



<http://durbanramblers.co.za>  
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## OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER : 2025

### ***CHAIR'S RAMBLINGS***

#### **Dear Ramblers**

With cooler weather setting in and winter flowers, especially the Aloes, coming into bloom, hiking conditions are at their best. As a result, many hikes fill up quickly and are often fully booked by the start of the week.

Our dedicated hike organisers: Coleen, Bilkis, and Naadira; along with our hike leaders, are working hard to offer a variety of interesting and diverse hiking experiences. We are always on the lookout for new trails to explore.

If, you happen to discover a trail that you think might be suitable for a group hike, please reach out to any of the organisers. We encourage you to offer to recce and lead the trail. Costs for the recce will be reimbursed.

As Ramblers, we take pride in both maintaining existing trails and forging new ones. We also uphold the LEAVE NO TRACE principles. Let's continue to respect our trails, our fellow hikers, and the natural environment.

Happy Rambling!

Rani  
Durban Ramblers Chair



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Rani Reddy	082 086 5685	<a href="mailto:reddyrani06@gmail.com">reddyrani06@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ruth Grantham	082 466 5580	<a href="mailto:Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com">Durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com</a>
Joint Treasurers	Zarina Ally/Biff Maggs	0837866347 0826099684	allyzee63@gmail.com biffmaggs101@gmail.com
Sunday Hike Organiser	Naadira Limalia	0849278607	nadsl786@gmail.com
Saturday Hike Organiser	Bilkis Khan	0825365961	gizzydob5@gmail.com
Wednesday Hike Organiser	Coleen Seath	082 735 7659	coleensea@gmail.com
Weekend Organiser	Vacant		
Publicity	Gil Krauspe	083 759 9199	<a href="mailto:gilkrauspe@yahoo.com">gilkrauspe@yahoo.com</a>
Magazine	Philip Collyer	082 417 0204	<a href="mailto:philipcollyer@gmail.com">philipcollyer@gmail.com</a>
Social Events Organiser	Vacant		
Website Organiser	Abdullah Dada	084 478 6779	<a href="mailto:dada@greenit.co.za">dada@greenit.co.za</a>
Ordinary Member	Navi Naidoo	081 307 9310	<a href="mailto:navinaidoo123@gmail.com">navinaidoo123@gmail.com</a>
Honorary Auditor	Rolf Klein	073 982 4976	<a href="mailto:rolf.klein@telkomsa.net">rolf.klein@telkomsa.net</a>

## HIKING TITBITS

From Natural Science.org : Modern-day tree medicine also focuses on the proximity and encounter with trees.

Scientists have discovered that spending time near trees promotes the activity of our killer cells, which fight viruses and cancer cells in the human body.

Trees activate and strengthen our immune system and just looking at trees or green spaces has a relieving and relaxing effect.

## THE OFFICIAL ROUTE ON HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Dear Members

Please note how subscriptions and new membership work.

Please give new members the correct information.

NEW MEMBERS

GO TO [WWW.DURBANRAMBLERS.CO.ZA](http://WWW.DURBANRAMBLERS.CO.ZA)

Click on FORMS

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Download the form, complete it and follow all the instructions properly. Email form to [durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:durbanramblers.secretary@gmail.com)

You will be told to deposit the money into the banking details  
PLEASE NOTE THAT WHICHEVER MONTH YOU JOIN, YOU WILL BE SENT A  
STATEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR  
EVERY MEMBER MUST PAY THE SUBS BY MID APRIL EACH YEAR.

The committee is all on a voluntary basis. So please read everything carefully and adhere to the rules

ZARINA ALLY

BIFF MAGGS

JOINT TREASURER

## HIKING ETIQUETTE

A reminder of these few simple guidelines:

- **Follow your leader.** It's impolite to get ahead of the leader – he/she/it is called a **leader** for a reason!
- **Be Aware of your fellow hikers.** Keep an eye on the hiker behind you. If the gap is getting too wide, let the leader know so they the trailers can be given a chance to catch up. By the same token, don't lose sight of the hiker in front of you – attract their attention if you're falling behind.
- **Communicate.** If you want to leave the hike for any reason, make sure the leader knows and that it's safe to leave the group at that particular point.
- **Remember Your Manners.** Be kind, courteous and respectful. Don't hesitate to say hello and smile as you pass by a fellow hiker!
- **Respect the Peace and Quiet.** Keep noise to a minimum. Most people on the trail are looking to experience nature and its natural sounds, or lack thereof. Make sure your cell phone is on silent, and refrain from talking loudly or yelling amongst your group.
- **Absolutely no littering.** This includes orange peel, apple core and banana skin. While they are biodegradable, this is still littering and they are not good for wildlife.
- **Stay on the Path.** If you don't, you could get lost and/or encounter dangerous terrain. Plus, leaving designated pathways causes damage to the environment such as destroying vegetation, erosion and degrading soil quality.
- **Don't Disturb Plants.** Hikers should not pick or remove vegetation.
- **Cell Phones:** Take some time out from your cell phone calls, emergencies only.
- **Booking :** It is essential to book for all hikes, this allows leaders to plan for their hike and ensure that a hike is not oversubscribed.

**For our Hike Leaders:** Hike leaders are volunteers, we are a social club, please easily follow their lead and direction (unless it is clearly the wrong direction!).

## MEMBER NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS:

Visitors are permitted to join Saturday and Sunday hikes, subject to limiting numbers in the group to a maximum of 30, but this is always at the discretion of hike leaders. Once visitors have done their three

hikes, they may apply for membership and pay the required fees. It is important to state your name as a reference when doing the EFT payment.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Daniel Wilson  
Margaret Gribble  
Erwin Sieben  
Viresh Dullabh  
Jenna Akoob  
Arshaad Ramjan  
Jameela Dada  
Shamayne Steven  
Hana Ally  
Renate Venter  
Nadia Karoojee  
Dashyam Govender

We wish you many happy years of rambling with the Club.

## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the families and friends, of former members of Durban Ramblers : Harry Holdeness and Terry Higginson. Harry was a current and active member; Terry did many hikes with Ramblers over the years.

## INFORMATION

### **MAGAZINE:**

The magazine is distributed via email using [durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com](mailto:durbanramblers.editor@gmail.com) as a sending address. If you know of anyone who has not received the magazine, please ask them to check their SPAM folder.

**Note:** If you have been receiving the magazine by post and now want the speedier email version in full colour, advise the editor and send us your email address. This helps reduce the printing and posting costs and possible delays with getting the magazine to you.

### **HIKE DONATIONS:**

On some of the hikes, hikers are asked for donations and in some cases the club makes donations on behalf of the members.

	Wed	Sat	Sun	Name
2025/04/06			280	Monteseel
			80	Hacienda
2025/04/07		320		Westville Eco trail
2025/04/09	320			Westville Eco trail
2025/04/12		480		Nkonka Trust
2025/04/23	680			Thomas More School
2025/05/03		570		Honey Trails
2025/05/08	390			Springside Nature reserve
2025/05/18			480	Monteseel Conservancy
2025/05/24		550		Palmiet
2025/05/07		840		Mariannahill
2025/06/14		660		Alverstone
2025/06/15			700	Hilton
totals	1390	1920	1540	4850

### **WEBSITE:**

The website ([www.durbanramblers.co.za](http://www.durbanramblers.co.za)) as well as the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club Facebook page may be viewed for updated information regarding the club, hikes, etc. Should you wish to contribute photos to the Facebook page please send your contributions to Gil, our Publicity person. You may also ask Gil to remove photos you would rather not be there. The website also includes an archive containing lots of history of the Club which was formed way back in 1932.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

While hiking and rambling is usually all good fun, we should also be aware that sometimes something can go amiss and we might find ourselves in a stressful situation. There is an emergency app you can download to your mobile phone from [www.mysos.co.za](http://www.mysos.co.za) which will provide you with all the emergency numbers in the area where you need it.

### PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Please have your emergency contact number(s) under ICE (In Case of Emergency) in your cell phone and on the new cards issued, or a label of some sort attached to your day pack. Details should consist of your name, ID number, name of medical aid and membership number (your medical aid card should be with you too) and the name/number(s) of someone to contact. Emergency personnel will look for your ICE details. Hospitals will not send an ambulance/paramedics if your medical aid details are not available. Please carry these important details with you on each hike. Ask a member of the committee for a card holder or a lanyard. Biff Maggs always has available.

