

THE URBAN TRAIL CODE

- Respect all property, wildlife, and trees
- Please don't litter
- Please be cautious at road crossings
- Prevent grass fires
- Adhere to park signage
- Be prepared – carry water, wear comfortable shoes and watch the weather
- Please don't trespass on private property
- Hikers make use of the trails at their own risk

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Stay alert at all times
- Arrange trail groups of five or more people or join community group walks, especially in isolated areas
- Avoid carrying valuables when walking, ie jewellery
- Park cars in safe locations and keep bags out of sight
- Report any illegal dumping, vagrancy, vandalism or theft

13 Braamfontein Spruit Trail (Bryanston) - Section 3

Further out of the city but still within its precincts, this section runs from the Sandton Field and Study Centre (or Riverside Shopping Centre for a shorter walk) to Witkoppen Road. The spruit is not fenced or patrolled, and it is best walked in groups of 5+ people with walks from 1 – 4 hours. More information on www.footprint.co.za/bst.htm.

Getting there: Park at the Sandton Field and Study Centre off Louise Avenue in Sandhurst Ext 4. Access is off Villaggio Nicol Drive onto Mattie Avenue, left on 12th Avenue. Alternatively, park at the Riverside Shopping Centre off Bryanston Drive.

14 Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens - Poortview, Roodepoort

The South African National Biodiversity Institute manages this 300-hectare garden as one of eight botanical gardens nationwide. It consists of a network of paths in a safe and tranquil environment, over 220 species of birds, including the magnificent Verreaux's (Black) Eagle and indigenous gardens. Here you can walk for as long as you like, or just sit and contemplate the beauty of the gardens. For the more energetic there is also the 3.5 km JCI Geological Hiking Trail, which, although fairly short, is quite strenuous, as it ascends to the top of the Wirpoortjie Waterfall. Walk in groups on the trail. More information on www.sanbi.co.za or www.footprint.co.za/botanicalgardens.htm.

Getting there: Off Hendrik Potgieter Road in Ruimsig, turn (into) onto Doreen Road (and then turn first right into) Malcom Road. (Take the sharp right hand bend at the end of Malcom Road) and park inside the Gardens.

15 Kloofendal Nature Reserve - Kloofendal

Lovely reserve with varying nature walks of 30 minutes – 3 hours. Wildflowers, geological sites and scorpions; this area combines pristine bushveld with grasslands and features views of the northern parts of the city. There is an amphitheatre, dam area and bird hide. A historical mine tour can be set up by arrangement. It is fully fenced with guard at gate. Open from the 1st September to 30th April. More information on www.footprint.co.za/kloofendal.htm.

Getting there: Off Wilgerood Road in Little Falls from Christian de Wet Road. Well sign-posted.

25 Braamfontein Spruit Trail (Craighall Park) - Section 2

A waterfall in the middle of a suburb; the Craighall waterfall is a lovely sight when the sound of water is required to soothe the aches of head and heart. This section runs from Delta Park to the Sandton Field and Study Centre. The spruit is not fenced or patrolled, however, sections of it are well-used on the weekends. It is best walked in groups of 5+ people, and again, depending upon energy, the walks take from 1 – 4 hours. More information on www.footprint.co.za/bst.htm.

Getting there: Park at Delta Park in Blairgowrie near the Conservation Centre and begin by walking past the Florence Bloom Bird Sanctuary towards the spruit.

24 Braamfontein Spruit Trail (Emmentaria) - Section 1

A wild, natural river system in the heart of a bustling metropolis, a distraction from city life and a remedy for the aches that go with this. It is, however, not fenced or regularly patrolled and is best walked in groups of 5+ people. Good for the energetic mountain biker or runners. Walks take from 1 – 4 hours depending upon your energy levels, vigour and stamina. More information on www.footprint.co.za/bst.htm.

Getting there: Park at Emmentaria Dam off Thomas Bowler and walk along the western side of the dam, crossing over Oliphant's Road to join up alongside the spruit.

16 Braamfontein Cemetery

This is one of Johannesburg's first cemeteries. In its lay-out the history of the city are illustrated and created – Jewish, Chinese, Christian sections and others. Enoch Sontonga, the man who wrote the national anthem, N'kosi Sikelele, lies here. Passive resistance heroes mix with Boer War graves. For safety walk with group. More information contact the Parktown & Westcliff Trust on www.parktownheritage.co.za.

Getting there: Off the M1 highway on Smit Street, turn to Graf Street to enter the cemetery.

23 Emmentaria / Johannesburg Botanical Gardens

Popular, well-used park in Emmentaria of over 100 hectares with walks from 30 minutes to 2 hours. Pleasant for family picnics, with tearoom, several dams and gardens to visit. Best walked in groups during weekdays, with dogs allowed in the southern part of park.

Getting there: Emmentaria lies between Beyers Naude and Barry Hertzog. Parking in main car park off Oliphants Road, or along Thomas Bowler near The Botanical Gardens.

18 Rhodes Park - Kensington

A pretty community park that hosts a sport facilities and large duck filled dam. There is also a tea room for the hungry, tennis courts for the sporty and a community centre for the social.

Getting there: Off Langeman Drive in Kensington – park near tennis courts.

17 Brixton Cemetery

This historic cemetery has in it the graves of many South African passive resistance fighters who lived in the times of Gandhi, and a Hindu Crematorium that is a national monument. Peaceful, large trees and gravestones will accompany you as you take a trip into this world of non-violent resistance. Walk with a group. More information contact the Parktown & Westcliff Trust on www.parktownheritage.co.za.

Getting there: Enter via Krause Street in Pageview off Bartlett Road.

21 Westdene Dam - Westdene

Children feeding ducks, cranes and coots, wetlands that shimmer in the sunlight. A pretty, short, 30 minute walk along the dam with or without a dog.

Getting there: Park off Lewes Road by restaurant and walk across street.

20 Albert's Farm - Northcliff

A cityscape merges with a small piece of undeveloped park. Here there are beautiful restful walks through indigenous grasses and an artesian spring feeds a small dam. These walks can take from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Walk in groups during weekdays. More information on www.footprint.co.za/albertsfarm.htm.

Getting there: Take Long Road in Newlands to West Road, to end of 8th Street (corner 6th Road West) Greymont

19 Melville Koppies - East, West and Reserve - Melville

Beautiful pristine koppie, owls that call to their young, butterflies that sway in the breeze, church singers praying and giving thanks; all right in the middle of the city. 150 hectares of land to wander for up to 3 hours. A visit to a national heritage section that features an ancient Iron Age furnace is fascinating. A tour of services to the African Independent Churches can be arranged.

There are three sections to the koppie; walks can be taken as one, or together. There is controlled access to the Nature Reserve, which is open on specific days each month. More information on www.footprint.co.za/melville_koppies.htm.

Getting there: For Reserve, park at Marks Park across Judith Road and access from North Gate. Other areas, park on streets. For East side, park end of Zambesi Road in Emmentaria or Kloof Street in Melville. For West side, park on 3rd Avenue off Arundel in Westdene.

22 Zoo Lake - Parkview

This popular pretty park provides a home to Egyptian geese, boating lovers, families picnicking, body conscious walkers and keen bowlers. Walks may take from 30 minutes – 1 hour. More information on www.footprint.co.za/zoolakelake.

Getting there: Off Jan Smuts, park by Moyo Restaurant off Westwood Drive down the Prince of Wales Avenue.

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