

# **HIGH TRAVERSE HIKE**

**SENTINEL CAR PARK – CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL**

**(VIA THE BELL TRAVERSE)**

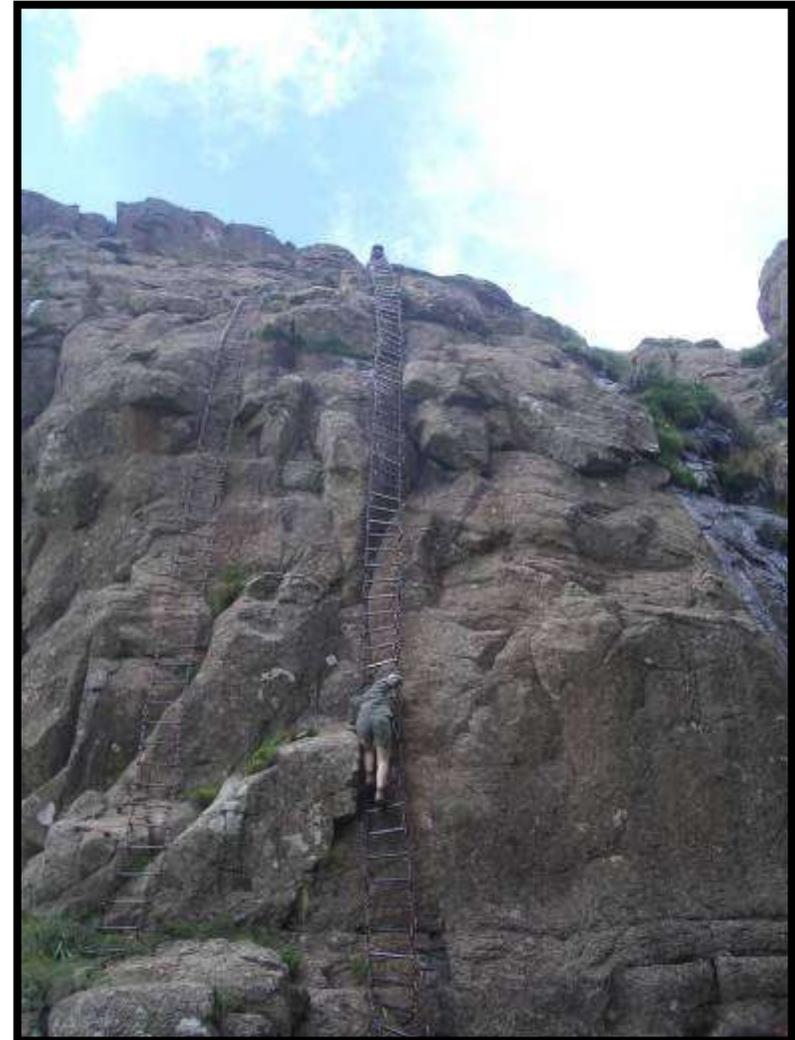
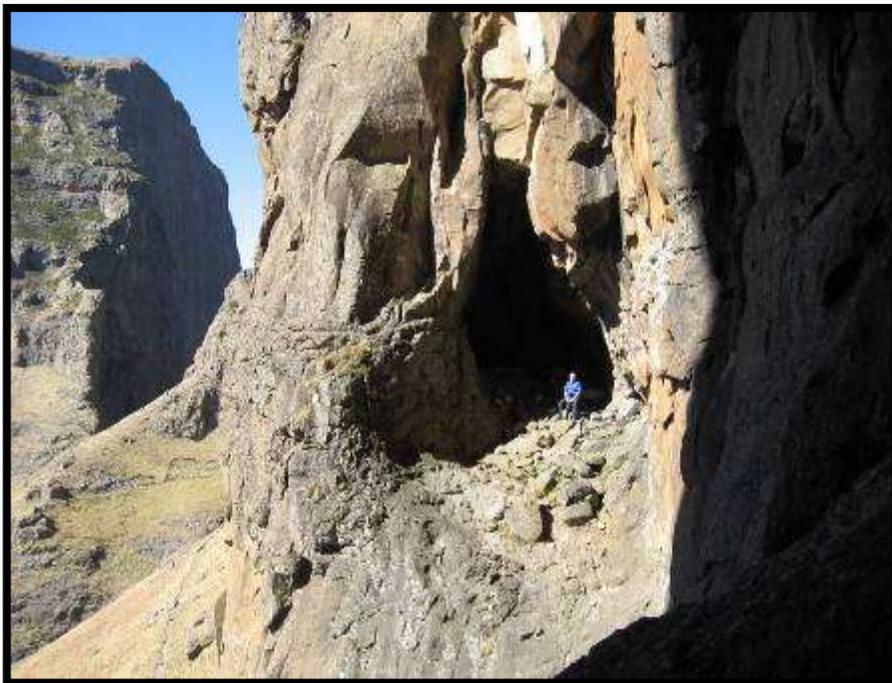
**72KM, 5 HIKE DAYS / 4 NIGHTS**



