

Kingdom Trails

Kingdom Trails is a 15,000 ha privately owned nature reserve, one of the largest in Mpumalanga and South Africa. This pristine nature area is about 120 km north-east of Pretoria and Johannesburg. Hidden within a natural amphitheatre of the Olifants River Gorge, it encompasses the confluence of the Olifants and Wilge rivers in the escarpment break above Loskop Dam. It is an area of outstanding natural and scenic beauty that includes Highveld grasslands, red granite cliffs with seasonal springs, bushveld woodlands and dense riverine vegetation.



Activities at Kingdom Trails include hiking trails of differing durations and challenges, bird watching, game viewing, and fishing on 32 km of unspoilt river frontage. Accommodation facilities include four choices. One of these, a rustic base camp on the banks of the Wilge River, offers accommodation for up to 30 hikers in several separate huts.

Numerous indigenous wildlife species occur on the Kingdom Trails property, including kudu, impala, buffalo, hippo, crocodile, leopard, wildebeest and zebra.

Only 1.5 hours from O.R. Tambo International Airport and Pretoria via the N4, Kingdom Trails is easily accessed by road. The last 10 km, however, are on farm tracks which sometimes require 4WD during the rainy season or after rain showers.

Kingdom Trails is a malaria-free area.

- Part of the idyllic nature of Kingdom trails is that there is **no cell phone reception** and **no electricity**.
- In order to enjoy your stay we strongly advise that **you plan your trip** to the farm carefully and have a clear understanding of where you want to hike and **take your maps** with you.
- The manager of the farm is very hard to reach because of the lack of cell phone reception so please **plan your visit well in advance and pay attention to detail**.

General

- The use of any firearms is strictly forbidden
- No vehicles may drive between camps, roads only to be used to access camps
- No quadbikes or motorbikes allowed under any circumstances
- Mountain bikes can be ridden by special arrangement
- Fishing possible by arrangement
- Walking, hiking, swimming all at own risk

The Green Code

- Whatever you bring in with you, must leave with you. Please take your rubbish WITH YOU
- Fires only to be made in designated areas. Please ensure they are completely dead when unattended.
- Leave only footprints, take only memories
- Do not damage the natural environment
- This is a conservation area, no pets allowed

Animals

There are wild animals at Kingdom Trails

- Beware of crocodiles and hippo's in the rivers
- Beware of free roaming leopards and buffalos (They have walked across from the Loskop Dam Nature reserve)
- During the summer months please be careful when it comes to snakes, they are everywhere!
- Please do not feed the monkeys or leave rubbish around that the baboons can find.

We have never had a serious incident with any of the above-mentioned animals. **Please be vigilant and careful**

2013 RATES: ALL CAMPS: R120.00 per adult and R90.00 per child u/12 per night.

2 x days 1 x night bookings: 1 Night + day rate of R80.00 = R200.00 per person.

3 x days 2 x night bookings: 2 Nights + day rate = R320.00 per person.

