

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY TO MARCH 2018

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Sunday 14 th January	Grade 2 + 14km	FORT NOTTINGHAM There is a hard climb from the Fort Nottingham to the top of the valley up the old forest road. Good views from the top. Ensure you bring plenty of water to drink. No water on the top.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last book Jan 10 R20pp
16 th January 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
19-21 st January Cottage	Grade 2 10km	LEISURE BAY Stay in comfortable accommodation close to Peter Pan beach. Beach hikes to Port Edward or Wild Coast fossil beds. Hike in Umtanvuna Nature Reserve. Book by 12 th January	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com R270 pp for 2 nights
Sunday 28 th January	Grade 2+ 12-15 km	HOWICK - Day hike in "The Ambers" - hike in extended area - Lovely views around Howick & surrounding areas, plenty of game & bird life - Combined hike with other clubs. - MAXIMUM 12 MEMBERS, first come first served - Last booking by Wed 24 Jan.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za R20 pp
Sunday 28 th January	Grade 3 14km 400m climb	THE TOPS ELANDSHOEK FARM BOSTON Meet at Boston County Club at 8.00am. Hiking fitness required – parts of all the routes are off path, with rough conditions under foot in places so hiking boots are recommended. Cars can be left at Boston Country Club – alternatively a high clearance vehicle is advised. Bring all your own refreshments for after the hike.	Philip Grant 082 4179163 pjcsgrant@gmail.com Donation to the landowner R20.00 per person.
Sunday 4 th February	Grade 2 15km	MOUNT GILBOA Drive through Sappi forest to the highest point of Mount Gilboa, and walk around the top of the plateau. Great views of the farmlands below. Walking through an old KZNW/SAPPI protected area.	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last booking - Wednesday Jan 31 R40pp
Sunday 11 th February	Grade 2 8 km	KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE - Proceed from Waterfall or Kloof to the car park above Kloof Falls off Kloof Falls Road. Hike starts at 8:30 and we will hike through the Nature Reserve. After the hike all hikers are invited for a braai at the leaders' home in Kloof Falls Road. Bring drinks, meat and a small salad.	Brian Henwood - 0826556359 or bhhenwood@gmail.com R30pp
Sunday 18 th February	Grade 2-3 12-15km	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 14 Feb.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za R30 pp
25 th February	Grade 2 6-8 km	FORT NOTTINGHAM HULLEYS FARM. Easy walk through lush farmland with sightings of cranes a possibility plus wonderful views of the Drakensberg. Bring your own lunch to enjoy at the farmhouse afterwards	Penny Purchase 0789483730 chrispenny@telkom.co.za
Sunday 4 March	Grade 1 8 km	BISLEY NATURE RESERVE	Katy Hart 083 277 6272 katyemma.hart@gmail.com
10-11 March	Grade 3 14km Sat 10km Sun	HIGHMOOR Hikers can come for whole weekend and tent overnight or Saturday hike - round trip to Mt Lebanon - new route - bit of a climb to start. Sunday hike to top of Cleopatra's Head - flat hike - a few ups and downs	Dave Sclanders - email only dave@bergfree.co.za last booking – Wed 7 March R40pp day R80pp camping
Sunday 11 March	Grade 3 14km	EVERTON CIRCUIT KLOOF Hike a circuit from the parking spot taking in both used and new routes to various waterfalls. Bring plenty of liquids. Combined with Durban Ramblers. Donation R30 split between Ezemvelo Krantzkloof and Everton Conservancy	Chris Dobson 082 461 1954
Sunday 11 March	Grade 3 14km 300m climb	PICKLE POT RIDGE BOSTON. Meet at the Pickle Pot Cafe R617 at 8.30am. (Light meals available at the Pickle Pot Cafe after the hike. BYOB)	Philip Grant 082 4179163 pjcsgrant@gmail.com R20.00 per person.
16-18 March Camping weekend	Grade 4 1200 m ascent	CATHEDRAL PEAK Camping weekend at Didima campsite. A steep climb Cathedral peak on Saturday for the stronger hikers. Something less strenuous like a hike to Shermans Cave or Rainbow gorge for others.	Brian Henwood - 0826556359 or bhhenwood@gmail.com
20 March	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
Fri-Sunday nights 23-26 March	Grade 2-3 10-15 km each day	SANI BACKPACKERS LODGE - Stay overnight in comfortable lodge with various forms of accommodation available - self catering or meals are available. Very good hikes each day from this base, situated on the tarred section of the Sani Pass road, about 16 km before the border post - Combined hike with other clubs - Book early to secure a place. - Last bookings by 9 March.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only keimarg@iuncapped.co.za Camping from R100 pp, dorms from R180 pp & other rooms available
31st March Easter Saturday	Grade 3 14 km	GIANTS CASTLE "Worlds View trail"	Alistair Nixon 0836606657 alanixav@gmail.com

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.

