

# Klipspringer Hiking Trail



**MODERATE DIFFICULT**

**Closed from 15 October to 31 March**

There's no better way to truly experience the geology, flora, and fauna of Augrabies Falls National Park than hiking through the heartland of the park itself. The Klipspringer Hiking Trail offers an opportunity to do just that with 39.5km of some of the most beautiful scenery you'll find in the Northern Cape. After visiting the mighty Augrabies Falls, embark on one of the most breathtaking and satisfying journeys available in this part of South Africa.



The 39.5km hike takes three days with two overnights in rustic huts. The huts contain 12 bunk beds with mattresses, toilets, drinking water, fire wood, and basic cooking/braaing utensils (1 water pot, 1 potjie pot, and one braai grill). No electricity or showers are provided. Fires may be lit only in the fireplaces built for this purpose. Hikers must provide their own sleeping bags, torches/candles, and crockery and cutlery.

The Klipspringer Hiking Trail must be reserved in advance by calling SANParks Central Reservations at +27 (0)12 428 9111, faxing a request to +27 (0)12 343 0905, or emailing [reservations@sanparks.org](mailto:reservations@sanparks.org). A maximum of 12 hikers and a minimum of two hikers can use the trail at any time. Booking requests are only accepted 11 months or less in advance. Bookings for the 1st month are opened on the first working day of each new month.

Accommodation for the nights prior to, and upon completion of, the hike are not included in the trail reservation and must be reserved separately. For information on accommodations, visit our website at [www.sanparks.org/parks/augrabies](http://www.sanparks.org/parks/augrabies) or contact SANParks Central Reservations.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:  
054 452 9200**



Telephone: +27 (0)12 428 9111

Fax: +27 (0)12 343 0905

E-Mail: [reservations@sanparks.org](mailto:reservations@sanparks.org)

Internet: [www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)

## General

- Permit and map of route
- Pencil and paper
- Sun glasses
- Binoculars
- Mobile phone
- Camera

## Essentials

- Matches
- Backpack
- Sleeping bag
- Torch and extra batteries
- Pocket knife
- Water bottle
- Water purification tablets
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Crockery\*

\*1 water pot and 1 potjie pot are provided at each hut

## Clothing

- Cap and sunscreen
- Two sets of light clothes
- One sweater or warm jacket
- Hiking boots
- Four pairs of thick socks
- Light rainproof jacket
- Shower shoes for evenings

## First Aid Kit

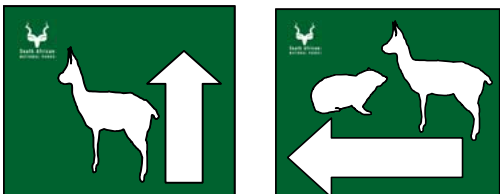
- Headache tablets
- Rehydration packs
- Lip protectant
- Blister guards
- Antiseptic salve
- Insect repellent
- Bandage and plasters
- After-sun treatment
- Disinfectant

## Food

- Dried fruit and vegetables
- Glucose sweets & chocolate
- Peanut butter
- Tinned meat and fish
- Instant soup mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Vacuum-packed meat (for braaing)
- Trail mix
- Coffee, tea, and sports drink
- Muesli and rusks

The Klipspringer Hiking Trail consists of three days of hiking. The first day is 14km long; the second day, 13km; and the last day, 12.5km. Though the first day is the longest, the second day is typically the most difficult regarding the heat, while the third day is the least demanding. As the hike is quite demanding, it's necessary to plan for quite a rigorous trip.

The trail is marked with the following directional signs and/or cairns (small, man-made rock piles):

