

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY TO MARCH 2016 [updated 2016.02.23]

DATE	TYPE	GRADE	APPROX DIST	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER	APPROX COST
THU-SAT 31 Dec 15 - 2 Jan 16	MOUNTAIN HUT	2-3		BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA - Short (just over 1 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 -Please book early to secure your place - last bookings by 14 Dec.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R100 pppn (R200 Total pp)
SAT-SUN 16 - 17 Jan	CAVE	2 - 3	10-12Km each day	MKHOMAZI - McKenzies Cave - Mkhomazi is one of the least visited areas of the Berg but is ideal for exploring. Initially this hike entails continuous climbing until you reach the old Repeater Station area, then its downhill towards the two McKenzies caves - we sleep in the best one. Beautiful views all around & spectacular rock formations, waterfalls & Bushmans paintings. Combined hike with other clubs. Last booking by Mon 11 Jan.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R60 pp
TUE 19 Jan	CLUB NIGHT			THE WILD COAST - a talk and presentation with slides by Clive and Edith Dennison who have photographed the Wild coast via microlight. They will discuss the Wildcoast, its history, their flying and they will bring along books they have published. They are both retired Dr's of Biochemistry, run a publishing company and have a multitude of other interests.	Clive and Edith Dennison	FREE TO MEMBERS
SUN 24 Jan	DAY HIKE	2 PF	12 kms	CHASE VALLEY - Meet at Cascades Shopping Centre near the pedestrian bridge over the river. 4 to 5 hr hike along circular route through the Chase Valley plantations along farm roads to the top of Chase Valley Heights and admire good views of the city. Pets are welcome.	Brian Henwood 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za	FREE TO MEMBERS
SUN 31 Jan	DAY HIKE	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 27 Jan.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R30 pp entrance fee
SUN 07 Feb	DAY HIKE	2 FF	5-8 km	Hulley's farm, Nottingham Rd. Soft, rolling green hills, dams, farmland. Lovely views. Picnic lunch at farmhouse.	Penny Purchase 033 343 2162 / 078 948 3730 chrisspenny@telkommsa.net	R20 pp donation for local conservancy
SAT 13 Feb	DAY HIKE	3	14 km climb 300m	Cobham - circular walk via top of Ndlovini to Pinnacle Rock, return via Emerald Stream. Book by e mail only, Last booking 09 February 2016	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	
SUN 14 Feb	DAY HIKE	3	14 km climb 300m	Cobham - explore old jeep track old Lookout Tower. Book by e mail only. Last booking 09 February 2016	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	
SAT-SUN 13-14 FEB	TENTING	3	14 km per day climb 300m	Cobham campsite , or for those wishing to book into POLELA hut - Saturday and Sunday hikes as above. Those wishing to stay in Polela Hut must do their own booking via Q.E.P.Head Office. Book by e mail only, last booking 09 February 2016	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	Camping R 75pp. Polela R100.00 pp
SAT 20 Feb	DAY HIKE	1	10 kms	CEDARA : Four hour hike starting at the Rotunda at 8.30 and walking a circular route through the plantations up to Cowan House and back. Pets are welcome.	Brian Henwood 082 655 6359 brian@hn.co.za	FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT 27 Feb	DAY HIKE	3	12 km climb 300m	HIGHMOOR - New route to Mt Lebanon . Last bookings on 24 February 2016 . Book by e mail only	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	
SUN 28 Feb	DAY HIKE	3	12 km climb 300m	HIGHMOOR - A few different options depending on the group. Last bookings on 24 February 2016 . Book by e mail only	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	
SAT-SUN 27-28 FEB	TENTING	3	12 km Each day climb 300m	HIGHMOOR Campsite. Hikes as per Saturday and Sunday above, tenting Saturday night at the campsite. Last bookings on 24 February 2016 . Book by e mail only	Dave Sclanders e mail dave@bergfree.co.za	Camping R 65pp Day visitor R40pp
TUE-FRI 1-4 Mar	COTTAGE	2 - 3	12-15 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 22 Feb.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za	R300 total pp (R100 pppn)
SUN 06 Mar	DAY HIKE	2+	8km	ADAMSHURST - Slow steady climb to spectacular views of the Berg, Midmar Dam, and Nhlosane. Scrumptious Tea & Scones afterwards (optional extra but well worth it!)	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R30 for tea & scones afterwards (optional)
SAT 12 Mar	AFTERNOON HIKE	3		Boulders Dam - Meet at Dunrobin, hike up passed PMB water works, through Ferncliffe Nature reserve to Boulders Dam and back down another route	Dave Coward 082 565 7546	FREE TO MEMBERS
TUES 15 Mar	CLUB NIGHT			DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED		FREE TO MEMBERS
SAT-SUN 19-20 Mar	CAVE	3	10-12kms	INJASUTI - Backpacking hike via Van Heyningen's Pass to overnight in Wonder Valley Cave. Lovely pool for swimming and stream for water close by and on route. I will not be rushing the hike but fitness is required as VH pass is quite steep especially with a full backpack, so I would deem it suitable for intermediate hikers.	Katy Hart 0832776272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com	R60 pp

ADVANCE NOTICE

WED - 27 Apr - 1 SUN May 2016	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 - 1 May 2016	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	R290pp

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 Brandy 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.	