EXPERIENCE DURBAN
THE OFFICIAL VISITORS’ GUIDE 2015

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Welcome to Durban!

We’re so glad you came

Urban, Durbs, eThekwini, Surf City – or whatever name you know it by – is a friendly, laidback place. We’re proud of our wide beaches, warm ocean water, friendly people, unpretentious atmosphere, unique mix of cultures, great attractions and chilled lifestyle.

There’s no other place quite like Durban. It’s a large city that seems small. It’s a bustling economic centre with Africa’s busiest port, but it’s also where everyone runs late, and coming to work via the beach is pretty common. We’re part of KwaZulu-Natal province, home of the Zulu people, but also have large Indian and European communities, such that our city is richly cosmopolitan.

We hope you feel at home here, take the time to meet some locals and experience all the fantastic things Durban has to offer. Enjoy your stay!
Useful info

Weather
Durban is a subtropical city, with warm, humid summers and mild, sunny winters with an average maximum temperature of 28°C and 18°C respectively. The sea is warm at 24°C during summer and seldom drops below 17°C during winter. As you can see, it's pretty much summer all year round in Durban!

Health matters
Durban is malaria-free, as is most of the province of KwaZulu-Natal, although if you’re visiting the game reserves in the far north of the province you should consult your doctor.

In the event of an emergency, Durban has a host of top quality medical facilities. If you’re an international visitor, it’s advisable to take out travel insurance to cover any potential medical costs.

Local lingo
English and isiZulu are the main languages spoken in Durban, and almost everyone can communicate in basic English. While you’re here, get a feel for some of the local slang!

Money matters
Most banks are able to exchange foreign currency, and there are foreign exchange bureaus in most areas.

ATMs are widespread and will accept most international bank and credit cards. Credit cards, including American Express, Visa, Diners Club and MasterCard, may be used at most hotels, restaurants, car hire companies etc.

Drinking water
South Africa’s tap water is safe to drink!

Safety
As in any big city around the world, crime is a reality we must face. You’re unlikely to be a victim of crime, and some simple ways to avoid it include not flashing wads of cash around or carrying large amounts of money, not waving your expensive camera about or walking through areas you’re unfamiliar with by yourself.
Durban at a glance

Durban covers a pretty large metropolitan area, from small coastal towns in the south to the resort town of Umhlanga and beyond to the tiny village of Westbrook in the north, and inland to the gorgeous Valley of 1000 Hills in the west.

The city boasts stylish hotels, trendy restaurants, world-class shopping, top nightlife, a shoreline of golden sands and a breathtaking marina where you can enjoy the freshest seafood on the East Coast. The best way to explore the city is to hop on the open top Ricksha Bus or take a roll down the promenade by rickshaw. The recently developed beachfront promenade has put the zing back into the Golden Mile, with a wide walkway taking you from the stadium area right down to uShaka Marine World. You can safely walk, jog or cycle from one end to the other, pausing for cocktails at newly opened beach restaurants, or simply take in the panoramic view from the Moses Mabhida Stadium SkyCar – your choice is endless.

Durban is a diverse and culturally rich city with strong African, Eastern and Western influences. A short day trip outside of the city allows you to see the area’s many facets. Durban’s western boundary is flanked by the Valley of 1000 Hills, with its nature reserves and cultural villages and the rich history of the Woza eNanda Heritage Route. The southern boundary offers superb beaches, golf courses and world class diving at Aliwal Shoal, and the northern boundary boasts a stunning coastline, and excellent entertainment and recreational facilities. A little further afield, the Big 5 game reserves and uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park are just a few hours’ drive away.

You also cannot leave the city without experiencing a unique township tour and tasting authentic local cuisine like shisanyama and the legendary Bunny Chow.

Durban Tourism has offices strategically located in the City to ensure that you see and experience the best – pop in to one of our offices for advice or tour bookings.
Check out Durban’s nine awesome areas!

There’s so much to do in Durban, and the city is home to nine action-packed areas, each with something a little different to offer.

North of the city, Umhlanga offers beautiful beaches, shopping malls, fine dining and a fantastic resort town experience.

To the west, this expanse of rolling hills and vistas has a country feel, offering adventure sports, cultural villages, leafy suburbs and friendly hospitality.

Echoes of Durban’s turbulent past ring through eNanda, and you can visit many important struggle and liberation sites, including the place where Nelson Mandela cast his vote in South Africa’s first democratic elections.

Bronze beaches, world-class diving and a great family holiday destination, Amanzimtoti and surrounds are a short drive south of the city.

Just inland from the city centre, Durban West is home to great guesthouses, shopping and lovely nature reserves. The gateway to Durban, it’s the perfect place for business travellers.

The colourful South Durban Basin (Sodurba) covers the stretch of coastline from the harbour in the north to just short of Amanzimtoti in the south. It’s a dynamic place that’s home to beaches with great surfing waves, multicultural people, industry and nature reserves.

Umlazi is the third largest township in South Africa and is where a new African urban culture is developing. Meet some friendly locals here at a shebeen (which means ‘hidden bar’) and eat shisanyama (meat cooked on an open fire).

Encompassing the CBD, beachfront and surrounding suburbs, there’s so much to do! Check out the Golden Mile, explore uShaka Marine World, game at Suncoast Casino, Hotels & Entertainment and check out Moses Mabhida Stadium.

Set alongside the Umgeni River as it winds down from the Valley of 1000 Hills to empty into the Indian Ocean, the Clermont-KwaDabeka area near Pinetown is home to a vibrant mix of people.

Durban Tourism - Tel: 031 322 4164 // www.durbanexperience.co.za
Getting around Durban is easy, and our large landmarks and the ocean make navigation a breeze.

Car rental and driving
Renting a car and driving yourself is arguably the easiest way to get around. The roads in Durban are in good condition and well sign-posted. Remember, in South Africa you drive on the left hand side of the road! There are a number of reputable car hire companies operating in Durban, with pick up and drop off zones at the airport and in most suburbs.

Airport shuttle
The shuttle to and from King Shaka International Airport runs at 15-minute intervals with stops at Umhlanga and the Durban Beachfront.
More info: 031 465 5573 / 082 340 9990

People Mover
The People Mover bus system provides convenient and comfortable transport around the city. It operates on three routes, linking the beachfront to the CBD. Buses depart every 15 minutes from the easily identifiable Durban People Mover bus stops, which are conveniently located for both commuters and tourists.
More info: 031 309 2731

Metered taxis
There are plenty of metered taxis operating in and around the city. They are safe and relatively inexpensive. These taxis operate in key zones, including the airport, beachfront, city centre and accommodation and entertainment nodes within Durban. Registered metered taxis are clearly marked with a coloured sticker, so that you can be assured of a safe and professional service.

