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*KwaZulu
Natal*



KwaZulu-Natal, is located on the East Coast of South Africa and is known for its beaches, mountains and savannah populated by big game.

The safari destination Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, in the northeast, is home to black and white rhinos, lions and giraffes.

Durban is an Indian-influenced harbor city and a popular surfing spot.

Cultural villages around the town of Eshowe showcase the traditions of the indigenous Zulu people.



- **Capital City:** Pietermaritzburg
- **Airports:** King Shaka International Airport - Durban (DUR), Pietermatizburg Airport (PMB), Richards Bay Airport (RCB)
- **Best time to visit:** April and May are perhaps the best months to travel, bringing bright sunshine, pleasantly warm temperatures all round and decent wildlife viewing. With hot and humid summers (Oct-Apr) and mild, dry winters (May - Sep), whenever you travel sub-tropical KwaZulu-Natal will provide warmth.
- **Food specialities:** KZN Bunny Chow (a curry served in a half loaf of bread), Braai or Shisanyama, (both referring to a barbeque, meat cooked over a fire), Bombay Crush (frothy blend of rose-colored Rooh Afza syrup, milk, and tukmaria (basil) seeds topped with a couple of dollops of vanilla ice cream), Samosas (crispy, triangular-shaped pastries typically are stuffed with a spicy minced blend of chopped onions, chillies, and either lamb, fish, potato, or veggies)
- **Language:** Afrikaans, English, Zulu, Xhosa

KZN Regions



1. Elephant Coast (Maputaland)

2. Zululand

3. Battlefields

4. Pietermaritzburg & Midlands

5. Drakensberg

6. North Coast

7. Durban Metro

8. South Coast



1. Elephant Coast (Maputaland)

- *iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a World Heritage Site and means 'something miraculous'.*
- *It is the only place on the globe where the world's oldest land mammal (rhino) and the world's biggest terrestrial mammal (elephant) share an ecosystem with the world's oldest fish (coelacanth) and the world's biggest marine mammal (whale).*
- *Thonga Beach Lodge and Rocktail Bay, take night tours along the beaches to see the ancient phenomenon of nesting sea turtles.*
- *Access to these lodges is only possible with 4x4 vehicles. Most guests on self-drive park at Coastal Cashews and are transferred to the lodges.*
- *There are excellent deep sea fishing and diving opportunities at Sodwana Bay, and great houseboats and tiger fishing on Jozini Dam.*

2. Zululand



- Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve as well as other private reserves are located in and around Zululand, as well as the northern resorts of St Lucia. Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve, is the oldest proclaimed nature reserve in Africa. The Wilderness area on the Southern border of the reserve has recently dropped its fences and 2 5* Lodges recently opened in this area.
- Shakaland, Dumazulu or Simunye, it is possible to catch a glimpse of a lifestyle and traditions. Sleep over in a traditional Zulu homestead, sample traditional Zulu cuisine and Nqombothi (Zulu beer), and visit a traditional healer.
- eMakhosini, ('Valley of the Chiefs'), the graves and royal residences of four Zulu kings, Shaka, Dingane, Mpande and Cetwayo, who ruled in succession from 1816 - 1884.

HLUHLUWE / IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE



3. Battlefields



- *Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift* are two of the most famous battlefields in the country. It was here that, in a 2-hour battle, **Zulu** forces armed primarily with traditional spears and shields thrashed the **British**. Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to those who defended Rorke's Drift.
- *Spioenkop*, is another interesting battlefield. **Winston Churchill** (a war correspondent), **Mahatma Gandhi** (a stretcher bearer, and **Louis Botha** who became the first prime minister of the Union of South Africa.



