

Discover the Maluti Hiking Trail

Traversing the mountainous foothills of the southern Drakensberg on the cusp of the Eastern Cape, KZN and southern Lesotho, the Maluti Trail is a successful community-owned trail into this lesser known part of the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg National Park.

This 4 hike day/ 4 night trail explores the diverse natural and cultural heritage of this corner of the Maloti-Drakensberg World Heritage Site. On the trail you'll hike along mountainous foothills passing through friendly rural villages, taking in visits to ancient rock-art sites, fording mountain streams, learning about medicinal plants and local culture.

Each night you'll be welcomed by your chalet host into a clean and comfortable trail hut where hot showers, fresh linen and a delicious meal prepared with locally grown vegetables await. The hike is guided by a professionally trained and qualified community guide, and luggage transfers from one chalet to the next can easily be arranged for those who don't wish to carry more than a light daypack.

HIKING ROUTE



MALEKHALONYANE CHALET **HIKE DAY ONE: 14 km** ***Alt: 1591m***



Starting point after overnight at Malekhalonyane chalet near Motseng village. Chalet is in open grassland with mountain views along which the trail traverses in a north-easterly direction. Cross over the Jordan river soon after starting the hike. Pause to inspect rock art paintings on route which your guide will point out. Short steep climb up onto grassland ridge with easy walking descending down to stream crossing near Masupha village. Moderate climb with great views followed by descent through Mpharane village to chalet.





MAKHULONG CHALET
HIKE DAY TWO: 19,5 km
Alt: 1560m

Descend through Mpharane village to cross the Seeta river. This can be deep in summer requiring careful negotiation. Thereafter a steady climb using footpaths and sled tracks to reach a long easy ridge with excellent 360 degree views. Through a nek and contour path to the protea level where the path meanders through open grassland with streams and incised valleys. A final moderate climb takes you to the chalet at Maboloka located below the Twin Sisters and Makalane peaks. A walk down to the stream and through Mountain Hard pear trees takes one to a panel of well preserved rock art in the sandstone belt.

MABOLOKA CHALET
HIKE DAY THREE: 12,5 km
Alt: 1663m



Moderate climb along stock paths up pleasant contour with interesting sandstone features. Descend to Kinira river (good clean water for drinking) and follow undulating terrain through Goxe and Pepela villages. Cross Makomoring stream (some wattle infestation) and climb up to the chalet located in protea grassland. The chalet at Madlangala is surrounded by encircling mountain peaks and has a sense of space and clear mountain air.

MADLANGALA CHALET
DAY FOUR: 12 km
Alt: 1685m



Your last day's hike is a pleasant contour walk with patches of indigenous forest, protea groves, fascinating sandstone features and mountain grassland. Depending on season, you will find many species of wildflowers and birdlife along this section. The trail ends nears Qachas Nek (border post with Lesotho) where you will be collected by vehicle and taken back to Matatiele where your cars will have been safely parked.



The Maluti Adventure Trail

The quaint and welcoming town of Matatiele, 70km from Kokstad forms the perfect gateway to the trail, half way between Underberg and Rhodes.

The route traverses spectacular mountainous foothills and rural villages, taking in visits to ancient rock-art, sparkling streams, indigenous trees, medicinal plants, craft projects and top of the world views.

2018 Price: Based on 2 or more persons: **R3,400 / per person**

Trail package includes:

- Twin or dormitory room accommodation – 4 nights
- 4 Nights Dinner, Breakfast & packed lunch for all hike days
- Hot showers, linen and towels
- Professional hiking guide for all 4 hike days

Extras:

- Return transfers to/from Matatiele to start/and from finish of trail @ **R 1500** /per group (up to 7 persons/group. If group is larger – 2 transfer vehicles will be required)
- Secure Parking at R20/day

Optional Extras:

- '**Slackpacking**' option: daily vehicle transfers of baggage – for entire hike: **R1500** (price shared amongst the group)



THE TRAIL CHALETS:

Malekhalonyane, close to Mariazell Mission consists of one main rectangular house with two bathrooms, kitchen and dining room, a boma for evening braai, three rondavels sleeping 4 to 6 each.

Makhulong, above Mpharane village offers a communal rectangular building with kitchen, two bathrooms and dining room opening onto a terrace, a boma for evening braai and storytellingthree rondavels (1 dormitory style and 2 sleeping 2x2 each)

Machekong, right up below the Three Sisters ridge, has one communal house opening onto a terrace with stunning views, two bathrooms, dining room and kitchen, and two rondavels (one dormitory style sleeping 6 to 8 and one divided into two twin rooms)

Madlangala, built out of stones and surrounded by Protea trees, consists of one main house with two bathrooms, kitchen and dining room opening onto shaded terrace with views and two rondavels (one dormitory style for 6 and one rondavel divided in two twin rooms)

