



**101<sup>st</sup> JULY CAMP 2022**  
**INJISUTHI**  
**Arrive Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Depart Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

This year we look forward to July Camp returning to the majestic **Injisuthi area** in the Central Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park, after an absence of 9 years, plus two “Covid Gap Years”. The area is described as being “cradled” between the Injisuthi (Little Tugela) and Cowl Fork rivers, at the head of the Injisuthi Valley; surrounded by magnificent scenery and dominated by Cathkin Peak, Monk’s Cowl and Champagne Castle.



*Photo: Graeme Bruschi*

The Injisuthi area offers a dramatic and scenically rugged terrain with exhilarating hiking in the Little Berg; backpacking on the Escarpment from Giant’s Castle to Champagne Castle and beyond, with a range of mountain passes in between; rock-climbing opportunities; and, if weather conditions are suitable, even opportunities for building snowmen and having snow-ball fights! It has some superb examples of rock art, *e.g.* Battle Cave to which there are tours conducted by community guides (COSTS on page 2). Bird life is abundant as are the antelope and small wildlife for which the Berg is renowned.



The ruggedness of the terrain has precluded the development of the road beyond the beautiful, small, hutted Camp. Base Camp will be in the minimally developed Injisuthi Camp Site. It is very inviting and well-maintained, with mown areas for tents, ablution facilities, running water and sufficient longer grass and trees for a pleasing degree of privacy and good shelter from the wind that has been a most unwelcome visitor in the past. Holding our July Camp here will also please the many Campers who revelled in the 'home comforts' we enjoyed at the Centenary July Camp. Our Camp Site is within easy walking distance from the sign-posted parking site, just before the Injisuthi Camp Office at the hutted Camp.

The Base Camp runs for 9 nights **Friday 1<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022**, to fit in with the school holidays. Campers are most welcome to attend for just a few days or for the whole period.

#### **JULY CAMP 2022 will offer:**

- Superb sub-camps and long hikes in the Little Berg and/or on the Escarpment
- Satisfying day walks with views, forests, waterfalls, streams and spectacular rock formations
- Excellent opportunities for game viewing, bird-watching and Berg photography
- Visits to rock-art sites
- Time to absorb the incredible beauty of the area
- Opportunities for rock leaders to organize parties to do some rock-climbing
- Fishing for the ardent or the casual fisherfolk.
- Basic catering – a tradition that includes hearty open-fire meals at Base Camp and the standard selection of provisions for sub-camps and day trips.
- A campfire enclosure where after supper, weather permitting, we can gather for a singsong, chat, maybe a drink or two of your own favourite tippie and some of your own snacks or hot cocoa which the Camp provides.
- Hot water and showers.
- A luxury we do not always enjoy: you will be able to drive to your chosen camp-site to off-load your kit and then return your vehicle to the demarcated parking lot. At Base Camp we wish to retain that important ambience of being close to nature in the mountains.

## **COSTS**

**JULY CAMP FEES:** R375 per person per night or R250 per night for those aged under 12 years. Payment includes three meals and the overnight fees of the Reserve, now R140pppn.

**Non MCSA members:** R100 once off. Can be redeemed against future membership of KZN Section of the MCSA.

**TOURS TO PLACES OF INTEREST:** Conducted by community guides: 5 – 6 hours to Battle Cave. R200 per person with a minimum party size of four OR without a guide the entrance is R80 per person. (Campers to book independently at the Office).

**TIPS:** Please remember the cooks. They rise at day-break to serve coffee at your tent and are on duty until after supper's washing up.

**FISHING ROD FEES:** Available from the Injisuthi Office.

**MAPS:** See page 4. Map No 3 (roughly R50) and an Injisuthi A4-sized map (R5) can be purchased from the Office. The MCSA set of Drakensberg maps (R10 each) will be available at our Base Camp.

**CARDS and PASSPORTS:** MCSA members are required to carry their current MCSA membership cards. Those intending to go onto or to traverse the Escarpment must also carry their Current Passports.



*Photo: Graeme Bruschi*

**PLEASE DO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT** Numbers may be restricted.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Refunds will be given if cancellation notice is received before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 and we reserve the right to retain a 20% booking fee.

**SUB-CAMP LEADERS:** need to book caves with us in advance OR directly at the Office.

**NON-MCSA MEMBERS:** are most welcome. Let us introduce you to the mountains and our Club.

**CHILDREN:** They are our future and also are most welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will take full responsibility for their welfare and safety.

**LEVEL OF FITNESS AND EQUIPMENT:** Activities will be of varying levels of difficulty. A minimum of 3 people should venture out from Base Camp together. If joining a group on more strenuous hikes, ensure that you are of comparable fitness so that all will enjoy the experience. The Leaders will describe their trips so do consult with them beforehand.