Note: The following itinerary should be seen only as a guide. As when hiking in any mountain area, weather and other circumstances can change our daily plans.

## **DAY 1: SENTINEL CAR PARK – IFIDI PASS (13KM, 690M, 7H)**

We will be dropped at Sentinel Car Park from where we will climb to the top of the Amphitheatre. We can do this by the famous chain ladders, but for those afraid of heights, the route up the Beacon Buttress gully is a less hairy option. Once on top, we will stop for a well-deserved lunch at the top of the Tugela Falls. With a total drop of 614 metres this is the world's fourth highest waterfall. The view that beholds is certainly one of the most spectacular in Southern Africa. With spirits high, we will be ready to leave civilization behind and head out towards Ifidi Pass, where we will pitch our tents for the night.



## DAY 2: IFIDI PASS – FANG PASS (13KM, 600M, 7H)

For the next two days we will be walking in the Mnweni area: the wildest and most dramatic part of the Drakensberg. We will try to remain as close to the escarpment in order to capture the true magnitude of it. Contrary to what optical illusion may imply, the top of the Drakensberg is not as flat as a table but an undulating sequence of valley and ridges. Three short sharp climbs await us during this day. If time allows we will also visit some of the caves in the area. When we get to the well-know mountain feature “Madonna and her Worshipers” we will know we are close to our night’s campsite.



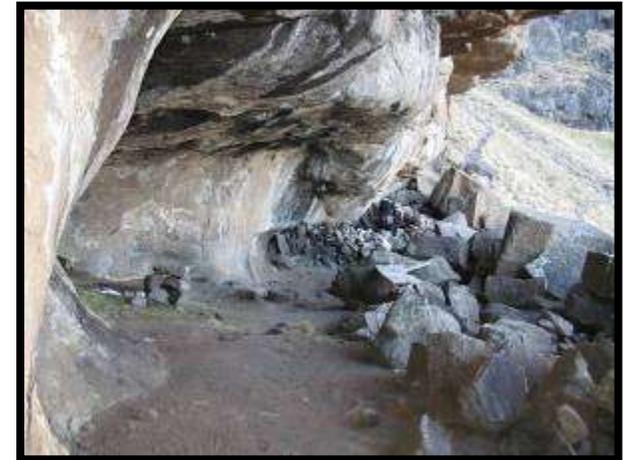
## DAY 3: FANG PASS – LEDGER’S CAVE (14KM, 550M, 7.5H)

If after the last two days you think it cant get any better, wait until what lies ahead. We will be hiking through an area with the most ruggedly splendid peaks and rock formations: Mnweni Pinnacles, Hanging Valleys, Twelve Apostles, Mnweni Needles, Mponjwane...it goes on and on. Tonight we sleep at Ledger’s Cave - a very apt name for a cave which literally hangs off the cliffs. Sleep walkers best be zipped-up tight tonight.