More information on transportation services and companies is available in the accompanying table.
Spending time on the beachfront

Durban is characterised by its beaches – laidback, friendly and always in a slight holiday mode. Even our businessmen can be found going to work in board shorts and sandals, and shaking beach sand out of their hair during meetings.

As such, Durban is probably most famous for its beachfront, dubbed the Golden Mile, and it’s no surprise that it’s so popular. With wide, sandy beaches perfect for tanning, swimming areas patrolled by lifeguards, a new promenade ideal for jogging, walking, skateboarding and cycling, awesome beach breaks busy with surfers and bodyboarders, restaurants overlooking the water, piers to look back over the sea from, local arts and crafts for sale, people playing ad hoc games of volleyball or beach soccer, a world-class skatepark – really, there’s no excuse to be bored at the beachfront.

Stretching from the harbour mouth in the south to Blue Lagoon at the Umgeni River mouth in the north, there are loads of different beaches with their own atmospheres and offerings. Snorkel or dive at Vetch’s pier and limestone reef next to the harbour mouth, catch your first wave ever at Addington beach, surf with the locals at Wedge, Dairy or North beach, fish from Blue Lagoon, paddle out behind backline, catch a tan at Bay of Plenty, take the kids to Mini Town… you get the picture.

Further afield, the beaches at the Bluff are less busy, with loads of rock pools for the kids to explore. Umhlanga’s beachfront is hugely popular with its long stretches of sand, restaurants overlooking the water and dolphin and whale watching operators that launch from Granny’s Pool, and the large protected tidal rock pool at Umdloti is great for kids and popular with snorkellers.

Exploring uShaka Marine World

uShaka Marine World is the kind of place that fills young and old with awe. And well it should. Explore the wonders of the deep at Sea World, the largest aquarium in the southern hemisphere, with underground viewing galleries that extend for 500 metres through four beautifully designed old shipwrecks as you encounter creatures great and small, fierce and friendly, tropical and deep.

You can also meet and touch a dolphin or a seal, or feed a ray by hand. Bring your swimming costume because the snorkel lagoon is packed with tropical fish to discover, and you can also try out the Ocean Walker Experience as you walk along the bottom of a tank surrounded by large fish, or even come face-to-face with a toothy shark during the Shark Cage Experience. The twice-daily dolphin shows are hugely popular, with the dolphin stadium seating 1200 visitors.

For a tingle up your spine, check out Dangerous Creatures and get up close and personal with some of the world’s most dangerous and creepy frogs, snakes, spiders and more. For a thrill of a different kind, you can’t leave before trying out everything Wet ‘n’ Wild has to offer, with its slides, pools and chill-out areas.

Kid’s World will keep the little ones occupied for hours with its jungle gym, sand pit, cave, water cannons and more, while the grown-ups can enjoy shopping and dining at the Village Walk. You can also take it easy on uShaka Beach, a lovely stretch of sand with a swimming area protected by lifeguards, and we thoroughly recommend a sundowner on Moyo pier as you look out over the water and back towards the city.

More info: www.ushakamarineworld.co.za / 031 328 8000
Sampling

A fiery curry

One of Durban’s culinary specialities is curry, which makes sense considering the city is home to the largest Indian population outside of India. And the great thing is, in most cases the cheaper a curry is, the more legit and the more delicious. Sure you can go to a fancy restaurant and order a decent curry for R100, but part of what makes our curry so special is the experience of eating it in a small curry den at the back of a wheel alignment garage or on a small, nondescript street corner – and only shelling out R10 or R20.

While you’re here, you’ve got to try a bunny chow – a hollowed out half or quarter loaf of bread filled with a curry of your choice and topped off with the bread that was cut out, with some pickle on the side. It’s pretty much the city’s most famous meal, and the average Durbanite can’t go a week without that bunny craving hitting them hard. If you’re not used to eating hot food, bring a handkerchief, because some curries can make you sweat! Check out these great curry dens while you’re in town.

**Durban Curry House**
286 Matthews Meyiwa (formerly Stamford Hill) Road, Windermere / 031 312 5745

Low-key, but very much a local favourite, Durban Curry House is always buzzing. Their boneless chicken bunny is unbeatable, and their mutton bunny is insanely popular too. Eat there if you can, because they serve up bunnies swimming in delicious curry, unlike some other places which serve dry, stingy bunnies.

**Sunrise Chip ‘n Ranch (Johnny’s)**
89 Sparks Road, Overport / 031 209 2020

Known as Johnny’s to Durban locals, Sunrise Chip ‘n Ranch is Durban’s most famous curry spot. Open 24 hours a day, it’s popular in the early hours of the morning when people have a curry craving after partying hard. Try their massive chip and cheese roti with veg or mutton gravy, and share it with someone as a half is usually enough for the biggest appetites. The service is friendly, their doors are always open and make sure you look out for their insane specials on the brightly painted posters all over their walls.

**Brittania Hotel**
1299 Umgeni Road / 031 303 2266

Brittania Hotel is always busy and always serving up incredible curry. Set in a rather weird location – practically under an overpass, but easy to get to as it’s off the large Umgeni Road – it’s where CEOs jostle for table space with students and the unemployed to eat unpretentious but undeniably incredible curry. They have all the standards – beans, kebab, mutton, chicken – as well as some more unusual options for those with an adventurous palate, such as trotters or tripe curry.

Really though, it’s hard to find a bad curry in Durban. So if you feel the craving, drive a kilometre or two in any direction and you’ll come across a restaurant, corner café or tearoom serving up Durban’s finest.
Checking out

Moses Mabhida Stadium

If Durban didn’t have an iconic landmark before, it certainly does now. Moses Mabhida Stadium dominates the skyline with its gorgeous arch and gentle curves, and is a useful point from which to orientate yourself. Set just inland of the northern end of Durban’s Golden Mile, the stadium is easily accessible from the M4, which links Durban with the northern suburbs and Umhlanga, the beach and trendy Morningside, as has become something of a local hot spot.

Bicycle and walking routes flow past the stadium, world-class gyms and sports facilities share the stadium’s precinct, and on the first Saturday of every month the grounds host the I Heart Market, where all things artisan, vintage and delicious can be browsed and bought.