### HIKE REPORTS *(a limited selection from recent hikes – some hike reports were only photo's this round)*

**Saturday : 24 May, Palmiet Nature Reserve**

We all had a 🧗 super wonderful hike with our hike leader Linda at Palmiet Nature Reserve. We crossed the Palmiet River with ease, thanks to the newly constructed bridge. We marveled at the breathtaking layered rocks features (sedimentary rock). There were several steep inclines into the hills above the river through the gnarled roots of trees, ducking under low branches en-route to the waterfalls and looking above for the call of birds. There are 150 different types of birds in the reserve, 170 tree species. The Palmiet Nature Reserve is 90 hectares, named after the river that runs through it. Its woodlands and cliffs make it a peaceful space. Linda showed us the place where Artifacts found within the dig are housed at the Bergtheil Museum. Palmiet hike with Linda was super fascinating. Thank you, Linda and all our members, for this memorable afternoon hike.





Sunday : 25 May, Giba Twin peaks



A challenging but amazing hike as we climbed up to Clifton lookout tower ,we took a short break to have a snack and absorb the amazing views all around.

We trekked back down past the beautiful McIntosh falls and then up again to reach the top on the opposite side of Giba.

For most of us it was a new trail,which we thoroughly enjoyed, although we were huffing and puffing our



way through . Thanks to Rob for leading this amazing hike in his cool and calm way.

Thanks to our group of hikers who were so supportive and fabulous company.





### Wednesday Hike : Babes lost in the woods!

Well what an adventure we had with Ismail, as we explored the wild part of New Germany. Slipping on twigs, sticks and leaves and the dry sandy soil was bad enough but the treacherous vines that wound around our legs and bodies, trapping and tripping us was the biggest obstacle. The park workers had made a great effort in clearing a way through the forest, but recent winds had added to the uprooted trees and branches strewn along the way. Gamely we gritted our teeth and followed our leader, pulling ourselves up on obliging roots and branches or sliding on our bottoms when falling seemed imminent. With sighs of relief we walked out into the open and the welcoming gate ahead. Easy walking after this, past the lake and bird hide and to the welcome picnic spot where Colin and Biff anxiously awaited us. And so to the best part, our picnic and companionable chat.

Philippa's app. 5.5km and we climbed 50 flights of stairs!!!

Photos courtesy of Philippa and Ismail.





### ***HIKING PROGRAMMES:***

Every week members will be able to book a hike with the hike leader; booking cut off time will be the day before. Numbers on hikes will be limited to a **maximum of 30**, or less subject to discretion of hike leaders.

#### ***WEDNESDAY MORNING HIKES: Organised by Coleen Seath***

Please check details of the Wednesday Hikes with Coleen Seath on 031 202 2279 / 082 735 7659 (who will co-ordinate with leaders.)

#### ***SATURDAY HIKES (AFTERNOON): Organised by Bilkis Khan.***

- Should you wish to participate in any of the hikes, please phone the leader by no later than Friday evening to book your spot.

- Please get to starting point by 13.45 or 13.15 on occasion (please check schedule below) in order for the hike to begin on time.
- For directions to the starting point, please PHONE the organiser between 12.00 and 12:.45 on the day of the hike, don't SMS, or ask for directions when booking.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of the hike with the leader.
- Please bring at least 1 litre of water each, a snack for half time and a hat.

***SUNDAY HIKES (FULL DAY): Organised by Naadira Limalia.***

- **Please be aware that a certain level of fitness is required to do Sunday hikes. If you don't exercise regularly, or aren't an experienced walker please complete three Ramblers' Saturday afternoon hikes before joining the longer Sunday hikes.**
- **Always** phone the hike leader the day before at the latest, to confirm details and let him/her know to expect you on the hike. Be mindful that the leader is also preparing for the hike on the Sunday morning.
- Please note that the meeting point and/or time in the programme might change, or the hike route might change, or it might be raining and the hike cancelled therefore **you must phone the leader** or you might find yourself left out and left behind. **You can also check on Facebook which may reflect changes or cancellations.**
- Please try to get to the meeting places at least 10 minutes earlier to help with arranging lifts. Bring the correct amount of money as change may not be available.
- It is advisable to bring at least 2 litres of water, mid-morning snack, lunch and a hat. It is recommended that hikers carry their own water
- Keep Rehydrate in your pack in case of dehydration in the hot months.
- Use tick spray.