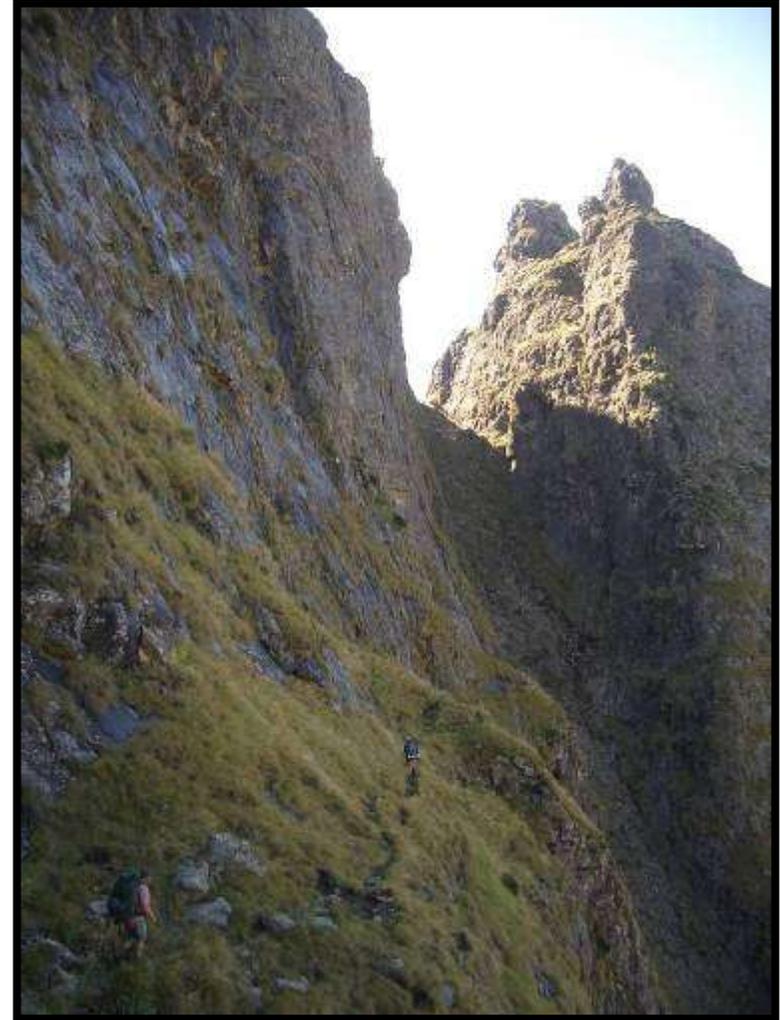
## DAY 4: LEDGER'S CAVE – TWINS CAVE (18KM, 850M, 8.5H)

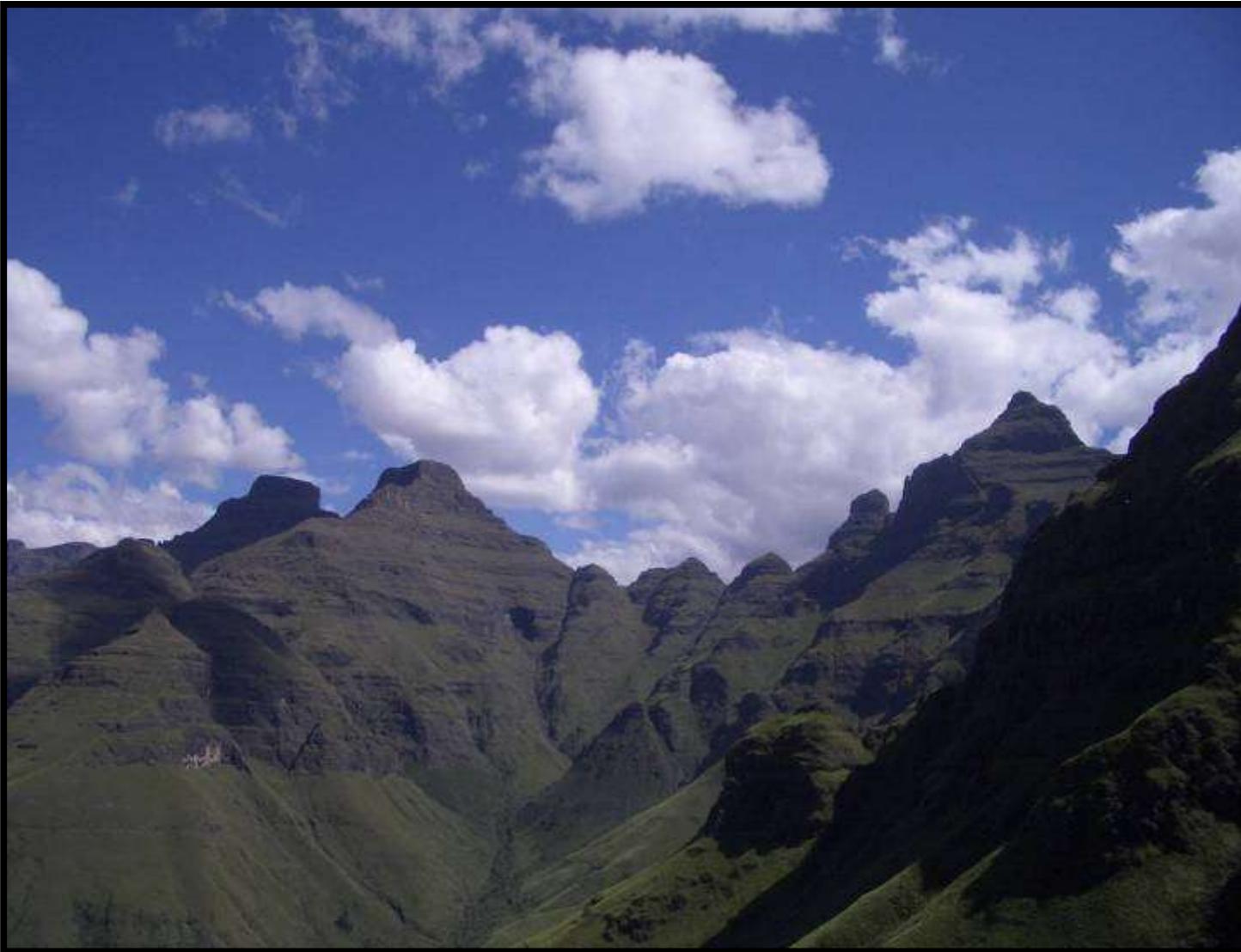
This is our longest and toughest day. Up to four ridges will be summited. But before the hard work begins, we will visit another fine cave nearby: Mponjwane Cave, right behind the standalone peak after which it is named. From here, if the weather is clear, we will catch our first glimpse of the Cathedral Peak Range, at which we will finish our hike. We will be hiking around the Saddle, another prominent feature, before arriving at Mlabonja Pass – our exit point off the escarpment. From here it is a short sharp descent down to Twins Cave.