But the stadium itself is attraction enough. A must-do on your visit to the city is a trip up the famed stadium arch on the SkyCar to the viewing platform. At 106 metres high, there’s no better view of the city and the ocean. If you’re feeling energetic, you can also walk up the arch’s 500 or so steps to reach the viewing platform. While you’re up there and feeling courageous, you can also try out the Big Rush Big Swing – it’s the tallest swing of its kind in the world, and will send you out in a massive 220-metre arc above the pitch.

If that all sounds rather terrifying, there are also sedate stadium tours, Segway gliding tours, as well as a few restaurants and coffee shops for you to fuel up at.

If you’re a football fan, there’s nothing like catching a game between home Absa Premiership team Amazulu FC (locally known as Usuthu) as they clash with their national league rivals. Visit www.amazulufc.net to see when they’re playing next.

More info: www.mmstadium.com / 031 582 8242
Experience the best of Durban's World-Class Hospitality

Sand, sun and surf at the Golden Mile

A unique shopping experience at Victoria Street Market

Explore Durban's rich heritage on the Woza eNanda Route

Experience the best of Durban's World-Class Hospitality

A whole world to explore at uShaka Marine World

A unique shopping experience at Victoria Street Market

The iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium

See the city from the Ricksha Bus

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The iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium

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Explore Durban's rich heritage on the Woza eNanda Route
Hey brew!

Did you know coffee is grown on Durban’s doorstep? See what goes into your favourite cuppa.

South Africans love their coffee, but not many people realise that there are local coffee producers who’ve been at it for a long time. It used to be that local sugar cane farmers grew a bit of coffee on the side – areas of KZN mimic the climatic conditions of international coffee plantations – but over the decades they stopped producing.

Now the country is home to just two producers, and one of them, Assagay Coffee, is just a 30-minute drive from Durban in the Valley of 1000 Hills.

A family owned and operated farm, Assagay Coffee has been producing fantastic beans since 1992, when owner Rick James bought a small plot of trees and built a roaster out of an old tumble dryer, roasting the beans in his garage and selling his coffee to a few shops in the area.

In 2003 he bought a larger farm further inland at Cato Ridge, and now has 25,000 trees planted on 15 hectares, producing eight tons of roasted coffee beans a year. Although it’s an easy drive from Durban, the farm feels like it’s in the middle of nowhere, and perched as it is on the top of a small hill, it has lovely views of the surrounding countryside.

Rick leads tours of the farm himself, and shows visitors the entire coffee production process from seed to shelf. You can get into the plantation to see the trees, and depending on the season you might see the lovely flowers that will turn into berries, or the berries themselves. Next up, you can see what goes into turning the berries into ready-to-grind beans; it’s quite a process, involving deskinning, fermenting, drying, dehusking, grading and finally roasting. The tour ends in the old stables which have been converted into a little coffee shop, where Rick makes the coffee himself. Also for sale are bags of coffee, fresh home-baked goods, preserves and a few coffee accessories.

Farm tours are run twice daily on weekends, and booking is essential (R50/head incl. coffee tasting). The farm hosts open days on the first Sunday of every month, with breakfast served from 9am-11am. Assagay Coffee is available at Spar, Pick ‘n Pay and Food Lovers Markets nationwide, and can also be purchased directly from the Assagay Coffee website.

More info: www.assagaycoffee.co.za / 031 782 1268
Durban’s Coffee Culture

Durbanites are passionate about their coffee, and some fantastic coffee shops are scattered around the city where you can get a great cuppa.

The Factory Café (www.factorycafe.co.za / 369 Magwaza Maphalala Street) is where connoisseurs go to drink and aspirant baristas go to train. Set in a lovely old industrial building, the Factory Café is the beating heart of Durban’s coffee culture, and doubles as an entertainment space and music venue.

The Bean Green Coffee Roastery (031 201 8122 / 147 Helen Joseph Road) in Glenwood, owned and run by a father-daughter team, serves arguably the finest cup of coffee in the country. Serving only Ethiopian beans, their blends and single origin beans bring coffee lovers to their door from all over the city. It’s a great place to sit back and chill while vinyl’s spin on their turntable.

Love Coffee (484 Lilian Ngoyi Road, 031 312 1663) is where coffee lovers congregate for their caffeine fix in Morningside. Open from 6am-5pm, the morning rush sees people dropping by on their way home from a surf or on their way to work. The service is quick and friendly, the coffee fantastic, and their baked goods to die for.

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The Mediterranean way of life
The Pursuit of hoppyness

People are getting pretty serious about their beer these days. Much like coffee, for many people the stuff that’s mass produced just isn’t up to scratch, and even casual beer drinkers are learning about the subtlety that goes into making a truly great beer.

Some excellent microbreweries have popped up around the greater Durban area, offering all the things that make craft beer awesome – hand crafted, no preservatives and made with passion. So if you like beer and want to taste what the locals drink, see if you can’t visit a couple of them to see what’s going down.

Shongweni Brewery
Half an hour from Durban at Shongweni near Hillcrest you’ll find Shongweni Brewery, which has been producing fantastic bottle-conditioned beers since 2006. They produce five beers: East Coast Ale, Wheat Beer, Fruit Beer, Durban Pale Ale and West Coast Ale, so whatever your preference, one of these will appeal to you. Over the years they’ve received recognition globally, and export their beers to the European Union. Check out their tours with tastings run on Saturdays at 2pm (booking essential) and see what the fuss is about.

More info: www.shongwenibrewery.co.za / 082 497 6462

The Standeaven Brewery
After launching their range of beers in 2012, the Standeaven Brewery has gone from strength to strength, gaining fans around the country and taking home awards. Based on a farm at Alverstone, which is where the Valley of 1000 Hills more or less begin, the brewery produces a fantastic range of beers, including pilsner, Irish stout, wheat beer, ale and lager. You can find them at the Shongweni Farmers and Craft Market (www.shongwenimarket.co.za) which is held every Saturday morning on the outskirts of Hillcrest.

More info: 031 777 4685 / www.thestandeavenbrewery.co.za

Porcupine Quill Brewing Company
Further into the Valley of 1000 Hills – there must be something in the air that gets people here excited about producing beer! – is Porcupine Quill, located on the 1000 Hills Chefs School property and sharing a building with a cheesery, bakery and sausage making facility. Let’s just say there are a lot of tasty things happening per square metre. The brewery produces 11 different beers – the Porcupine Quill label and the African Moon label beers are generally lighter, with the Dam Wolf range offering high alcohol options. You can enjoy their beer in the on-site restaurant or on the deli’s veranda, so take your time and see which one tickles your fancy.

