong filled the forest, and we were treated to lovely views of both pied and giant kingfishers along the river.

There was plenty to notice along the way, from the rocky river scenery and leafy forest canopy to colourful millipedes and delicate wildflowers. It was a lovely reminder that the small details can be just as rewarding as the big views.



We started our hike at 8:00 am and wrapped up at midday, having enjoyed a refreshing morning of forest trails, river views, birdlife and good company. Thank you to Sthabiso and Nonhlanhla for leading the hike, and to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable outing.

Until the next adventure — happy hiking!