

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016

Version 3 - with amendments

DATE		TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
02-Oct	SUN	DAY	2+	8km	<b>ADAMSHURST</b> - Slow steady climb to spectacular views of the Berg, Midmar Dam, and Nhlokane. Scrumptious Tea & Scones afterwards (optional extra but well worth it!)	John Fourie 072 871 1252 john4ie@gmail.com	R35pp for tea & scones
8-9 OCT	SAT-SUN	TRAIL HUTS	2+	10kms	<b>BLINKWATER</b> – on the Greytown road from Pmb. Land of indigenous forests, upland grasslands, vleis, streams and commercial plantations – home to the endangered Oribi and rare Blue Swallow. Island Dam is the breeding ground for the rare and endangered Wattled Crane. <b>Max 12 people, so book early.</b>	John Fourie 072 871 1252 john4ie@gmail.com	R80 pppn
15-16 Oct	SAT-SUN	CAVE	3	Approx 28kms Climb 500m	<b>SINCLAIRS CAVE - KAMBERG</b> - Start at Kamberg Camp and hike to Sinclairs Cave. Quite a steep pull near the morning, Visit Rock Art sites along the way. Cave only sleeps 7, <b>late bookers will need to bring tents</b>	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za Last booking 10 Oct	R60pp
23-Oct	SUN	DAY	3+	Approx 18 kms	<b>BAYNESFIELD ESTATE</b> - Enjoy hiking on this beautiful estate. Meet Union Main at 7.00 a.m. or Assagay Hotel parking at 7.15 a.m. Alternatively meet at the entrance to Baynesfield (off Richmond Rd, R56, past the Thornville junction) at 8.00 a.m. Bring own drinks for after the hike. <b>Combined hike with other clubs.</b>	Jon Stevens 0824591522	Petrol sharing (from Pinetown) - R40 Donation - R20
06-Nov	SUN	DAY	3	14kms return	<b>Fort Nottingham</b> - A very attractive new route through parts of the forest to the top of the plateau has been found. Then a good walk along the top of the plateau with great views of the valleys below. Lunch on the top and then back. First part is a climb of 180m then easy from then on. Make the effort - it is a long time since the club did this hike! Fort Nottingham is 15km from Nottingham Road.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za Last booking 2 Nov	R20 donation to Fort Nottingham Conservancy
8-11 Nov	TUES-FRI	COTTAGE	2 - 3	12-18 kms each day	<b>DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - Cottage - 3 nights MID-WEEK.</b> 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. <b>Last bookings by 30 Sept as we are away from 6 Oct to 1 Nov.</b>	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R300 total pp (R100 pppn)
12-Nov	SAT	MORNING	1+	approx 5kms / 3hrs	<b>CUMBERLAND</b> - Easy, flat hike on the Krantz trail at Cumberland Nature Reserve. Tea at picnic spot afterwards. Perfect for beginners - stunning views and scenery! Meet at 8am at honesty box. Please RSVP so I know who to expect.	Katy Hart katyemma.hart@gmail.com 0832776272	R20pp
15-Nov	TUES	CLUB NIGHT			<b>Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindly Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation to be confirmed. Wine and light snacks available.</b>		FREE TO MEMBERS R20 for guests
19-20 Nov	SAT-SUN	BEGINNER CAVE HIKE	2	4 km each day + optional extra	<b>Aasvoelskrans Cave, Highmoor</b> - 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. <b>Perfect for first time Overnighers!</b>	Deon Small 082 679 4244 - drakhike@gmail.com	R65 pppn
27-Nov	SUN	DAY	2+	16 kms	<b>HOWICK MEANDER</b> - Local day hike - Symmonds Stream Conservancy, Beacon Hill 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 & grade - Combined hike with other clubs - <b>last bookings by Wed eve. 23 Nov.</b>	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R20 per person for the conservancies
11-Dec	SUN	DAY			<b>CHRISTMAS FUNCTION AT EAGLE RIDGE - BRING AND BRAAI.</b> Invitation to be sent in due course.	Please RSVP to Cathy	
16-18 Dec	FRI - SUN	HUT	1 / 2	Various	<b>SWIMMANS HUT</b> - Spend the long weekend stretching your legs in the Berg before the rush of Christmas. Parking at hut so only daypack required. Bath & shower with hot water, electricity, a braai outside with wood provided & a fireplace inside. Hike distances will vary but nothing too strenuous. Those who'd prefer to just relax or explore nearby the hut are welcome too! <b>Please note that I can only book on payment.</b>	Katy Hart katyemma.hart@gmail.com 0832776272	R120 pppn (R240 Tot. pp for 2 nights)
31 Dec - 2 Jan	SAT - MON	MOUNTAIN HUT	2 - 3	12-16 kms each day	<b>BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA</b> - Short (just over 1.4 km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two-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 with other clubs. Don't forget your drinks & goodies - <b>Please book early to secure your place (Option also to stay 3-nights) - last bookings by 16 Dec.</b>	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R120 pppn (R240 Tot. pp for 2 nights) (R360 Tot. for 3 nights)

ADVANCE NOTICE

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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	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 Brindly 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	
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.	