More info: 031 777 1566 / www.craftbrewers.co.za

That Brewing Co.
That Brewing Co. has risen in prominence fairly quickly thanks to the quality of the four beers it produces. There’s an English-style pale ale, a German style Weiss, an Irish style red cream ale and an American style pale ale. Full flavoured and refreshing, it’s almost hard to believe that this brewery only started producing in 2013. Their beers are found exclusively on tap at Unity Bar & Brasserie in Musgrave (see more info below) and have become really popular with the locals.

Go on a road trip for your taste buds at Unity
All the beers we’ve featured here (except those from Porcupine Quill Brewing Company) can be sampled at Unity Bar & Brasserie. Arguably Durban’s most popular watering hole, they’re all about serving great beer paired with down to earth but lovingly prepared grub – think butter chicken curry, thick beef burgers, beer braised beef pie, beer battered fish… you get the picture. The great thing is you can get a glass of beer that’s only 180ml in size, so you can try way more beers than you might ordinarily be able to. Just a plea – don’t drink and drive. Rather grab one of Durban’s many cabs.

More info: 031 201 3470 / www.unitybar.co.za
If you didn’t know Aliwal Shoal was there, you’d never guess it as you stand on the beach and look out over the water. Essentially a fossilised sand dune, Aliwal Shoal lies 5km off the coastal village of Umkomaas (about a 30-minute drive south of Durban) and was considered by none other than Jacques Cousteau to be one of the top 10 dive sites in the world.

Once you’re down there, it’s obvious why. Hard and soft corals, turtles, rays, nudibranchs and a massive variety of tropical fish can be seen, and if you’re lucky, you might even encounter a local school of dolphin or hear whales calling as they migrate up the coast.

But perhaps what the reef is most famous for are grey nurse sharks, commonly known as ragged tooth sharks, or colloquially, raggies. These toothy hunters may look terrifying, but they’re in fact fairly docile, and congregate in great numbers at the reef from early July to late September. In fact, it’s not unusual to encounter 15 or 20 sharks on a single dive. Now that may sound like a nightmare to some people, but being in the water with them and experiencing them in their own environment is something quite special and memorable.

As the depth increases, you might see a giant brindle bass, the endemic harlequin goldie and even the odd tiger shark.

See the Directory on page 69 for a list of operators offering scuba diving trips and courses.
Golf is a game of simple pleasures – the sweet ‘ping’ as you hit a powerful drive, a gentle breeze as you stroll down a fairway, the hollow gurgle of a long putt being sunk, even replacing an emerald divot can be somewhat soothing. This is, of course, assuming that you’re not having one of those rounds, when your long iron shots fade instead of drawing, you keep hooking the ball into water hazards, and those short putts, which you should sink with your eyes closed, just won’t get in the hole. But this is what makes golf the game it is – it’s a challenge against oneself and against the conditions, and a great way to spend some time in the open air surrounded by nature.

Durban is a fantastic golfing destination – year-round sunshine, a wide range of courses, beautiful subtropical vegetation, birdsong and friendly 19th holes bring golfers back to our courses again and again. And whether you’re a hacker looking at playing a single round, or a serious golf addict wanting to play championship courses, you’ve come to the right place.

There are so many courses in the Durban area, you could play a round every day for two weeks and still have more to visit. Our courses range in difficulty and style, but all have one thing in common – no matter what your skill, the rewards are there to be found every round.

Have a bit of a swing on one of Durban’s beautiful golf courses

Durban Country Club
031 313 1777 / www.dcclub.co.za / Walter Gilbert Road, Durban

The grand old dame of South African golf, Durban Country Club is considered to be the country’s top course and has an international reputation. Set near the Indian Ocean and fashioned into the dunes, the course is a true stunner, with its gorgeous tree-lined fairways and impeccably manicured greens. Visiting golfers are always welcome, so go test your mettle on the very course that has hosted some of the world’s top players.

Royal Durban Golf Club
031 309 1373 / www.royaldurban.co.za / Gate 15, 16 Mitchell Crescent, Greyville, Durban

Royal Durban is one of South Africa’s toughest championship golf courses. At first it looks easy with its flat layout and absence of trees, but the wind can be tricky to gauge and with its narrow fairways, thick rough and profile greenside bunkers, well placed to catch the slightly wayward shot, Royal Durban isn’t easy but is immensely rewarding for the patient golfer.
Kloof Country Club
031 764 0555 / www.kloofcountryclub.co.za / 26 Victory Road, Kloof

Kloof Country Club is set in the verdant hills just 25 minutes’ drive inland from Durban. Regarded as one of KZN’s finest, Kloof Country Club Golf Course tests even the most talented golfers. Each of the 18 holes has a unique character of its own and integrates the natural beauty of the area with some challenging hazards.

Mount Edgecombe Country Club
031 539 5330 / www.mountedgecombe.com / Gate No. 2 Golf Course Drive, Mount Edgecombe

Mount Edgecombe Country Club’s two golf courses are among the few in the country designed to USGA specifications. Course 1 has a spectacular layout that combines attractive water features, multi-tiered greens and forgiving roughs. Course 2 is undulating and provides a challenging but fair test of golf. The indigenous trees that line the course attract a host of colourful birds and butterflies, adding a beautiful dimension to the courses.

Other courses in the Durban area

If you’ve got the time, be sure to try out Durban Country Club Beachwood (031 313 1777 / www.dccclub.co.za) with its beautiful undulating fairways, Windsor Park Golf Course (031 312 2245) one of the busiest and friendliest courses in the country, the exclusive and haven-like Zimbali Country Club (032 538 1041 / www.zimbali.co.za) or Amanzimtoti Country Club (031 902 1166 / www.totigolfclub.co.za) with its views of the sea.

Further afield

KwaZulu-Natal is littered with fantastic courses. If you get out of the city towards the Drakensberg, you’ve got to play a round at Cathedral Peak Golf Club (0860 774 625 / www.cathedralpeakgolfclub.co.za) with its spectacular mountain views. On the way there, stop by Maritzburg Golf Club (033 396 2356 / www.maritzburggolf.co.za) to boost your confidence on its wide fairways and flat layout. On the edge of the Indian Ocean and on the border between KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, the Wild Coast Sun Country Club (039 305 2799 / www.suninternational.com) has a rugged beauty and is a very challenging course.
Crafty shopping

Markets today are different from those of yesteryear, which tended towards perhaps being a little old fashioned, sometimes scruffy, and certainly not hip. Now however, markets are usually where one can find the best handmade or artisan items, usually from the creators themselves.

