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KWAZULU-NATAL

Durban - Pietermaritzburg & The Midlands - uKhahlamba/Drakensberg
South Coast - North Coast - Elephant Coast & Zululand - Battlefields



Your approved Thompsons agent is:



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2006



CONTENTS



There is much at stake when planning a getaway, for you are investing your precious free time, hard-earned savings and, most of all, the promise of a blissful escape. Which is why it's advisable to entrust your trip to a Tour Operator with a proven track record - and when it comes to South Africa, who better than the country's biggest and best: Thompsons Tours.

TRUST THOMPSONS

The key to Thompsons' success is a combination of industry knowledge and service/ product innovations. This enables the company's dedicated, professional staff to provide the best holiday experiences that South Africa has to offer.

- Our staff are kept abreast of all new attractions and developments in both the industry and the region, and experience products before promoting them.

- Our accommodation venues and touring programmes are constantly monitored to ensure that the highest possible standards are maintained.

- We 'tell it like it is' so that our clients know exactly what to expect - no unwelcome surprises!

- We take our slogan 'Trust Thompsons' very seriously, constantly striving to provide unsurpassed service, from the best travel deals to round-the-clock assistance and advice.



Thompsons Tours would like to thank SA Tourism, Tourism KwaZulu-Natal, Hotels, Lodges and Resorts who were generous in allowing us the use of their images.

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DESCRIPTION.....	PAGE
CONTENTS & MAP	2-3
KWAZULU-NATAL	4-5
DURBAN	6-8
PIETERMARITZBURG & THE MIDLANDS	9
DRAKENSBERG	10-12
SOUTH COAST	13
NORTH COAST	14-15
ELEPHANT COAST & ZULULAND	16-17
BATTLEFIELDS	18
INDEX	19



CAPITAL CITY:
Pietermaritzburg

LANGUAGES:
South Africa has 11 official languages. The most widely spoken in KwaZulu-Natal are English and Zulu.

AREA:
92 100 km²

USEFUL INFORMATION

CLIMATE:
KwaZulu-Natal situated on the eastern side of South Africa, is bordered by the warm Indian Ocean to the east and the high escarpment of the Drakensberg Mountains to the west.

The province has a warm, sub-tropical climate, with temperatures moderated by the expanse of the Indian Ocean.

Summers are hot and humid averaging temperatures of 28 degrees, and experience the majority of the annual rainfall.

Winters have average temperatures of 23°C and are warm, dry and clear.

There is occasional frost in the interior and snow often falls in the higher reaches during winter. Winter sunshine averages almost 7 hours a day.

SUN PROTECTION:
Sunscreen lotions and sun hats are recommended at all times when participating in outdoor activities.

MALARIA PRECAUTIONS:
While most of KZN is Malaria free, it is recommended that all visitors to northern KwaZulu-Natal commence a course of anti-malaria prophylaxis - consult your GP before departure, for suitable medication.



KWAZULU-NATAL

South Africa's cosmopolitan playground boasts spectacular golden beaches, year-round sunshine, never-ending activities and fun, not to mention a variety of activities and sights.

Durban's port is Africa's busiest, as is abundantly clear if you visit one of the restaurants and pubs perched right on the waters edge at the harbour entrance - a constant stream of huge container ships and industrious tugs pass by, tantalisingly close.

A magnificent beach site near the harbour entrance is poised to reach its full potential with the opening of the uShaka Island Marine Park. This stunning park was developed out of a vision to create a world-class entertainment and tourism destination for Durban and all of South Africa.

Incorporating fresh and sea water, natural materials, the re-creation of a wreck of a 1940's cargo ship, with the 5th largest aquarium in the world by volume of water,

Durban is the jewel in KwaZulu-Natal's crown. Its special charm, mystery and diversity of cultures makes it an ideal holiday destination.

coupled with indigenous African imagery, lush vegetation and maritime images of the Port of Durban, plus a water slides amusement park, uShaka is a complete 'marine world'. The park is tastefully themed with a focus on family entertainment in terms of fun, excitement, friendliness, imagery, activities, education and unique experiences, grouped into five distinct areas.

Durban and its surrounding suburbs are blessed with incredible restaurants, from fine dining to funky fare as well as dozens of indoor and outdoor bistros. There is also

a wide variety in terms of Indian cuisine, including the famous 'Jewel of India' where you can sample traditional curries. Into this mix add an intoxicating fusion of cultures: Indian, Zulu, Afrikaans and English. These influences can be seen in the city's shopping places, from its many outdoor flea markets such as Essenwood Market to the upmarket Musgrave, Pavilion and Gateway Centre, the country's largest shopping mall.

Browse around the Heritage Market's cluster of shops, set amid hundreds of rose bushes in Hillcrest, and the eclectic mix of outlets in suburban Florida Road, all housed in beautifully restored Edwardian buildings.

To the eastern side of the centre is the Indian Quarter, found along Grey Street running masjid north from West Street. The Jumah Mosque, found in this area, is reputedly the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Two markets are of note here

- the Oriental Bazaar and the Victoria Street Market. This area has also become home to Zulu herbalists selling "muti" for traditional medicine and rituals - head for Russell Street Extension where these sellers congregate.

On the northern side of the city are the Umgeni River Mouth and the up-market area of Durban North. The Bird Park on its northern bank is highly recommended. Just north of the city is Umhlanga, a popular holiday area noted for its fine beaches, natural surrounding environment and excellent leisure and shopping centres.

Take a walk in the Nature Reserve, situated around the lagoon. While you are in Umhlanga, the Natal Sharks Board offers fascinating tours of their research facility. About 60,000 visitors view the Natal Sharks Board audio-visual show, shark dissections and static displays each year, in a programme aimed at educating school children and the general public in safe swim-

ming practices as well as the biology and ecology of sharks.

Margate, Port Shepstone, Scottburgh, Port Edward, sardines, golf, whales, dolphins, Oribi Gorge, hibiscus flowers and golden beaches are some of the terms which people associate with the magnificent South Coast. Blue Flag status is awarded to those beaches that achieve excellence in water quality, environmental education and information, and adhere to international safety standards. Twenty South African beaches were awarded Blue Flag status in October 2005, including nine in the Zulu Kingdom: Durban beach, Addington beach, South beach, Hibberdene beach, Lucien beach, Marina/San Lameer beach, Ramsgate beach, Umhlanga beach and Uvongo beach.

Also worth a visit is the Valley of a Thousand Hills. Just 45-minutes drive west from the city centre, it has magnificent views, a Zulu village and large craft market.

Head a bit further west and you're on the Midlands Meander - an established, excellent arts and crafts route offering glorious accommodation and excellent wares amid beautiful scenery. Continue on that route and you'll reach the mighty Drakensberg Mountain range. Recently proclaimed a World Heritage Site, it is a 'must see', with its superb examples of Bushmen and Sam paintings, soul-feeding vistas, mountain walks and ample accommodation, from campsites to luxury hotels.

A couple of hours' drive to the north lies big game country. Elephant, rhino, The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, Hluhluwe, Imfolozi, Tembe, Ndumu, Maputaland, Kosi Bay, Sodwana, whales and turtles are some of the terms associated with the Elephant Coast.

To the west the sites of several historic battles between Boer, Brit and Zulu can be discovered in the Battlefields region.



DURBAN



Durban is a sophisticated cosmopolitan city of over three million people - a city where east meets west - a city beneath which beats the pulse of Africa. A city home to Africa's best-managed, busiest port. It's an exciting city in which to play, shop, and experience the nightlife and to relax. It's a city in which business and debate issues, which have far-reaching effects, not only on Africa but way beyond its borders, are discussed. The world-class International Convention Centre has host-

ed an historic line-up of events. Leisure facilities abound. Visit uShaka Marine World or Wilson's Wharf on the Victoria Embankment. Enjoy fine and traditional dining, entertainment and shopping in scenic surroundings.