### **APPLICATION TO ATTEND**

Please use the on-line form using this link

<https://forms.gle/fBkLAsu5KS4XqjE29>

**Payment to confirm booking must please be made before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.**

**EFT PAYMENTS ONLY**

Proof of payment is not required

MCSA (KZN) Branch STANDARD BANK ACCOUNT NO: 051207141, Branch code: 051001  
REFERENCE: JC (for July Camp) then surname and initials

## CHECK-LIST OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS and KIT

**Sub-zero temperatures can be expected. Strong winds, snow or rain are not uncommon.**

**TENT** - Please bring your own mountain tent. If you plan to take your Base Camp tent sub-camping, there is a large MCSA tent where you can store excess kit.

**BEDDING** - Bedding rated for sub-zero temperatures is very strongly recommended.

**CLOTHING** - Sun-hat and high SPF sun-screen cream - generally the days are sunny and mild. Waterproof and windproof gear are a necessity along with beanie, scarf and gloves - definitely the nights are intensely cold.

Suitable boots for both hiking and strolling. These should be sturdy, supportive, water repellent and with strong Vibram-type soles. Comfortable light footwear for Base Camp.

**RUCKSACK** - Appropriate to intended activities.

### IN ADDITION:

- **Torch** and spare batteries.
- **Toiletries:** please include biodegradable soap/shampoo and a towel. Lip ice and hand cream are recommended. In Base Camp ablution facilities are provided.
- **Zip-lock bags (for sub-camps) and larger rubbish bags** (for ALL the rubbish you generate).
- **Water bottle/s.**
- **Mess kits – do not rely on Base Camp** for eating utensils. Please bring a plate, bowl, knife, fork and spoon for use in Base Camp and especially on sub-camps and day hikes.
- **Plastic bucket or basin,** for water and clothes washing. Biodegradable washing powder.
- **Sweets, snacks, drinks:** to share at the campfire or while sub-camping or on day trips
- **Specific dietary needs, medication and first-aid equipment.**
- **Sanitizer and masks.** For use in accordance with Government regulations.
- **Cash** (COSTS on page 2).
- **MCSA membership card and passport.**

### IF REQUIRED:

- **Trekking poles.**
- **Small folding chair or stool.** When gathering at the boma fire, please place your chair in the rear rows, where you still will benefit from the warmth and beauty of the campfire without preventing others sitting on the ground from doing so.
- **Maps.** If you want to plan your trip in advance or acquaint yourself with the area, the relevant maps that are available for sale in the Office, or from Ezemvelo, P O Box 13609, Cascades, 3202 or [customerservice@kznwildlife.com](mailto:customerservice@kznwildlife.com). at R50-R100 each are:  
Hiking Map no. 3: Giant's Castle and Injisuthi.  
Hiking Map no. 2: Cathedral Peak and Monk's Cowl.  
The MCSA Berg maps will be available for sale in Base Camp at R10 a set.
- **Gas Stove** (and fuel containers) for day walks and or sub-camps, not for use at Base Camp. **Open fires or candles are NOT permitted anywhere.**
- **Billy cans, containers, plastic bags** for sub-camp group catering/day-hike lunch. Your Leader can select the best equipment for the trip. (**NB** Plastic bags are **NOT** provided).
- **Harness and climbing equipment.** If a Leader is available and such a party can be arranged privately.

## CATERING

- Our cooks will provide three meals per day according to their prepared menu.
- Pre-packed, lightweight food is provided for collection for sub-camping trips.
- Leaders who would like to plan their sub-camp catering in advance may request a copy of the food list *via* e-mail.
- We try to cater for vegans and vegetarians by providing vegetables and cheese separately but no specific dish is reserved for them.
- If you have specific dietary needs you are advised to provide your own supplements to the basic catered fare.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE BASE CAMP

**Access to the Injisuthi Camp is from 07:00 to 17:00.** If you are going to be late, please phone the Reserve Manager, Mr Dennis Miya, 036 431 9000 (office hours) or 072 4206 981 (after hours). He will inform the Officer stationed near the gate.

**From DURBAN/PMB,** take the **N3**. Glide off at **Exit 179, Estcourt North** and turn **LEFT** towards **LOSKOP**. After approximately 24 kilometres on a reasonably-maintained tarred road through rural settlements, turn **LEFT** at the sign-posted **INJISUTHI JUNCTION**.

**From GAUTENG,** one could **EITHER** take the **N3** easy (toll) freeway all the way to **Exit 179, Estcourt North** and turn **RIGHT** towards **LOSKOP**. Then as above.

**OR**

**From GAUTENG/FREE STATE,** Olivier's Hoek is in poor condition. A better route is the **N3** to **Harrismith**, then the **R74** to **Winterton**. Pass through Bergville and on entering **WINTERTON** turn **RIGHT** opposite a garage, and over a railway line, on the **R600** towards the **Champagne Resorts**. At the **four-way cross-roads and stop street** (at Thokozizwe Centre and other shops) turn **LEFT** towards **LOSKOP**. From this four-way crossroads there are approximately 7 kilometres of reasonably-maintained tarred road before the sign-posted **INJISUTHI JUNCTION**. Turn **RIGHT**.

