

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB FIXTURE LIST: JANUARY - MARCH 2021

DATE	GRADE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	LEADER
Thu –Sat 31 Dec – 2 Jan	CAVE Grade 3	MKHOMAZI - CYPRUS CAVE – (2-nights) - celebrate NEW YEAR - Ideal for first time backpackers or others as we can explore from the cave – waterfall above the cave & pool below – Max 6 hikers.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only. Please include cell number. keimarg@iuncapped.co.za Fee R80 ppn = R160 pp
Sunday 3 rd January	Grade 2 15 kms	KARKLOOF FALLS Day hike from Karkloof Club to the falls through the Sappi plantations on well marked paths. Pay at the Club R30 for pensioners.	Libby Deysel 0607374999 libos999@gmail.com
Sunday 10 th January	Grade 1	BISLEY NATURE RESERVE Morning hike. Meet at 8.30, back at cars at 11.30	Jan Lens 0828009135 Jblens982@gmail.com
Friday 15 th to Sunday 17 th January		CAMPING AT COBHAM EZEMVELO CAMP SITE. Arrive Friday, set up camp. Saturday hikes will be arranged to suit campers. Sunday, break camp early to join hike to Bathplug cave with Sue Rowley.	Campers contact Chris Dobson for details. Advise Chris early as he needs to know numbers to book with Ezemvelo. chrisdobson@telkomza.net
Sunday 17 th January	Grade 2 8 kms 300 m climb	COBHAM BATHPLUG CAVE An easy morning hike to bathplug cave from Cobham visitors' parking. Entry R45 or Rhino card at the Cobham Ezemvelo office.	Those travelling up for the day only please advise Sue Rowley. Whatsapp 0732131314 sue524024@gmail.com
Saturday 23 January	Grade 2+ 16 km 400 m climb	HIGHMOOR – Day hike to Ka-Dedakushe Falls via "The Plaque" - Impressive Twin Falls.	Keith Ashton by e-mail only. Please include cell number. keimarg@iuncapped.co.za Day entrance fee R45 per person
Sat. 30 th to Sun 31 st Jan	Grade 3 16km	MARBLE BATH CAVES Start at Injasuti on Saturday morning at 9 am, sleep in the cave and back to cars Sunday lunchtime. Moderate fitness and ability to carry backpack required.	Jan Lens 0828009135 Jblens982@gmail.com
Sunday 7 th February	Grade 3 9km	KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, KLOOF – Meet at Forest Hills Picnic Site at 8:00. A 4-5 hr hike via Upper Nkutu Falls to a stunning viewpoint, down into the Gorge, cross the Molweni River at the pools, up to the grasslands where the zebras graze, past the Uve Falls and return along the Beacon Trail. All invited to braai at the leader's house afterwards.	Brian Henwood 082 655 6359 bhhenwood@gmail.com KZN Wildlife ent fee – R 50 or card
Sunday 14 th February	Grade 2 14 kms	SYMONDS STREAM CONSERVANCY Beacon Hill with great views of Howick and surrounds and includes the Umgeni River walk before entering the village and ends with a snack at the Treaty.	Peter Wedge polyser@futurenet.co.za
Sunday 21 st February	Grade 2.5 10-12 kms	MKHOMAZI NATURE RESERVE. Circular route about 10 – 12 kms – not done before by the club. Visit some interesting places, Sites and Area. BOOK BY EMAIL ONLY dave@bergfree.co.za , Please add cell phone and where you live. LAST BOOKING DATE : WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY Must be Midlands hiking Club Members . Contact me if there is a problem	Dave Sclanders Book by e mail only. 1 st 20 get the nod. Members Only Cost - R 45.00 pp, Golden Rhino, Wildcard
Sunday 28 th February	Grade 2	LEMONWOOD, DARGLE	Carolee Thompson caroleejoy@gmail.com 0784825003
Sunday 7 th March	Grade 2 10 kms	TILLIETUDLEM GAME FARM IN THE DARGLE. A guided walk with Bazil Roth, Conservation Manager, across the hills. Tea and scones afterwards at the Fisherman's Cottage for R50 a head.	Penny Purchase chrispenny@telkomza.net 0789483730
Sunday 14 th March	Grade 3 14 km hike	GIBA GORGE NATURE RESERVE, HILLCREST – St Helier Lake to Mackintosh Falls then through Giba Gorge Bike Park to picnic site and back. Lovely indigenous forest and pleasant views.	Brian Henwood – 082 655 6359 bhhenwood@gmail.com R15 entrance fee
Sunday 21 st March	Grade 2.5 12 kms	HIGHMOOR NATURE RESERVE. We will do a circular walk of about 12 kms – there will be a choice between 2 walks on the day, depending on the hikers. But please do come prepared for maybe an off the grid walk as one choice. BOOK BY EMAIL ONLY dave@bergfree.co.za , Please add cell phone and where you live. LAST BOOKING DATE : WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH Must be Midlands hiking Club Members . Contact me if there is a problem	Dave Sclanders Book by e mail only. 1 st 20 get the nod. Members Only Cost - R 45.00 pp, Golden Rhino, Wildcard
Sunday 28 th March	Grade 2 10kms	MBONA PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE The walk follows excellent paths through indigenous forests and grasslands with an abundance of wild flowers. A real gem. LIMITED TO STRICTLY 12 PEOPLE (new rules).	Alistair Nixon alanixav@gmail.com 0836606657

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. If you need to cancel please contact the leader as soon as possible. Numbers are often limited and there may be a waiting list.**
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 THURSDAY 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.