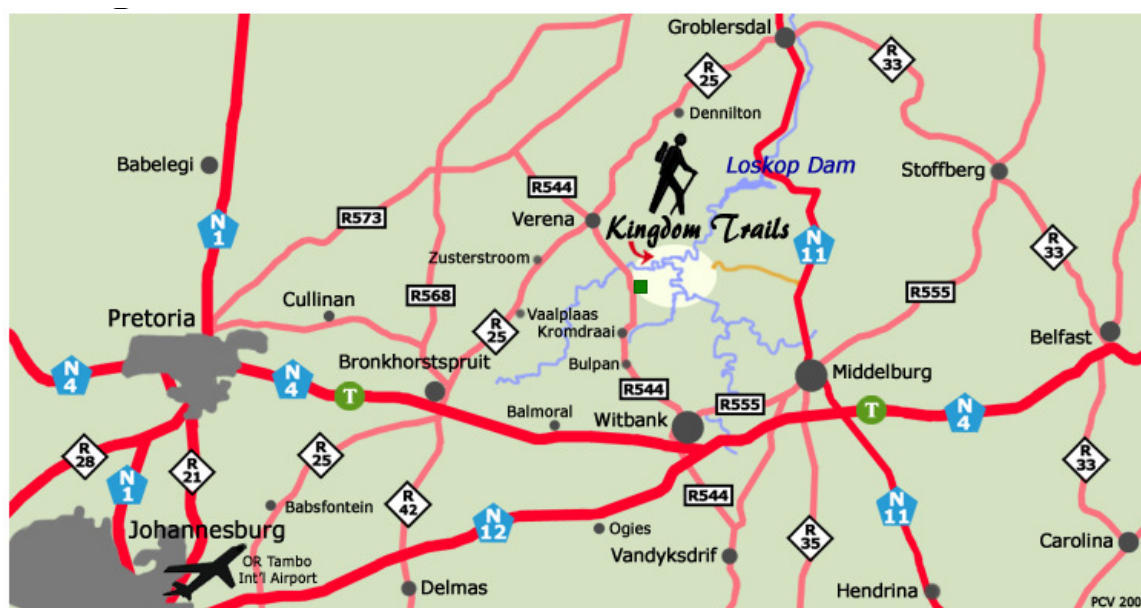
Travelling to Kingdom Trails

Please note: there are **2 access points to the trails**. Please ensure you know which one to use. **You cannot travel across the farm if you make a mistake.**

It is advisable to travel to the trails in daylight as the roads can be tricky and then you can also enjoy the spectacular views.

Kingdom Camp (Entrance A):

- Access is from the Witbank/Emalahleni to Verena Road (R544)
- Access is only via **4X4** vehicles
- You will need a **code** to open the gate. Please ensure you obtain it **days** before your visit
- You will drive through various cattle gates. Please leave them as you find them. They do not have locks on them



Slaghoek House (Entrance B):

- Access is from the N11 north from Middelburg. Please ensure you take the first Bankplaas gravel road off the N11 coming from Middelburg (see road map). Take note: when you reach the farm access our gate is a smaller gate on the right hand side of a larger sliding gate. Our access is the smaller double hinged gate
- This is the only camp that you can reach with a normal vehicle
- You will need a **code** to open the gate please ensure you obtain it **days** before your visit

Klip Kamp (Entrance B):

- Access is from the N11 north from Middelburg. Please ensure you take the first Bankplaas gravel road off the N11 coming from Middelburg (see road map). Take note: when you reach the farm access our gate is a smaller gate on the right hand side of a larger sliding gate. Our access is the smaller double hinged gate.
- Access is only via **4X4** vehicles
- You will need a **code** to open the gate please ensure you obtain it **days** before your visit
- On route to the camp you will drive past Slaghoek house (see trail map)

