



101st JULY CAMP 2021
INJISUTHI
Friday 9th July to Sunday 18th July 2021

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 a “Covid Gap Year”. 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 ice climbing or snowmen and 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), abundant bird life and the antelope for which the Berg is renowned. Small wildlife abounds.

The ruggedness of the terrain has precluded the development of a road beyond the small,

beautiful, hutted Camp, so Base Camp will be in this 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 Camp Office.

The Base Camp runs for 9 nights, **Friday 9th July to Sunday 18th July 2021** to fit in with the school holidays. Campers are most welcome to attend for just a few days or for the whole period.

In short, JULY CAMP 2021 at Injisuthi 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 tipple 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 the camp-site to off-load but as usual, must return your vehicle to the demarcated parking lot. At Camp we wish to retain that important ambience of being close to nature in the mountains.

COSTS

JULY CAMP FEES: Each night includes three meals and the overnight fees of the Reserve. R350 per person per night or R220 per night for those aged under 12 years.

Non MCSA members: R80 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. (Independently book at the Injisuthi 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: Map No 3 (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

BOOKING

PLEASE DO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Numbers may be restricted due to Covid regulations

- **APPLICATION FORM (attached) One** to be filled in for **each** person.
- **PAYMENTS** to be made along with submission of the Application Form.
- **PROOF OF PAYMENT** reference to be JC (July Camp) and your surname and initials.
- **CANCELLATIONS: REFUNDS** will be given if cancellation notice is **received before May 31st 2021** and we reserve the right to retain a 20% booking fee. **Covid 19** restrictions may cause the Camp to be cancelled at relatively short notice, in which case full refunds will follow.
- **SUB-CAMP LEADERS:** need to book caves with us in advance OR directly at the Office.
- **NON-MCSA MEMBERS:** are most welcome to attend. Let us introduce you to the mountains and our Club.
- **CHILDREN:** They are our future and are also 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 you may consult with them.
- **CLOSING DATE: for application & full payment – May 31st 2021**

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. 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 out on sub-camps and/or 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 are:
Hiking Map no. 3: Giant's Castle and Injisuthi. Hiking Map no. 2: Cathedral Peak and Monk's Cowl. Both available from Ezemvelo, P O Box 13609, Cascades, 3202 or customerservice@kznwildlife.com. These maps will also be available for sale in the EKZN Wildlife Office in the Hutted Camp at R50 each. The MCSA Berg maps, will also be available for sale in Base Camp at R10 a set.
- **Gas Stove** (and fuel container) for day walks and or sub-camps, not for use at Base Camp. **NB Open fires or candles not permitted anywhere.**
- **Billy cans, containers** for sub-camp group catering. Your Leader can select the best equipment for the trip. (Plastic bags for splitting provisions are NOT provided).
- **Harness and climbing equipment.** If a Leader is available and such a party can be arranged.

CATERING

- This year we are planning to introduce a wider range of foods and dishes according to a prepared menu.
- Pre-packed, lightweight food is provided for sub-camping trips.
- If Leaders would like to plan their catering in advance they can 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 food 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

N.B. N.B. access to the Injisuthi Camp is from 07:00 to 17:00.

If you are going to be late, please phone the Resort 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, a shorter 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.

NB.NB. THE CONDITION OF THE ROAD from this turn-off 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 are hazardous for ordinary sedans, especially after heavy rain. However, this route is due for major repair soon and the Injisuthi Reserve staff are pushing very hard for this to be done before July. We shall keep you updated.

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

Palettes or duckboards must be used in the bathrooms to **prevent soil trampling** and compaction.

N.B. 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 **'carry in, carry out'** will apply. 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. Please note that this applies also to any used "hygiene product" which on sub-camps must be stored in a zip-lock 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 KZN Wildlife.

○ NOISE – including DRONES

The sense of peace must not be disturbed by un-natural, invasive and/or loud noise. **Technically augmented music, radios and drones are NOT PERMITTED.**

○ 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 inform** the Office promptly so that the KZN-Wildlife specialists can be informed.

○ FIRE HAZARDS

Open fires anywhere are NOT PERMITTED. 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 with the density of campers.