The **INJISUTHI JUNCTION** can be distinguished as a heavily populated area with its bus stop and taxi rank, so do look out for that signpost to **INJISUTHI**. At all times, and especially from this point, please be aware of the speed restrictions, **pedestrians, livestock and other vehicles** on the roads. Continue on this road the rest of the way right into Injisuthi (spelling varies on the signs). Due to the high rural population density in this area, we are not putting up the usual MCSA signs.

**THE CONDITION OF THE ROAD** from the Injisuthi turn-off is tarred some of the way but varies greatly in places and is unpredictable, due to the weather and traffic density. The last 12 kilometres of dirt road before the Reserve gates have recently been improved but recent heavy rains may have caused damage. After the Reserve gates, the road is still pot-holed and due for repair. The Injisuthi Reserve staff are pushing very hard for this to be done before July.

On approaching Injisuthi hutted camp, you will see our Base Camp site discretely tucked away to your right. At our first MCSA road sign turn **RIGHT**. You can drive in and **unpack your car at your chosen camp spot and then drive out promptly** to the MCSA posted parking area up towards the office to avoid congestion and parking on someone else's spot!



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS - INCLUDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

July Camp endorses a comprehensive system of environmental practices that address, *inter alia*, conditions of access, admissible structures, services, monitoring, auditing and decommissioning, reinstatement and rehabilitation, pollution and the impact of the event on soil, animals, vegetation and other area users.

**GENERAL : All standard conservation codes must be practised. We represent the MCSA.**

### **WATER QUALITY**

The Berg is the main watershed for KwaZulu-Natal, so all Campers are required to use biodegradable soaps and shampoo and to ensure that grey water is dispersed directly onto a grassed area and not into a watercourse. When out of Base Camp, all Campers are required to observe bush-toilet etiquette.

### **SOIL CONSERVATION**

No soap/shampoo of any kind to be used in the streams and rivers. Please wash and rinse yourself, your hair and your clothes on the bank, sufficiently far from the river so that the water does not flow directly back into the river or stream.

### **WASTE**

The principle of '**what we carry in, we carry out**' applies. Participation in July Camp is on the understanding that each Camper will carry out ALL the rubbish he/she generates both in Base Camp and on day-trips or sub-camps. ALL used hygiene items on sub-camps must be stored in a sealed bag until disposed of into the designated containers in the toilets at Base Camp.

### **CLIMBING**

Any leader intending to undertake rock climbs is required to be fully familiar with the **Bolting Policy** as developed by the KZN Section of MCSA and KZNWildlife.

**NOISE is not permitted.** This includes technically augmented music, radios and drones.

The sense of peace and nature's environment is not to be disturbed or invaded.

### **MONITORING**

The site is monitored for environmental impact before and after the event.

### **FLORA and FAUNA**

If any sensitive species (*e.g.* vulture, lammergeyer or oribi) are seen, please notify the Office promptly so that the KZNWildlife specialists can be better informed.

### **OPEN FIRES**

**NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE.** Very special concession is made for the Base Camp catering team and for our evening camp-fires within the Boma. Both are strictly controlled. Sub campers may use small gas cookers with great care but **NOT AT BASE CAMP** due to the potential of fire accidents among the larger group of campers.

## PLEASE BE REMINDED

### SAFETY

**Sign the Mountain Register at the Office** – when leaving Base Camp. Indicate your party's names and recognized leader.

**Indicate if a day-trip** and your destination and estimated time of return.

**Indicate if a sub-camp** and your destination, date and estimated time of return and major points along your route.

**Leader to carry the tear-off stub from the register** – for every trip away, be it a day walk or overnight. This is vital information for use in the case of any accident or emergency and has saved lives!

**Parties must carry water, adequate warm and waterproof clothing, a torch, spare batteries and a cell-phone**, no matter how short your trip away from camp. Wandering away from Base Camp on one's own is against all hiking codes.

### COOKING AREA

Although we are drawn to the warmth of the cooking area, the cooks are grateful that we avoid crowding around their fires and pots and rather keep out of their way and on the other side of the serving tables while they are preparing the food, for obvious reasons.

After each course, basins with boiling water are provided on the serving tables for us to wash and rinse our own eating utensils.

To facilitate efficiency and flow past the serving tables there will be separate queues for collecting meals and washing up. Second helpings are allowed when all have collected their first helping so preferably be on time when the meal gong rings.

### COVID 19

We shall observe whatever protocols are specified at that time.

**URGENT MESSAGES:** From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June and for the duration of July Camp, our cell-phone range is limited so urgent messages may be directed through the Reserve Manager: Mr Dennis Miya, at 036 431 9000 (office hours) or 072 4206 981 (after hours)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ENQUIRIES** – Rikki Abbott Wedderburn

Mobile 082 538 5389 Landline 033 239 2374

E-mail: [ronwedd@netactive.co.za](mailto:ronwedd@netactive.co.za)

### MCSA KZN SUB-COMMITTEE JULY CAMP

Rikki Abbott Wedderburn, Merv Gavin, Lesley McGwynne, Graham Smith