

HOGSBACK NEWS

HOLIDAY IN HOGSBACK



Advice for visitors

Welcome to this beautiful and unique little village. Here are a few important things you will need to be aware of during your stay on the mountain.

Firstly the roads are a bit heavy to navigate, with potholes and the like, it is best to just drive slowly and take it easy. Low clearance cars may have to drive even slower. Be extra careful of the roads when they are wet. Along with the dodgy roads, you will find free roaming livestock as well dogs and wildlife moving around, which will also pose a challenge when walking with your own dogs, it is important to keep them on leash the entire time to avoid incidents.

There are no street lights, and it gets quite dark here to navigate, you may spot a bunny or a bushbuck as well. It is also important to pack a few strong flashlights. The mountain does get loadshedding.

The weather here changes and fast, it is best to bring along enough warm clothing, waterproof jackets, gumboots and good footwear, umbrellas are also very useful as it can rain for days on end here.

NB. Bring along a well-stocked first aid kit as well as fill up on your chronic medication. Bug repellent is also most needed as there are horse flies and mozzies that will hinder.

When out enjoying the beauty of Hogsback, please be sure to not leave litter behind.



More information

Hogsback has Samango monkeys, the country's only exclusively forest-dwelling guenon, as well as baboons. Please close up homes properly when leaving and do not leave food out as the baboons will cause issues. Also please do not feed the Monkeys or Baboons.

There are no dentists or doctor's offices on the mountain, however, there is a nurse able to assist where needed and has a few basic medicines available.

Down in the village of Alice, several doctors are available and there are pharmacies. Please take a look at the important contact info below.

For casualties and serious matters, there is the Victoria Hospital in Alice.

It is fire season, and there will be a lot of controlled burns around. It is not permitted for visitors to make fires in the forests or anywhere apart from at your accommodation.

There is chapel which has various worship service, located on Main Road in Upper Hogsback.

The SPAR has an ATM, but does not always have cash, thus it is very important to bring cash with you.

At the end of this paper, there are the opening and closing times for the main shops as well as the local ads and info. At the back of the paper is the up to date Hogsback Map.

If in need of information when in Hogsback, you can make a stop at Woltree or Redclay Cafe, both right on the main road.

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY IN THIS MAGICAL VILLAGE.



Shopping needs

There are around 18+ shops in Hogsback by my count. Along with the SPAR, you will find the Butchery, Hardware store, Liquor store and then all the other craft, specialty, and artisan shops. Each of these shops offer something unique and own to Hogsback.

There are also approximately 10 different places where you can find something delectable to munch, including gourmet and specialty foods.

Please see the map at the end of this paper for the locations of each place.



Important contact info

CAR REPAIRS AND BREAKDOWNS: 0761989648
NURSE Lynden: 0846080212
JM TRANSPORT SERVICES: 0788464022

DOCTORS :

Victoria Hospital in Alice: 040 653 1141
Dr Anjum in Alice: 0406531314
Dr Lochner, Forth Beaufort: 0466451177

Dentist in Fort Beaufort: Dr Linda: 0466451153
Clicks Pharmacy in Alice: 040 602 3330

EXPLORE NATURE

Hiking Trails

There are 22 hiking trails in Hogback that do not require a permit. These are the trails that are safe to enjoy with such beauty and diversity. The best way to explore the true beauty of Hogsback is on foot.

The Bluff, the brand new Valley View trail on the Bluff

Eco-Shrine Trail

Oak Avenue

the Arboretum complex

the Circular Walk to the wooden stairs

the Contour Path to the foot of Tor Doon

the walk from Tor Doon Lane to the foot of Tor Doon

the Forest Drive to Kettlespout

the Forest Drive to Contour Path

Upper Kettlespout from Hobbiton

Lower Kettlespout from Hobbiton

Hobbiton Loop

Main Road to Big Tree

Main Road to Madonna & Child

Upper Swallowtail

Lower Swallowtail

Wolfridge Road to Madonna & Child

Upper Madonna & Child

Bridal Veil

Hunterstoun (Private Property open to the public)

and Hog 1 (from the Eastern side)



If you need advice on any of the trails or need directions please contact Laurent on 0835688271

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Butchery Update

I recently visited The Butchery to check on their progress and was thrilled to hear that they have been doing extremely well since opening earlier this year. They are constantly upgrading the butchery to improve the customer experience and workflow. Despite a few minor and not-so-minor glitches in the beginning, everything is now happily sorted and running smoothly. It's great to report that load shedding has no effect on the butchery or its meat. All the necessary measures are in place for load shedding and have served them well.

