

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: APRIL TO JULY 2016

Amended - Version 3

DATE		TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
SAT - SUN	2-3 Apr	BEGINNER CAVE HIKE	2	4 km each day + optional extra	Aasvoelkrans Cave, Highmoor - Beginners Overnight Hike (must be able to carry a full pack +-10kg). A 4km hike to cave. Option to explore further for those who want to. Hike back same route next day. Large cave and lovely pool to swim in right below.	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R60pp
SAT	09 Apr	MORNING HIKE	2	+10km	Karkloof Country Club to Karkloof Falls - Meet at Country Club for a very scenic walk ending up at these majestic falls.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za	
SUN	17 Apr	DAY HIKE	2	12 km	**NEW HIKE** HOWICK "The Ambers" Lovely views around Howick & surrounding areas, plenty of game & birdlife - Combined hike with other clubs. - Maximum 12 members, first come first served - Last booking by Wed 13 Apr.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R20pp
WED-SUN	27 Apr - 1 May	4 NIGHT TRAIL			PORT ST JOHNS TO COFFEE BAY HIKING TRAIL - WITH LOCAL GUIDE - STAYING WITH LOCAL XHOSA COMMUNITIES 5-day backpacking (4-nights accommodation) for the trail from Port St Johns to Coffee Bay, along the former Transkei coast.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	FULLY BOOKED
SAT-MON	30 Apr - 2 May	LONG WEEKEND	2+	Sun - 9km Mon - 7 km	CANNIBAL TRAIL, CLARENS - The Trail is on a privately-owned farm 5km from Clarens. Spend Saturday night in main house. Sunday we hike to a massive cave where toilets, hot showers and foam mattresses are provided. Stay overnight and return to base by midday Monday. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. DEPOSIT REQUIRED ON BOOKING.	Alistair Nixon 083 660 6657 alanixav@gmail.com	R300pp
SAT	07 May	DAY HIKE	2+	+ 12 km	Kloof Gorge via the beacon and then fairly steep down to Soreass Pool for our lunch spot. Back along the river with a fairly steep climb back up. Start at main picnic site at 08h30. Safe parking available. Please bring at least 2L of water - it usually very hot. (phone booking only available from 1 May 2016)	Margret Kirsten 0837837852 mkirsten@telkomsa.net	R25pp
SAT-SUN	7-8 May	CAVE HIKE			KAMBERG - CANCELLED		
SUN	15 May	MORNING HIKE	1 (FF)	10 km	MICHAELHOUSE - Good for new hikers and children. Lovely views over the Balgowan valley. Family friendly but not pet friendly because of the game and Nguni cattle in the reserve.	Penny Purchase 033 343 2162 / 078 948 3730 chrispenny@telkomsa.net	R10 p/p
TUES	17 May	CLUB NIGHT			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. SPEAKER TO BE CONFIRMED		FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT	21 May	DAY HIKE	2	8km	NHLAZANE MOUNTAIN near Everglades Hotel, Dargle - A popular hike up to the beacon with splendid views of the Midlands and Berg, then down along a different route. Meet at Mount Park Guest Farm. Camping sites and self-catering cottages available. Phone 033 234 4601/4277 for accommodation bookings.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za	
TUES -FRI	24-27 May	COTTAGE	2-3	12-15 km each day	DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - Cottage - 3 nights MID-WEEK. 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). Full DSTV for news & Sport etc. Hot baths and showers. Combined with other clubs. Please book early to secure your place. First come and paid first served. Last bookings by 16 May.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R300 total pp (R100 pppn)
SUN	29 May	DAY HIKE	2	6-7 hours	MT GILBOA - meet at Bushwillow Park, Karkloof from 8.00am to start walking at 8.30 am sharp. Combined hike with Durban Ramblers.	Neville Lee Neville.Lee@clariant.com	R25 pp
FRI-SUN	3-5 Jun	MOUNTAIN HUT	2-3	12-15 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK - Short (just over one km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two or three-night stay. Beautiful day hikes from this base to see waterfalls, bushmen's paintings, caves & lovely pools for swimming. Hut has lockable rooms with bunk beds & mattresses + flush toilets & showers (only cold water but no problem) - Combined hike other clubs. Please book early to secure place - last bookings by 20 May.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R100 pppn (Total R200 or R300)
SAT	11 Jun	DAY HIKE	2+	15 km	Bulwer Mountain - Leave from Mountain Park Hotel in Bulwer. A fairly strenuous climb to the top of Bulwer mountain with a welcome halfway rest in a cave with bushman paintings. Beautiful all round views and a popular venue for the hang-gliding enthusiasts. A steep descent to the hang-glider launch site, then ending back at the hotel for welcome cold refreshments and hot meals.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za	FREE TO MEMBERS
SUN	19 Jun	MORNING HIKE	1 (FF)	+ 8-10km	**NEW HIKE** Swartkop - Hike up Swartkop mountain through lovely forested area	Cathy Stevens 084 693 2340 Cathy.Stevens@kzndard.gov.za	FREE TO MEMBERS
SUN	26 Jun	MORNING HIKE	1 (FF)	+10 km	Lovely hike through the plantations near boulder's Dam	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	FREE TO MEMBERS

ADVANCE NOTICE							

GRADINGS OF HIKES		SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING	CLUB NIGHTS
FF	Family friendly	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.
PF	Pet friendly	2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.	
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required	3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate.	
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness	4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking.	
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable	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.	
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential	6. Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid.	
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness essential	7. Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times.	