4. Pietermaritzburg & Midlands



- Pietermaritzburg is the capital of KwaZulu-Natal with many landmark colonial buildings. It is well known for the Comrades Marathon and the Dusi Canoe Marathon which take place annually, drawing people from around the world.
- Midmar Dam, near Howick, hosts the annual Midmar Mile swim, as well as other activities like sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, canoeing and boating.
- The Midlands is home to Howick Falls, Woodhouse falls and Karkloof falls. Activities in the area include: horse riding, hiking, swimming, biking, quad biking, fishing, and Karkloof Canopy Tour.
- The Meander winds past Midmar Dam and you can visit some 200 arts and crafts studios, country hotels, flower farms, herb gardens, potters, weavers, leatherworkers, shoemakers and home-industry outlets. Artisan food producers, homemade cheeses, craft beers, wine, artisan breads, smoked meats and preserves.
- This is also the location of the Nelson Mandela Capture site.



5. Drakensberg



- The uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park is one of KwaZulu-Natal's 2 World Heritage Sites. This one is part of the mountain range that stretches 1,600 kms from Limpopo to the Eastern Cape. It also protects cultural legacies of ancient rock art painted the San or Bushmen.
- 'uKhahlamba, means "Barrier of Spears". The early Dutch settlers called them the *Drakensberge* or 'Dragon Mountains'. Locals refer to it simply as the 'Berg'.
- The Berg is divided into 5 regions with many small towns in the foothills; Bergville and the Northern Drakensberg, Winterton and the Central Drakensberg, Himeville, Underberg and the Southern Drakensberg and then East Griqualand and uMzimkhulu.
- The Drakensberg Boys Choir School, is based in the central Berg. Other activities including white water rafting, helicopter flips, visiting vulture restaurants and the Falcon Ridge Birds of Prey Centre in Champaign Valley are also popular.
- Hiking and day trekking to explore caves containing more than 22 000 individually painted rock art.





6. North Coast



- *Sibaya Casino, Umdloti, King Shaka International Airport and the Zimbali estate and golf course. Small holiday towns of Ballito, Salt Rock, Umhlali, Tinley Manor and Zinkwazi.*
- *2 great South African leaders had their homes in this region and today lie buried here. King Shaka Zulu is buried near the town of Stanger (KwaDukuza), and Chief Albert Luthuli is buried nearby. Albert Luthuli was SA's first of 3 Nobel Peace Prize winners.*
- *Mount Moreland, which lies inland from Sibaya, is an established viewing site where you can go to observe an estimated 3 million barn swallows (13% of the world's population) making their way to roost in the wetland between November and April annually.*

7. Durban Metro



- Durban is best known for its swimming beaches, pedestrian promenade, Moses Mabhida stadium, uShaka Marine World aquarium - the 5th largest in the world, and great surf. Many world-renown surfing champions grew up in Durban
- Take a stroll, or rickshaw ride, out onto one of the six piers between Blue Lagoon and the Moyo Pier. See Durban's famous sand sculptures.
- Natural, green parks and gardens such as the Botanic Gardens, Mitchell Park and Zoo, the Beachwood Mangroves, and nature reserves such as Shongweni and Kenneth Stainbank within easy walking and driving distance.
- Durban also hosts annual events such as the Comrades Marathon, the Durban July Horse Race and Africa's Tourism Indaba.
- A few kms north of Durban is the town of Umhlanga Rocks, with its beautiful beaches, many hotels, restaurants and the Gateway Theatre of Shopping.



8. South Coast



- Stretches from *Amanzimtoti* in the north to *Port Edward* in the south.
- Activities revolve around the ocean, boat-based whale and dolphin watching trip, snorkel and scuba dive, surf, swim and catch fish, or just lie on the beach.
- The *Aliwal Shoal* off *Umkomaas* and *Scottborough*, and the *Protea Banks* off *Shelley Beach*, are rated as some of the top shark diving sites in the world. Diving with ragged tooth sharks is extremely popular, as is the cage diving option for the less experienced.
- Inland from *Port Shepstone* is the 27km, 400m deep *Oribi Gorge*. Great for walks, hikes, waterfalls and spectacular views. This is also the site of the world's highest natural commercial abseil, the world's highest bungee swing - an adrenaline rush from the top of *Lehr's Falls* into the gorge - a *Wild Slide* across the gorge, white water rafting, mountain biking and a suspension bridge to sway across a ravine.