Local establishments have been a significant source of support, purchasing a considerable amount of meat from The Butchery and helping it thrive. Owners Wean and Bellina are delighted with their success so far, and the community's support has been astronomical, fueling a steady growth spurt. The cuts of meat are well enjoyed by the community, with pork sausages and pork rashers being the favorites, followed by chicken. Biltong and dry wors fly off the shelves, and it's hard for the butchery to keep up with demand. Who knew there were so many meat lovers on the mountain?

I spoke to Wean about the quality of the chicken and was assured that it is free range well looked after chickens, that are handled humanely and healthily. It is not done commercially; they are fed organic and the environment is clean and well-kept. So in other words, the chickens are organic, happy, clean, healthy, and fat, and that is why they are so tasty.

In the new year, the Deli side of the butchery will also be opened and will stock local goodies from the community. New meat products will also be introduced in the new year along with a few other tasty editions.

Customers can also place custom orders and the meat can be cut and processed according to the specific needs. You are also welcome to get in touch with them for any special items you would like such as the pet mince or precise cuts. The butchery also offers a special service whereby you can bring your carcasses to be hung and processed according to your needs. A cutting and holding fee is charged.

On the side of stocking venison, the need for it is there, and Wean mentioned that if anyone does go hunting, he will be happy to also buy venison carcasses if anyone has in excess. Or if anyone nearby can offer quality venison, you can contact the Butchery to arrange with Wean.

Wean and Bellina are extremely grateful for the huge support from the community and would like to thank everyone for really being excellent, especially Rory from the SPAR who also helped out a great deal.

The Butchery now also has a Facebook page, and Instagram as well as a WhatsApp group where specials are announced.

There will be great specials available over the festive time but will have limited stock, so it is best to get your orders in as soon as possible. As promised, the butchery offers beautiful meat products that are packaged very well and done professionally.

Please note that the butchery will be closed on the following days:

15, 16, 17 and 18 December
24, 25 and 26 December.
31st December till the 3rd of January.

COCK ON A BLOCK BUTCHERY
EST. 2023
ROGERSBACK

*** DECEMBER SPECIALS ***
WHILE STOCK LASTS!

BEEF RUMP ROAST WAS R160 NOW R140 P/KG	PORK GAMMON WAS R90 NOW R80 P/KG	LAMB NECK WAS R120 NOW R110 P/KG
BEEF CHUCK EYE WAS R190 NOW R170 P/KG	DEBONED PORK NECK WAS R105 NOW R98 P/KG	LEG OF LAMB WAS R159 NOW R135 P/KG
	CHICKEN FULL BIRD +- 2KG WAS R70 NOW R60 P/KG	

ORIGIN STORIES

The Tap Room

The Hogsback Brewing Company dreamed up in 2013, after a Friday afternoon of too many G&T's (is there such a thing?!), a decision to move to Hogsback and a list of 10 things we could possibly do to make a living was made; learning to brew beer (how hard can it be right?) was at the top of the list!

In 2017, Hogsback's finest and only locally brewed craft beers were officially launched and our range of highly quaffable and hop forward ales became a firm favourite of visitors to Hogsback. In 2020, in what could be described as epic timing, we opened the Hogsback Brewing Company Taproom & Beer Garden seven days before the first covid lockdown :) and despite a rather disruptive two years the Hogsback Brewing Company has grown, added new beers and had a positive impact by adding a unique, original experience to Hogsback's tourism offering.

Apart from the beers, we continue to add deliciousness, including a Gin'credible South African Gin Tasting, Craft Cooldrinks, delicious food and much much more.

Mind the fence.



The Chocolate shop

Have you ever watched the charming heartfelt movie, Chocolat, starring Johnny Depp? This movie inspired the creation of a chocolate shop.