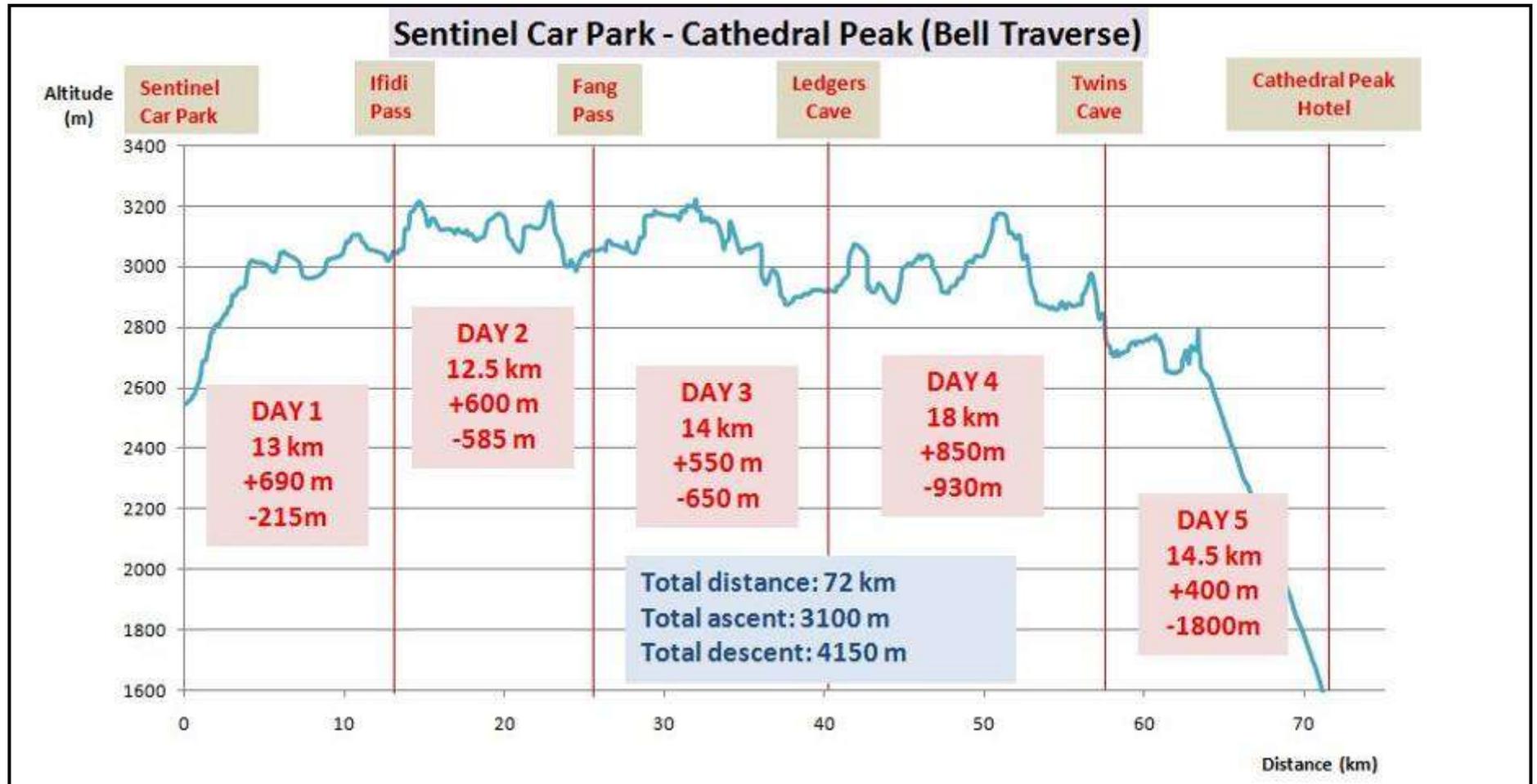
## Day 5: Twins Cave – Bell Traverse – Cathedral Peak Hotel (14.5km, 400m, 8h)