Hikes are described as being Easy, Moderate or Strenuous and are graded from 1 to 5, as follows:

1. A flat even walk
2. A hike without big and steep inclines
3. A hike with some steep inclines - Fitness recommended
4. A hike with steep inclines and rock scrambling - Fitness essential
5. A hike with many inclines and rock scrambling - Fitness very essential

## SATURDAY AND SUNDAY HIKING PROGRAMME 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2025















### RAMBLERS HIKING PROGRAMME – JULY TO SEPT 2025

**NB – IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT INDIVIDUALS HIKE AT ENTIRELY THEIR OWN RISK. THE CLUB, ITS OFFICERS, HIKE LEADERS AND MEMBERS CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY INJURY/LOSS SUSTAINED BY PARTICIPANTS IN CLUB ACTIVITIES. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR EACH HIKE.**

Date, Hike Leader and Contact Details	Hike Details and Grade
<b>Sat 05 July</b> <b>Umdoni Park Forest</b> Gil 083 759 9199	Meet and park at the Environmental Center by 8:45am for a 9:00am start. Hike through the many trails of the beautiful Umdoni Forest. BYO for a picnic lunch at the Environmental Center afterward. R30pp donation. Grade 3   ±10km
<b>Sun 06 July</b> <b>Summerveld – Bux Farm</b> Allan Blundell 072 127 3889	Meet at Summerveld Lodge at 7:45am. Hills, grassland, quarry, nurseries. View towards Hammarsdale. Grade 2-3   ±12–13km
<b>Sat 12 July</b> <b>KZN Table Mountain</b> Philip Collyer 082 417 0204	Time 09:15 for 09:30 start. Meet at BP Ridge Oasis in Cato Ridge to drive in convoy to Maqongqo via N3 exit 65 ( Lynfield Park Pmb). Hike to the top of Table Mountain to enjoy some of the escarpment and magnificent views of the Valley of A 1000 Hills, the Midlands in the far distance, the Msunduzi, Umgeni Rivers as well as Nagle Dam.Booking is essential. Grade 3/4   ±10km
<b>Sun 13 July</b> <b>Best of Palmiet</b> Linda Smith 083 353 8319	Meet at Palmiet Nature Reserve at 8:00am. Cliff views, river, indigenous bush. R30 donation. Grade 2-3   ±10km
<b>Sat 19 July</b> <b>Giba Gorge</b> Rob Krogh 083 380 5278	Meet at 12:45 at Giba Coffee Shop for a 13:00 start. Hike to the cascades. Entrance Fee: R50. Grade 3   ±8km
<b>Sun 20 July</b> <b>Shongweni to Weke Weke Falls</b> Rob Krogh 083 380 5278	Meet 8:45am at Shongweni Club. Circular to waterfall. R30 entrance + R10 parking. Grade 3   ±15km

Date, Hike Leader and Contact Details	Hike Details and Grade
<b>Sat 26 July</b> <b>Krantzkloof – Beacon Trail</b> Ann 📞 083 666 5630	Meet at 07:30 for 07:45 start. Please note that only a bank card is accepted, or a Rhino card. No cash. About 8 km, challenging ascent and descent, vertigo. Beautiful views of Gorge and grassland at top. BYO - no alcohol allowed. Entrance: R75p/p.
<b>Sun 27 July</b> <b>KZN Table Mountain</b> Philip Collyer 📞 082 417 0204	Hike to the top. Circular with views of Valley of 1000 Hills, Umgeni River, Nagle Dam. Grade 3   ±12km
<b>Sat 02 August</b> <b>Treasure Beach</b> Divesh Maharaj 📞 072 235 3104	Meet at 12:15 for a 12:30 start, at Transhaven Guest House, 51 Treasure Beach. Walk through dune forest to rocky shore. Donation R30pp + R20 parking. Grade 3   8km
<b>Sun 03 August</b> <b>3 Bridges Hike</b> Mukesh Mawalall 📞 083 265 4335	Meet 7:00am at Crescent Shopping Centre. Circular route via Blackburn, Cornubia, and Mt Edgecombe. Grade 1-2   ±10km
<b>Sat 09 August</b> <b>Promenade, Dune Forest and Beach</b> Bilkis 📞 082 536 5961	Start at 09:00 from Durban View (Marine Drive and Durban View Road). Walk along the promenade to the new walkway and through indigenous dune forest. Cross the lagoon over a wooden bridge to a steep dune incline and then descent onto the beach for a tea break. Option of beach walk back or return along the same path (depending on the tides). BYO Braai afterward. Grade 1
<b>Sun 10 August</b> <b>Bluff Nature Reserve</b> Divesh Maharaj 📞 072 235 3104	Meet at BNR, Tara Rd at 8:00am. Hike to Treasure Beach and back. R50 entrance. Grade 2-3   ±12km
<b>Sat 16 August</b> <b>Everton Conservancy</b> Ann Olds 📞 083 666 5630	Meet at 13:45 for a 14:00 start. Everton Rd exit from M13, down Everton Rd, right at fork into Pearson Rd, turn left into Forest View, downhill, across a stream, immediately right into Everton park. Hike along cliff above the Longshadow Gorge, down to river, a few river crossings, steep uphill and ladder to cliff path. BYO sundowners. R30 donation. Grade 3   ±7km
<b>Sun 17 August</b> <b>Enaleni Farm</b> Philip Collyer 📞 082 417 0204	Farm walk: stream, bush, animals, sugar cane. Meet 8:00am. R30 entrance. Grade 2   ±12km
<b>Sat 23 August</b>	Meet at 07:45 at Pilgrims Rest Tea Garden. 85 River View Drive, Crestholme.