Grootdraai Hut

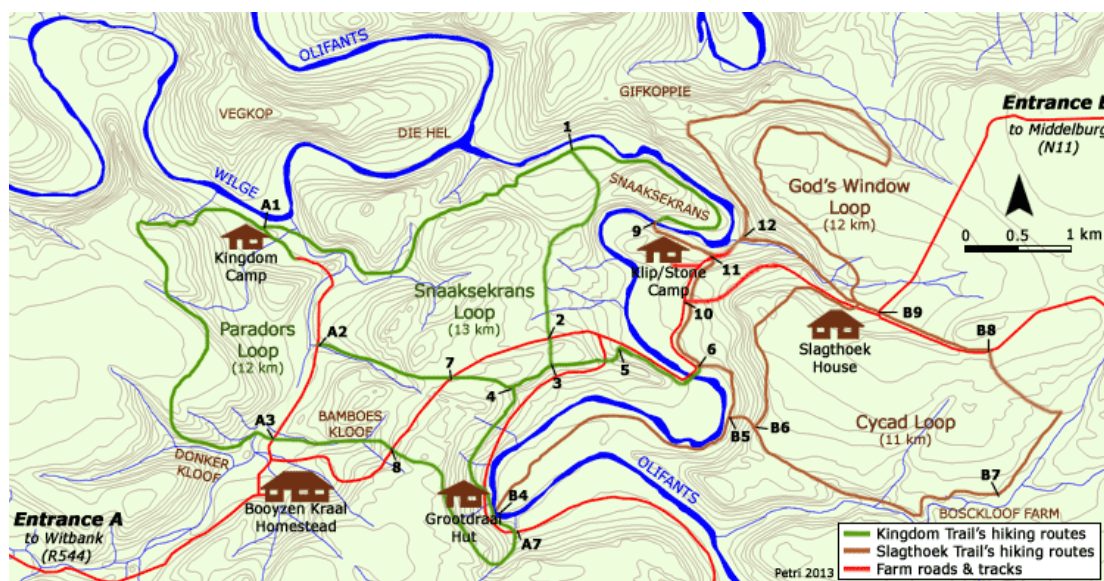
- Can only be accessed on foot

Hiking Trails

- There are various routes you can use between camps. Ensure you are clear as to which route you are using.
- **You must take your hiking trail map with you.** To help you find your way we have numbered various trail intersections so that you can easily orientate yourself using your map.

River Crossings

- There is only one place to cross the river when it is in flood. It is a low level car bridge
- During the rainy season if this low level crossing is also under water there is NO other safe river crossing.
- We advise some form of water proofing for your bag when you cross the river at any time of year



Kingdom Camp Base Camp Hikes

Kingdom Camp Paradors Loop	12km, difficult (Kingdom Camp from main parking, head east down jeep track, left up the mountain, A3, A2, Kingdom Camp)	Vistas of the Wilge River Valley and Kingdom Camp, a valley with a beautiful fresh water stream and huge trees and a variety of animals.
Kingdom Camp Snaaksekrans Loop	13km, difficult (Kingdom Camp, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)	Vistas of the Olifants River gorge, Snaaksekrans mountain and a variety of animals. Caution: Hippo and Crocodile (at 1)

Slaghoek House Base Camp Hikes

Slaghoek House Cycad Loop	11km, difficult (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, Slaghoek House)	Cycad forest, rock pools to swim in and a beautiful lookout over the Olifants river gorge and a variety of animals.
Slaghoek House God's Window	12km, difficult (Slaghoek House, 12, Slaghoek house)	Beautiful vistas of the Olifants River gorge, fresh water stream with big trees. Caution: Save some energy for the ascent from 12!

Kingdom Camp overnight hikes

Starting camp	Overnight camp		Distance, difficulty and route	What you may see
Kingdom Camp	Grootdraai hut	0 river crossings	Day 1: 12km, difficult (Kingdom Camp, 1, 2, 3, 4, Grootdraai hut) Day 2: 8km, moderate (Grootdraai hut, A7, 8, A3, A2, Kingdom camp)	Great vistas of the Olifants River gorge, a bamboo forest at a small perennial spring on day 2 and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</i>
	Klip Kamp	2 river crossings <u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u>	Day 1: 10km, moderate (Kingdom camp, 1, 9, 11, Klip Kamp) Day 2: 13km, difficult (Klip Kamp, 10, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)	A riverine forest and a waterfall in the Olifants River gorge. Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at 9). Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</i>
	Klip Kamp	1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) * <u>This route is to be used when the river is high, sections of the hike will be covered on both days</u>	Day 1: 14km, difficult (Kingdom camp, 1, 2,3,5,6,10, Klip Kamp) Day 2: 13km, difficult (Klip Kamp, 10, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)	Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</i>
	Slaghoek House	2 river crossings <u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u>	Day 1: 14km, difficult (Kingdom Camp, 1, 9, 11, 12, Slaghoek House) Day 2: 20km, very difficult (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)	A riverine forest and a waterfall in the Olifants River gorge. Steep ascent through a beautiful forest past a substantial perennial stream. A beautiful stream will lead you to a cycad forest. Vistas of the Olifants river gorge and surrounding mountains. <i>Caution: When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at 9). Hippo and crocodile (at 1). Save some energy for the last ascent on day 1!</i>
	Slaghoek House	1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) * <u>This route is to be used when the river is high, some sections of the hike will be covered on both days</u>	Day 1: 16km, difficult (Kingdom camp, 1, 2,3,5,6,10, 11,12, Slaghoek house) Day 2: 20km, difficult (Slaghoek House, A9, A8, A7, A6, A5, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)	Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain, the cycad forest and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</i>
				*If the river is knee deep even over the low level bridge, please do not attempt the crossing.

