



KIT LIST AND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR “IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BUSHMEN” GUIDED DAY HIKE

WHAT TO BRING:

In addition to the normal hiking clothing such as shirts and shorts (preferably made from wicking materials) and good hiking boots or shoes (and gaiters), clients should also have a day pack large enough to fit the following items:

Warm jacket (fleece or equivalent)
Warm long pants (fleece or equivalent)
Windproof and waterproof jacket/Rain suit – jacket and rainpants
1 litre water bottle
Beanie (in winter)
Sun hat
Sun block
Personal medications
Sunglasses
Camera
Binoculars (optional)
Hiking stick(s) (optional)
Refuse bag for your own rubbish
Whistle (**HELP CALL: S.O.S. three short blasts, three long blasts, three short blasts**)

NB All clothes not being worn should be wrapped in garbage bags to keep them dry and all items that may be damaged or rendered inoperable by water should be placed in Ziploc bags. There is no such thing as a waterproof rucksack!

DRAKENSBERG ADVENTURES MINIMUM IMPACT REFUSE POLICY

All your own refuse must be carried out with you. If you “have to go” somewhere away from a toilet, no toilet paper or tissue paper is to be buried, placed under a tree or rock, or strewn about above ground. Please bring your own refuse bag to discard any litter you generate on the tour; ie plastic bottle, tissues, used toilet paper, plastic bags.

BASIC TOUR INFO:

Departure: From Sani Lodge backpackers at 8.15 – 8.30am

Return: To Sani Lodge Backpackers around 3 - 4.30pm depending on the fitness of the group and the numbers of questions asked!

Tour itinerary: This is a hike of around 14km in total. The first 1km is along the road to the Sani Pass Hotel, and we often do this section in a vehicle (if available). The hike can be termed “moderate to easy”, with an altitude gain of around 250m, mostly in one climb which we take very slowly. The guide stops frequently along the way to impart information on various aspects of the Drakensberg Bushmen – their history, lifestyle, religious beliefs and tragic ending. The highlight of the walk is 3 excellent panels of untouched rock art, and our guide will tell you of the various interpretations of rock art which are put forward by scholars. You will also stop for any interesting sightings of birds, animals or flowers along the way as well as to simply enjoy the superb views found along the route.

Toilet stops: All *au natural* on this tour.

KHOMANI BUSHMEN COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Drakensberg Adventures believes that ancient Bushmen rock art should bring benefit to modern Bushmen. Since there are no longer any Drakensberg Bushmen living around here, we have made an agreement to support the living ǀKhomani Bushman community of the Kalahari. We set aside R30 per hiker which goes towards an education project for the ǀKhomani. This “levy” goes towards the payment of a special teacher at the new ǀKhomani Bushman school, Eland School. Dia Vaalbooi’s grandmother was one of only a handful of people identified some 20 years ago by linguists who could still speak the Bushman language of N!u. While N!u was the original language used by the Bushmen of the southern Kalahari area, today most ǀKhomani Bushmen speak either Afrikaans or Nama or both. Dia learnt N!u from her grandmother, and together with a lexicon produced by the linguists in the 1990’s, she is now able to teach N!u to the children in the dedicated ǀKhomani school. We are proud that our rock art walks are allowing the past to make a contribution towards rescuing an ancient Bushman language from extinction.

Our latest initiative has been to support ǀKhomani crafters by including in the tour price for the guided hike the value of a small craft item made by ǀKhomani crafters in the Kalahari. We made contact with the crafters, agreed on the product which they then make and they are then sent to us here to be given out to those doing the hike. This guarantees the crafters a certain amount of business per year. We hope to also sell some of their products in our craft shop.

See our website for more details on how these funds are utilised.

See the “Vehicles and Guides” and “Community Tourism” pages of our website at www.drakensbergadventures.co.za for more information on our tour ethos.