

Hiking at St Fort Farm

St Fort Farm sits in the foothills of the Maluti Mountains, where the Clarens Sandstone Formation has carved out overhang caves, ravines and hidden valleys. Hikers occasionally come across traces of Basotho culture and Boer War history along the way, and several caves still bear original Bushman paintings on their walls.

St Fort offers hiking for every level, from a gentle family day hike to a full two-day mountain crossing. Three signature trails start directly from the farm: the Mushroom Rock Trail, the Batwing Falls Trail, and the two-day Mount Perazim Trail.



Our Hiking Trails

Mushroom Rock Trail

2 hrs · 4 km round trip · Yellow shoeprint markings

A favourite day hike for all ages. The trail follows the Little Caledon River past several inviting picnic spots, then climbs gradually to the base of Mushroom Rock. For the final stretch, choose the gentle scenic route or the steeper route up through ladders and caves for an extra dose of adventure.



Batwing Falls Trail

2.5 hrs · 5.9 km · White arrow markings

A moderate hike starting from the guesthouse. An initial climb rewards you with sweeping views of St Fort and the valley, before the path follows a contour to Batwing Falls, named for their distinctive bat wing shape. Rest at the base of the falls before returning on the same trail.



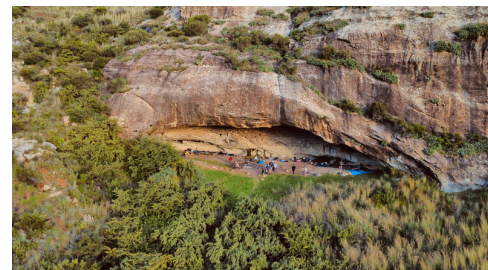
Mount Perazim Trail

2-day circular route · Day 1: 9 km (4–6 hrs) · Day 2: 7 km (3 hrs) · White footprints on black boards

Formerly known as the Cannibal Trail, this route was renamed Mount Perazim: Hebrew for “place of breakthrough.” The trail crosses mountain views, river walks, forest ambles and gorges, passing overhang caves with rock kraals before an overnight stop in a substantial cave with Bushman paintings. Day 2 brings sweeping views of the Maluti peaks, including Horeb, Woodhouse, Generaalskop, Visierskerf and George’s Pimple, with an optional 2.5 km extension to Mushroom Rock.

Overnight Facilities

Base Camp consists of two dormitories in lovely old sandstone farm buildings overlooking Mushroom Rock. Each has hot water showers, a fridge, a 2-plate stove, a kettle and braai facilities. Firewood is available to purchase per bag.



The Old School House

- 8 bunk beds, sleeps 16
- 4 toilets and 4 showers
- Undercover veranda, reed lapa and fire pit

The Melkstal

- 10 bunk beds, sleeps 20
- 3 toilets and 3 showers
- Small thatched-roof lapa

The Cave

A substantial overhang cave sleeping up to 40 hikers, with two cold water showers and two flush toilets. Mattresses and groundsheets are provided and stored in the cave's kitchen unit, along with a kettle, pot and braai facilities. Firewood available per bag.

Slackpacking

We can transport bags up to the cave so you can hike light: R80 per item, minimum 3 items (R240). Bags are dropped off and collected from the cave ablution storeroom. St Fort cannot be held responsible for items left at the drop-off point.

Hiking Rates

Trail / Experience	Adult Rate pp	Child Rate pp (12 & under)	Includes
Two-Night Hiking	R 750	R 375	1 night base camp + 1 night cave + full 2-
Mount Perazim Cave Only	R 500	R 250	1 night cave + 2-day trail
Mushroom Rock Day Hike	R 100	R 50	Day hike from the farm

St Fort Hiking

— est. 1913 —

Included

- Hot water ablutions at Base Camp
- Mattress and groundsheet at the Cave
- Braai facilities throughout
- Fresh farm spring water

Not Included

- Bedding and towels (bring your own)
- Firewood (sold per bag)
- Meals and catering
- Slackpacking service

What to Bring

No bedding or towels are provided on the trail, only a mattress. Bring a sleeping bag, food and braai or eating utensils, toilet paper and toiletries, a water bottle, sunblock and a hat, and sturdy walking shoes. Layers are recommended for cool mornings and evenings.

Weather and Best Time to Hike

Hiking is enjoyable at St Fort year-round. Night temperatures are most pleasant from September to May, and winter days are ideal for hiking, with a heater available in the smaller dormitory on cooler nights.



Good to Know

Is a guide provided?

No. The trails are clearly marked, and a map is provided, which is sufficient to reach your destination.

Is the trail ever closed?

No, the trail is open to hikers year-round.

Can we book the trail exclusively?

Facilities are typically shared (St Fort hosts an average of 30 hikers per weekend). A group of 20 or more hikers can request exclusive use.

Is there privacy in the cave?

More than one group may share the cave on a given night. Two fire pits allow groups to braai and socialise separately.

Can we hike on weekdays?

Yes, bookings are welcome any day of the week, and a midweek booking is more likely to offer privacy.