The lovely owner of the Chocolate shop, Candy, began her journey in Hogsback 21 years ago. In 2013, Candy and her business partner at the time, started an adventure centre for Hogsback, but desired to do more. In 2015, she decided to take a chocolate course and started making the special chocolates that we have come to love today. These chocolates were then stocked in various shops across Hogsback. However, Candy felt that a better outlet was needed for her chocolates, which led to the creation of her own adorable little chocolate shop.

The shop was completed and opened on Valentine's Day in 2018, which was a fitting date given the shop's focus on all things sweet and romantic. During the COVID lockdown, Candy was able to sell her chocolates online and deliver them to customers off the mountain, which helped her business grow tremendously. After the lockdown, the business continued to thrive.

All of the chocolates are handmade by Candy herself, which is no small feat, but Candy takes pride in her delightfully tasty creations that keep sweet lovers coming back for more. She uses natural flavours and is always exploring new flavours to add to her collection.

One can tell that Candy is very passionate about her craft and loves what she does, which is reflected in the delicious chocolates that she creates. She makes around 1500 chocolates per week, which is a lot of hard work and dedication. The Chocolate shop also offers warm beverages and gelato ice cream to complement their sweet treats.



THE SPECIAL ONES

Authentic, Artistic and Ambient Dining Experience

The Touraco Table caters for vegans, vegetarians and omnivores alike, specialising in authentic World food, be it French, Indian, Thai, Moroccan, Persian, Italian or South African, among others.

The menus on offer vary fortnightly, affording returning patrons greater choice. The menu format consists mostly of at least three to four starters, four to six mains, one or two side dishes, and three to four desserts to choose from.

While Laurent, the man behind the flavours, ensures that every dish is made with love and authenticity, his partner Angus ensures that patrons delight in the restaurant's warm and artistic ambiance, and undergo the best dining experience.

The walls of the Restaurant are adorned with various artworks – a collection of paintings, objects, ceramics, lights and sculpted matter made of mixed media – which are meant to initiate conversations and debates among patrons, within and across tables.

The Touraco Table prides itself on offering the most extraordinary view from its intimate terrace, which can be enjoyed when booking private functions or special occasions.

The Restaurant is not licensed and patrons can bring their own alcoholic and cold beverages, while still having access to teas, coffees and infused waters.

The Restaurant has credit card facilities.

**Contact Laurent on 0835688271 to
make a reservation**



ENVIRONMENTAL & WEATHER

The beauty of the Open Gardens this year



Weather as it is, as it may be.

The mountain has begun to see the wetter side of summer, with periods of lasting rains and overcast days. I must say though that the thunderstorms have not been too often, but perhaps more of them will occur during December, I am still trying to find the usual weather pattern, which can be very erratic this time of the year.

The beautiful mist in the later afternoons is back and often in the middle of the day, the whole mountain would get swallowed up by the enchanting mist, oh how I love it. The world is rich with life as everything is flowering and is lush with all shades of greens.

The streams are flowing strong and mosses are turning thick and green. We have seen some rather sweltering days with temperatures reaching into the 30s, which is usually followed by rain for a day or three, which is very pleasant and changes the whole feel of the forest.

It will be a mild to warm weekend with temps in the low 20s. Thereafter it will take a rainy dip till Tuesday. Temperatures will rise again into the higher 20s till Friday. Scattered thundershowers are expected during the week. Please note this is subject to change at any moment.



LOCAL ADS & INFO

LOCAL OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES OF MAIN SHOPS

SPAR:

MON TO FRI. 07:30 AM – 6 PM
 SAT: 07:30 AM – 5 PM
 SUN: 8 AM – 2 PM

BUTCHERY:

MON: CLOSED
 TUES TO FRI: 9 AM-5 PM
 SAT: 9 AM-3 PM
 SUN: CLOSED

PETROL STATION:

MON- FRI: 7:00 AM - 6 PM
 SAT & SUN- 7 AM - 6 PM
 LOADSHEDDING MAY AFFECT TIMES

HARDWARE STORE:

MON-FRI: 7:30 AM - 5 PM
 SAT: 7:30 AM - 1 PM
 SUN: CLOSED

LIQUOR STORE:

MON-FRI: 9 AM - 6 PM
 SAT: 9 AM - 2 PM
 SUN: CLOSED

THE CHOCOLATE SHOP
Artisanal Chocolates
 Made in Hogsback

The Chocolate Shop

074 721 4885

COCK ON A BLOCK BUTCHERY
 EST. 2023
 HOGSBACK

0718688749

Cock on a block Hogsback butchery

Hogsback Berries

076 334 4856

Hogsback Berries

HOGSBACK BREWING CO.