Part of the reason shopping at markets is so great is because you never know quite what you’re going to stumble across, be it a delicate piece of handmade jewellery, a designer dress, a retro piece of furniture, a classic vinyl or a gorgeous piece of art. Durban is home to some fantastic markets, so find out which ones are on during your visit and see if you can’t take home a small piece of the city’s creative output.

A market like no other

Victoria Street Market is the place to go to get a real sense of Durban’s Afro-Oriental atmosphere. Open daily on the corner of Victoria and Queen Street, the market is an extensive bazaar selling everything from souvenirs, crafts, jewellery and fabrics to fish, fresh meat, fruit, vegetables and spices. It’s a fantastic experience and a great place to pick up a keepsake to take home with you. It’s best to see the market as part of a tour – you can contact Durban Tourism on 031 322 4164 to find out about these.

Upmarket Umhlanga

The new kid on the block, Upmarket (www.upmarket.mobi) is held on the first Friday and Sunday of every month at Umhlanga Centre, and offers an awesome eating, social and shopping experience. The market is undercover, so come rain or shine it’s always on, and there’s always a great vibe with buskers creating a lively atmosphere and loads of entertainment for the kids. It’s a great family outing, so bring gran and the kids and see what you can see.

Shongweni Farmers and Craft Market

Established in 1998, Shongweni Farmers and Craft Market (www.shongwenimarket.co.za / 031 777 4686) is something of an institution. Held at Shongweni, just outside Hillcrest, the market oozes country charm and is completely unpretentious. It’s open from 6:30am to 10:30am, and it’s worth getting there early as it gets busier the later it gets. Take your time choosing something amazing for breakfast; eggs benedict, French toast, pancakes, waffles, falafel wraps, German delicacies, Greek pastries, homemade pies – the range is incredible. You can also buy fresh vegetables, breads, cheeses, meat and flowers, not to mention art, furniture, plants and other crafts.

I Heart Market

Durban’s trendiest market, I Heart Market (http://iheartmarket.blogspot.com) is held on the first Saturday of every month at the foot of Moses Mabhida Stadium’s iconic arch. Over the years it’s grown into one of the country’s busiest and best design markets, with all products on sale carefully selected to ensure authenticity, quality design and that they’re locally made. Jewellery, clothing, art, retro knickknacks, furniture, toys and delicious food – it’s all here, and you might battle to walk away without spending all the cash you have on you!
Fancy a bit of light shopping or have a craving for some intense retail therapy? You’ll be just fine in Durban. Our malls and boutiques come in all shapes and sizes, so hook out that credit card from its hiding place in the freezer and go have some fun.

The up-market suburb of La Lucia is just south of Umhlanga, and La Lucia Mall (www.laluciamall.co.za / 031 562 8420) is as classy and beautiful as the homes around it. It has an exclusive and relaxed atmosphere with many local and international big brand stores and restaurants to choose from. If you want to spend a few unhurried hours browsing around, this is the mall to go to.

Durban’s biggest mall by far and set on the top of Umhlanga Ridge, Gateway Theatre of Shopping (www.gatewayworld.co.za / 031 514 0500) is the ultimate shopping and entertainment destination. There are shops galore, from chain stores to fashion boutiques to jewelers to gadgets – there’s almost nothing you can’t find at Gateway. There’s also lots to do other than shopping – a massive cinema complex, a supper theatre, fun science centre for kids, go karting, the D-Rex double point breaking standing wave and many, many restaurants to choose from.

Conveniently located in Westville just off the N3 (you can’t miss it) and ten minutes from the city centre, The Pavilion Shopping Centre (www.thepav.co.za / 031 275 9800), or the Pav as it’s known to locals, is one of the country’s busiest malls, pulling in more than 1.8 million shoppers every month. The Pavilion offers
Night on the town

Did you pack your dancing shoes? Got an itch to party that needs to be scratched? Despite Durban’s reputation as a sleepy place, there’s always a party somewhere, so dress up and go play.

A wide selection of restaurants, shops, banking facilities, fashion outlets and entertainment areas, so give yourself plenty of time to see what you can see.

Perched on the top of the Berea with easy access from Glenwood and Morningside, Musgrave Centre (www.musgravecentre.co.za / 031 277 8420) is a classy, intimate and well laid-out mall with an emphasis on quality stores. Its location between Musgrave and Stephen Dlamini (Essenwood) Roads makes it ideal for visitors and locals alike to enjoy, and its many independent boutiques hold some lovely treasures for shoppers to discover, as well as a cinema complex.

For a family friendly shopping, dining and entertainment experience, Galleria (www.galleria.co.za / 031 904 2233) is the premier mall on the Sapphire Coast. With a range of stylish big brand stores, fashion boutiques and restaurants, as well as a host of entertainment for the whole family, including a cinema, mini-golf and an ice-rink, Galleria is conveniently located just off the N2 highway south of Durban.

Durban’s trendiest dance club is The Origin (www.theorigin.co.za / 031 201 9959) in Glenwood. It has separate zones playing straight-up dance music, soul and funk, deep house, vocal electro and minimal tech.

Set in Suncoast Casino and overlooking the northern end of Durban’s Golden Mile, there’s always a party at Café Vacca Matta (www.vaccamatta.com). It’s a nightclub, VIP lounge and restaurant rolled into one, and it’s where the city’s trendy socialites go to let their hair down.

Set on the top story of the Oyster Box Hotel, the Lighthouse Bar (www.oysterboxhotel.com) is opulent and relaxed, and has an amazing panoramic view of the Umhlanga coastline. Grab a cocktail and enjoy the sunset, or mingle with the city’s jet-setters and break open the bubbly.
Upcoming at The Playhouse
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Tel: 031 369 9460 / 031 369 9456
www.playhousecompany.com

Thembeli Mthuli in A Woman in Waiting

Liane Loot's Bhakti

Aviva Pelham in Santa's Story

Aaron and Lisa Bobbert in The Comedy MasterClass
You’ll never be at risk of going hungry in Durban – there are restaurants, delis and eateries on just about every street, as well as popular restaurant precincts where Durbanites and tourists flock every night of the week. Whether you’re hankering after Italian, Thai, Chinese, Fusion, Contemporary, Indian, burgers, steak or whatever your taste is, Durban has loads of places to choose from. If you’re not feeling particularly picky, it’s worth driving or walking around to see which places are buzzing – generally, if it’s packed with locals, you know it’s a safe bet.