Shop till you drop in modern shopping malls. Grey Street and the Warwick Triangle boast vibrant locals shops and markets. Beachfront stalls sell traditional arts and crafts. Enjoy the excellent enter-

tainment on offer at the city's theatres and clubs or take a township tour. If it's peace and sheer beauty you are after, make for Durban's nature sanctuaries or parks. The Botanical Gardens are of particular interest - ask about their 'Music by the Lake' evenings - wonderful music played by KZN's Philharmonic Orchestra in beautiful surrounds. Sail, swim, run, and play tennis or alternatively stroll along or relax on the sun-drenched beaches watching the world go by.

DURBAN CITY TOUR

DURATION: HALF DAY. DEPARTS: DAILY AT 09H00. VALID: 1 FEB - 31 OCT 2006

We explore the temples, churches and architecture Durban is blessed with, drive past the beautiful City Hall and Playhouse theatre complex before reaching the Indian market where you'll have time to explore. Take a peek inside the Emanuel Cathedral before we head off to the informal settlement of Cato Manor. End the morning with tea at the beautiful Botanic Gardens. (Own account)

ACTIVITY

★★★ THE BALMORAL HOTEL - GOLDEN MILE

Fully renovated yet retaining its historic and stately facade, The Balmoral is one of the most elegant venues along the Golden Mile Beachfront. Better yet, it offers a location right in the midst of the best of Durban has to offer. Overlooking the famous Gunston 500 North Beach & Entertainment Promenade, The Balmoral is a short walk away from Durban's shops, town centre and the Ocean Sports & Conference Centre. The Balmoral, an obvious choice for those using the international conference centre, was redesigned to suit the varying needs of its guests. Indeed a splendid selection of single, twin, double or family rooms, as well as accessible rooms are available. The Balmoral's spacious Waterfront Restaurant prepares some of Durban's finest Cuisine. As well as having an A la Carte service, mouthwatering buffets are regularly prepared. The restaurant seats 66 whilst the terrace seats 44.

★★★ GARDEN COURT MARINE PARADE - MARINE PARADE

This ultra modern hotel, with its striking Art Deco style, rises in contrast to KwaZulu-Natal's blue skies and dominates Durban's Golden Mile. Its gleaming white marble facade reflects the rays of Durban's sub-tropical sun to give guests the greatest degree of comfort. This is one of the few hotels along the beachfront, where all rooms are sea facing, with glorious views across the Indian Ocean. There are two excellent restaurants, as well as an attractive bar. A unique feature of this hotel is the glass enclosed swimming pool on the top floor, overlooking Durban's coastline and offering the perfect spot on a windy day.

★★★★ SOUTHERN SUN ELANGENI - GOLDEN MILE

The hotel has breathtaking views of Durban's Golden Mile and the warm Indian Ocean. The light, spacious lobby is the focal point where friendly, efficient staff provides a warm welcome. All 447 air-conditioned rooms are well furnished and offer PC modem point, well lit work area, hairdryer and trouser press. There are also family rooms, Executive rooms and a magnificent Presidential Suite, which offers unsurpassed luxury. The hotel has three superb restaurants, which provide a wide selection of cuisine. Two bars present light snacks and a range of South African wines. There are two outdoor pools, a sauna and a gymnasium. Flea markets, amusement parks and other opportunities for fun, are all within walking distance.

★★★ BEACH HOTEL - GOLDEN MILE

The convenient location of Beach Hotel makes it the ideal choice for holiday and business accommodation. Spacious air-conditioned rooms offer panoramic views overlooking the Durban bay and beachfront promenade. The hotel is within close proximity of the International Convention Centre (ICC) and uShaka Marine World. There are three restaurant options including Pier 107 (a la carte, on the terrace overlooking the beachfront promenade), Harpoon Harry's Seafood Restaurant and El Cordoba (buffet style). The Hotel also has a bar, the famous Cockney & Pride that provides a spirited atmosphere and loads of fun. The 112 spacious en-suite rooms include air-conditioning, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities and TV. Conference facilities are available.

★★★ TROPICANA HOTEL - GOLDEN MILE

Situated on Durban's Golden Mile overlooking the warm Indian Ocean, Tropicana Hotel is a year-round holiday destination. It is an ideal family or business hotel where location is the key to offering something for everyone. A stone's throw from swimming beaches, and in close proximity to uShaka Marine World, and the International Convention Centre (ICC). Enjoy breathtaking sea views from the spacious air-conditioned rooms including facilities such as DSTV, en-suite bathroom with shower, telephone, personal wall safe and tea/coffee making facilities. Guests can enjoy sundowners relaxing on the terrace of the friendly sidewalk Clippers Cafe Bar and dinner can be enjoyed in the Seven Palms Restaurant (buffet style) or the La Concha Bistro. Conference facilities are also available.

★★★★ HILTON DURBAN - CITY CENTRE

Situated adjacent to the International Convention Centre and Kings Park Cricket Stadium. 20km from Durban International Airport. A modern and vibrant international hotel with 327 rooms and suites, ideal for business executives, tour groups and holiday makers alike. Guests can sample the unique Hilton classic buffet in the Rainbow Terrace Restaurant, relax in the trendy Rivets Bar or enjoy an informal meeting in the Lobby Lounge. The hotel offers a fully-equipped fitness room, an outdoor swimming pool, executive lounge facilities and undercover parking. All rooms and suites consist of spacious bedrooms with separate bathroom and shower facilities, individually controlled air-conditioning, telephone and voice message system, television, laundry and 24-hour room service, valet service, hairdryer and electronic safe.

USHAKA MARINE WORLD - DURBAN

A world-class entertainment centre with a focus on family entertainment - provides visitors with a glimpse into a world beyond imagination, activities, education and unique experiences and a variety of sea life that will at once astound and intrigue. uShaka Marine World incorporates fresh and sea water, natural materials, the re-creation of a wreck of a 1940's cargo ship, with the 5th largest aquarium in the world by volume of water, coupled with indigenous African imagery, lush vegetation and maritime images of the Port of Durban, plus a water slides amusement park uShaka is a complete 'Marine World'. The park is tastefully themed with a focus on family entertainment in terms of fun, excitement, friendliness, imagery, activities, education and unique experiences, grouped into five distinct areas: Treasure World, Sea World, Dolphin World, Beach World and Wet 'n Wild World.

ACTIVITY

★★★ SOUTHERN SUN NORTH BEACH - GOLDEN MILE

Situated on Durban's 'Golden Mile', directly opposite North Beach. Only 20km from Durban International Airport. The hotel is situated within walking distance of the beach, city centre, cinemas and theatres. Enjoy a wide range of amenities, including a sparkling swimming pool, breakfast room and restaurant, serving lunches and dinners ideal for the whole family. There is a bar and gift shop. 285 spacious, well-appointed en-suite rooms, overlooking the Indian Ocean. Room facilities include television, hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities and air-conditioning.

★★★★ PROTEA HOTEL EDWARD - GOLDEN MILE

Situated on Durban's famous Golden Mile, within five minutes of the city centre, the Protea Hotel Edward Durban heralds a time of Victorian elegance. Accommodation comprises 101 luxury rooms, all are en-suite, with air-con, analogue modem point and TV with various satellite channels. Relax in elegant settings while sampling the delights of the 180-seater Brasserie Restaurant, choosing from the a la carte menu, for a more informal environment the Terrace Restaurant offers a super alternative venue. Ideally located, the Protea Hotel Edward allows for one to participate in numerous activities - Relaxing on the beach or at the hotel's pool deck, game drives, fishing charters, hikes as well as golf, squash and gym.