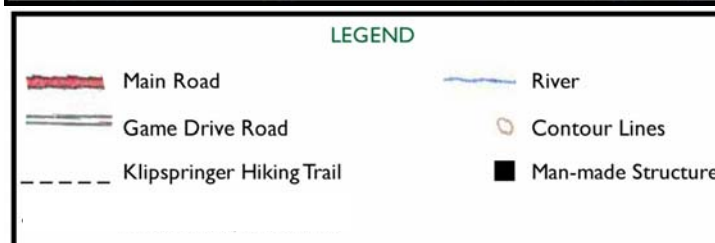
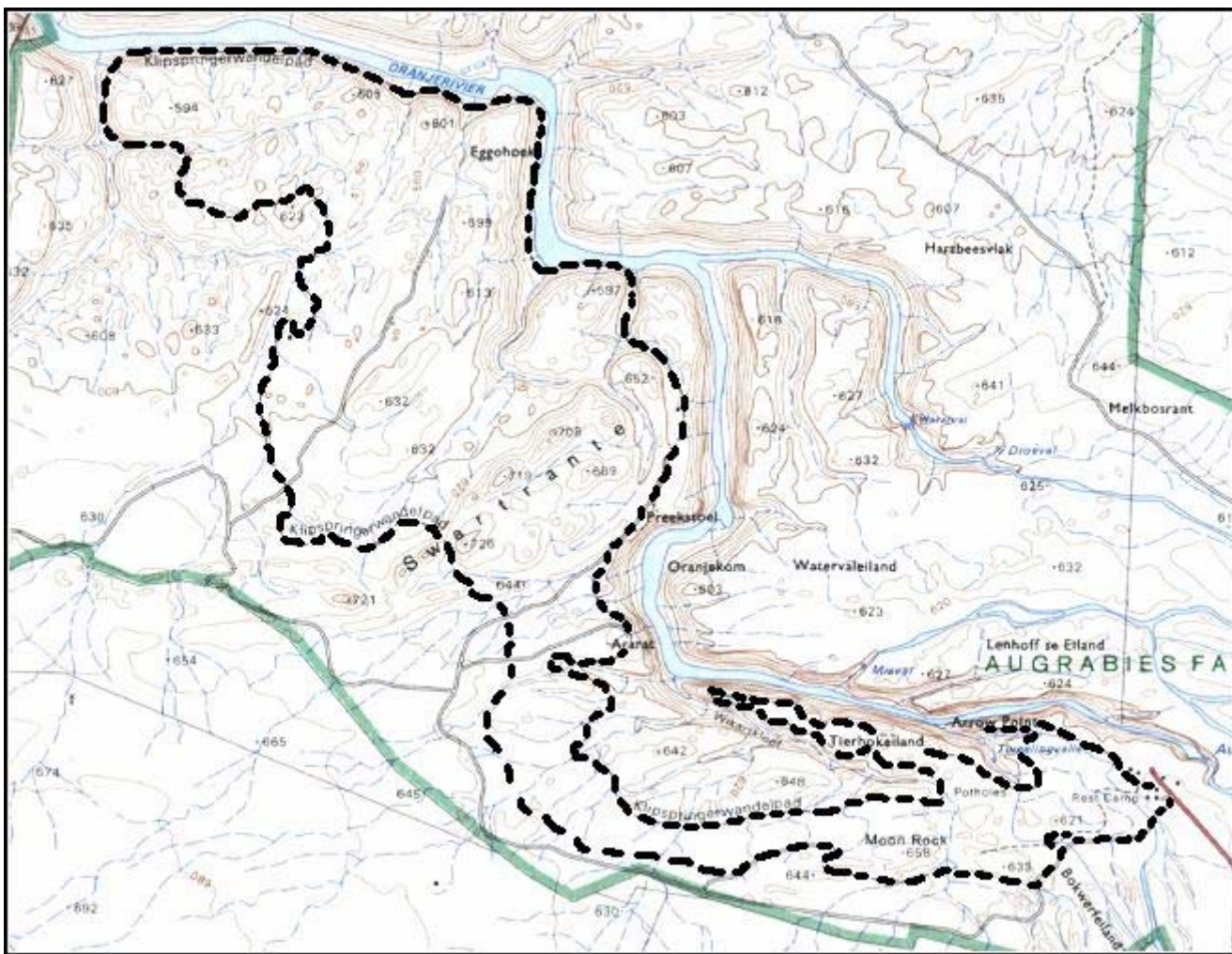


Because this is a semi-arid area, the trail is sometimes difficult to follow without using the trail markers and cairns.

Day 1 starts at the Reception area. Follow the signs to the campground. Continue along the main road through the campground to the farthest northwestern corner. Look just beyond the building on the edge of the campground, and you'll see a big green sign which marks the beginning of the hiking trails. From here, the trail roughly follows along the rim of the gorge to the Visarend Hut (Fish Eagle Hut) which is approximately 1.5km from Oranjekom.

Day 2 begins with a short climb up the hill behind the hut before heading down a small valley into the gorge. It's recommended to walk slightly above the Orange River for the first couple kilometers in the gorge to avoid boulder-climbing right along the water's edge. The trail follows the Orange River approximately 8km. Along the way, you'll come across the Augrabies Falls National Park canoe put-in point. The sixth dry river bed you reach after the canoe put-in point is quite large, and this is the one that will lead you to the hut. At the confluence of three dry river beds, you take the river bed to the left. Follow this main river bed, and when it takes a 90 degree turn to the right, you are only about 1km from the Berg Hut (Mountain Hut). Continue following the river bed, but move to the left side just above the bank where you'll encounter a dirt road. While following the road, keep a close eye to your left: the hut is visible through a small saddle.

Day 3 follows the dirt road for a short while before heading towards the Swart Rante (Black Ridges). After crossing the Swart Rante, the trail follows along the road periodically until reaching Moon Rock. At Moon Rock, you



have the option of climbing over the top of Moon Rock or walking along the base of it on the right side. After Moon Rock, you meet up with the Dassie Interpretive Trail for approximately the last 2.5km before reaching the Rest Camp. When you encounter the low-water crossing, follow the trail to the left: it's not necessary to take off your shoes and wade unless you want to cool off!

**In case of emergencies, call 054 452 9200.**

### 1st Day: 6½ hours

Starting point	→	Potholes	1½ hours
Potholes	→	2nd Land-	2½ hours
2nd Landmark	→	Ararat	1 hour
Ararat	→	Shelter	1 hour
Shelter	→	Overnight	½ hour

### 2nd Day: 6½ hours

Overnight Hut	→	Landmark	½ hour
Landmark	→	Bathing spot	1½ hours
Bathing Spot	→	Landmark	3 hours
Landmark	→	Overnight	½ hour

### 3rd Day: 6½ hours

Overnight Hut	→	Fountain	2 hours
Fountain	→	Moon Rock	3 hours
Moon Rock	→	Rest camp	1½ hours