

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: APRIL- JUN 2013

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX. DIST.	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER & CONTACT DETAILS	APPROX. COST					
Sat 6 April	BEGINNER'S HIKE	2	6 - 8 km	KRANTZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE - A Saturday morning stroll in the forest with beautiful scenery . Meet at the Bridal Road picnic site off Kloof Falls Road at 8:00. Follow the directions from the M13 Kloof turn off. Bring goodies for a braai at the leader's house afterwards.	Sandy Miles: 082 335 7367 or 031 764 5783	R20 per person					
Sun 14 April	DAY HIKE	2	15 km	IMPENDE NATURE RESERVE - Brand new hike +/- 70km from Howick, remember to bring extra water.	Dave Slanders: 082 443 4287	R15 donation only					
Fri - Sun 19 - 21 April	WEEKEND HIKE	4	25 km	THABANA NTLENYANA in Lesotho - The highest mountain in Southern Africa (3482m) . Drive up Sani Pass on Friday afternoon and stay overnight at Sani Top backpackers lodge. Drive to the wool shed, hike 10 km, pitch tents and stay overnight at the mountain. Return on Sunday. Something a bit more challenging so good winter gear is essential. Passports required. Anyone with a 4x4 could help with transport up the pass.	Teresa Whitfield: 082 374 1793 ttc@hiltoncollege.com	R200 for backpackers and R150 for shuttle service up the pass. Transport costs to Underberg to be shared.					
Sat - Sun 20 - 21 April	CAVE	3	12 - 14 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK - Backpacking to and overnight in Whytes cave. Our route will be via Painters Cave and White Horse cave (both with excellent bushmans paintings) we will also visit langalibalele cave so four caves in the weekend. Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers.	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 or 082 846 6179 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R45 per person incl entry fee & levies					
Fri - Sun 27 - 28 April	CAMPING WEEKEND	2	15 km	DIDIMA CAMP SITE near Cathedral Peak Hotel. Many hiking options but a hike up Mike's Pass to meet up with members of the Mountain Club of South African, Free State Division is on the cards.	Christie Exall: 083 233 1998 or John Fourie: 072 871 1252	R160 for 2 people per site					
Sat - Sun 27 - 28 April	CAVE	3	14 km each day climb 600 m	ZULU CAVE - Hike from Monk's Cowl camp site near Champagne Castle Hotel via Blindman's corner to overnight in Zulu cave. Climb to Cat Cave and Intunja mountain. Fitness required last bookings on 22 April, book by e-mail only.	Dave Slanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R45 per person incl entry fee & levies					
Sun 5 May	DAY HIKE	3	17 km	OTTO'S BLUFF - A 5-hour hike following a circular scenic route from the car park at Voights Farm Estate in Hilton, along farm roads and across rolling hills to Otto's Bluff and return. Amazing all round views of the estate and Albert Falls dam.	Brian Henwood: 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za	No charge					
Fri - Sun 10 - 12 May	CAVE		14 km each day climb 500 m	MKHOMAZI - McKenzes Cave - Circular route. Last bookings on 22 April, book by e-mail only.	Dave Slanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R45 per person incl entry fee & levies					
Fri - Sun 10 - 12 May	COTTAGE WEEKEND	3		LAKE LYNDHURST - The cottage sleeps 8 in comfortable bedrooms with hot water and gas lights. It is within walking distance of the Umgeni Vlei and overlooks Lake Lyndhurst (100 hectares), which is the first big dam on the Umgeni River. Please bring your own bedding, towels, and torches. You will need a high clearance vehicle to get there, but lifts can be arranged. There is a lock on the lower gate, so we all need to meet up at Nottingham Road to go through together.	Mary Clover: 0837006199 mnellist@telkommsa.net	As per quote					
Sun 19 May	DAY HIKE	2	12 km	DARGLE CONSERVANCY - Day hike through indigenous forest on private land - climbing to above forest for magnificent views of surrounding areas - prolific bird life. Note this is a longer hike that normally done in this area. We will be guided by owner Barend who is very knowledgeable about the local plants, trees, birds & animals - stunning location & not to be missed.	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 or 082 846 6179 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R15 per person Donation to conservancy					
Tues 21 May	CLUB NIGHT			CLUB NIGHT - Demonstration on the use of the club's website by our webmaster, Rod Hart. Peter Rippon will also talk about the club's Facebook page.							
Sun 26 May	DAY HIKE	2	10 - 12 km	FERNCLIFF NATURE RESERVE - Hike from the car park to find as many geo-caching sites as we can. Bring along your GPS or look over the shoulder of someone else to get directions. Like a kind of modern day treasure hunt! Come join in the fun.	Annie Waterhouse: 072 095 8610	nil					
Sun 2 June	BEGINNER'S HIKE	2	6 - 8 km	ALVERSTONE WILDLIFE PARK - An easy 4-hour trail in this 100 ha park which is home to zebra, wildebeest, impala & blesbok; also two dams with birdlife and waterfalls. Bring meat and whatever to join in the group braai afterwards at the super boma.	Sandy Miles: 082 335 7367 or 031 764 5783	R15 per person					
Fri - Sun 7 - 9 June	COTTAGE WEEKEND	2-3	12 - 15 km each day	DRAKENSBERG GARDENS - fully equipped & very comfortable, beautiful area in the heart of the mountains max 10 members, day hikes from cottage, or simply unwind on the property. 10acres, DST TV for sport & news etc, hot baths & showers, combined hike with Mountain Backpackers, please book early.	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 or 082 846 6179 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	R160 total per person (R80ppn)					
Sat - Mon 15 - 17 June	MOUNTAIN HUT	2-3	12 - 15 km each day	BUSHMAN'S NEK - Short (one km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a two-night stay - public hol on Mon. - 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) - Option to also stay 3 nights - i.e. inc Fri - Combined hike with Mountain Backpackers. Please book early to secure place.	Keith Ashton: 033 239 5023 or 082 846 6179 keimarg@uncapped.co.za	2 Nights - R160 total 3 nights - R240 total (i.e. R80 ppn)					
Sat - Mon 15 - 17 June	TENTING WEEK END	3	12 - 15 km each day	HIGHMOOR - Giants Castle, From Highmoor nature reserve to Giants Hut area first night. Then past Meander Hut area. Last day explore rock art & return past Caracal Cave. Last bookings on 10th June. Book by e-mail only.	Dave Slanders: bergfree@absamail.co.za	R90 total per person (R45 ppn)					
Sun 23 June	DAY HIKE		10 km	MONTEBELLO - New hike in the Dalton area. Fabulous scenery. Part of the country few people have been to.	Busby Kirby: 083 757 2660 bushchip@mweb.co.za						
Sat - Sun 28 - 29 June	COTTAGE WEEKEND	2.5	6 - 8 km/day	BLINKWATER HUTS - Trail 56 km from Howick. Accommodation plus hot water. Marked trail over grasslands, home of the Oribi. Hike through a beautiful indigenous forest for approx. an hour. 6 to 8 km per day. Do not miss this one.	John Fourie: 072 871 1252						
ADVANCE NOTICES											
GRADINGS OF HIKES		SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING									
Grade 1 Very easy - so 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.									
Grade 2 Not too strenuous; moderate fitness desirable		2. Contact the leader of a day hike at least 3 days in advance of your intention to participate.									
Grade 3 Moderate - Regular exercise 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 - a high level of physical fitness is essential		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. 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.									
CLUB NIGHTS											
Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall starting at 19:30. Tea & coffee served from 19:00. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindly Road, Hilton. A R5 tip for the car guard would be very much appreciated.											