PHEZULU SAFARI PARK - BOTHA'S HILL, DURBAN

Phezulu Safari Park is an exciting tourist destination situated in Botha's Hill, 35kms from central Durban. The park has wild game, an impressive collection of snakes and crocodiles, two restaurants, gift shops and a traditional Zulu village where visitors can experience vibrant Zulu dancing and other rituals performed by the renowned Gasa clan. The Crocilians Restaurant serves everything from toasted sandwiches to crocodile steaks. The Crocilians Boma is open for functions and Sunday carveries only. Phezulu is home to an impressive collection of crocodiles and snakes, including the awesome African Python. A special attraction is 'Junior', a 4.5 metre crocodile estimated to be 101 years old. The exciting 4X4 drive will take you down into the Valley of 1000 Hills where you can see a variety of antelope and many bird species. The Phezulu curio shop offers an outstanding collection of crafts from all over southern Africa. Phezulu is situated right on the edge of the mighty Valley of 1000 Hills which provides visitors with one of the most impressive panoramic views in Africa. SHOW TIMES: 10H00; 11H30; 14H00; 15H30

ACTIVITY

PIETERMARITZBURG & THE MIDLANDS



The Midlands and Pietermaritzburg is home to quaint antique shops, markets, restaurants, art galleries, museums and more recently a casino. Pietermaritzburg is the town in which the annual Comrades Marathon starts, and is the beginning or ending point of the world-renowned annual Marathon between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, which attracts about 15 000 participants. The Midlands Meander, the first route of its kind in the country has opened up the wonders and beauty of the interior of KwaZulu-Natal. It has grown into an eclectic and fascinating mix of arts and crafts, world-class restaurants and homely comforts, with a wide range of sporting, environmental and historical pursuits. Take a few days to wander through the green fields and picturesque farms, home to prize dairy herds; staying along the way in country-style B&B's, or guest lodges. The magnificent Howick Falls located in this area provides picnic facilities. Trout and bass fishing are plentiful and for the more adventurous there is paragliding off Bulwer Mountain or take a slide across the canopy of Karkloof's indigenous forests. The enchantment of the Midlands has long inspired many a visitor and resident to creativity and as a result, local artists, potters and weavers combined to create an arts and crafts route in 1985, which was to become the highly successful and popular Midlands Meander.



★★★★ FORDOUN BOUTIQUE HOTEL, SPA & RESTAURANT - NOTTINGHAM ROAD
Easily accessible off the N3 highway, The Fordoun Boutique Hotel, Spa and Restaurant is surrounded by pristine country air and rolling hills. The hotel offers luxurious accommodation and the most advanced spa facilities, enhanced by the ambiance of a converted 1860's farmyard and dairy. Highly personalised service, therapists to nurture and pamper, uniquely African Treatments and products made from Zulu traditional healing plants grown in the indigenous garden. A restaurant of fine dining, utilising only healthy organic ingredients, as well as a tasteful conference facility. Experience the echoes of history and the nurturing and healing powers of Africa.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL OLD HALIWELL COUNTRY INN - CURRY'S POST
Nestling in the picturesque KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, this old stone house, set on a 200acre estate, with splendid views of the Karkloof Valley, dates back to the 1830's and was once used as a staging post for troops en route to the epic battles of the Zulu Wars. A roaring log fire creates a delightfully cozy atmosphere in Steven's Bar, and is sure to leave visitors happily slouched in easy chairs. Each room is beautifully decorated and guests can choose from standard rooms or luxury suites with mini bar. Luxury suites have under-floor heating and jacuzzi baths. All rooms are en-suite with patios, heated towel rails and fireplaces.



★★★★ GRANNY MOUSE COUNTRY HOUSE - BALGOWAN
This is the KZN Midlands at it's best. With accommodation comprising of Cottages and Suites, most with stunning views and fireplaces, all decorated with plush, rustic fabrics and country charm. A constant award winner, this country retreat has one of the top a la carte restaurants in KwaZulu-Natal, with a Diners Club Platinum award winning wine cellar. The newly completed wellness centre offers therapies and treatments to sooth body and mind. Trout fishing, birding, walking and the Midlands Meander attractions are all on the doorstep. Granny Mouse, your home in the Midlands.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL INCHANGA - INCHANGA
Ideally situated halfway between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, this gracious old red-brick building has been a popular refreshment point for almost 100 years. Protea Hotel Inchanga graces the fine KwaZulu-Natal scenery and offers travellers a perfect meeting place for business or social occasions. Well equipped function rooms are available for conferencing or private functions, while the restaurant offers superb meals from a diverse menu. Well-appointed and tastefully decorated bedrooms are comfortable for either busy executives or leisure guests, while various sporting and leisure activities are available nearby.



★★★★ THE ROYAL HOTEL - DURBAN
The Royal Hotel provides unfailing hospitality by offering butler a service to all customers, outside catering and an energetic customer focused team. It boasts a superb range of restaurants and sophistication is the keynote throughout the rooms and suites, which offer panoramic views of the city and yacht bowl. All rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, air-conditioning and satellite TV. The hotel is centrally located in Durban with easy access to beaches, the International Convention Centre, Stadiums, shopping centres and other attractions. The hotel has a range of exquisite dining options, of which the flagship restaurant, The Royal Grill, boasts some of the country's award-winning haute cuisine and opulent décor. Other culinary delights can be sought at The Ulundi, Top of the Royal, The Royal Carvery, The Royal Lounge, The Royal Coffee Shoppe, and Chef's on Stage.



SHIC TOWNSHIP TOUR
Shic Township Tours, in conjunction with Three Taxi Associations, have registered a route which incorporates social, cultural, historical and ecological factors, making for an exciting and educational adventure through the Northern townships (Inanda; Ntuzuma; Kwa Mashu) of eThekweni, all within the safety of registered Shic taxis. We invite you to participate in a programme that will give you a glimpse into the lives of the people who make up our Rainbow Nation.

ACTIVITY



★★★ CITY LODGE UMHLANGA RIDGE - UMHLANGA ROCKS
Just a two minute drive from Umhlanga Beach, 20 minutes from the Durban CBD and 30 minutes from Durban International Airport, this 3-star Hotel is ideally situated to meet the needs of discerning business and tourist travellers. Walk a few metres and you're in the prestigious Gateway Theatre of Shopping and Entertainment complex. Stay in your room and you can order meals at no additional charge from 2 of Gateways superb, highly recommended restaurants. A full English Breakfast is served every morning and there is also a coffee bar/restaurant within the Hotel that is open from Breakfast until 10pm. Facilities include a gym, 2 internet stations, a swimming pool, interleafing family rooms (on request and subject to availability), free undercover parking - and more!



★★★★ BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL - UMHLANGA ROCKS
Renowned for its superb personal service, luxury accommodation and fine dining, the Beverly Hills Hotel is the epitome of gracious hospitality. In a sub-tropical setting overlooking the warm Indian Ocean, this gracious hotel possesses a fantastic view of kilometres of unspoiled beaches. Soft pastels enhance the fresh, friendly atmosphere adding a magical quality to the sight and sound of the ocean. The hotel has two superb restaurants offering international dishes and the best in seafood. Each of the beautifully decorated bedrooms and suites has an en-suite bathroom, television, hairdryer, telephone, radio, safe and mini bar. Everything is close at hand - beaches, tennis, bowling, gym, golf and squash, as well as Umhlanga's fashionable shops and designer boutiques.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL UMHLANGA - UMHLANGA ROCKS
Conveniently situated mere minutes from the beach, in the heart of Umhlanga Rocks, the Protea Hotel Umhlanga will treat you to comfortably appointed accommodation in an appealing selection of rooms. Admirably equipped self-catering rooms, as well as facilities for disabled guests, are also available, with all the mod cons as well as outstanding features such as satellite TV and breathtaking sea views of the Indian Ocean. Delicious breakfasts are available in the breakfast room, while a variety of restaurants in the area have a range of menus to suit all tastes. A sundeck and plunge pool are located on the 10th floor (rooftop) of the hotel. Most sporting facilities are to be found nearby. The ski boat club has deep sea fishing trips available on request and scuba diving facilities are close by.



