



IKHAYALAMAFU
— MOUNTAIN RETREAT —
CHAMPAGNE VALLEY, DRAKENSBERG

WALK BY WALK

Detailed Trail Guide

Ten routes through the reserve and the wider mountain beyond, from a gentle half hour to a full day out.

WALK BY WALK

The Trail Guide

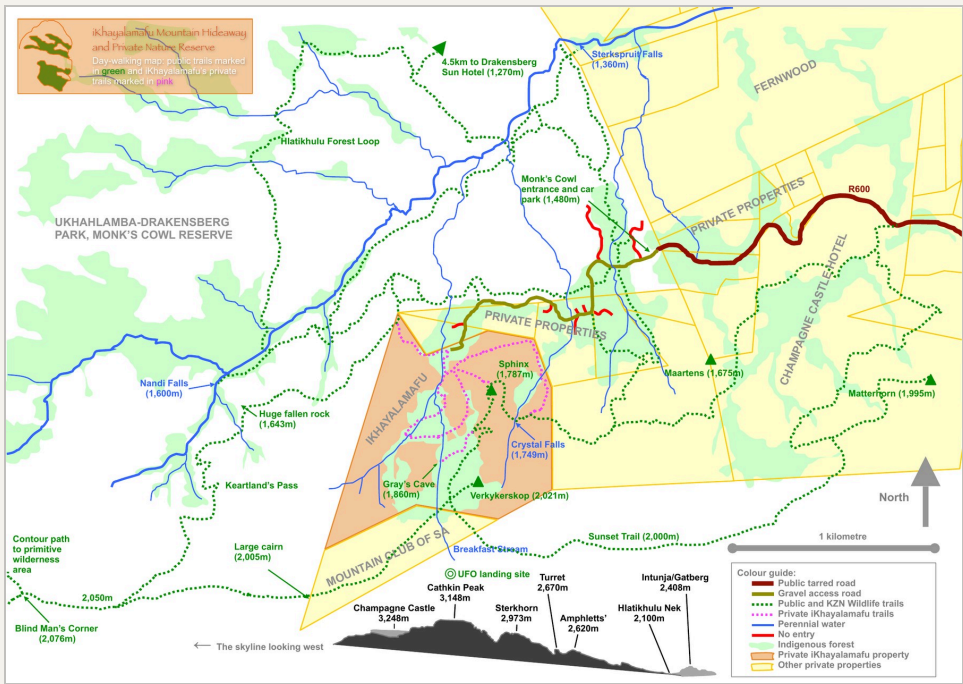
Ten routes, from a gentle half hour to a full day out, all starting and ending at your cabin door. These are proper mountain trails: even the shorter ones climb more steeply than the distances suggest, so moderate fitness is recommended throughout. Somewhere out here, tucked off one of these paths, are ancient gems left by the mountain's earliest inhabitants: ask us for advice on which route suits you, and we may point you in the right direction.

GOOD TO KNOW

6 km of private trails from your cabin, connecting into the wider Drakensberg trail network. Some routes stay entirely on our own land; others continue on to the national park, neighbouring properties or the Champagne Castle Hotel, as noted route by route.

Distances, climbs and times are approximate and measured one way from your cabin door. · The Monk's Cowl gate closes at 18:00.

Finding Your Way



Public trails in green, iKhayalamafu's private trails in pink, from the reserve's own day-walking map.

WALK BY WALK

ROUTES 01-04 OF 10

01 2.5 KM • 200 M CLIMB • 45-90 MIN

Crystal Falls to the Sphinx (the 'Knell' Route)

Most visitors don't realise the Sphinx sits on our land, not inside the park. This gentle route follows Breakfast Stream up from your cabin, passes the Gerald Knell plaque, and lets you choose a path: straight up to the summit, or the contour route to a quiet lookout over the valley. Either way brings you past Crystal Falls on the way home.

02 1.5 KM • 293 M CLIMB • 45-90 MIN

The Forest Trail

A walk into our own patch of indigenous forest: dense trees, small caves, waterfalls, and pools clean enough to swim in. You'll likely have it entirely to yourself. The trail climbs to a junction near the top, where you can head back to your cabin or join the Knell Route.

03 A DETOUR OFF THE SPHINX PATH

Basuto Caves & Gray's Cave

Above the Sphinx, look out for Basuto Caves before the path climbs on to Gray's Cave, where Breakfast Stream forms a small waterfall. Early Drakensberg explorers are said to have slept here on their way up to the main Berg. A short detour, easily added to the Sphinx or Kwartland's Pass routes.

04 4.0 KM • 483 M CLIMB • 1.5-2.5 HRS

Kwartland's Pass

The trail crosses Breakfast Stream and climbs steadily, with views west over the Hlatikhulu Forest to Cathkin Peak. The steepest stretch comes early, then the gradient eases as you pass a house-sized boulder that broke from the cliff in 2000. Around the corner, a year-round stream marks the halfway point, a good spot for tea and your last water before the gentler climb to the top of the Little Berg.

WALK BY WALK

ROUTES 05-07 OF 10

05 1.0 KM · 195 M CLIMB · 30-60 MIN

Sphinx to Breakfast Stream

For those who aren't ready to turn back after the Sphinx. The path continues uphill beneath Verkykerskop, with iKhayalamafu spread out far below, to the top of Breakfast Stream, right above your cabin. No shade up here, but the water is cold and clear and the grass makes a fine place to linger over a snack.

06 0.2 KM · 60 M CLIMB · 10-20 MIN

Breakfast Stream to Verkykerskop

A short, steep detour to a summit most people skip simply because it doesn't lead anywhere else. The view from the top is worth it, and you've a good chance of spotting mountain reedbuck or grey rhebok on the way.

07 8.0 KM · 451 M CLIMB · 3-5 HRS

Sunset Trail to Champagne Castle Hotel

One of our longest and quietest routes, rarely walked, with marvellous views the whole way. It ends at the Champagne Castle Hotel, where the pub makes a well-earned stop before the walk back along the tar road and up the access road to your cabin. The Monk's Cowl gate closes at 18:00, so time your return accordingly.

WALK BY WALK

ROUTES 08–10 OF 10

08 2.0 KM • 115 M CLIMB • 45–60 MIN

Breakfast Stream to Blind Man's Corner

This is where you leave our land and step properly into the national park. A relatively easy walk past the top of Keartland's Pass, with unbroken views of the Cathkin Peak skyline the entire way, ending at Blind Man's Corner, on land belonging to the Mountain Club of South Africa.

09 1.5 KM • 33 M CLIMB • 30–60 MIN

Nandi Falls

Likely the easiest walk on the mountain, with barely a steep step, ending at the twenty-metre Nandi Falls tumbling into cool indigenous forest. Few guests manage more than a few seconds standing under the spray.

10 6.5 KM • 240 M CLIMB • 2–3.5 HRS

Nandi Falls to Sterkspruit Falls

A leisurely route via the Hlathikulu Forest that avoids the more popular paths, winding through forest and past water most of the way to the dramatic Sterkspruit Falls. Return the way you came, or loop back through the Monk's Cowl car park, an option that works for most of the routes above.



IKHAYALAMAFU

Ask us for route advice when you arrive. We know these mountains well, and we're glad to help you choose.