072 492 6868

Hogsback Brewing Company

RedClay Cafe

066 350 7485

Red Clay Cafe-Hogsback

thrive

7 Waterfall drive weekly special food creations.

0828200260

THE BEST FOR LAST



MASTER LEATHER WORK COMBO

Seasons greetings from the Hogs Back Leatherman.

As the year comes to a close and the thought of gifts begin to arrive, Black Wing Leatherwork would like to present our December specials.

This year we will be focusing on the Dads, with discounts on Hats, Belts, tool or knife rolls, knife sheaths and Multi tool pouches.

For those who need a gift for that person "who has everything", consider the Black Wing Leather Voucher which will be valid for any existing items or custom work.

Watch our Facebook site for this year's stocking filler items.

Thank you to all our customers for the support and we wish you a safe and happy festive season.
Mr B (the Leatherman)



You can find me on
Facebook @ Black
Wing Leatherwork
&
You can reach me on
Whatsapp on
0791937368



WHERE TO STAY



ACCOMMODATIONS

Eco Fox Cabin
&
Fox Den

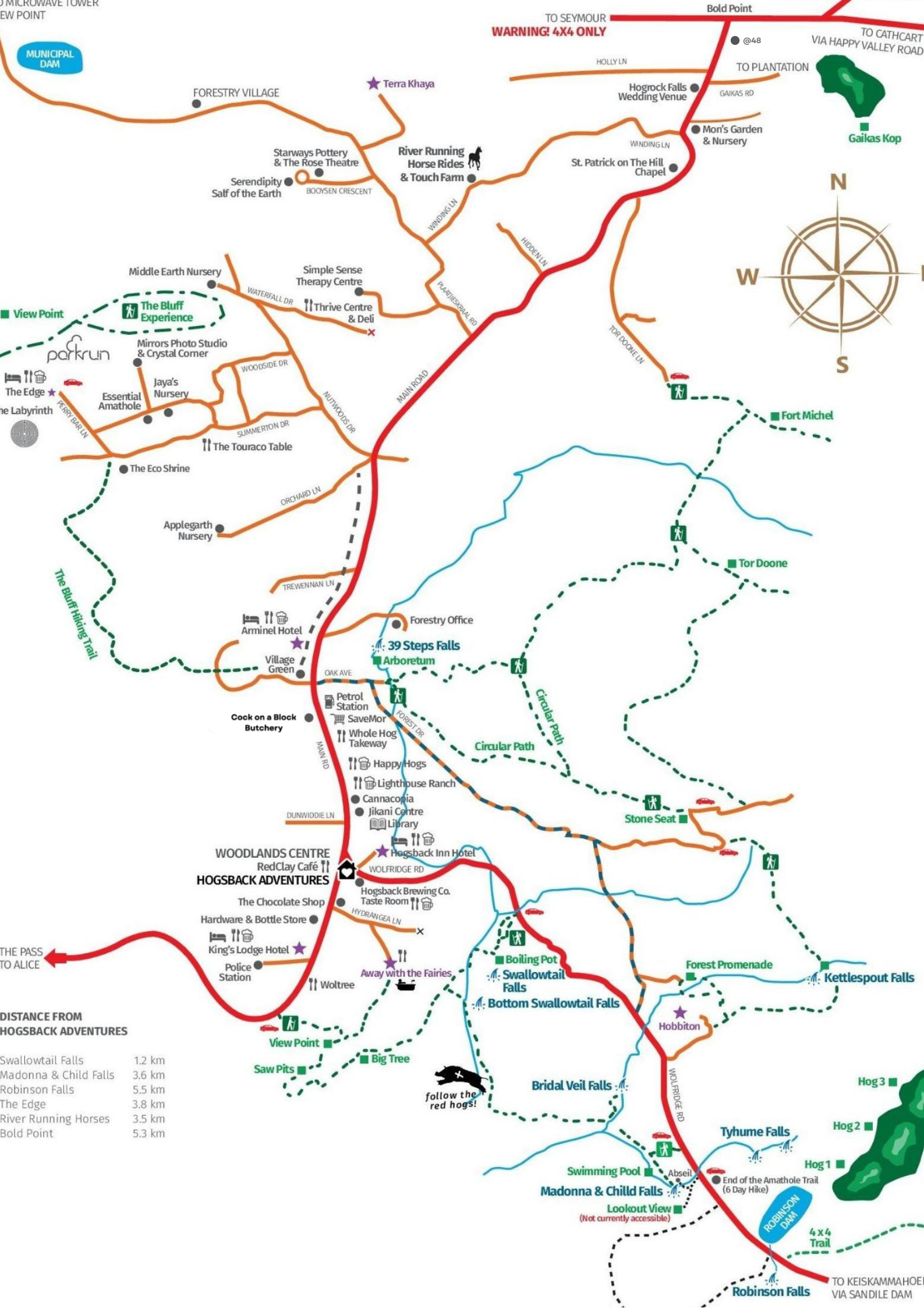
Azalea Cottage
&
Oak Tree Cottage

Touraco Cottage
&
The Meditation Room

AND MANY MORE

For the rates and info, contact me on whatsapp via 0795202205





MICROWAVE TOWER
VIEW POINT

TO SEYMOUR
WARNING! 4X4 ONLY

Bold Point

TO CATHCART
VIA HAPPY VALLEY ROAD

MUNICIPAL DAM

FORESTRY VILLAGE

★ Terra Khaya

HOLLY LN

TO PLANTATION



GaiKas Kop

Starways Pottery & The Rose Theatre
Serendipity
Salf of the Earth

River Running
Horse Rides & Touch Farm

