



HIKING & MOUNTAINEERING IN THE KLEIN KAROO



LADISMITH – KLEIN SWARTBERG

Elandsberg

Circular route up Elandsberg, running past Stanley's light. A stiff climb of 792m!

Distance: 13,93 km Duration:
5 - 8 hours

Towersig

Circular route in hills north of town with views of mountain and town.

Distance: 2-12km Duration:
1 - 4 hours

Enquiries: 028 551 1378

Buffelspoort Heritage Site

4 Trails - up the mountain, in the Karooveld or through the Poort. The highlight is a 24km hike through the Poort.

Distance: 3 - 30km
Enquiries: 028 551 2117

Springvale

3 km hike in koppies, as well as 15km trail through game kamp on 4x4 route. A picnic site with water on 15km route.

Distance: 3km Duration: 1 hour
15 km – 4½ - 5 hours

Enquiries: 028 551 2014

Seweweekspoort

Climb of 600m on gravel road winding with the stream through magnificent rock formations.

Distance: 17 km

BESEMFONTEIN

Klipkraal

Circular route leads to the summit of the mountain.

Distance: 22,5km Duration: 6-7 hours

Verlorenhoek

An out-and-back route leading to a beautiful pool at the bottom of a waterfall.

Distance: 15,6km Duration: 5-8 hours

Enquiries: 044 203 6326

GAMKABERG NATURE RESERVE

Oukraal

Near Calitzdorp and Oudtshoorn. (bushcamp)

Distance: 23,5km Duration: 2 days
Enquiries: 028 213 3367

PRINCE ALBERT

“To the Hell and Back”

Tierberg Routes

Remhoogte

Botanical Hike

Enquiries: 023 541 1366

SWARTBERG HIKING TRAILS

Cango Caves – De Hoek - Cave

Distance: 5,6km Duration: 1½ hours

De Hoek – Protea Ridge – De Hoek

Distance: 12km Duration: ¾ hours

De Hoek – Bushmen’s Neck – De Hoek

Distance: 21,2km Duration: 4½ hours

De Hoek – Bothashoek – De Hoek

Distance: 29,5km Duration: 8 hours

Summit Route

Distance: 25,9km Duration: 5½ hours

Old Toll – Malvasdraa – Old Toll

Distance: 20km Duration: 4½ hours

Swartberg Pass

Distance: 16,3km Duration: 3½ hours

Old Toll – Salt Kloof – Old Toll

Distance: 10,3km Duration: 3½ hours
Enquiries: 044 203 6326

KAMMANASSIE NATURE RESERVE

Situated between De Rust and Dysselsdorp in the north and northwest and Uniondale in the east.

Kloof Route

Meanders through the Lands River Valley following the river. The pathway is surrounded by indigenous forest. Trail ends at a waterfall.

Distance: 7km

Duration: 3,5 hrs

Rooiplaas Circular Route

Climbs from the Lands River Valley to a plateau with spectacular views.

Distance: 6,5km

Duration: 3,5 hrs

Enquiries: 044 752 1110 (Nature Conservation)

MOUNTAINEERING @ Ladismith

Towerkop

The Klein Swartberg at Ladismith is definitely a mountaineer's paradise. Five of

the eight highest peaks in the Western Cape is situated within 15 km from Ladismith. It caters for all tastes – varying between steep rock climbs, long and steep hiking trails through the mountains, lasting a couple of days, and easier hiking trails, as well as one-day hikes. Although Towerkop (2 198 m) is not the highest in the range, it is certainly the most well-known and difficult to climb. Towerkop itself is a dome-shaped rock, 122 m in height, cleft in two by a fissure 30 m wide at the top, tapering to 3 m at the base.

It is situated north of the town and is visible for hundreds of kilometers, altering in shape and appearance as the traveller changes position. It is discernable from near Mossel Bay in the south to Beaufort West in the north-east. Towerkop (Witchery head) derives its name probably from its changing appearance, but there is also a legend that a witch was crossing the mountain one night during a thunderstorm and found the rock obstructing her way. In anger she struck it with her wand and split it into two!

At first site, it seems impossible to negotiate this route. The first stage of about 12 m is classified as F2. Following this there is a traverse, followed by a chimney of about 30 m high. At this stage the climber has nearly reached his goal. It is stressed that the western route is dangerous and unexperienced climbers should not attempt to tackle it on their own. There are more than a dozen routes up Towerkop, varying from difficult to extremely difficult.

Seweweekspoort Peak

At 2 325 m it is the highest in the Klein Swartberg as well as the Western Cape. There is a comfortable cave at 2 000 m, as well as a perennial stream which runs even during droughts.

It can be approached from Seweweekspoort – the so-called **Rocklands route** which starts at **Aristata**. This route is clear and it is not necessary to negotiate steep rock formations. This is the shortest route and takes about 5 hours to climb. The **South ridge** route is long, pleasant and well-defined, with a footpath up to approximately 1 800m. This route takes you up to a steep climb from the farm **Broadacres** to the summit. There is also a 4x4 route with a hut at the end of it. From the hut is a 300m climb to the summit.

Peak Plaats

This beautiful peak (2 138 m) is the second highest peak in the Klein Swartberg and bar two other peaks, the highest in the Western Cape. It is a good full day's adventure for a fit party to climb the mountain from Knuyswagensdrift.

Other peaks to be climbed:

STEENSLANG (2 228 m), **TOORKOP** (2143 m),

ELANDSBERG (2 127 M), as well as several others.