Slaghoek Overnight Hikes

Starting camp	Overnight camp		Distance, difficulty and route	What you may see
<p>Slaghoek House</p> <p>Access by 2x4 Vehicle access entrance B</p> <p>✦If the river is knee deep even over the low level bridge, please do not attempt the crossing.</p>	Klip Kamp	0 river crossings	<p>Day 1: 13km, via Cycad Loop. Moderate (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, 6, 10, Klip Kamp)</p> <p>Day 2: 12km, via God's Window loop. Moderate (Klip Kamp, 11, 12, God's window loop, Slaghoek house)</p>	<p>Beautiful Cycad forest, vistas of the Olifants River gorge and Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, rock pools to swim in and a variety of game. <i>Caution: Buffalo's seen on the God's Window loop</i></p>
	Grootdraai hut	2 river crossings <u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u>	<p>Day 1: 13km, moderate (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, B4, River crossing, Grootdraai hut)</p> <p>Day 2: 10km, difficult (Grootdraai hut, 4,3,5,6,10,11,12, Slaghoek House)</p>	<p>Walk through the Cycad Forest, rock pools to swim in, beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at B4).</i></p>
	Grootdraai hut	1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) ✦ <u>This route is to be used when the river is high, sections of the hike will be covered on both days</u>	<p>Day 1: 14km, difficult (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, 6,5,3,4 Grootdraai hut)</p> <p>Day 2: 10km, difficult (Grootdraai hut, 4,3,5,6,10,11,12, Slaghoek House)</p>	<p>Walk through the Cycad Forest, rock pools to swim in, beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals.</p>
	Kingdom Camp	2 <u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u>	<p>Day 1: 20km, very difficult (Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)</p> <p>Day 2: 14km, difficult (Kingdom Camp, 1, 9, 11, 12, Slaghoek House)</p>	<p>A riverine forest and a waterfall in the Olifants River gorge. Steep ascent through a beautiful forest past a substantial perennial stream. A beautiful stream will lead you to a cycad forest. Vistas of the Olifants river gorge and surrounding mountains. <i>Caution: When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at 9). Hippo and crocodile (at 1). Save some energy for the last ascent on day 2!</i></p>
	Kingdom Camp	1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) ✦ <u>This route is to be used when the river is high, some sections of the hike will be covered on days 1 and 2</u>	<p>Day 1: 20km, difficult (Slaghoek House, A9, A8, A7, A6, A5, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp)</p> <p>Day 2: 16km, difficult (Kingdom camp, 1, 2,3,5,6,10, 11,12, Slaghoek house)</p>	<p>Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain, the cycad forest and a variety of animals. <i>Caution: Hippo and crocodile (at 1). Save some energy for the last ascent on day 2!</i></p>

