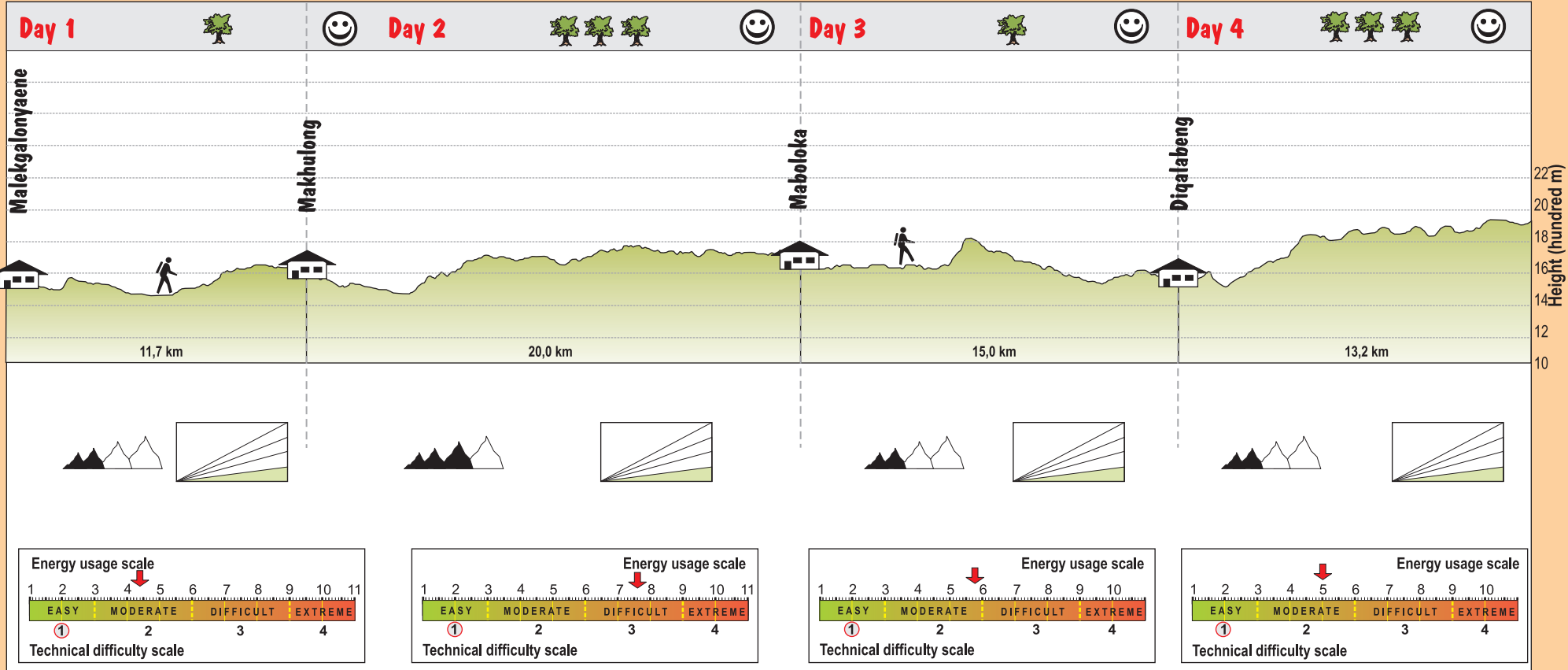


# Symbols for each day separately

Symbols for trail as a whole






## Key to Symbols

Technical Difficulty	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1 Difficulty Categories
Energy Rating				
Guiding	Guide (registered)	Guide (learner)	Local Hike Leader	Self-guided
Catering	Fully Catered	Semi-catered	Self Catered	No overnight
Trail format	Linear	Circular	Network (base camp)	Open-ended
Trail type	Ramble (max. 3 h)	Day Walk	Overnight Trail	Portaged

Path character (accessibility)				
Accommodation	Excellent	Standard	Rustic	No accommodation
Environmental Character	Pristine	Natural	Rural	Semi-urban
Facilities	Excellent	Acceptable	Poor	No facilities
Environmental Education	Curriculum Based	Guided/Brochure	Standard info on Trail	No Env. Education
Safety	Safe	Safe - heed warnings	Risky	Unsafe

## Accommodation Facilities

types:  
 (A)  excellent  
 (B)  standard  
 (C)  rustic

Malekgalonyana (sleeps 16)  
 Maboloka (sleeps 12)  
 Diqalabeng (sleeps 12)



Makhulong (sleeps 12)