★★★ BONGI'S GUEST HOUSE - LA LUCIA
The ideal place to stay on the Durban North Coast. Located only a few minutes from the La Lucia Center and Durban's North Coast Beach front, in the stunning residential area of La Lucia, Bongji's Guesthouse is a unique accommodation option combining the comforts of home with the warmest of South African hospitality. As a family owned and run property, Bongji's Guest House is proud to be more than the average bed and breakfast... a home away from home, offering a friendly service, delivered with attention to detail and a personal touch.



★★★★ THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL - DURBAN NORTH
Positioned high on the banks of the Umgeni River Mouth, is a place where sheer quality and excellent service is all part of the deal. Three restaurants and a cocktail bar on the premises, together with four-star accommodation and location that is second to none. Stunning river views and abundant bird life on the Umgeni Estuary below the hotel set the perfect scene for rest and relaxation. The Windsor Park and Durban Country Club golf courses are within easy access of the hotel. All bedrooms are en-suite, have air-con, and are equipped with a desk and analogue modern point for accessing the Internet. All of the 169 rooms and suites have a kitchenette, complete with microwave, mini bar fridge, cutlery and crockery. Guests can select a river and sea-facing suite, a deluxe or standard double room or, alternatively, a room overlooking Durban North.

UKHAHLAMBA/DRAKENSBERG

Drakensberg: The soul of the Zulu Kingdom. The Zulu people named it the 'Barrier of Spears' and the Dutch Voortrekkers 'The Dragon Mountain'. The Drakensberg, with its awe-inspiring basalt cliffs, snowcapped in winter, towers over

riverine bush, lush yellowwood forests and cascading waterfalls, forms a massive barrier separating KwaZulu-Natal from the Kingdom of Lesotho - the only access being via Sani Pass, which at the top, boasts the highest pub in Africa, 3 000

metres above sea level. Combining sheer natural beauty with a wealth of biological diversity, this 243 000 hectare mountainous region known as the uKahlamba-Drakensberg Park has been preserved and venerated for eons since the San bushmen

roamed these slopes. Tens of thousands of paintings, depicting their daily life, can be found on the rock face, and in December 2000, the park received international recognition and was declared a World Heritage Site. And of course, there are the

mountains, which must be conquered. The fearless may choose to try sheer rock or ice-climbing - or you may prefer the adrenaline rush provided by abseiling, white water rafting or taking a helicopter ride to view the mountains from above. If you pre-

fer the gentler and more leisurely pace of walking the many well-marked hiking routes on both lower and upper slopes, you can watch out for the 290 species of birds, 48 species of mammals, or the rare varieties of plantlife found in the park.



★★★ GIANT'S CASTLE - CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG

The historic Giant's Castle Game Reserve is situated in the scenic valley of the Central uKahlamba Drakensberg. 220km from Durban International Airport. Giant's Castle, a World Heritage Site, surrounded by nature reserve, is a haven for hikers and mountain climbers. Within an easy 30-minute walk from the camp, at the Main Caves Museum, is one of the best preserved sites of prehistoric San rock art in Southern Africa. The famous Lammergeyer hide offers excellent viewing of Raptors such as the bearded vulture and black eagle. Guests may try their hand at trout fishing or enjoy a swim in the crystal clear mountain rivers. As dusk falls, guests may enjoy a superb meal in the Izimbali Restaurant. Lodge: Guests have a choice of four 6-bedded chalets, four 4-bedded chalets, 36 two-bedded chalets and an executive suite, which is self-catering.



★★★ SANDFORD PARK COUNTRY HOTEL - NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG

Sandford Park's tranquil atmosphere, beautiful surroundings and recreational facilities encourage complete relaxation. From the moment you arrive at this farmstyle country retreat under thatch you will recognise it as a place of peace and tranquility. Built of stone in 1850 as a coach house and used as barracks by the British in the Boer war, one is reminded of a world that has slipped by. Set in 100 acres of wooded countryside in the Drakensberg foothills, with a lake and park-like surroundings, what can be more peaceful than just sitting around and watching the ever changing view of the mountains.



★★★ CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL - CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG

Surrounded by some of the world's most stunning scenery the hotel enjoys an abundance of game, birds, plants and rock art. These natural treasures, together with Cathedral Peak Hotel's many sport and recreational facilities, lure holiday-makers to this award winning hotel time and time again. Offering a wide variety of accommodation options from comfortable en-suite standard rooms to the executive and honeymoon suites set in secluded gardens. The elegant hotel dining room offers an extensive buffet of superb buffet and culinary creations at both breakfast and dinner. Outdoor activities include two free guided walks daily, viewing of bushman paintings, horse-rides, mountain bike and jogging route, tennis, squash, beach volleyball, badminton, floodlit adventure mini golf, 10m climbing tower, heated and cool swimming pool and fly fishing.



★★★ ALPINE HEATH RESORT & CONFERENCE VILLAGE - NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG

Considered to be one of Southern Africa's premier conference and holiday venues, Alpine Heath Resort allows you to relax in the comfort of an exclusive mountain resort. Offering superb chalet accommodation, fine dining, an abundance of indoor and outdoor activities. Alpine Heath invites you to surround yourself with the splendour of crystal-clear streams and mountain-fresh air. Each of the 100 luxurious chalets is equipped with a telephone, cellular reception and satellite TV, and offers all the privacy you could ask for. The three-bedroom chalets comfortably sleep six in a master bedroom, which is en-suite, and two double rooms each fitted with twin beds. The second bathroom also has the convenience of both a bath and shower. Self-catering accommodation is also available.



★★★ DIDIMA CAMP - CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG

Themed around the art of the San people, Didima Camp offers superb facilities for groups and families. There is a San Art Interpretive Centre, providing fascinating insight into the culture of the San people. State-of-the-art conference facilities which double as a wedding venue and has a full height glass wall framing the splendor of Cathedral Peak, as well as a swimming pool, tennis court, an up market restaurant and bar with intimate lounge. 62 two-bedded luxury chalets, two 4-bedded cabins, a six-bedded bungalow and a honeymoon suite make up this super mountain retreat. The 4 and 6-bedded cabins have two bedrooms each en-suite, a lounge/dining area and kitchen. All accommodation at Didima boasts satellite TV and cosy fireplaces.



★★★★ MONTUSI MOUNTAIN LODGE - NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG

Situated in the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg, halfway between Johannesburg and Durban, Montusi is the only exclusive lodge which has full and uninterrupted views of the most famous part of the Drakensberg, the Amphitheatre escarpment. Guests enjoy this spectacular scenery in the comfort of their private individual garden suites. Montusi consists of a large and beautifully thatched main building (with reception, restaurant, and terrace, bar, lounge and meeting room) and 14 spacious, tastefully decorated, individual garden suites. Activities including hiking, horse riding, trout fishing, swimming, tennis, trapezing, golf nearby and tours to the surrounding tribal areas, all still authentic.



★★★★ DRAKENSBERG SUN - CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG

Drakensberg Sun specialises in extensive personal service, giving guests their most tranquil and memorable stay. The resort is located high in the central Drakensberg Mountains, in a dramatic landscape, considered as one of the most striking country resorts in South Africa. Drakensberg Sun has a proven track record for hosting seminars, conferences, banquets and intimate special occasion functions and offers a wide range of activities from boating, sun-downer cruises on the lake, pitch & putt, tennis, squash, volleyball, as well as spectacular mountain hikes, guided hikes and mountain biking. The excellent Champagne Sports Golf Course is nearby and the Drakensberg Sun has 2 outdoor swimming pools.



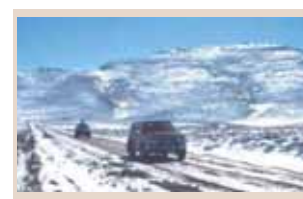
★★★ CAVERN DRAKENSBERG RESORT - NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG

High in the foothills of the Northern Drakensberg, surrounded by towering mountains, forests and streams, is this unique resort. At The Cavern we appreciate that it is people that make make your holiday - people with whom to laugh, share a drink, and participate in all the many fun activities. Experience the activities the resort has to offer with guided hikes, horse riding through the stunning surroundings, fishing, swimming in mountain rivers, biking, tennis and volleyball and more. The resort's restaurant has a lovely spread for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Superior, honeymoon and standard accommodation options are all en-suite. The three main meals for the day, teas, guided hikes and activities are all included in the rates.



