

Travel Itinerary

3 night Amphitheatre Hike
AD Active Experiences



At a glance...

- 1 night The Cavern (Superior Room) – Full board basis
- 2 nights Witsieshoek Lodge (Sentinel Chalet) – Full board basis

Day 1: The Cavern

This afternoon, arrive at the Cavern Resort in the Northern Drakensberg Mountains, approximately 3.5 hours from Durban or 4.5 hours from Johannesburg for check in. **Meet your dedicated hiking guide**, in readiness for your departure tomorrow.

The Cavern is located in the majestic northern Drakensberg, adjacent the Royal Natal National Park and Amphitheatre. A family-friendly resort, it sits in a secluded valley, and enjoys stunning views over the surrounding landscape. 54 thatched rooms and suites are comfortably appointed with country décor, fireplaces and attractive vistas. Welcoming central spaces include a lounge, extensive decks for socialising and a bar. Unwind around the elevated pool, absorbing the sun's rays along with the mountain magic, or perhaps visit the spa for a choice of pampering treatments. Daily programmes keep children entertained, but the hotel offers a selection of activities to keep the whole family busy.



- 54 thatched rooms & suites
- Adjacent the Royal Natal National Park & Amphitheatre
- Country-style, family-friendly resort
- Daily kids' programmes & fun activities
- Nearby Bushman paintings

Dinner in the Cavern Restaurant this evening.

Overnight Cavern Lodge, on a full board basis (Dinner, breakfast & packed lunch).

Day 2: The Cavern – Witsies Lodge

After a hearty breakfast, depart for Witsieshoek accompanied by your highly experienced guide. The start of today's climb is fairly steep, with it tapering off as you get above the sandstone cliffs. Stop for a **picnic lunch en route** and to appreciate the spectacular mountain scenery. **This afternoon, arrive at the Witsieshoek Lodge, checking in at the Sentinel Chalets.**



Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge is situated in the Northern Drakensberg at the foot of the magnificent Sentinel Peak, and looks across to the Drakensberg Mountains Mont-Aux-Sources and the Amphitheatre. At 2,220m above sea level, this is the highest lodge in the Northern Drakensberg and is ideal for exploring the 'Berg's rich fauna and flora and incredible hiking trails, including the famous Sentinel Peak Chain Ladders and Tugela Falls. The lodge offers affordable family accommodation (chalets and bungalows), geared for hikers and those eager to experience the great outdoors. With floor-to-ceiling windows, the 8 stone and slate chalets gaze out onto the majestic Sentinel Peak with its constantly changing colours and contours. Chalets are en-suite, well-appointed for comfort and convenience, and have private patios. In addition, 5 rondavel bungalows each have 6 en-suite rooms. Witsies main areas include a reception, lounge, bar and dining room.

Bird life is good here, with the endangered Bearded vultures regularly spotted at the lodge from the panoramic Vulture Restaurant. Bones are placed outside to draw these fascinating raptors closer.

After a rest, enjoy **dinner at the Witsieshoek Restaurant.**

Distance: 15 kms(Point to point hike) **Duration:** 5,5 – 6.5 hrs **Total ascent:** 1273m

Overnight Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, Sentinel Chalets, on a full board basis (Dinner, breakfast & packed lunch).

Day 3: Witsies Lodge



This is an early start for an eventful day. **After breakfast transfer to the Sentinel Car Park** (approx. 25 mins) with your guide, and set off on your full day hike up to the Tugela Falls, via the gully or chain ladders. The well-maintained path zigzags to the base of the Sentinel massif. Reach the chain ladders for negotiating the rock walls - alternatively the tamer Gully Route is an option for those afraid of heights. Climb up to the escarpment for a day of exploration.

For those requiring more of a challenge, take the Rainbow Falls route (ridge-climbing). **After a picnic lunch**, and a chance to view the spectacular scenery, descend to the car park and transfer to the **lodge for dinner** and overnight.

Distance: 16/18 kms (Days hiking from Witsies) **Duration:** 7 hrs **Total ascent:** 985m

Overnight Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, Sentinel Chalets, on a full board basis, (Dinner, breakfast & packed lunch).

Day 4: Witsies Lodge – Home

After breakfast, depart Witsies with your guide and hike the 4-5 hours to Royal Natal, an ascent of 391m. Stop for a **picnic lunch en route**. At Royal Natal, **transfer by vehicle back to the Cavern** (approx. 25 mins) where your tour ends.

Distance: 12.2 kms (Point to point hike) **Duration:** 4 – 5 hrs **Total ascent:** 391 m

Inclusions

- 1 night accommodation Cavern Resort (Superior rooms)
- 2 nights accommodation Witsieshoek Lodge (Sentinel Chalets)
- Breakfast, packed lunches, dinners
- Dedicated hiking guide for duration & permits
- Witsies to Sentinel car park return transfers
- Royal Natal to Cavern transfer

Exclusions

- Drinks
- A porter can be booked