Glenwood gorging

Glenwood is a large suburb on the Berea ridge overlooking the CBD and harbour, and has a few areas where great restaurants have popped up. On the corner of Brand and Cromwell roads is the aptly named Corner Café (www.thecornercafe.co.za / 031 201 0219), which is open for breakfast and lunch every day except Sunday. It’s down to earth, with a neighbourhood hangout feel, all the food is organically grown and fresh, and the coffee is to die for.

Just across the road is Mooki Noodle Bar (https://mookinoodles.wordpress.com / 031 811 9199), a tiny pan-Asian restaurant serving up some amazing noodle and rice dishes. If you’re around on the last Saturday of the month, make sure you check out their Dim-Sum Session, where they serve up platters and individual portions – delicious!

If you’re into burgers, you’ve got to eat at O’Bryan’s Sports Bar (079 638 8574) at 131 Helen Joseph Road. Their burgers are out of control they’re so good, and if you ask a local about them, they’ll speak in hushed tones about the last time they ate there.

Morningside munching

Morningside is a lovely, leafy suburb on the northern end of the city and is home to Durban’s trendiest area, Florida Road. There are loads of great eateries and bistro here, the most popular being Spiga d’Oro (www.spiga.co.za / 031 303 9511). It’s one of Durban’s busiest restaurants and serves up great Italian food in a lively atmosphere.

Just up the road is House of Curries (031 303 6076), which serves up unpretentious curries (try their massive rots) and has become the area’s busiest watering hole, thanks to its large outdoor deck.

For something a little more chilled, Delfi Greek Taverna (031 312 7032) at 386 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road is a tiny, family-run restaurant serving up mouthwatering Greek food. Their moussaka is good enough to commit crime for, and make sure you share their mezé platter with someone as a starter to taste a bunch of different delicacies. It’s worth booking ahead, as the restaurant fills up very quickly.
Beachfront bites

Enjoying Durban’s beachfront is hungry work. The Circus Circus Beach Café (www.circuscircus.co.za / 031 337 7700) is right on the promenade overlooking Bay of Plenty, and even has a few tables set up on the sand. It’s great for a drink or a light meal and you can’t beat the setting.

On the other end of the beachfront is Moyo uShaka Pier (www.moyo.co.za / 031 332 0606), which offers a 360-degree view of the shoreline from a beautiful two storey tall structure on the end of a pier. Grab a drink and watch the sun go down as surfers and swimmers enjoy the waves below you.

Upping the ante in Umhlanga

Keen for a dash of fine dining? Harvey’s (www.harveysrestaurant.co.za / 031 312 5706), which recently relocated to Umhlanga from Morningside, has been a popular fine dining institution for years. Their innovative menu is constantly changing, their wine list is extensive, and the ambiance is something special, so treat your partner to a night to remember.

If you feel like dropping in on whatever looks nice, take a stroll down Chartwell Drive, which has a staggering range of great eateries, including Thai, Italian, Argentinian, Mexican and more. See what strikes your fancy and just drop in.
Urbanites are passionate about their sport and support their local teams fiercely. There are action packed contests hosted year-round, so see what's on while you're here and experience the locals cheering on their home-grown stars.

**The Sharks** ([www.sharksrugby.co.za](http://www.sharksrugby.co.za)) are the local rugby team, playing their home games at Growthpoint Kings Park, a stone's throw from Moses Mabhida Stadium, in front of the zealous locals who pack out every game. The Sharks regularly perform well in the local Currie Cup, as well as the international Super Rugby competition, and the team has produced some of the biggest stars of South African rugby. International test matches are also held here, where the Springboks battle it out for supremacy.

Local PSL team **Amazulu FC** ([www.amazulufc.net](http://www.amazulufc.net)) are based at the spectacular Moses Mabhida Stadium, and their passionate fans are easy to spot on match day, decked out in the team's green kit and blasting vuvuzelas. Home games always have a party atmosphere and are great fun. If you hear people chanting "Usuthu!", it's an old Zulu war cry which has become the club's nickname.

Cricket fans are in for a treat at **Sunfoil Dolphins** ([www.dolphinscricket.co.za](http://www.dolphinscricket.co.za)) games. Based at Sahara Stadium Kingsmead just inland from the beachfront, the cricket is a great place to spend the day or evening, with a family atmosphere prevailing. The Sunfoil Dolphins have produced some of the country's top cricketers, and compete well in the First Class, ODI and T20 domestic leagues. The stadium also usually hosts the Boxing Day test match, where the national cricket team, the Proteas, show why they’re one of the top teams in the world.
Almost every Durbanite has some form of outdoorsy hobby, many of these pretty exhilarating. If you like being outdoors and going on a bit of adventure, there’s plenty to be found, so bring along some clothes you don’t mind getting a little dirty!

If you can’t leave home without your mountain bike, you’re in for a treat. Giba Gorge Mountain Bike Park (www.gibagorge.co.za / 031 769 1527) is just a 20-minute drive inland from Durban at Westmead, and has more than 30km of mountain biking trails suitable for everyone from beginners to pros. The trail centre caters to the needs of all riders, and the bike shop is stocked with all the gear you might need, including bikes, gloves, spare tubes, helmets and, if you’re not too proud, advice.

Fishing is popular with locals and visitors alike, whether it’s shore angling, deep sea fishing or spearfishing. Deep sea fishing charters are a great way to appreciate the city, and the waters off Durban bustle with large game fish. Fishing charters are available from Durban harbour, and from ski-boat launches north and south of the city.

If the idea of being out to sea appeals to you, you can also go on a whale and dolphin watching charter, but if you don’t have your sea legs you have a decent shot of spotting them from land too. Dolphins often frolic behind backline off the Durban beachfront, so get down to the beach a little after dawn, grab some coffee and make your way to the pier to try catch a glimpse of them. Humpback whales and occasionally southern rights can be seen along the coastline from July through to November, so if you catch yourself staring out to see, keep an eye peeled for a telltale spurt from a blowhole or a massive tail slapping the water.

The KZN Sharks Board (www.shark.co.za / 031 566 0400) is the only organisation of its kind in the world, and protects bathers from shark attacks along the KZN coastline using a combination of nets and drumlines. Their head office in Umhlanga is open to the public for an audio-visual presentation and shark dissection, where visitors can learn more about (and smell) the inner workings of these fascinating creatures. The KZN SB also gives members of the public an opportunity to go out to sea and watch the shark safety gear being checked in the early morning. This two-hour boat trip will also give you an awesome view of Durban's beachfront in the early morning light, and if you’re lucky you’ll also see dolphins and seabirds.

