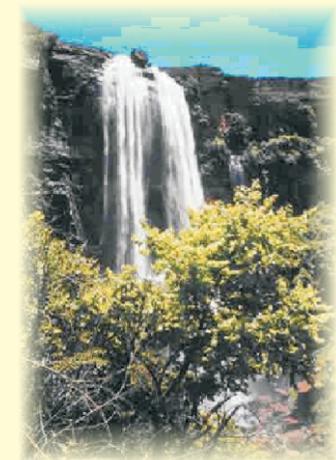


ACCREDITED HIKING TRAIL

Oom Paul BACKPACKER'S TRAIL



Classification

A two-day self guiding, self-catering backpack trail

Environment: - pristine

Accommodation: - excellent

Difficulty Rating: - moderate



Endorsed by:
Southern African Hiking Trail Owners Association (SAHTOA),
Hiking Organization of Southern Africa, (HOSA), Open Africa,
ANVIE Ventures, ARA, JACANA MARKETING &
RESERVATION, Ecotrail & Ecoplan
www.trailinfo.co.za

Trail Facilities

Booking Facilities & Info: Internet, postal, telephone, fax
Reception: Office or caretaker on site or nearby
Directions: Clear road signs to start of hike: public & private roads
Access road: Graded gravel
Parking: Open parking
Car security: Relatively safe from public areas
Trail Format: Two-day clover
Map: Colour with contour lines and additional information. Available on website.
Brochure: Standard brochure, with basic hiking information
Markers: Trail markers
Environmental education: Some trees identified
Safety:
Warning signs: Dangerous places marked
Crossings: Effective
Telephone: Near start and end of trail, cell phone access
Medical Aid: Basic aid near start and end of trail
Hikers' safety en route: Safe
Water: Available

Basic Trail Description

This trail is a 2-day backpacker's trail (13 km & 9 km). You can start from either the Bermanzi or Five Assegais sides. From both sides you are gradually descending through rapidly changing sceneries of impressive rocks, bush, mountain streams and waterfalls, to the Bank Spruit Gorge. You go through an indigenous forest with a great variety of trees and birdlife. You also pass cultural and historical sites. You often follow the contour also used by bushbuck, kudu and mountain reedbuck with beautiful view over the Komati Valley. The climax of the trail is the impressive Bride's Leap Waterfall (also known as the Uitkoms Waterfall, being the second highest waterfall in Mpumalanga)

Environmental Character: Definitions

A **PRISTINE** environment depicts an area where nature still exists in its more-or-less pure form: clean drinking water in streams, indigenous vegetation and animal life with no trace of human constructions, activities or sounds nearby.



In a **NATURAL** environment one could expect to see and hear human activities to a limited extent; such as e.g. associated with farming and forestry. Exotic plants (e.g. pine plantations) might be prevalent; as well as cattle, fences and constructions such as earth dams.



To hike through a **RURAL** environment would imply close contact with rural development and its associated noise, crossing of public roads, hiking on forestry/ farm roads, visual contact with agricultural fields, cement dams, domesticated animals, etc.



Generalized Classification

Day 1	Day 2			
 Pristine	 Pristine			

Accommodation Facilities

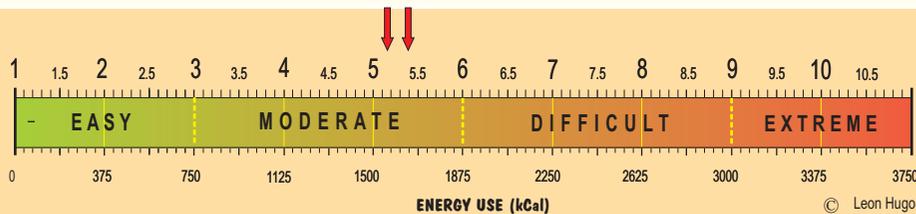
a trail is regarded as having (A)  excellent, (B)  standard and (C)  rustic accommodation according to the following facilities:

The Stables, Vakashani & Phumulani
God's Window Camp

- ✓✓ **Accommodation:** (A) Good quality hut/lux.tent/house with several sleeping rooms
 (B) Basic hut or tent(s) provided
 (C) Shelter against elements for sleeping or tent site only
- ✓✓ **Toilet:** (A) Flush toilet inside hut (1:6 people) and toilet paper
 (B) Separate toilet building, flush facilities outside hut (toilet paper provided)
 (C) Pit toilet (max 50m min 20m from hut) or alternative hygienic system (toilet paper)
- Beds:** (A) Single / double beds only
- ✓✓ (B) Bunk beds OR
 (C) No beds provided
- ✓✓ **Mattresses:** (A) Thick (10 cm) high density foam or spring
 (B) Thin
 (C) None
- ✓✓ **Washing:** (A) Shower and/or bath: with geyser or "donkey" pre-lit by attendant
 (B) Shower and/or bath (hot and cold with "donkey")
 (C) Shower (cold) or natural place to bath
- Braai area:** (A) Under cover barbecue, with windshield, lapa (1:10 people)
 (B) Barbeque area, covered only, with grate,
 (C) Barbeque (open) area with grate only or no fires allowed or possible
- ✓✓ **Fire wood provided:** (A) Ample chopped wood (also for campfire)
 (B) One only bundle for braai
 (C) Dry tree/logs with saw/axe provided or no fires allowed/possible (delete one)
- ✓ **Kitchenware:** (A) Fridge/cooler and cutlery/crockery: provided
 (B) Fridge/cooler or cutlery/crockery: provided (delete one)
 (C) NOT provided
- ✓✓ **Kitchen:** (A) Separate "kitchen"/common room with basin and tap inside hut
 (B) Dish washing / cooking place near or adjacent to hut (with table/surface)
 (C) No separate facilities provided
- ✓✓ **Lighting:** (A) Electric/gas/solar
 (B) Candles/paraffin lamps or similar
 (C) None of these provided
- Heating:** (A) Air conditioning or stoves in all rooms
 (B) Heating by means of fire place; coal/wood stove in common room
 (C) None of these
- ✓✓ **Cooking facilities:** (A) Stove/hot plate/burner and kettle, pots & pans
 (B) Stove/Hot plate/burner or kettle, pots & pans
 (C) None of these

Difficulty Grading

Day 1 Day 2



Contact/Booking Information

Attie van Niekerk
 e-mail: attiev@gmail.com
 Website: www.bermanzi.co.za or
 Tel: +27 (0)12 347 7793 - Cell: 082 856 1942 or
Francis Darvall
 Tel: 27-13-256-9263 - Fax: 27- 086-652-7054
 Cell: 082-889-6757
 e-mail: francis@fiveassegais.co.za
 Website: www.wildernesschatter.blogspot.com