

....Discover the Mehlosing Trail



MALEKHALONYANE CHALET

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

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 Hardpear trees takes one to a panel of well preserved rock art in the sandstone belt.



MABOLOKA CHALET
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 near 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 Mehlooding Adventure Trail

Located in the relatively unexplored southern Drakensberg, at the junction of the Eastern Cape, Kwa Zulu Natal and southern Lesotho, the Mehlooding Trail takes you on a path of rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage.

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.



Pricing

Cost of the 4 day/4 night trail is **R 1,350 per person.**

Price valid from October 2006 to September 30, 2007

Trail package includes:

- Twin or dormitory room accommodation
- Dinner, breakfast and free service tea/coffee
- Hot showers, linen and towels
- Professional guiding
- Packed Lunch

Extra: Return transfers from Matatiele @ R 300 per group (up to 8 persons)

The trail can be hiked in either way or limited to one, two or three days. Each chalet can be used as a base for 1 or few nights but can only be reached by 4 x 4 vehicle or a pleasant short guided hike. Transfer (at cost) can be organized - please discuss your option with our booking office.

What to bring for the hike ... the minimum as you will have to carry your pack every day. Please note that linen and towels are provided... Comfortable (not new) hiking boots, light hiking gears, light wet weather gear and something warm to wear in the evening, sun hat, sun cream, drinking bottle, lunch box (might be practical to carry your picnic lunch), torch, binocular for bird watching (???)

All chalets have a 'No Smoking' Policy.

There is no alcohol for sale at the chalets but it can be purchased from the local shebeen.

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 brai, 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 brai and story tellingthree 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)