There’s nothing as charming as an old steam locomotive, and the Umgeni Steam Railway (www.umgenisteamrailway.co.za / 087 808 7715) runs return day trips through the Valley of 1000 Hills on the last Sunday of every month, powered by a 100-year-old locomotive. The train chugs its way from Kloof Station, through the village of Hillcrest, up the steep Bothas Hill, hugging the passes, to Inchanga Station where there is a craft market and loads of good food on sale.

An unusual and exhilarating way to experience the beauty of Durban and its surrounds is from the air. A number of helicopter tour operators offer scenic flips, departing from Durban’s Virginia Airport just north of the Umgeni River mouth – bring your camera, because the views you see will be unparalleled.
Durban is a particularly green city, thanks in part to its warm, subtropical climate. From finding a bit of solace in a park to exploring the nature reserves dotted around the area, to even finding a deserted bit of beach, Durban’s natural surroundings are beautiful and easy to lose yourself in.

The Umgeni Green Hub (031 303 8476 / greenhub@durban.gov.za) is Durban’s central portal for eco-tourism information and bookings. Based at the Umgeni River Estuary, the Hub arranges canoe trails, nature trails and heritage trails in and around Durban. Open 09h00-17h00 daily.

Despite being right under everyone’s noses on the northern mouth of the Umgeni River, Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve (082 559 2839) is one of those places that tends to fly under the radar, particularly if you’re a visitor. And yet it’s a fantastic place, home to a unique mangrove ecosystem which is as interesting as it is beautiful. Rare bird species flit about the trees, and thousands of lopsided fiddler crabs scurry around in the silt. You can explore the reserve on a raised boardwalk through the mangroves on a guided or self-guided walk.

Umgeni River Bird Park (www.umgeniriverbirdpark.co.za / 031 579 4601) is home to more than 200 species of exotic and indigenous birds, and is great fun to visit thanks to its walk-through avaries – filled with the chatter of brightly coloured birds – the flamingo dam and a cascading waterfall. The free Bird Show, which is run twice daily, is the top attraction, where you can get up close and personal with owls, cranes, hornbills, macaws, kookaburras, toucans, vultures and many other species as they demonstrate what they would normally do in the wild in totally unrestricted free flight.

If you want to grab some peace and quiet, there’s nothing quite as therapeutic as an amble around the Durban Botanic Gardens (www.durbanbotanicgardens.org.za / 031 322 4021). It’s the oldest surviving botanic garden in Africa and boasts extensive collections of both exotic and indigenous trees and plants including cycads, bromeliads, palms and orchids. Entrance to the Durban Botanic Gardens is free although donations are encouraged, and there’s a lovely little tea garden that serves light snacks. The gardens also regularly host live music performances, so keep your eyes peeled to see if something is happening during your stay.

Just next to the leafy suburb of Kloof is Krantzkloof Nature Reserve (www.kknr.org.za) a lush place where two river gorges, the Molweni and Nqutu, meet. The reserve has 20km of scenic walks, including a stunning waterfall and two wonderful view sites of the Krantzkloof Gorge, and is home to small game and lovely birdlife.

Just 30 minutes from Durban is Shongweni Dam and Nature Reserve (www.msinsi.co.za / 031 769 1283), and it’s such a sanctuary it’s hard to believe the city is so close. With thick forest and steep cliffs, the reserve is pretty dramatic, and a favourite place for locals to camp and game watch. If you’re keen for adventure, there’s canoeing, sailboating, trailing and rock climbing, and if it’s animals you want, it’s animals you’ll get. The reserve is home to rhino, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, impala, kudu, wildebeest, caracal, ostrich and many more, and is rated as one of the top bird sanctuaries in the area.
Durban is populated by people who have come from all corners of the globe, creating a cultural mix that makes the city unique. There are the Zulu people, born as a nation under the reign of King Shaka, people of European extraction who arrived due to Colonial expansion from the Cape in the early 1800s, and a large and diverse Indian population, when indentured labourers were brought in from British India to work the sugar plantations.

The result is a cultural mix of Eastern, Western and African influences that are visible everywhere, in the art and architecture, fashion, cuisine and language.

**Shisanyama**

There's no vibe like the vibe at a shebeen (which means 'hidden' bar) or a *shisanyama* (where meat is grilled on open fires). The food is amazing, the drinks flow freely and locals meet together to have a great time. This is one of the best ways to experience local township culture and get to know Durban’s friendly people.

**Woza eNanda Heritage Route**

You can experience some of Durban’s most important historical sites on the Woza eNanda Heritage Route, including the Phoenix Settlement, where Mahatma Gandhi developed his philosophy of passive resistance, and the Ohlange Institute at Inanda Township, founded by the first president of the African National Congress, Rev. John Dube, and where Nelson Mandela cast his historic vote in South Africa’s first democratic elections in 1994. Visits to these historic sites can be arranged through specialist tour operators.

*More info: Woza eNanda – 031 519 2555*

**Mosques, temples and churches**

With Durban’s different cultures comes a mix of religions and some beautiful places of worship. There’s the Jumma Musjid on Grey Street, which is the biggest mosque in the southern hemisphere, Chatsworth’s Temple of Understanding, a beautiful Hare Krishna Temple, and the Mariannhill Monastery, built by Trappist monks in 1882.
Whatever kind of holiday you’re after, there’s a place to stay to suit you. If you want maximum time on the beach, then one of the beachfront hotels in Durban, Amanzimtoti or Umhlanga is your best bet, though if you’ve got a car you can stay in any of the central suburbs and be on the beach in a matter of minutes.

For peace and quiet, a bed and breakfast in the leafy suburbs of Westville, Kloof, Hillcrest or the Valley of 1000 Hills will get you relaxing in no time, and there are plenty of nature reserves, coffee shops and spas to explore.

If you’re here to party, eat at a different restaurant every night and explore the city, then a hotel or guesthouse near Florida Road is the place to stay.

There’s a wide range of accommodation options to suit your budget, too, from luxurious hotels to self-catering holiday apartments, guesthouses, B&Bs, backpacker establishments and lodges.

Visit www.durbanexperience.co.za for accommodation listings.
The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is a peaceful place, known for its pastoral atmosphere and country lifestyle. But there’s more to it than pub lunches, crafts and handmade goods – there’s a decent dose of adrenalin to be found, with nowhere better than Karkloof Canopy Tours.

Set in the beautiful mistbelt forest of the Karkloof Nature Reserve, Karkloof Canopy Tours offers up an unforgettable adventure as you slide from one platform to the next along a series of steel cables set amongst magnificent natural surroundings. Regarded as one of South Africa’s top eco adventures, the tour takes visitors on a two-hour adventure through pristine indigenous forest, with eight slides – up to 180 metres long and 30 metres high – that zig-zag down the valley.