★★★ DRAKENSBERG GARDENS GOLF & LEISURE RESORT - SOUTHERN DRAKENSBERG

Situated in the midst of the magnificent Southern Drakensberg and conveniently located on a scenic 860 acre estate. The resort offers spacious en-suite accommodation, which includes a TV, telephone, heater and tea/coffee making facilities. A variety of dining and entertainment options are available. Guests can enjoy a game of golf on the 18-hole golf course, as well as a myriad of other sports and recreation activities for the whole family. As the resort borders KZN Wildlife land, this allows access to spectacular walks and hikes - the most strenuous being a nine-hour hike up the Rhino Horn, 3000 metres above sea level.



SPECTACULAR SANI PASS

The Sani Pass is a spectacular mountain road that is a well-known entry point into Lesotho from South Africa's uKahlamba Drakensberg Park. It is the gateway to the 'Roof of Africa' scenic route that links the spectacular scenery of the Drakensberg with the Maluti mountains of northern Lesotho. The Sani Pass is the only border post between KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho. A 4X4 vehicle is necessary for this road especially if the weather is bad. Have lunch at the top of the Sani pass at the highest pub in Southern Africa. Valid passports are essential.

ACTIVITY



UKHAHLAMBA/DRAKENSBERG



ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS IN THE DRAKENSBERG

The region simply offers something for everyone. You will find health spas, opportunities for those unique romantic getaways and of course plenty of exciting activities.

HIKING

Hiking the upper and lower reaches of the Drakensberg Mountains is simply stunning and this scenery is the main reason why you visit the region. Every access point offers some different aspect of the mountains. Even consider staying overnight in a cave or mountain hut. Giants Castle offers very good hikes and its location in the middle of the mountain range is perhaps the optimum location from where to base your visit. (be sure to sign the Mountain Rescue Register. It's time before you venture forth.)

PREHISTORIC ART

Bushman or Sam Rock Art can be found in many locations in the Drakensberg but without any doubt the best examples are found at Kamberg. Not only are the paintings in good condition but this is the only site where spiritual aspects of the paintings are obvious. A great video presentation precedes the stunning 3 hour return guided hike which includes a waterfall to boot. An added aspect is the fact that the guides are from the local community and this is the sort of tourism that helps to uplift poverty.

DRAKENSBERG BOYS' CHOIR

There are many things that are unique and world class in South Africa and the Drakensberg Boys' Choir is one of them. This school is representative of the multi-faceted cultures that make up this wonderful country. They have created a new trend in the international choral scene that transcends the conventional,

a unique style of diversity - Bach, Beethoven, Freddy Mercury, African, Jazz and Folk - whatever the style, they perform it with excellence and aplomb.

HORSE SAFARIS

If you are interested in horses and horse safaris you will find yourself hard pressed to find a region in South Africa that offers more whether in the mountains, the bush or across the battlefields. The Drakensberg presents opportunities for both the experienced and the beginner to ride this magnificent countryside on horseback. Horse safaris amongst giraffe and zebras in the Spionkop Game Reserve or perhaps Sengani Horse Safaris in the Drakensberg foothills.

HOT AIR BALLOONING

Balloon is a magical slow moving platform from which to view our world. It's probably not unlike being on a flying carpet. Airborne Adventures flies mainly on the edge of the Drakensberg Mountains. Take off is from a site in or around the Kamberg Valley and within sight of Giants Castle.

SANI STAGGER

The Sani Stagger known as 'The Ultimate Endurance Race' is an annual event run along the famous Sani Pass in the Southern Drakensberg, towards the end of November. Organised by the local Sani Athletic Club, under the rules of KwaZulu-Natal Athletics, it has become a sought after and 'must do' race on the race calendar, not only because it is a tremendous experience, but because of the spectacular scenery. Sani Pass is the only motor road that crosses the Drakensberg and the only road between KwaZulu-Natal and the Kingdom of Lesotho. Once it was a rough mule trail

down which long caravans of packed animals carried bags of mohair and wool, piles of hides and skins to trading posts.

TROUT & BASS FISHING

There are an abundance of trout and bass fishing sites in the Berg. The rivers and well stocked dams of this area are regular favourites with the serious and skilled fly-fisherman who is in the know - although this should not daunt the uninitiated visitors who wish to try their hand at this most challenging and personally satisfying of angling pursuits.

WHITE RIVER RAFTING

The Tugela River offers perhaps the most spectacular white water rafting opportunities that exist in South Africa. South Africa is one of the few destinations in the world that can boast clean rivers, lakes and dams. So, with this in mind, it is obvious that white water rafting, river rafting and canoeing breaks are a very popular way of enjoying the outdoors for both local and international visitors. Zingela Rafting and Four Rivers Rafting are the specialists in Tugela River rafting adventures.



SOUTH COAST



Visitors are spoilt for choice along the scenic, relaxed route of the South Coast between Durban's cosmopolitan Buzz and the Zulu Kingdom's southern-most reaches.

Margate is an attraction that appeals to all. In season there is a festive holiday pro-

gramme with beauty pageants, musical concerts, and lots of fun for the whole family. An amusement park, Olympic size fresh water pool and an expanse of sand to play beach games. Not for nothing is the South Coast known as one of South Africa's premier holiday spots.

Thanks to a comprehensive selection of 11 fine golf courses, the South Coast is popularly known as the Golf Coast. The 120km stretch of inviting Indian Ocean, expansive golden beaches and unique variant of sub-tropical bush make this stunning region a travellers' wonderland.



SELBORNE HOTEL, SPA & GOLF ESTATE - SELBORNE

Situated just 40 minutes drive from Durban, Selborne Hotel Spa and Golf Estate is close to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Perfectly positioned on the sub-tropical coast of KwaZulu-Natal, Selborne is the epitome of gracious living. Set in the heart of an exclusive golfing estate, Selborne has gained an enviable reputation as one of South Africa's premier leisure and conference destinations. Each of the 49 air-conditioned rooms comes complete with ceiling fan, refreshment centre, colour TV with DSTV, direct dial telephone, hairdryer, en suite bath and shower and electronic safe. Treat yourself to a massage or facial at the Selborne Spa or workout in the gym. A game of tennis on one of the floodlit tennis courts or a dip in the large pool on the estate ensures you will have plenty to keep you busy.



★★★ THE BLUE MARLIN - SCOTTBURGH

Set amongst sub-tropical gardens, and boasting an unbelievable sea view, The Blue Marlin is an exceptional family holiday destination. In one of the South Coasts most popular seaside villages, with the warm Indian Ocean and a beautiful stretch of coastline there are a host of activities to entertain parents and children. A choice of golf courses are within close proximity, while other activities to be organised are horse riding, scuba diving, squash, deep sea fishing and of course beach visits. Children can enjoy the thrill of the waterslides and find delight in the famous miniature steam train. The hotel has 120 attractive en-suite rooms with ceiling fans, telephones and television. Blue Marlin is one of those excellent family hotels where guests intermingle and return year after year.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL KARRIDENE - ILLOVO

The Protea Hotel Karridene and resort offers access to the longest untouched stretch of beach in Natal. Well situated in the centre of eight of the regions best golf courses, this is a golfer's paradise. The famous Aliwal shoal offers some of the worlds' best shark diving and also boasts some of the best game fish species in the Indian Ocean. Even if you are not into diving, the facility does offer non-diving trips. Deep sea fishing, as well as surf fishing in the area, is of the highest quality and good catches are assured on the local charter boats. Protea Hotel Karridene is built to offer any accommodation requirements from caravan sites to a presidential suite. The Oakwoods Restaurant is in the perfect setting for hearty buffet breakfasts, à la Carte lunches and delicious buffet dinners.