The Bell Traverse is certainly the 'cherry' of hike experiences in the Drakensberg. From the moment you leave Twins cave, a surprise awaits around every corner. The impossible path reveals itself in parts. Where it goes next, you just cannot guess: around the Mitre, by the Chessmen, behind the Inner and outer Horns, around the Bell and then, before getting to the foot of the Cathedral Peak, the final big daunting challenge: Bugger's gully. From here it is an easy 8km down to Cathedral Peak hotel.





# THE PROFILE



## **FITNESS**

A good level of fitness is required. You will be carrying food for 6 days (1 day extra as an emergency) and some extra equipment for camping: stoves, fuel, pots, tents shared between 2 or 3...Expect a 15kg-25kg rucksack. **Porters:** are available at [R300/porter/per day](#). Porters can carry up to 10-12kg on top of their own gear. Porters are self-sufficient – supplying their own food, bedding & cooking equipment.

## **TRANSPORT**

Transport will be provided to the starting point at the Sentinel Car Park.

## **CATERING**

Nutrition is vitally important for this trip. We need to maintain high levels of energy. We can advise you what to bring or we can provide the food – to be split proportionally amongst the group.

## **EQUIPMENT**

We will provide a comprehensive kit list. You will need to supply your own hiking equipment. If there is anything you lack, or not sure about, we can advise as to what's best to buy, rent or borrow. We will be able to supply tents.

## **GUIDE**

An experienced professional mountain guide registered with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Transport will be leading the party.

## **PARTY**

The preferred maximum is 12, but larger groups can be accommodated if they have a reasonable experience level & willing to self-cater.

## 2016 PRICE

### PRICE/PER PERSON

1 Person only: R 15,500

2 Persons: R 8,500

3 Persons: R 6,200

4 Persons: R 5,000

5 Persons: R 4,600

6 Persons: R 4,150

7 Persons: R 3,850

8 Persons: R 3,700

9-10 Persons: R 3,450

11-12 Persons: R 3,200

### Price Includes:

- Professional Mountain Guide – 5 Hike Days
- All food during the hike and cooking gear (pots, stove, fuel, etc)
- Hiking permits
- Transfer from the Cathedral Peak Hotel to the Sentinel Car Park

### Self-catered option:

If you wish to bring your own food for the hike, you can deduct **R750** off the above PP/pricing (R150/day allocated to catering).

### **Optional Extra's:**

**Tent Hire:** You are welcome to bring your own 4-season tent, otherwise you can hire from us at [R100/night](#) (R400 for the trip)

**Porters:** are available at [R300/porter/per day](#). Porters can carry up to 10-12kg on top of their own gear. Porters are self-sufficient – supplying their own food, bedding & cooking equipment.