The scenery is spectacular, and on the platforms between slides your guide will explain the ecology of the forest, pointing out different trees and the magnificent giant ferns way below. The birdlife is incredible, so if you’re a bit of a twitcher then keep your eyes peeled for Emerald Cuckoo, Knysna Turaco, a wide variety of raptors and – if you are lucky – the elusive Narina Trogon or endangered Cape Parrot. The forest is also home to a variety of mammals, but it is the loud calls and fearless tree swinging of the Samango monkeys that you will remember best.

Despite the height, the tour is 100% safe and suitable for people from age five to 95, so it really is something the whole family can enjoy. Karkloof Canopy Tours is open every day, with tours every half an hour from 8am to 3pm. Come experience one of South Africa’s fastest growing eco adventures with thousands of satisfied thrill-seekers having already caught the bug.

More info: 033 330 3415 / www.karkloofcanopytour.co.za

BOOK YOUR CANOPY TOUR NOW!
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Visit www.karkloofcanopytour.co.za to find out more!
A place of miracle and wonder

Some 275 kilometres north of Durban lies iSimangaliso Wetland Park, declared South Africa’s first World Heritage Site in 1999. It comprises eight ecosystems, three lakes, ancient dunes, the country’s biggest estuarine system, swamp forests and incredibly diverse fish, bird, plant and animal species. There aren’t many places in the world with such a variety of natural splendour packed together, so it’s easy to see why the area is called ‘iSimangaliso’ – after all, it means ‘miracle and wonder’.

Spanning 220 kilometres of coastline from Maphelane and St Lucia in the south to the Mozambique border in the north, iSimangaliso also includes uMkhuze, False Bay and Lake Sibaya inland, and totals 332,000 hectares of pristine wilderness. As such, there’s much more to do in iSimangaliso than one article can tell you – or one visit can explore – and it’s the kind of place where repeat visits will deliver something special or new every time.

Amongst the animals

iSimangaliso is home to the Big Five (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhino), with lions recently reintroduced to the uMkhuze section. At just under 40,000 hectares, uMkhuze isn’t a particularly big park, but what it lacks in size it makes up for in diversity. Home to the Big Five, hyena, cheetah and wild dog, not to mention nyala, kudu and other antelope, it’s incredibly game rich. And yet, it’s even better for spotting birds; more than 420 species of birds can be seen, including African broadbill, Narina Trogon, Brownheaded Parrot and Lappet-faced Vulture.

Nestled next to St Lucia town are two lovely wilderness sections – the Western and Eastern Shores. The Western Shores is a 25,000-hectare section of the park which was only opened to the public in December 2013; the animals here aren’t used to vehicles and so are properly wild, making spotting game somehow more rewarding. Make sure you stop at the uMthoma Aerial Boardwalk and viewing deck, which is built in a large Cape Ash tree. The view looks over the Lake St Lucia narrows, wetlands and grassland to Cape Vidal and the densely vegetated sand dunes which follow the shore.

A boat cruise on the St Lucia Estuary is a must-do – Lake St Lucia is South Africa’s largest estuarine system, and home to more than 800 hippos and 1200 crocodiles. A cruise will get you right up close and personal with different hippo families, and you should catch a few crocs sunning themselves on the riverbanks.

Unspoiled beaches

If tropical beaches are your thing, you simply can’t beat the coastline here. Cape Vidal, Sodwana, Mabibi and Kosi Bay offer seemingly endless stretches of white sand, with the blue Indian Ocean on one side and towering vegetated dunes on the other. There aren’t many beaches in the world that are this beautiful and yet almost completely deserted.
On and in the water
The area’s marine life is just as varied and rich as its birds and animals. Whales and dolphins are frequent visitors to these shores, and a boat trip out to sea will get you close to these fantastic creatures. There’s also loads of opportunity to fish, with deep sea charters going out regularly, as well as some great shore angling, spear fishing and even salt water fly-fishing to be had. Just make sure you have the relevant fishing licence, available from your nearest post office.

If being in the water is your thing, the snorkelling at Cape Vidal, Mabibi, Sodwana Bay and Kosi Bay is fantastic at low tide, with a huge variety of tropical reef fish to be seen. If you dive – or want to learn – you’ve come to the right place, as Sodwana Bay is one of the top dive sites in the world, its reefs home to more than 1200 species of fish, not to mention an incredible variety of corals and other invertebrates.

One of the most special things one can do in the area is to go on a turtle tour. Leatherback and loggerhead turtles lay their eggs on iSimangaliso’s beaches at night from November to January, and in February and March thousands of hatchlings make a perilous break for the sea. Night time turtle tours leave from St Lucia and are offered by lodges in the Coastal Forest area, giving you the chance to see these lovely creatures engage in their desperate fight for survival.

Stay in comfort
There are lodges and camps dotted throughout iSimangaliso but your best bet is to stay in St Lucia town; it has easy road access to the rest of the park, is close enough to the most popular attractions and has all the facilities one would need in the village itself. It’s also practically surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the estuary, and bustles with activity without feeling like an overrun tourist town. It’s packed with great restaurants and comfortable accommodation options, from basic self-catering holiday flats to luxurious lodges, and most tour operators in the area are based here, making booking an activity easy.

Contact
iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority – www.isimangaliso.com / 035 590 1633
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife – www.kznwildlife.com / 033 845 1000 (Central Reservations)
iSimangaliso 2015

ECO Series Events

iSimangaliso St Lucia Half Marathon and Fun Run
10 May 2015
21.1km, 10km and 5km race at the Lake St Lucia Estuary section of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Runners and walkers of all ages and levels welcome.
More info: www.isimangaliso.com

iSimangaliso MTB 4 Day powered by Nashua
20-23 August 2015
A unique 280km staged mountain bike ride experience through the ‘Big 5’ territory of iSimangaliso Wetland Park.
More info: www.isimangaliso-mtb.co.za

iSimangaliso Sodwana Shootout Festival
5-10 October 2015
All budding and accomplished photographers are invited to join this year’s annual underwater photographic competition in the Sodwana Bay section of iSimangaliso Wetland Park.
More info: www.sodwanashootout.co.za

See the best of iSimangaliso with Advantage Tours
Based in St Lucia town, Advantage Tours offers some fantastic packages for visitors to see the beautiful sights in the area, including whale watching, deep sea game fishing charters, safaris to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, hippo and croc boat tours, night drives, turtle tours and more.

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