



Dear Hiking Enthusiasts

During 2012, we look forward to welcoming all our regular and new hiking enthusiasts who hope to add their name to our “Big Five Honours Board”. For those who need an introduction, the “Big Five” comprises of the Matterhorn (1995m), Gatberg (2408 m), Amphlett (2620 m), Sterkhorn (2973 m) and Champagne Castle (3377 m).

After completing each of the Summits, a certificate of achievement is awarded and after completing all 5, if you are a bona fide resident of the Hotel, your name is added to the Honours Board which is prominently displayed at the hotel.

The following is the schedule of forthcoming hikes for 2011. Please note that numbers are limited, so “first come first served”. Please make your accommodation bookings directly with Reservations and hiking bookings with Teresa.

Please note:

- i) These hikes are available to hotel residents only.**
- ii) Dates and prices are subject to change without notice.**
- iii) Due to the danger of severe weather conditions in the mountains during the summer months, we do not offer the “Big Five” from October to April.**
- iv) Should you make a reservation for less than 3 people, please confirm two weeks prior to scheduled departure as to whether the minimum number of people are booked for the hike for go ahead.**
- v) Should you have a group of 3 or more people who would like to do an unscheduled hike, please discuss it with Teresa who will try to assist.**

SATURDAY 5th MAY 2012 (1 Day)

AMPHLETT – Certificate No.3 – maximum 12 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the Hotel at 06h30

Hiking Standard – C – involves moderate rock work. A rope is not necessary.

Cost per person – R295.00 which includes:

Entry Fee, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after the hike.

SATURDAY 19th MAY TO SUNDAY 20th MAY 2012 (1 Night)

GATBERG – Certificate No.2 – maximum 8 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the hotel on Saturday morning and returning in time for Sunday lunch.

Duration – Overnight Camp

Hiking Standard – B – involves very easy rock work but is mostly on grass.

Saturday – Depart at 08h00 for a +/- 5 hour hike to Zulu Cave (no tent required) where you leave your backpack and hike to the top of Gatberg and return to the Cave where you overnight. Sunday – early pack up and return to the hotel in time for lunch.

Cost per person – R480.00 which includes:

Entry Fee, Certificate, Guide, welcome drinks after hike and Sunday lunch.



SATURDAY 2ND JUNE 2012 (1 Day)

STERKHORN - Certificate No. 4 – maximum 12 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the Hotel at 06h30

Hiking Standard – C- involves moderate rock work. A rope is not necessary.

Cost per person – R295.00 which includes:

Entry fee, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after the hike.

MONDAY 25TH JUNE TO WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2012 (2 Nights)

CHAMPAGNE CASTLE – Certificate No. 5 – maximum 12/minimum 4 people

Departing from the Hotel on Friday morning and returning in time for

Sunday lunch (13h00 to 14h00).

Duration – Weekend Camp

Hiking Standard – B – involves very easy rock work but is mostly on grass.

Friday – depart from hotel at 09h00 for +/- 5 to 6 hours hike to Keith Bush Camp at the base of Champagne Castle where we overnight in tents.

Saturday – take a day pack and climb to the top of the escarpment via Grey's Pass for +/- 3 to 4 hours of hard climbing and spend some time on top visiting the actual highest point of Champagne, Vultures Retreat, Inkosana Cave and returning down the same way where we again overnight.

Sunday – early pack up and return to the hotel in time for a few cold ones and lunch.

Cost per person – R580.00 which includes:

Entry fee for 2 days, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after hike and Sunday lunch.

SATURDAY 14TH OF JULY 2012 (1 Day)

AMPHLETT – Certificate No.3 – maximum of 12 people

Departing from the Hotel at 06h30

Hiking Standard – C – involves moderate rock work. A rope is not necessary.

Cost per person – R295.00 which includes:

Entry Fee, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after the hike.

SATURDAY 4TH TO SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST 2012 (1 Night)

GATBERG – Certificate No.2 – maximum 12 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the hotel on Saturday morning and returning in time for Sunday lunch.

Duration – Overnight Camp

Hiking Standard – B – involves very easy rock work but is mostly on grass.

Saturday – Depart at 08h00 for a +/- 5 hour hike to Zulu Cave (no tent) where you leave your backpack and hike to the top of Gatberg and return to the Cave where you overnight. Sunday

– early pack up and return to the hotel in time for lunch. Cost per person – R480.00 which includes:

Entry Fee, Certificate, Guide, welcome drinks after hike and Sunday lunch.

SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2012 (1 Day)

STERKHORN - Certificate No. 4 – maximum 12 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the Hotel at 06h30



Hiking Standard – C- involves moderate rock work. A rope is not necessary.
Cost per person – R295.00 which includes:
Entry fee, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after the hike.

FRIDAY 7TH TO SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2012 (2 Nights)

CHAMPAGNE CASTLE – Certificate No. 5 – maximum 12/minimum 4 people
Departing from the Hotel on Friday morning and returning in time for Sunday lunch.
Duration – Weekend Camp

Hiking Standard – B – involves very easy rock work but is mostly on grass.

Friday – depart from hotel at 08h00 for +/- 5 to 6 hours hike to Keith Bush Camp at the base of Champagne Castle where we overnight in tents (guest to supply their all their own equipment).

Saturday – take a day pack and climb to the top of the escarpment via Grey's Pass for +/- 3 to 4 hours of hard climbing and spend some time on top visiting the actual highest point of Champagne, Vultures Retreat, Inkosana Cave and returning down the same way where we again overnight.

Sunday – early pack up and return to the hotel in time for a few cold ones and lunch.

Cost per person – R580.00 which includes:

Entry fee for 2 nights, Certificate, Guide, welcome drinks after hike and Sunday Lunch.

SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2012 (1 Day)

STERKHORN - Certificate No. 4 – maximum 12 people/minimum 3 people

Departing from the Hotel at 06h30

Hiking Standard – C- involves moderate rock work. A rope is not necessary.

Cost per person – R295.00 which includes:

Entry fee, Certificate, Guide & welcome drinks after the hike.

CERTIFICATE NO 1 – MATTERHORN

This is the easiest of the hikes and is frequently done from the Hotel, departing at 09h15 and returning in time for lunch at approximately 13h15. This hike may also be done on your own without a guide but advance arrangements must be made with Reception. Non-residents will be charged a fee of R55.00 p/p.

The Hotel does not accept responsibility for any hikers and all participants will be expected to sign an indemnity form prior to undertaking any hike arranged by the Hotel. Please note that the above schedule may be changed without prior notice should unforeseen circumstances occur and they are obviously subject to weather.

Please note that if you do undertake these hikes, you need to be relatively fit and it is vital that you have the right equipment such as hiking boots, day pack, camping equipment and all-weather gear. Please seek professional advice should you be uncertain as to the suitability of any equipment.



We would love to have you join us for these hikes, making it as fun and memorable as possible. Look forward to assisting you in making the necessary arrangements.

Happy Hiking!