

Schutztruppe Trail



Colour Code: *Yellow Arrows*
Distance: *10.8 km*
Duration: *approximately 3 hours*
Grading: *Easy to Intermediate*
Start: *Campsite or Geisterschlucht Info Kiosk*



The Schutztruppe Trail is a varied route through the Aus Mountains for those who want to explore the diversity of the area and discover its historical background.

Starting at the campsite, see text of the Vista Trail regarding the first part of this trail. At the T- junction turn right and pass through a gate and walk along a beautiful and alley-like row of trees (*Pappea capensis*) which offer you pleasant shade.

The now winding trail will guide you past huge boulders to connect with a dry riverbed that gives you a true experience of peacefulness and beauty of nature. The trail joins one of the Schutztruppe support roads that linked the frontline in the west to the water and provision supplies in the east. You will descend

down the mountain into the Geisterschlucht on the same steep and winding track that the foot soldiers, mules and horses used. Please walk carefully; loose rocks make the path slippery in some places.

Leaving the Geisterschlucht cabin behind you, the trail leads across the valley floor towards the north. You will soon pass an old Hudson (to find out more about its history: please read the information board next to it) and a well-preserved German fortification.

From now on, the trail takes you along the footslope of the mountains on your right and the vast open plains on your left.

Towards the end of the trail, the path will lead you up and down through foothills, crossing several small riverbeds. Also, there is another well-

preserved rampart on your left- here you can really imagine what it was like to be in the position of German soldiers, crouching behind the ramparts waiting for the enemy. Not far from here and you will arrive at a sign pointing back to the campsite where this trail ends and you get to relax after this adventurous hike.



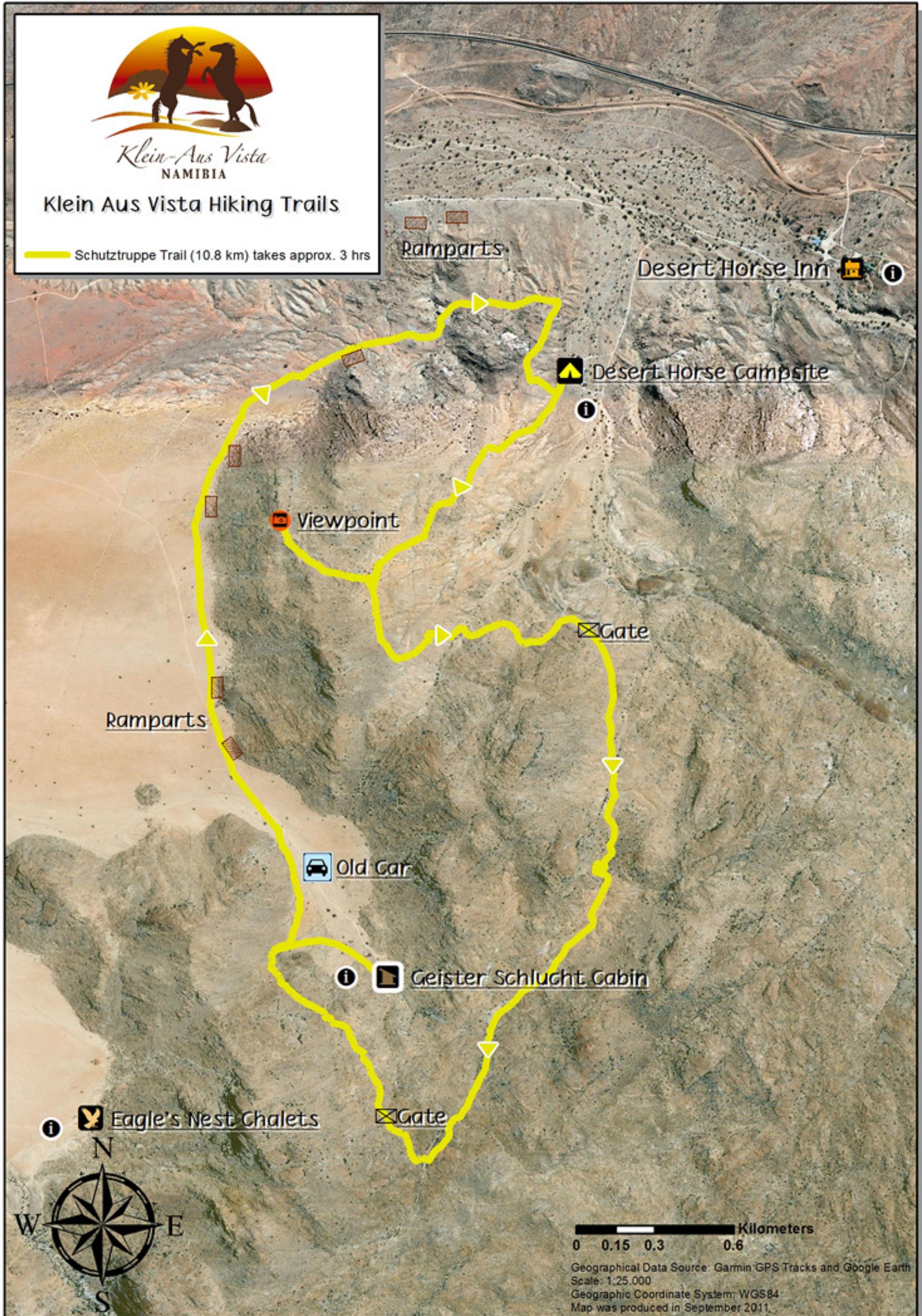
Featured plants on this trail: *Eriocephalus sp*, *Geranium sp*, *Galenia africana*, *Aptosimum spinescens*, *Euryops namibensis*, *Forsskaolea hereroensis*, *Euphorbia spinea*, *Kleinia longiflora*, *Sarcocaulon salmoniflorum*, *Sarcocaulon crassicaule*, *Acacia erioloba*, *Rhus populifolia*, *Pappea capensis*

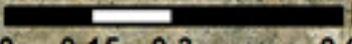


Klein-Aus Vista
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Klein Aus Vista Hiking Trails

 Schutztruppe Trail (10.8 km) takes approx. 3 hrs



 Kilometers
0 0.15 0.3 0.6

Geographical Data Source: Garmin GPS Tracks and Google Earth
Scale: 1:25,000
Geographic Coordinate System: WGS84
Map was produced in September 2011.