★★★ MARGATE HOTEL - MARGATE

On the phenomenal South Coast the land of beaches, lagoons and all year sunshine. Margate Hotel is found in the seaside town of Margate and only a stones throw away from its famous Blue Flag beach. All 47 rooms are en-suite with air-con, television, telephone, hairdryer, and tea and coffee making facilities. The area offers stunning coastal scenery and wonderful natural and crafted ethnic bounty. Golfing enthusiasts will be excited about the area's selection of magnificent golf courses. The Keg Pub and Restaurant at the hotel is of the highest standard, while the hotel also offers free secure parking, laundry facilities, swimming pool and kiddies pool.

NORTH COAST



The Zulu Kingdom's North Coast, also known as the Dolphin Coast, stretches from Zimbali to the mighty Tugela River. This is the playground of the bottlenose dolphins, which frolic in the waters close to shore and are visible all year round. It offers luxury, beauty, sport and history. It is a place to indulge the senses - either in good restaurants offering fine dining, or partying in nightclubs.

Tea off on the excellent golf courses, or for the sheer thrill of it - take to the air in a microlight and see this magnificent coastline as the seagulls see it. Stroll or take a horse-ride along the shoreline at low tide and search for sea life. Climb rocky outcrops and enjoy a spot of angling. The great Shaka Zulu is buried at Kwa-Dukuza. Walk a 'muti' (African medicine) trail

through the Harold Johnson nature reserve or visit historic battle sites. Zulu hospitality is warm and the people friendly. They are proud to show you their heritage. The North Coast is also home to a large Indian community. Look out for their temples; sample their spicy foodstuffs or shop for fresh produce at any of the numerous markets. The north coast is a place to relax, kick back, and savour your surrounds.

PRINCES GRANT GOLF ESTATE

Princes Grant, with its dunes, humps and hollows, exhibits many of the characteristics of a typically British links course. Rated in the "top twenty" of South African golf courses and certainly one of the country's very best coastal courses, golfers will be assured of a truly memorable golfing experience. The Lodge Clubhouse was

recently rated 9th best of all clubhouses in South Africa.

UMHLALI COUNTRY CLUB

15 minutes north of Umhlanga Rocks lies one of KwaZulu-Natal's most picturesque golf courses. Golfer's Paradise Umhlali Country Club, sports sweeping fairways, exotic palm trees and seven magnificent water holes.

RIVER QUAD TRAILS

Situated 15km inland from Ballito, River Quad Trails offers eco-friendly, guided quad tours especially for nature lovers. The nature trails vary from beginner to advanced. The trails take riders along the scenic rivers edge, through river crossings, magnificent cliff faces, over log bridges, and up rocky hill climbs.

HORSE RIDING

Fat Traxx offers family fun outrides, incentives, team building, group outings and special occasions. Groups from 2 to 200 people can be accommodated. The Sugar Trail Horseriding & Tuition is located on a private sugar estate, 9km North of Umhlanga Rocks. They offer superb outrides in this unique environment. The most popular is the Beach Trail.

DOLPHIN ADVENTURES

Participate in the ocean adventure of a lifetime. Guided tours are conducted on a 7.2-meter semi-rigid inflatable super duck. Dolphins can be seen all year round while the whales are seasonal (July through to December). After your ocean adventure come and visit the Dolphin Resource Center.

INFINITY MARINE'S SEA KAYAKING

Each Infinity Marine "Sea Kayaking" tour in association with Real Cape Adventures & 180° Adventures has something unique to offer the adventurous traveller, with many diverse activities centred on paddling.



★★★★★ ZIMBALI LODGE - ZIMBALI

Zimbali Lodge is one of Southern Africa's most exclusive hideaways, set within the serene confines of a coastal forest reserve on the north coast of Kwa Zulu Natal - a natural sub-tropical paradise and home to mischievous dolphins and a myriad of sea and bird life. The hotel overlooks the incredible Indian Ocean and is surrounded by lush vegetation and beautiful indigenous gardens. Decorated to complement the natural surrounding forest. The classical architecture is accentuated by warm wood and russet autumn tones. The bathrooms are luxurious and feature Victorian baths from the turn of the century. Guests can treat themselves to the health and luxury they deserve, with a whole range of therapies at the Beauty Spa. The 18-hole championship golf course is one of the most scenic golf experiences in the world.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL IMVUBU LODGE - RICHARDS BAY

Imvubu Lodge, Imvubu meaning hippo in Zulu, was inspired by the famous "Huberta the Hippo" who undertook the historic journey from Zululand to East London, is the latest addition to Protea Hotels in Zululand. Protea Hotel Imvubu Lodge is adjacent to the scenic Lake Menywa and the unspoilt beaches of the Indian Ocean. These pristine surroundings make bird watching an extraordinary experience - a must for all nature lovers! Protea Hotel Imvubu Lodge has been awarded a 3 star self-catering grading by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa and offers luxury accommodation, a fine dining restaurant and technologically advanced conference centre. Protea Hotel Imvubu Lodge is conveniently located within close proximity to the Tuzi Gazi Waterfront, the International heritage site of Lake St Lucia and two world-class game reserves boasting the Big 5.



★★★★★ HOTEL IZULU - BALLITO

In a secluded tropical setting half an hour north of Durban, on KwaZulu-Natal's North Coast, is a place where heaven has a name. A five star property with luxury all suite accommodation, year round sunshine, fine dining, immaculate yet personalised service, unshamed relaxation, a fully fledged spa, and facilities for conferences and weddings.

Hotel Izulu is no ordinary hotel. It is a place where effortless exclusivity is its all essential ingredient - and where only the very best will do. Hotel Izulu - where the discerning travellers calls - for a heaven sent destination.



★★★ PROTEA HOTEL RICHARDS BAY - RICHARDS BAY

Experience the warm friendliness of Richards Bay and its picturesque surroundings, coupled with the relaxed hospitality of the centrally situated Protea Hotel Richards Bay. Situated a mere 10 minutes drive from the Richards Bay Airport and 2 hours from Durban we are conveniently located as a pivotal hub to other nearby exciting destinations such as the Great St. Lucia Wetlands, Hluhluwe/Imfolozi Game Reserves and Shakaland. Accommodation is comfortable, fully air-conditioned and stylishly decorated, including five suites. Socialising is easy at our intimate ladies bar. Enjoy a refreshing cocktail or dine in our spacious, elegant restaurant, where the tantalising and varied buffet carvery is sure to tempt you. Various sporting and leisure activities are available in the area and nearby surroundings. We are a 'Bird Friendly establishment' and form part of the Zululand Birding Route.



★★★★ AKANI RICHARDS BAY HOTEL - RICHARDS BAY

This is a four-star luxury hotel situated in the upmarket suburb of 'Meerensee', Richards Bay. The first choice for business travellers to the city of Umhlatuze - Richards Bay. 100 luxury rooms with en-suite bathrooms, professional conference facilities, a 350 seater banqueting venue - hosting anything from evening gala dinners, business functions, multimedia presentations to wedding receptions. The Richards Hotel is a popular establishment for local and international tour groups. We are perfectly located for business guests and holidaymakers. Facilities include 16-hour room service, keyless access to all rooms and each room is equipped with a digital safe. A large screen TV is situated in the bar for all major sporting events. Dine in the famous in-house Mossel Restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS - RICHARDS BAY

