

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY TO MARCH 2015 (REVISED 2015.03.16)

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
Dec/Jan Wed 31-Fri 2	CAVE	2-3	12 -15 km each day	HIGHMOOR. Your chance to celebrate New Year's Eve (& New Year's Day) in Aasvoelkrans Cave with Keith and Margaret for their 10th time at New Year. Short backpacking hike to the cave, then explorations of the area from the cave. Lovely waterfall and pool - bring swimming gear and all your goodies to celebrate in style.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R55 pppn incl entry & levy Total R110 pp
January Sat 10-Sun 11	CAVE	3	14-16 km each day	PHOLELA CAVE - overnight at Pholela cave in the Cobham area, 14 km from parking. Return 16 km via Lakes Cave, Whaleback ridge, Siphongweni Rock & Shelter National Monument. Meet at Himeville Hotel at 08h00 or Cobham at 8h30. Combined MBC, Ramblers and MHC hike.	David Tighe 031 464 9247 076 028 0708	R65 pp for one night in cave
January Sat 24	DAY HIKE	2	3-4km	DWARFS DAWDLE, UMGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE - Easy walk but with a ladder to climb. Will meet at 8am. Hikers to rspv to Katy at least one day before.	Katy Hart katyemma.hart@gmail.com 0782659260	R25pp
February Sun 1	DAY HIKE	2+	15km	HOWICK MEANDER. Local day hike. Symmonds Stream Conservancy along the Umgeni River to Howick Falls. Option to the bottom of the falls. Several local eateries for food & drinks at the end of the hike. Note the distance and grade. Combined hike with MBC. Last bookings by Wed 28 Jan.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R20 pp for the conservancies
February Sun 8	DAY HIKE	2+	8 km	BUFFELSBOSCH - "Jewel of the Midlands" - The first 20 mins is uphill, then easy hiking along the plateau dividing the Littegon/Dargyle grassland and indigenous forest. Private property with no-one to be seen. Limited to first five.	John Fourie 074 370 8189 john4ie@gmail.com	
February Sat 7-Sun 8	CAVE	3	12-14 km each day	KAMBERG - Sinclairs Cave. Reasonably easy first time hikers. Return by different route. Cave sleeps 8, thereafter late bookers must bring tents. Great views of Central berg. Last booking MONDAY 2 February. Booking by email only.	Dave Sclanders dave@bergfree.co.za email only	R55 pppn cave fee
February Sat 14-Sun 15	CAMPING WEEKEND	2		EDWALENI - Camping trip at Edwaleni situated 43km east of Mooi River. DIRECTIONS: Take the off ramp to Mooi River from the N3, turn right into Old Main Road. At the Circle turn Right onto the R622 to Greytown. Look out for Joubert Store on the right & then take the district road opposite. Cross the mooi River, take 1st road to the right, follow to Edwaleni. Alternative accomodation is available. Combined MBC, Ramblers and MHC hike.	David Tighe 031 464 9247 076 028 0708	R80 pppn for camping
February Sat 21-Sun 22	CAVE	3	12-15 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK - Whytes Cave. Backpacking via Painter's cave, Sherry Cave and White Horse Cave and return via Langalibalele Cave (5 caves in the weekend). Nice pool and waterfall near Whytes Cave. Combined hike with MBC. Last bookings by 11 February.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R55
February Sat 28	MORNING HIKE	2	8 km	KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE - Proceed from Waterfall or Kloof to the car park above Kloof Falls off Kloof Falls Road. Hike starts at 8:30 and we will hike through the Nature Reserve. After the hike all hikers are invited for a braai at the leaders home in Kloof Falls Road. Bring drinks, meat and a small salad.	Brian Henwood 0826556359	R 30 pp
March Sat 7-Sun 8	CAVE	3	10-12 km each day	MKHOMAZI - McKenzies Cave. See Bushman paintings and great waterfalls. Long up-hill hike, but plenty of water. Suitable for first timers. Last booking Monday 2 March. Booking by email only.	Dave Sclanders dave@bergfree.co.za email only	R55 pppn cave fee
March Sat 7-Sun 8	CAMPING WEEKEND OR DAY HIKE	3		EAGLE VIEW CAMP Situated in the Harburg area. The campsite is adjacent to the edge of The Valley of a Thousand Hills, with spectacular views into the valley. The hike includes 3 waterfalls plus farmlands. The waterfalls cascade down into the indigenous forest. DIRECTIONS FROM DURBAN: Take the R614 from Tongaat. DIRECTIONS FROM PMB: Proceed to Wartburg, stay on the R614 past Bruyns Hill. NB this hike can be accomplished as a day hike. Combined hike with MBC, Ramblers and MHC.	David Tighe 031 464 9247 076 028 0708	R100 pppn for camping
March Sun 15	DAY HIKE	2+	15 km	MT GILBOA - New route. Drive by car to the start, and do a long flat walk over the top of Mt Gilboa. NO steep climbing.	Dave Sclanders dave@bergfree.co.za email only	Small conservation fee
March Tuesday 17	Club Night			"PART 2" Slide presentation by Keith & Margaret Ashton of a much longer 2nd stay on St Helena Island covering the really wild parts of the Island & some extreme hikes on one of the most remote islands in the world.	Brindy Road Hilton	
March Sat 21	MORNING HIKE	1	10 km	DURBAN BEACHFRONT - Meet on the promenade in front of Suncoast Casino at 8:00. Walk along the promenade to the Mangrove Swamps Nature Reserve on the north bank of the Mngeni River, and return for refreshments at the Suncoast. Bicycles are also welcome.	Brian Henwood 0826556359	No charge
March Sat 21-Sun 22	WEEKEND TRAIL	2+	8 km	BLINKWATER TRAIL - 42 km from Howick - slack pack possible to cottage. Hot water, beds. Indigenous forests, grasslands, plantations, streams, rare flowers, and home of the oribi.	CANCELLED	
March Sun 29	DAY HIKE	2+	8 km	ADAMSHURST - Spectacular views of the 'Berg, Midmar Dam, and Nhlosane.	Katy Hart katyemma.hart@gmail.com 0782659260	
March Fri 27-Sun 29	COTTAGE	2-3	12-15 km each day	DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - Cottage weekend. Fully equipped and very comfortable. Beautiful area in the heart of the mountains. Max 10 members. Day hikes from cottage or simply unwind on the property (10 acres). DSTV for news & Sport etc. Hot baths and showers. Combined with Mountain Backpackers. Please book early to secure your place. First come and paid first served. Last bookings by 16 March.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R200 total pp (R100 pppn)
ADVANCE NOTICE						
April Fri 24-Sun 26	COTTAGE	03-Feb	12-15 km each day	DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - Cottage weekend. Fully equipped and very comfortable. Beautiful area in the heart of the mountains. Max 10 members. Day hikes from cottage or simply unwind on the property (10 acres). DSTV for news & Sport etc. Hot baths and showers. Combined with Mountain Backpackers. Please book early to secure your place. First come and paid first served. Last bookings by 13 April.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R200 total pp (R100 pppn)

GRADINGS OF HIKES		SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING		CLUB NIGHTS
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required	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.		Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall starting at 19:00. Tea & coffee served. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton.
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness	2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.		
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable	3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.		
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential	4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.		
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness	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.		
	fitness is essential	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.		