

MCSA JOHANNESBURG LAND ACCESS GUIDE TO MEMBERS

Why join MCSA (Johannesburg Section)? Probably the Section's greatest asset (apart from its members!) is its access to some amazing mountainous land. Continued access to this land is of paramount importance to the Section, and to you as a member.

Who do I contact about and where do I find access information?

Updates to the access information are published regularly in the **Section's newsletter (sent every Tuesday)** – or can be obtained from the Section Administrator – admin@jhb.mcsa.org.za – or there is a lot of information on our website (<https://mcsajohannesburg.org/>) under the heading ACCESS AND PROPERTIES.

This document contains the dos and don'ts with regard to land access, as well as permit and safety information:

Land access rules

1. **Carry your membership card always** – our patrollers will ask you for them.
2. Sometimes entry / **parking fees** are required - please pay where applicable (including meets), and carry your **permits** with you.
3. Some areas have **set times of arrival and departure** (eg. Mountain Sanctuary Park). Don't arrive/leave before sunrise, or after sunset.
4. Please **familiarise yourselves with the access to areas** we co-own, have servitudes or access arrangements with landowners or organisations. For easier reference - see attached schedule.
5. Please **always be courteous** to landowners and farmers and do not unnecessarily disturb these people.
6. **Camping is only allowed at designated areas** in the Magaliesberg – NO CAMPING IN THE KLOOFS.
7. The **lighting of fires is totally prohibited** in the Magaliesberg - operate your camping stoves with great care.
8. No plant, shrub or tree may be damaged or removed (dry wood is classified as a plant, shrub or tree!)
9. **Take home ALL waste and litter** including cigarette stubs and tissues – don't hide or bury it.
10. **Faecal matter and toilet paper can be buried** – use a small trowel and operate well away from streams.
11. **Don't pollute the water in any way**, including washing yourself or items in the streams.
12. No animals may be disturbed or fed. There are **monkey cages** in some of the kloofs to keep your food secure. Alternatively, keep your food out of sight.
13. No firearms, axes, picks, saws, large knives, radios, or tape recorders.
14. **No pets.**
15. **NO BOLTING** is allowed on the rock faces in the areas we administer in the Magaliesberg (for all other areas you can contact the Bolting Committee member for details)
16. **Please report** any matters that you may encounter (eg. litter, behaviour etc) to the Committee.

Permits

Five areas in the Magaliesberg (Castle Gorge, Grootkloof, Tonquani/Cedarberg, Dome Pools, and Mhlabatini) are owned jointly or administered by the Sections of the MCSA/Johannesburg Hiking Club in Gauteng. **Permits to visit them are available to non-members.**

A member may take one guest to the areas we may visit with the exception of club meets. At club meets the guest is requested to pay the usual non-members meet fees.

If the **member has more than one guest** and intends visiting the **areas mentioned below**, then **permits must be applied for** from the permit secretaries, in advance, for the extra guests.

Permits can be obtained from the following **Permit Secretaries** during the indicated times:

Area	Permit Secretary	Contact number	Contact times
Castle Gorge	Online via Quicket	078 885 6505	8h30 – 12h30 (weekdays)
Grootkloof	Ellen JV Rensburg	083 845 1573	8h00 – 10h00 (weekdays)
Tonquani/Cedarberg	JHB admin office	061 461 8259	1500 – 18h00 (weekdays)
Dome Pools	Ellen JV Rensburg	083 845 1573	8h00 – 10h00 (weekdays)
Mhlabatini	JHB admin office	061 461 8259	15h00 – 18h00 (weekdays)
Wolkberg Hut	JHB admin office	061 461 8259	15h00 – 18h00 (weekdays)

Fees are payable in advance, are mandatory, and should be paid to the relevant Permit Secretary. The money paid for permits accrues in the Land and Access Fund and is allocated for the cost of operating and maintaining the land and for conservation.

Emergencies

MCSA Johannesburg and Magaliesberg Sections operate a mountain rescue team. In case of a **mountain emergency** Phone: **074 125 1385 or 074 163 3952** the call will be directed to the Mountain Rescue Organisers on call.

DO NOT CALL SEARCH & RESCUE FOR GATE CODES PLEASE – ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES

To sum it all up...

There are some basics to maintaining our land access:

The basics	The reason
Make sure that you have the latest access arrangement information / conditions for the area that you wish to visit	Landowners are very generous – we don't want to abuse the relationship
Stick to the access requirements	Upset landowners mean no more access
Check whether you need permits – and arrange them well in advance	The permit fees are put back into land management / purchase etc. – don't skimp!
"Do" the land access rules	They protect the land, access and you

Rock climbing, mountaineering, abseiling and related outdoor activities are inherently dangerous and carry significant risk of personal injury or death. Any activities undertaken in conjunction with or on the property of the MCSA are at your own risk. The MCSA, its members or the occupiers or owners of any land on which such activity takes place, accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or damage to person or property, howsoever arising, whether through negligence or otherwise. The MCSA recommends that you do not participate in these activities unless you are experts, seek qualified instruction or guidance, are knowledgeable about the risks involved and are willing to, and do, personally assume all responsibility associated with those risks.