- **BEACHES:** The warm Indian Ocean beaches are ideal for swimming, surfing, yachting and kayaking. Alkantstrand and Newark Beaches are protected by lifeguards and shark-nets. Facilities at the beaches include picnic/braai sites, a super tube, putt-putt course, craft market, restaurant and kiosk.
- **DOLPHIN VIEWING PLATFORM:** Situated at the end of the North Breakwater Pier at Alkantstrand Beach, this specially erected platform allows visitors to view the Humpback Dolphins that frequent the Richards Bay coastline.
- **ENSELENI NATURE RESERVE:** Situated 15 minutes drive from Richards Bay on the N2 towards Empangeni. Entrance to the reserve is free & visitors are welcome to enjoy the picnic braai sites and self guided nature walks. The Nkonkoni Trail is 7km and The Mvubu Trail is 3km in length. A variety of small mammals and an abundance of bird life can be seen. A conference activity centre is available to educational groups and other interested parties.
- **REPTILE CITY:** Situated along the banks of the Mzingazi River. Reptile City offers visitors a close up look at cunning crocodiles, slithering snakes and other intriguing reptiles. Visitors can also enjoy a relaxing stroll through the mangrove swamps along a wooden boardwalk.
- **DAYSRING FARMYARD:** Situated 20 minutes drive from Richards Bay along the N2 towards Empangeni on a sugar cane farm. This animal-petting farm allows children to interact with farmyard animals whilst parents relax in the Tea Garden. They also cater for kiddie's birthday parties.
- **IMFOLOZI BIRD PARK:** Situated 20km North of Richards Bay, engulfed in a tranquil, scenic environment with its spectacular variety of birds, boasting over 40 species ranging from parrots to guinea fowl. There are pony rides for the children and a restaurant and pub on the premises.
- **TUSK IMFOLOZI CASINO:** Situated in Empangeni. Facilities include 300 slot machines, 10 gaming tables, a fun video arcade, cocktail bars and Nandi's Restaurant.

ELEPHANT COAST & ZULULAND



The elephant Coast is also known as the "The untamed spirit of the Zulu Kingdom". This pristine eco-wonderland boasting 21 different ecological systems will satisfy even the most adventurous visitor. Some of the world's highest natural dunes, brilliant coral reefs, fever trees and palm savannahs, papyrus swamps and rolling acacia bushveld can be found in this land of natural and cultural diversity. It is home to the hospitable Zulu and Tsonga people as well as the Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park, declared South Africa's first

World Heritage Site. Elephant Coast accommodation options range from luxury game lodges to Zulu homestays and camping - comfortable places to stay to suit all pockets and from which to explore this exciting region. For the brave, there are self-guided wilderness trails taking you closer to wildlife on foot, horseback or canoe. The sea, lakes and beaches provide more adventure. Scuba diving and snorkeling enable you to watch the 1 200 different species of marine life abounding in these waters. And taking a turtle tour is a

must. Angling, either from the 200km of unspoilt beach, on the lakes or deep-sea, is a great sport - and while at sea, you might be lucky and spot a whale or two. The Zulu and Tsonga people indigenous to this area will tell you about their traditional way of life, and share with you the history of places such as Ghost Mountain or Dingaan's grave. Keen shoppers can choose from an array of beadwork, pottery, basket ware and woodcarvings crafted with skills passed down through the ages.



★★★★ BUSHLANDS GAME LODGE - NEAR HLUHLUWE

Luxurious wooden chalets built on stilts are elevated above a sand forest where many local game species can be found. Each chalet is en-suite and includes a telephone, air-conditioner, radio and tea/coffee making facilities and is beautifully decorated in an ethnic style. The chalets are connected by raised wooden walkways, which lead to the main dining room, bar, swimming pool and Boma where guests can enjoy drinks around the campfire. The chef prepares mouth-watering meals and specialises in succulent venison and other game dishes. Self-catering rooms are also available. These rooms are elegantly furnished and include the same facilities as the chalets, as well as a television and small kitchen. These rooms can be configured to cater for 2 to 6 people.



★★★ ZULULAND SAFARI LODGE & ★★★★★ ZULULAND TREE LODGE - UBIZANE WILDLIFE RESERVE - NEAR HLUHLUWE

ZULULAND SAFARI LODGE is the larger of the two camps within Ubizane Wildlife Reserve and offers comfortable African style rondawels with the option to self-cater. The chalets offer fully serviced large bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and ceiling fans.

Set in the cool, whispering tranquility of a fever tree forest, the TREE LODGE is a truly special retreat where you will be accommodated in luxurious stilted chalets. All rooms are fitted with ceiling fans and insect nets. Meals are served in the Boma, an outdoor, covered dining area. There is an observation deck, lounge and pool.



★★★★★ MKUZE FALLS GAME LODGE - NEAR PONGOLA

Idyllically situated in the Mkuze Falls Private Game Reserve, hidden amongst lush indigenous trees on the northern bank of the Mkuze River. The lodge is renowned for its uncompromising high standards of service, efficiency, and personal attention to guests - all in an informal atmosphere of warmth and friendliness. Stay in either the Main Lodge of 9 thatched luxury chalets, or the Tented Lodge made up of 5 elegant 'Hemingway' safari tents, all are elegantly furnished and boast private viewing decks, en-suite bathrooms, air-con, fan, minibar, mosquito nets, and stunning views of the surrounding areas and river. Experienced rangers lead guests on a journey of discovery to seek the 'Big Five', in open game vehicles. The Falls Lodge has a central complex built on raised wooden platforms with spacious verandas. The facilities include a pleasant dining area, a comfortable lounge, an indoor pub, a shady terrace and a swimming pool. The large lounge leads onto a spacious viewing deck which is built over the sloping riverbank.



★★★★★ PHINDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE - ZULULAND

Located in one of Africa's most ecologically diverse regions, Phinda Private Game Reserve is an internationally-renowned award-winning conservation success story. One of the continent's finest game viewing experiences featuring Africa's famous Big Five, Phinda also comprises seven distinct habitats, from dry sand forest to wetland systems, majestic mountain ranges, and close proximity to the Indian Ocean. From stilted forest suites to an exclusive use private residence, Phinda has lodges to suit a variety of tastes. The Reserve provides a base for a range of safari adventure activities over and above the twice daily interpretive game drives, such as bush walks, rhino tracking, canoeing, deep sea fishing, horse riding and scuba diving. Phinda also has a unique Walking Safari Camp offering luxurious under canvas accommodation combined with interpretive wilderness adventures.

The sheer majesty of Zululand will take your breath away. Under the hot African sun, the cobalt blue Indian Ocean, Mangrove swamps and limpid lagoons, give way to rolling green hills and indigenous forests which shimmer in the distance before they reach the Drakensberg Mountains. While you are here, enjoy the welcoming wide smiles extended to you by the local people. Enjoy the comfortable accommodation in major towns, game lodges, to seashore cottages, Zulu homes

or floating Lake Chalets. Teeming private and provincial game reserves offer game-watching facilities as well as hiking and nature trails. But it is probably 'the Zulu experience' which will linger longest in your mind long after you have left this area. Take an ox wagon to Zulu villages of bee-hive huts and experience traditional Zulu hospitality or a rural wedding ceremony and if you wish, visit a sangoma (traditional healer). You cannot leave without a visit to Ulundi, the site of the final battle

fought in the Anglo-Zulu war. Nearby, Zulu kings lie buried in the Emakhosini Valley. In total contrast are the township tours showcasing modern Zulu life including taverns, shebeens and traditional medicine shops.

Further inland lie tea plantations, cattle ranching and pretty historical towns such as Vryheid and Paulpietersburg where you can relax in the therapeutic sulphur springs.

HLUHLUWE GAME, CULTURE & ST LUCIA SAFARI

DEPARTS: WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY. VALID: 1 FEB - 31 OCT 2006. (CALL THOMPSONS FOR FULL ITINERARY)

DAY 1: DURBAN - ST LUCIA - HLUHLUWE: Learn about the local Zulu people at Veyane Cultural Village, as well as watch traditional Zulu dancing and meet a sangoma (witchdoctor). Your next visit is St Lucia, where a boat cruise on St Lucia Estuary awaits you. Dinner and overnight at a lodge. **DAY 2: HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE:** Early morning start to a full day's game viewing, in an open game viewing vehicle. Home to the 'Big Five' and other game, the Reserve is also renowned for its rhino conservation. Return to the lodge in the late afternoon, for a boma dinner weather permitting and overnight. **DAY 3: HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE - DURBAN:** Enjoy a final early morning game drive, and thereafter depart for Durban, arriving at about 16h00.



