



SOUTH AFRICA – GIANTS CUP HIKING TRAIL DRAKENSBURG MOUNTAINS

Cobham Nature Reserve is dominated by Hodgson's Peaks which enclose the Giants Cup, a 52000 hectare section of the Drakensberg Park in the Southern Drakensberg adjacent to Himeville Village. The impression one gets of Cobham Nature Reserve is vast expanses of Themeda and Festuca grassland which turn from emerald green in spring and summer to shades of gold, brown and purple in autumn and winter.

Flying into Johannesburg, the team will be transported by minibus to Pholela hut in the Cobham reserve.

The Giants Cup Hiking trail starts near the Sani Pass in the north of Cobham and follows the line of the escarpment through the little Berg into Garden Castle ending in Bushmans's Nek. The route takes five days. In the secluded valleys hikers are likely to see Cape Clawless otter and herds of eland well as a large variety of other animals and birds. Cobham has some of the best rock art sites south of the Didima valley.

The Trail is part of the Drakensberg Park National Hiking Way. The hike is along a well established and clearly marked trail that runs southwards from Sani Pass in the north to Bushmans Nek in the south, the full trail being approximately 60km in length. It falls within the Ukahlamba Drakensberg Wilderness Area (a World Heritage Site) and is administered by KZN Wildlife who provide overnight huts along the route. Each hut along the trail has basic facilities - bunk bed and mattresses, benches and tables, flush toilets and a supply of cold running water.

After finishing the trek, the team will have the opportunity to visit the nearby historic town of Ladysmith before heading back to Johannesburg.

DAY	DESCRIPTION
1	Overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.
2	Drive to Cobham reserve. Night at Pholela hut.
3	Trek to Mzimkhulwana
4	Trek to Winterhoek
5	Trek to Swimans
6	Finish trek at Bushmans Nek
7	Day at Ladysmith. Drive to Johannesburg. Flight to UK.
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