

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY TO MARCH 2017

Version 2

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST	
14-Jan	SAT	MORNING	1	5-6 km	Cumberland - short beginners hike to Krantz hut and back - is only a morning hike so will just need water and a little snack.	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R20pp
17-Jan	TUES	CLUB NIGHT			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation to be confirmed. Wine and light snacks available.		FREE TO MEMBERS R20 for guests
22-Jan	SUN	DAY	2+	6 hours	Grey Mare's Tail falls. Most of the hike is in pristine indigenous forest. Meet at Bushwillow Park in the Karkloof from 8 am. We start walking at 8.30 am sharp.	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R 25 pp
29-Jan	SUN	DAY	2+	12 - 15 km	HOWICK - Day hike in "The Ambers" - new hike in extended area - 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 25 Jan.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R20 per person
05-Feb	SUN	DAY	3	14kms return	Fort Nottingham (Midlands) - There is a hard climb from the Fort Nottingham Fort to the top of the Valley. Good views from the top. Ensure you bring plenty of water to drink. No water on the top. Book by E-mail only - Last booking Wed 1 Feb.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R20 donation to Fort Nottingham Conservancy
19-Feb	SUN	DAY	2+	8 kms	BUFFELSBOSCH - "Jewel of the Midlands" - New starting point - hike through Littegon/Dargyle grassland and indigenous forest. Private property with no-one to be seen. Meet at Piggly Wiggly at 7h15.	John Fourie 072 871 1252 john4ie@gmail.com	
25-26 Feb	SAT-SUN	CAVE	3	18 kms 300M CLIMB	Caracal Cave (Highmoor) - Exploration week end. Look for and explore a new cave site I saw in a valley last year. Not a hard hike. Bring a small day pack for Sunday lunch. Big packs will be left somewhere. Great for 1st time - FIT hikers who have the kit. Bring extra water bottles. Book by E-mail only - Last booking Wed 22 Feb.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R70 pp Cave fee
04-Mar	SAT	DAY	3	15 kms	BULWER MOUNTAIN - Park vehicles at Mountain Park Hotel and walk to the top of Bulwer Mountain.	Brian Henwood 0826556359 brian@hn.co.za	
12-Mar	SUN	DAY	2 - 3	12 - 15 km	UMGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE - near Howick - Lovely local day hike in a beautiful area - great views & chance to see plenty of game & bird life. Several trail variations. As it can be hot this time of year we will keep to high ground. Combined hike with other clubs. Last booking by Wed 8 March.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R30 pp entrance fee
18-19 Mar	SAT -SUN	CAVE	3	10 - 15 km each day	INJASUTI - Backpacking hike via Van Heyningen's Pass to & overnight in Wonder Valley Cave - good venue for less experienced backpackers - lovely pool for swimming & stream for water close by. Combined hike with other clubs - Last bookings by 8 March.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	Cave Fee R70 pp
21-Mar	TUES	CLUB NIGHT			Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Presentation to be confirmed. Wine and light snacks available.		FREE TO MEMBERS R20 for guests
25-26 Mar	SAT-SUN				Lower Injesuthi Cave - HIKE CANCELLED (replaced with day hike to Kamberg as per below)		
25-Mar	SAT	DAY	3	12 kms return 200m climb	KAMBERG Shelter Cave Rock Art - One of the most renowned Rock Art paintings in the world. Incredible Rock Art - if you have not been to this site, <u>now is the time</u> . Quite a climb on a GOOD PATH, bring lunch and swimming costume. Will lunch at large pool. Kamberg is 90k from Howick - will arrange shared transport where possible. Book by E-mail only - Last booking Wed 22 Mar.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za	R40 pp + shared petrol costs
28-31 Mar	TUES -FRI	COTTAGE	2 - 3	12-16 kms 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 Fri 17 March.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R360 total pp (R120 pppn)

ADVANCE NOTICE						

GRADINGS OF HIKES	SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING	CLUB NIGHTS
FF	Family friendly	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. R20pp charge for guests
PF	Pet friendly	
Grade 1	Very easy. Minimal fitness required	
Grade 2	Not too strenuous. Moderate fitness	
Grade 3	Moderate. Physical fitness advisable	
Grade 4	Strenuous. Physical fitness essential	
Grade 5	Very strenuous - high level of physical fitness essential	
	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. 2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate. They need to know who is coming in case they need to cancel. 3. Contact the leader of a camping weekend at least one week in advance of your intention to participate. 4. If accommodation bookings are required please contact the leader at your earliest convenience to secure yourself a booking. 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. 6. Distance of hikes given is an approximation. The actual hike may be slightly shorter or longer. If you are struggling, let the leader know. 7. Advise the leader of any medical condition prior to any hike & carry the necessary medication - The leader will not administer First Aid. Carry your medical aid, doctor and close family friend contact details in your backpack at all times.	