Date, Hike Leader and Contact Details	Hike Details and Grade
<b>Pilgrims Rest – Crestholme</b> Jenny & Gil  083 759 9199	Walk along country roads to Crestholme Conservancy. Enjoy the beautiful views of the Inanda Dam and a delicious brunch at the tea garden afterwards. R20 donation. Grade 2   8km
<b>Sun 24 August Redwood to Virginia</b> Lizelle  083 249 8388	Meet 7:15am. Suburban walk through La Lucia and Glen Ashley. Back via Ronan Rd. Grade 1-2   ±14km
<b>Sat 30 August Umdloti Beach and Forest</b> Abdullah Dada  084 478 6779	Meet at 12:45 for a 14:00 start. Forest and beach hike. Park at second lot on Beach Rd. Enjoy a beautiful hike through the forest and a bit of beach walking on the way back. Grade 2   ±10km
<b>Sun 31 August Cumberland Nature Reserve</b> Mthobisi Ndlovu  073 812 8623	Meet 8:00am. Reserve outside PMB. Cliff hike above Umgeni River. R70 entrance. Grade 2-3   ±10km
<b>Sat 06 September Tanglewood</b> Jenny Rooks  084 952 0622	Start at 07:00. Tanglewood is a beautiful small private nature reserve in the heart of Kloof, and we have been given permission by the owners to hike on it. It is a short hike, but a bit of a steep climb up to the waterfalls (not for anyone nervous of heights). Directions to the meeting point will be given to those booked on the hike. BYO for afterwards. R30 donation. Grade 3   6km, Vertigo warning.
<b>Sun 07 September Waterberry Close</b> Divesh Maharaj  072 235 3104	Meet 8:00am at NU Driving Range. Circular route via farmland and Giba trails. Grade 2-3   ±12km
<b>Sat 13 September Parks of Westville</b> Linda Smith  083 353 8319	Meet at 12:45 at Westville Country Club. The hike will take us through the streets and suburbs of Westville to visit the 3 little gems of parks cared by the Westville Conservancy. Drinks afterward at the Westville Country Club. R30 donation. Grade 1   8km
<b>Sun 14 September Umdoni</b> Jon Stevens  082 459 1522	Details to be confirmed. Grade
<b>Sat 20 September</b>	Meet at 12:45 at Summerveld Country Lodge, Summerville Ave, off

Date, Hike Leader and Contact Details	Hike Details and Grade
<b>Summerveld</b> Divesh Maharaj  072 235 3104	Hawkstone Road from Cliffdale Road. Hike on scenic roads and paths. R10 parking. Grade 2/3   ±9km
<b>Sun 21 September</b> <b>Renishaw</b> Jon Stevens  082 459 1522	Hike across new causeway and into new area. Grade
<b>Sat 27 September</b> <b>New Germany Nature Reserve</b> Ismail  083 786 6733	Meet at 13:00 for a 13:15 start. Meet at New Germany Nature Reserve. Off Otto Volek Dr. Hike is along woodlands and undulating grasslands. A lengthy trail leads up a hill, a section of mature forest and beautiful flora, and fauna. Lovely picnic facilities are available. WhatsApp only. BYO picnic. Grade 2/3   ±8km
<b>Sun 28 September</b> <b>Inanda Mountain</b> Rani Reddy  082 086 5685	Hike to top. Excellent views and raptor sightings. R85 fee. Grade 3-4   ±13km