Hogrock Falls
Wedding Venue

GAIKAS RD

WINDING LN

Mon's Garden & Nursery



Middle Earth Nursery
The Bluff Experience

Simple Sense
Therapy Centre

View Point

parkrun

Mirrors Photo Studio & Crystal Corner

WATERFALL DR

WOODSIDE DR

The Edge

The Labyrinth

Essential Amathole

Jaya's Nursery

SUMMERTON DR

The Touraco Table

The Eco Shrine

Applegarth Nursery

ORCHARD LN

TREWENAN LN

Arminel Hotel

Village Green

Forestry Office

39 Steps Falls
Arboretum

OAK AVE

Petrol Station

SaveMor

Whole Hog
Takeaway

Happy Hogs

Lighthouse Ranch

Cannacopia

Jikani Centre
Library

Hogsback Inn Hotel

WOLFEDGE RD

Hogsback Brewing Co.
Taste Room

HYDRANGEA LN

WOODLANDS CENTRE
RedClay Café

HOGSBACK ADVENTURES

The Chocolate Shop

Hardware & Bottle Store

King's Lodge Hotel

Police Station

WOLFRIDGE RD

Away with the Fairies

Woltree

View Point

Saw Pits

Big Tree



follow the red hogs!

Circular Path

Circular Path

Boiling Pot

Swallowtail Falls

Bottom Swallowtail Falls

Bridal Veil Falls

Stone Seat

Hobbiton

Forest Promenade

Kettlespout Falls

Swimming Pool

Abseil

Madonna & Child Falls

Lookout View
(Not currently accessible)

End of the Amathole Trail
(6 Day Hike)

Forest Promenade

Hog 3

Hog 2

Hog 1

Tyhume Falls

Robinson Dam

4 x 4 Trail

Robinson Falls

TO KEISKAMMAHOE
VIA SANDILE DAM

DISTANCE FROM HOGSBACK ADVENTURES

Swallowtail Falls	1.2 km
Madonna & Child Falls	3.6 km
Robinson Falls	5.5 km
The Edge	3.8 km
River Running Horses	3.5 km
Bold Point	5.3 km

← THE PASS TO ALICE