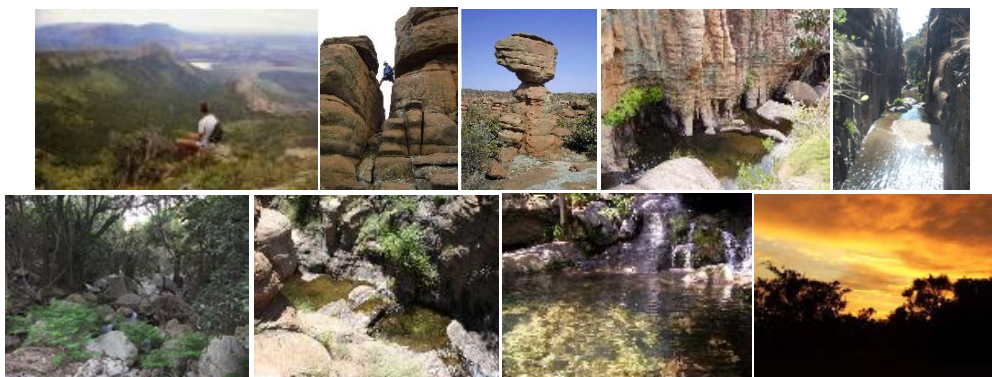


The Kraanskloof walk is graded into two categories:

It is accessed by hikers generally from the Lowveld, Sparkling Waters Hotel, which is situated in the Northern Province of Rustenburg. This hike may also be accessed from the Highveld (Gauteng) through Tonquani Gorge, this is a more strenuous hike and in some areas a short abseil or mountain climb is required, depending on the route taken.

- 1) Five to six hour hike, which is approximately 8 Km from Sparkling Waters through Tonquani Gorge and then up to the plateau and virtually on the top of the Magalies Mountain range. Three different habitats are experienced along the walk, from the prominent feature of the landscape which straddles the interface between the Grassland Biome on the south and the Bushveld Biome on the north. In the gorge itself the habitat lends itself towards a subtropical type of flora, including on the far side of the gorge remnants of a petrified forest, thus as a whole the area is renowned for its biological diversity.
- 2) **Three hour hike with reflection stops**, approximately 4.5 km. From the Bushveld Biome of Sparkling Waters, descending from the middle plateau of grasslands into Tonquani Gorge, up part of the Gorge through rock pools and a small waterfall, depending on water levels. The rock formations are inspiring, and the almost subtropical foliage adds to the ambiance of this fairly unique area.



General Information on the Magaliesburg mountain habitat

This area is very popular during weekends and holidays. There are strict control regulations and a limited number of permits per day are issued to members of the public.

For the Highveld hiking enthusiast, the Magaliesburg provides the only suitable wilderness environment close to home.

Declared a Natural Heritage Site in 1977, this range, comprising hard, resistant quartzite's, and rising an average of 330 m above the surrounding plains, remains the last relatively untouched area in the south-central Transvaal.

Stretching 125 km from east to west and spanning an elevation between 1 372 m and 1 829 m, the Magaliesburg forms a conspicuous divide between the lower-lying, hot Bushveld to the north and the cooler Highveld to the south.

Because flora and fauna distinct to both regions merge along the range, the Magaliesberg harbours a diversity of indigenous species. Examples of the many interesting plants are the endemic *Aloe peglerae* and the kloof-dwelling tree fern, *Cyathea dregei*.

More than 150 species of birds have been recorded, including the colourful crimson-breasted shrike, plum-coloured starling, paradise whydah, crested barbet and a large number of raptors. Black, Tawny, and Fish eagles are indigenous to this mountainous area. The endangered Cape vulture also breeds on the steep mountain cliffs.

Mammals frequently seen are chacma baboons and vervet monkeys, dassies, grey duiker, reedbuck and klipspringer. Although most of the indigenous big game has been exterminated, predators such as leopard, brown hyaena and aardwolf have managed to survive.

Summer in the Magaliesberg is characterized by hot, rainy days and cool nights; the winter days are generally warm, clear and the nights cold.