Klip Kamp Overnight Hikes

<p>Klip Kamp</p> <p>Access only by 4X4 Vehicle access entrance B</p> <p>*If the river is knee deep even over the low level bridge, please do not attempt the crossing.</p>	<p>Slaghoek house</p>	<p>0 river crossings</p>	<p>Day 1: 12km, via God's Window loop. Moderate (<i>Klip Kamp, 11, 12, God's window loop, Slaghoek house</i>)</p> <p>Day 2: 13km, via Cycad Loop. Moderate (<i>Slaghoek House, B9, B8, B7, B6, B5, 6, 10, Klip Kamp</i>)</p>	<p>Beautiful Cycad forest, vistas of the Olifants River gorge and Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, rock pools to swim in and a variety of game.</p> <p><u>Caution:</u> Buffalo's seen on the God's Window loop</p>
	<p>Kingdom Camp</p>	<p>2 river crossings</p> <p><u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u></p>	<p>Day 1: 13km, difficult (<i>Klip Kamp, 10, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp</i>)</p> <p>Day 2: 10km, moderate (<i>Kingdom camp, 1, 9, 11, Klip Kamp</i>)</p>	<p>A riverine forest and a waterfall in the Olifants River gorge. Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals.</p> <p><u>Caution:</u> When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at 9). Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</p>
	<p>Kingdom Camp</p>	<p>1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) ❖</p> <p><u>This route is to be used when the river is high, some sections of the hike will be covered on both days</u></p>	<p>Day 1: 13km, difficult (<i>Klip Kamp, 10, 6, 5, 3, 4, 7, A2, Kingdom Camp</i>)</p> <p>Day 2: 14km, difficult (<i>Kingdom camp, 1, 2,3,5,6,10, Klip Kamp</i>)</p>	<p>Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals.</p> <p><u>Caution:</u> Hippo and crocodile (at 1).</p>
	<p>Grootdraai hut</p>	<p>2 river crossings</p> <p><u>This route cannot be used when the river is high.</u></p>	<p>Day 1: 6km, easy. (<i>Klip Kamp, 10,6,B5,B4, Grootdraai hut</i>)</p> <p>Day 2: 7km, moderate. (<i>Grootdraai hut, 4,3,5,6,10, Klip Kamp</i>)</p>	<p>Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals.</p> <p><u>Caution:</u> When the river is low you will still get your feet wet (at B4).</p>
	<p>Grootdraai hut</p>	<p>1 river crossing (across the low level bridge.) ❖</p> <p><u>This route is to be used when the river is high, day 1 and 2 follow the same routes.</u></p>	<p>Day 1: 7km, moderate. (<i>Klip Kamp, 10, 6, 5, 3,4 Grootdraai hut</i>)</p> <p>Day 2: 7km, moderate. (<i>Grootdraai hut, 4,3,5,6,10, Klip Kamp</i>)</p>	<p>Beautiful vistas of Snaaksekrans and the Olifants River gorge from the ridge of the mountain and a variety of animals.</p>

Detailed Camp Information

	Kingdom camp	Slaghoek House	Klip Kamp	Grootdraai Hut
Road Access	4X4 only	Any vehicle	4X4 only	By foot
Access from	Point A (See hiking map)	Point B (See hiking map)	Point B (See hiking map)	By foot

Accommodation	Thatch roof huts (you will be assigned rooms on your permits)	Large old farmhouse	Rooms cut into the rock, some have thatch roofs	One large hut with 3 walls
Beds with mattresses	30	20	20	15
Hotwater showers	'donkey' make the fire yourself (wood provided)	'donkey' make the fire yourself (wood provided)	'donkey' make the fire yourself (wood provided)	No shower facility
Ablutions	Flush toilets (Bring your own toilet paper)	Flush toilets (Bring your own toilet paper)	Flush toilets (Bring your own toilet paper)	EnviroLoo (Bring your own toilet paper)
Drinking water	From the tap	From the tap	From the tap	Provided in 20l plastic drums

Cooking area	Braai Boma	Braai area outside house	Braai boma	Open braai
Braai grid	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kettle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 legged pot	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flat bottomed potjie pot	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Gas stove	Yes, bring your own gas	Yes, bring your own gas	No	No
Gas fridge	Yes, bring your own gas	Yes, bring your own gas	No	No

Don't forget to bring

- Torches or some form of lighting (No electricity available)
- Sleeping bags or bedding
- Cutlery and crockery
- Hiking maps and directions (Cell phone reception limited to the top of the mountains)
- Wood to cook at your base camp (wood can be ordered for the camp you are hiking to, orders must be made at least 3 days in advance)

RISK AND INDEMNITY:

Persons undertaking the trail should understand that anyone who enters the property to partake in the trail, and/ or make use of any facilities do so at own risk and neither the owners of Olifants Gorge/ SLAGTHOEK Hiking Trails nor the booking agent : ANVIE VENTURES will be held responsible for any death, injury or illness sustained or suffered by any person or loss or damage to any property, occurring directly or indirectly from a visit to the property from any cause whatsoever.

Furthermore, neither the owners of the property, nor the booking agent : ANVIE VENTURES accept responsibility for any consequential loss sustained or suffered by the accommodation / trail not being available through Vis Major or for any other reason whatsoever.