PLEASE BE REMINDED

- **URGENT MESSAGES:** From Monday 5th July to Friday 9th July 2021, the July Camp Sub-Committee will already be in the Berg preparing the Camp and will probably be out of cell phone range. Any very urgent messages in connection with July Camp, may be telephoned to the Resort Manager, Mr Dennis Miya, at 036 431 9000, during office hours or after hours, on 072 4206 981.

- **SAFETY – NB**

Each person leaving Base Camp **MUST SIGN THE MOUNTAIN REGISTER at INJISUTHI CAMP OFFICE** (indicating whether for a day trip or a sub-camp). Please ensure that you are in a recognized party and that you and your Leader clearly indicate your party's destination.

Since we are camping in an official KZNW campsite, for **EVERY TRIP**, be it a day walk or an overnight or longer sub-camp, **the tear off stub from the register MUST be carried by the Leader**. This contains vital information for use in the case of any accident or emergency situation and can save lives!

Wandering away from Base Camp on one's own is against all hiking codes.

All Campers leaving on any trip, no matter how short, **must carry water, adequate warm and waterproof clothing, a torch and spare batteries**.

- **CATERING**

Refer: WASTE and FIRES. Do not crowd around the cooks' fires. Rather keep on the other side of the catering tables where the cooks will serve the meals. They provide boiling water in basins for **us to wash and rinse our own** eating utensils after each meal.

- **COVID 19**

The impact of the virus in 2021 is clearly uncertain. We are nevertheless going ahead with our plans and the intention of observing whatever protocols will be in place at the time. We believe that being in the open and fresh mountain air is possibly the best place for us to be! We shall keep you up-dated when/if necessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & ENQUIRIES

Rikki Abbott Wedderburn

Mobile 082 538 5389 Landline 033 239 2374

E-mail: ronwedd@netactive.co.za

2021 MCSA KZN SUB-COMMITTEE JULY CAMP

Rikki Abbott Wedderburn, Pam MacNamara, Lesley McGwynne,
Graham Smith, Ed Salomons, Gerhard Venter

APPLICATION TO ATTEND MCSA JULY CAMP
Injisuthi Friday 9th July to Sunday 18th July 2021

PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS – ONE FORM PER PERSON

FULL NAME:

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

ADDRESS: CODE:.....

LANDLINE: CELL:

E-MAIL: NAME and PHONE No. OF NEXT OF KIN (in the event of

an emergency):.....

NAME OF ACCOMPANYING ADULT (IF 12 YRS AND UNDER):.....

ARRIVE: / / July 2021	DEPART / / July 2021	TOTAL NO OF NIGHTS: (Lunch/ Dinner/ Breakfast)
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ESTIMATED NIGHTS I SHOULD LIKE TO SUB-CAMP:	1 night	3 nights	5 nights
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I have read the Injisuthi MCSA JULY CAMP BROCHURE and agree to the rules and requirements

I am a member of theSection of the MCSA

I am a member of theHiking Club

I am a visitor to KZN from:.....

Any requests:

I wish to sub-camp with some nights on the Escarpment	YES	NO
I wish to hike/sub-camp in the Little Berg, with optional one-day trips to the Escarpment	YES	NO
I wish to go on day trips, returning to Base Camp each night	YES	NO
I offer to lead a sub-camp party	YES	NO
I offer to lead a day-trip party	YES	NO

JULY CAMPING FEES (All Inclusive)

..... nights @ R350 (adult) ORnights @ R220 (12 years of age and under)	R
Levy Non MCSA member (to be recouped from KZN Section MSCA Membership fees) : R 80.00	R
TOTAL	R
Total of additional forms attached :	R
TOTAL PAID	R

E.F.T. PAYMENTS ONLY – NO CASH OR CHEQUES PLEASE

Mountain Club of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Section, MCSA (KZN) Branch,
 STANDARD BANK ACCOUNT NO: **051207141**, Branch code: 051001

NB REFERENCE MUST START WITH JC (for July Camp), THEN SURNAME & INITIALS

Please email your Proof of Payment along with your Application Form/s to:

julycampbooking@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS and PAYMENTS: 31st MAY 2021