

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVIES	LEADER
1 st October Sunday	Grade 3 600m 10km+	MOUNT GILBOA Climb to the top of Karkloof through forests filled with clivia .A Big 4 hike.	Eric Essenwein erigres@gmail.com 0835542239
6 - 8 October Camping Weekend	Grade 4 1200m ascent	RHINO PEAK Camping weekend at Drakensberg Gardens with a steep climb to Rhino Peak on Saturday for the stronger hikers or something less strenuous like a hike to Pillar Cave or a stroll around Garden Castle.	Brian Henwood - 0826556359 or bhhenwood@gmail.com
15 th October Sunday	Grade 1 6km	BEACON HILL Through forests and open grassland. Easy morning beginners hike.	Carolee Thompson caroleejoy@gmail.com 0784825003
21-22 nd October Cave weekend	Grade 3 24km 400m climb	KAMBERG Sinclair's Cave Seldom visited cave in Kamberg. Few hikers know how to get there. Great walks and views from above the cave. View Rock Art sites on the way back. Cave has limited sleeping space. Late bookers must bring tents. My last time to this cave- chance for a leader to learn the route. Last booking 18 Oct. Book email only	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za Overnight Cave Cost 70.00 pp
29 th October Sunday Day Hike	Grade 2+ 12-15k	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. Combined hike with Midlands Hiking Club & Mountain Backpackers. Last booking by Wed 25 October.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za R30 pp
10-12 November Weekend	Grade 3	ORIBI GORGE Nature Reserve. Day trails from the reserve include the Hoepoe trail (7 km) and the Umziki trail (9 km). 5 Rondavels have been booked .Cost R294pp for 2 nights. Camping available.	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com
12 November Sunday hike	Grade 1 7km	BOUGHTON From Ashby Rd through Boughton forest to Big Gum tree. Beginners morning hike. Rd. Dogs are welcome	Katy Hart 083 277 6272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com
18 th -19 th November Tenting or 2 x day hikes	Grade 3 14 km 10 km	HIGHMOOR Hikers can come for whole week end and tent overnight or Saturday hike - round trip to Mt Lebanon - new route - bit of a climb to start. Sunday hike to Mpofana Valley way - flat hike Last booking for all hikes 15 Nov. Book email only	Dave Sclanders- email only dave@bergfree.co.za Tenting - R80.00pp Day hike - R40.00 pp
21 st November Tuesday	Social evening	Church of the Ascension Hall, Brindy Road, Hilton - 7pm. Talk to be announced. Wine and light snacks available.	FREE to members. R20 guests
25 th -26 th November	Social plus day hikes	NHLAZANE CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND at Mount Park farmhouse. Can accommodate 20 inside plus campsites and smaller cabins available. Saturday morning short hike. Saturday lunchtime party. Sunday climb Nhlazane. Another Big 4 climb.	R160 pp in farmhouse cathy.amies@gmail.com 0846932340
2 December Saturday	Grade 3 12km	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. Please book. Safe parking available. Please bring at least 2L of water - it usually very hot.	Margret Kirsten mjkaway41@gmail.com 0837837852 R30pp
10 th December Saturday hike	Grade 1 7km	HILTON and Mondi Forest and open grassland .Easy beginners morning walk	Sue Rowley sue524024@gmail.com 0732131314
17 December Sunday hike	Grade 1 10km	CEDARA morning hike through farmland and forest	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com
Sat-Mon 30 Dec - 2 Jan Weekend Mountain Hut	Grade 3 12-16k per day	BUSHMAN'S NEK- CELEBRATE NEW YEAR IN STYLE IN A STUNNING AREA - Short (just over 1.4 km) backpacking to Bushman's Nek Hut for a 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 with other clubs. Don't forget your drinks & goodies -Please book (FOR 3-NIGHTS ONLY) early to secure your place - last bookings by 15 Dec.	Keith Ashton 033 239 5023 keimarg@iuncapped.co.za R120 pppn (R360 Tot. for 3 nights)

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT HIKING

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.

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. 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.

We encourage all hikers to attach their membership badges to their backpacks with these details available.

GRADINGS OF HIKES	
FF	Family friendly
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

CLUB NIGHTS

Our Club nights are held on the third Tuesday of every second month in the Church of the Ascension Hall, Hilton starting at 19:00. Wine, snacks, tea & coffee served. Come along early and meet your fellow members. Plenty of parking next to the hall, accessed from Brindy Road, Hilton.