

Hakos Mountain Trail



Hakos Mountain Trail

- panoramic views over the Great Western Escarpment with the Gamsberg massif and into the Namib Desert
- Hakos Mountain range – folded mountains formed 500 mya
- the first and last section of the trail follows old and current farm tracks; section 2 - 9 follows the landscape, mainly on zebra tracks
- spotting of wildlife e.g. hartman's mountain zebra, oryx, kudu, rock hyrax, chacma baboon, klipspringer, rosy-faced lovebird
- rich flora including: red bushwillow (*Combretum apiculatum*), shepherd tree (*Boscia albitrunca*), camel-thorn (*Acacia erioloba*), century plant (*Boophone disticha*), paper-bark euphorbia (*Euphorbia guerichiana*), mountain aloe (*Aloe littoralis*) ...

Distance: 12.5 km (taking the alternative route, 15.7 km)

Duration: 5 hrs walking only (add 3 hrs resting, exploring ...)

Elevation gain/loss: 749 m

Best timing: Leave at dawn allowing for maximum walking in shade

Please ensure you take the following essentials:

- Hat
- Hiking boots – easy walking but very rocky terrain
- Long-sleeved shirt for sun protection and sun lotion
- Water (4 – 5 litres, no water on route)

Please:

- Do not litter and leave no toilet or tissue paper in the veld
- Do not smoke – bush fires kill
- Respect all wildlife and be aware of snakes
- Leave only footprints and take only photographs

LEGEND

UPond(2020)

1	At the cairn 1.1 km from farm house, turn left onto old track.
2	Reaching the Iab river bed, turn right - walk for about 100 m.
3	From this point there are only zebra tracks. Making your own way, exit river bed to the left and cross a ridge leading through another river bed before the real ascent to the top of the Hakos mountains begins. Once on the incline, remain on this ridge all the way to the top.
4	Cairn indicates the peak - 'Weihnachtsberg' ('Christmas peak' – name derived from our first ascent on 25.12. 1989).
5	Continue along the ridge and into a V-neck with a tree – this is the valley for the decent. Note the large aloe on your right as you move downward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatively, continue along the ridge for 280 m to join a track – easier walking but this route adds another 3.2 km to the trail. Keep right at T-junction along the way and re-connect at no 8, turning left.
6	Dry waterfall with rock ledges. When reaching the foot of the mountain, cross the river bed and continue across another ridge until you reach a track, then turn left. As there is no defined hiking path, you may encounter a fence on your left – just continue along the fence.
7	Gate - continue on the track, sweeping right.
8	Crossing (with track from the left) – continue straight on.
9	Follow track and keep right, taking you to a borehole and solar installation. This is where our drinking water is sourced. It is pumped via a middle station, which you'll pass on the way up, to reservoirs supplying the farm house - a total distance of 3.4 km and a height of 300m.

ENJOY YOUR HIKE !