★★★★★ WHITE ELEPHANT SAFARI LODGE AND BUSH CAMP - PONGOLA GAME RESERVE

WHITE ELEPHANT SAFARI LODGE has eight luxurious safari tents; each with ball and claw bath and outdoor canvas shower, provides a secluded retreat in the unspoilt wilderness. Sweeping views and a myriad of bush and water-based game activities promise a unique African experience.

BUSH CAMP has thatched chalets, positioned between Knobthorn trees, generously spacious with private verandahs and spectacular views. Africa's hues and uncomplicated dining add to the serenity and harmony with nature. Venture into the wilderness on guided walks, game drives or 'elephanting'.



★★★★★ THANDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE - NEAR HLUHLUWE

Thanda Private Game Reserve offers guests the opportunity to experience the Big 5 as well as a variety of activities on the Elephant Coast. Luxurious accommodation options include the main lodge and the tented camp. The bush wellness centre offers several relaxing therapies to ease life's daily stresses in magnificent surroundings. Thanda Private Game Reserve is a celebration of the Zulu people and their rich culture. Vula Zulu, a traditional homestead at the entrance to Thanda, is the setting for guests to have the privilege of watching between 50 and 100 traditional warriors performing age-old war dancing rites.



★★★★ THULA THULA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE - NEAR RICHARDS BAY

Only 2 hours north of Durban, in a malaria free area, Thula Thula, the oldest Private Game Reserve in Zululand, is filled with Adventure, Zulu History, Style and Gourmet Cuisine. Absolute luxury and privacy in the air conditioned chalets, elegantly decorated in ethnic and colonial style with private verandah. Dining in the boma around the fire is a gourmet experience with superb dishes created by the Chef, served with the finest South African wines, making Thula Thula one of the most renowned gourmet destinations in KwaZulu-Natal. Professional rangers will guide you on exciting safaris in open Landrovers through the unique diversity of this ancestral land to encounter elephant, rhino, leopard, giraffe, hyena, crocodile and many more creatures, great and small. Unique atmosphere and superb service will make your stay at Thula Thula unforgettable.

BATTLEFIELDS



Witness to decisive events, the Zulu Kingdom's accessible Battlefields exude power and unmistakable presence...infusing the visitor with an inescapable sense of momentous occasion.

It was among the picturesque hills and rock formations of this sweeping landscape that fearless, spear-wielding footsoldiers of the all-conquering Zulu kings first encountered the rampant British Empire's sophisticated fire-power... and where each faced the unfamiliar guerilla-warfare tactics of the Boer - descendants of the west European settlers who five generations ear-

lier, had claimed divine right to this 'Promised Land'.

Prophetically, the Zulu also believed the bountiful terrain between the fabled Drakensberg Mountains and golden Indian Ocean beaches to be their own 'Heaven on Earth'. Seventy years of bitter and merciless head-on confrontation proved as pivotal to South Africa's geo-political evolution as the wars that forged modern Europe and established the freedom, identity and boundaries of North America.

The legacy of our Zulu Kingdom's critical, blood-soaked conflicts today lives peacefully-reconciled in this fascinating region's

myriad Battlefield sites, Historic Towns, National Monuments and Museums - and in head quarters of the British regiments that make 'pilgrimage' to these fields of bravery and supreme sacrifice. While knowledgeable, friendly and accredited local guides guarantee hour upon hour of captivating company, it is possible to 'escape' the clutches of history - hunting, fishing, game drives and the entire gamut of adventure sports are but a handful of the exciting 'diversions' equally guaranteed to catapult you back into the 'here and now'.

BLOODY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN BOER, BRIT & ZULU

DEPARTS: MONDAYS. VALID: 1 FEB - 31 OCT 2006. (CALL THOMPSONS FOR FULL ITINERARY)

DAY 1: (MON) ISANDLWANA & FUGITIVE'S DRIFT

Make an early start and head inland towards South Africa's famous battlegrounds. Your expert Battlefields guide will recount the 1879 Battle of Isandlwana, and then on to Fugitive's Drift, thereafter we visit Rorke's Drift. Dinner and overnight at guesthouse.

DAY 2: (TUE) SPIONKOP

After breakfast make your way to the summit of Spionkop Mountain, where your guide will recreate the tragic battle between Boer and Brit which unfolded in January 1900. After lunch, we travel back to Durban, where the tour ends.

ACTIVITY



★★★★ ISANDLWANA LODGE - ISANDLWANA

Isandlwana Lodge offers twelve luxury rooms all en-suite and tastefully decorated in a mixture of traditional and modern styles. The Lodge is carved into the iNyoni Rock formation on top of which the Zulu commander stood during the battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879. Enjoy unparalleled views from the crisp early light of a sparkling Zulu dawn to the splendour of the African sunset.

All rooms face the historic and scenically beautiful Isandlwana Valley with a view of the mountain. Isandlwana Lodge has a boardroom and is the ideal location for executive conferences or team building getaways, where groups can benefit from our unique concepts developed and built around the battles by our historian Rob Gerrard.



★★★★ SPION KOP LODGE - LADYSMITH

Spion Kop Lodge, near the Drakensberg, has been transformed into a beautiful, 4 Star Lodge, offering an "Out of Africa Experience," where warm hospitality awaits you! There are 8 well-appointed, double en-suite bedrooms, plus two self-contained cottages. It is set in tranquil, park-like grounds, housing a library, cosy pub, conference centre, swimming pool and dining room with breathtaking views and fine cuisine. This owner-managed destination is situated at the foot of the Drakensberg Mountains, on a 703 hectare eco farm, on which General Buller had his Headquarters, Mount Alice, and where Winston Churchill stayed during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Experience Battlefields Tours, birding, boat cruises, game viewing, Drakensberg mountain hikes and horse-riding amongst the animals in the reserve. There is a golf course nearby and the lodge is in a Malaria free area.

DURBAN

The Balmoral Hotel	6
Garden Court Marine Parade	6
Southern Sun Elangeni	6
Beach Hotel	7
Tropicana Hotel	7
Hilton Durban	7
Southern Sun North Beach	7
Protea Hotel Edward	7
The Royal Hotel	8
City Lodge Umhlanga Ridge	8
Beverly Hills Hotel	8
Protea Hotel Umhlanga	8
Bongji's Guesthouse	8
Riverside Hotel	8

ACTIVITIES

Durban City Tour	6
Ushaka Marine World	7
Phezulu Safari Park	7
Shic Township Tour	8

PIETERMARITZBURG & MIDLANDS

Fordoun Boutique Hotel	9
Protea Hotel Old Haliwell	9
Granny Mouse Country House	9
Protea Hotel Inchanga	9

DRAKENSBERG

Giant's Castle	10
Sandford Park Country Hotel	10
Cathedral Peak Hotel	10
Alpine Heath	10
Didima Camp	10
Montusi Mountain Lodge	11
Drakensberg Sun	11
Cavern Drakensberg Resort	11
Drakensberg Gardens	11

ACTIVITIES

Sani Pass	11
Activities & Attractions	12

SOUTH COAST

Selborne Hotel	13
The Blue Marlin	13
Protea Hotel Karridene	13
Margate Hotel	13

NORTH COAST

Zimbali Lodge	14
Protea Hotel Imvubu Lodge	14
Hotel Izulu	14
Protea Hotel Richards Bay	15
Akani Richards Bay	15

ACTIVITY

Highlights - Richards Bay	15
---------------------------	----

ELEPHANT COAST & ZULULAND

Bushlands Game Lodge	16
Zululand Safari & Tree Lodge	16
Mkuze Falls Game Lodge	16
Phinda Private Game Reserve	16
White Elephant Safari Lodge	17
Thanda Private Game Reserve	17
Thula Thula Private Game Reserve	17

ACTIVITY

Hluhluwe & St Lucia Safari	17
----------------------------	----

BATTLEFIELDS

Isandlwana Lodge	18
Spion Kop Lodge	18

ACTIVITY

Bloody Encounters	18
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