- ✓ ✓ **Accommodation:** (A) Good quality hut/lux.tent/house with several sleeping rooms
- (B) Basic hut or tent(s) provided
- (C) Shelter against elements for sleeping or tent site only
- Toilet:** (A) Flush toilet inside hut (1:6 people) and toilet paper
- ✓ ✓ (B) Separate toilet building, flush facilities outside hut (toilet paper provided)
- (C) Pit toilet (max 50 m min 20 m from hut) or alt. hygienic system (toilet paper)
- Beds:** (A) Single / double beds only
- ✓ ✓ (B) Bunk beds OR
- (C) No beds provided
- ✓ ✓ **Mattresses:** (A) Thick (10 cm) high density foam or spring
- (B) Thin
- (C) None
- ✓ ✓ **Washing:** (A) Shower and/or bath: with geyser or "donkey" pre-lit by attendant
- (B) Shower and/or bath (hot and cold with "donkey")
- (C) Shower (cold) or natural place to bath
- Braai area:** (A) Under cover barbeque, with windshield, lapa (1:10 people)
- ✓ (B) Barbeque area, covered only, with grate,
- ✓ (C) Barbeque (open) area with grate only or no fires allowed or possible
- ✓ ✓ **Fire wood provided:** (A) Ample chopped wood (also for campfire)
- (B) One only bundle for braai
- (C) Dry tree/logs with saw/axe provided or no fires allowed/possible (delete one)
- ✓ ✓ **Kitchenware:** (A) Fridge/cooler and cutlery/crockery: provided
- (B) Fridge/cooler or cutlery/crockery: provided (delete one)
- (C) NOT provided
- Kitchen:** (A) Separate "kitchen"/common room with basin and tap inside hut
- ✓ ✓ (B) Dish washing / cooking place near or adjacent to hut (with table/surface)
- (C) No separate facilities provided
- Lighting:** (A) Electric/gas/solar
- ✓ ✓ (B) Candles/paraffin lamps or similar
- (C) None of these provided
- Heating:** (A) Air conditioning or stoves in all rooms
- ✓ ✓ (B) Heating by means of fire place; coal/wood stove in common room
- (C) None of these
- ✓ ✓ **Cooking facilities:** (A) Stove/hot plate/burner and kettle, pots & pans
- (B) Stove/Hot plate/burner or kettle, pots & pans
- (C) None of these

## Trail Facilities & Safety

### Facilities:

**Booking facilities and information:** Good (fax, e-mail, tel)

**Reception office:** No. 94, High Street, Matatiële

**Road signs to start of trail:** Poor

**Access road to start:** Poor

**Trail Format:** Linear with transport back

**Map/guide:** Guide

**Facilities for handicapped:** None

**Brochure/guide:** Guide

**Water availability for drink:** Yes

**Portaging:** Yes

**Catering:** Yes

**Safety:**

**Parking:** Safe with shade

**Accommodation:** Safe

**Safety on Trail:**

*Markers:* Guided (no markers)

*Warning signs:* Inadequate (guided)

*Water potability:* In places (guided)

*Hikers' general safety (mugging):* Safe

*Other: (bridges, ladders, stiles, etc):* Safe

**Crossings (road/rivers):** Safe (take care)

**Emergency:**

*Escape routes:* From overnight huts only

*Telephone/cell:* Partial

*Medical aid/evacuation system:* Guide can contact

## Basic Trail Description

The Mehlooding Hiking Trail is a four day fully catered, portaged and guided trail effectively and professionally run by the local Mehlooding Community Tourism Trust. Incorporated is the first overnight stay at the local Masakala B&B near Matatiële. Hikers are transported from here to the start of the trail and afterwards returned via the border post road to Lesotho at Quacha's Nek to their cars.

The trail is characterized by walking through the traditional Xhosa rural landscape with the majestic Drakensberg escapement as constant backdrop. Passing through a number of villages provides ample contact, through the local guide, with village life. (This includes a shebeen where one can buy a cold beer). The landscape, although undergoing much erosion and infestation by wattle trees, is exceptionally beautiful. The sandstone underlying the Drakensberg basalt kranzes, form extensive flat rock ledges, caves and impressive mushroom rocks. Plenty of mountain streams provide water and swimming places along the trail. A number of stream crossings can be scary but with the guide's help, they are all safe. Of special interest are the extensive stretches of Protea "forests" and most beautiful deep gorges with waterfalls and San paintings. The outstanding impression is that of the exceptional hospitality of the hostesses at all the traditional Xhosa overnight huts, the concomitant good food and clean rooms.

## Contact /Booking Information

**Bookings** Mehlooding Community Tourism Trust

Tel/fax: (+27) (0) 39737 3289

Cell: 0733554981

e-mail: [mehlooding@telkomsa.net](mailto:mehlooding@telkomsa.net)

website: [www.mehlooding.co.za](http://www.mehlooding.co.za)

GREEN FLAG  
ACCREDITED HIKING TRAIL

## Mehlooding Hiking Trail



## Classification

Four day linear  
fully catered, guided, portaged trail

**Environment:** rural

**Accommodation:** excellent

**Difficulty Rating:** moderate to difficult

**Facilities and safety:** relatively safe



[www.trailinfo.co.za](http://www.trailinfo.co.za)

Accreditation underwritten by:  
 South African Hiking Trail Owners Association (SAHTOA),  
 Hiking Organization of Southern Africa (HOSA),  
 Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA),  
 Eco-Trail.



Eastern Cape  
 Provincial Local Economic  
 Development Support  
 Programme  
 Financed by the European Union

