

Explore Kwa-Zulu Natal (Self Drive)



South Africa's Kwa Zulu Natal region contains two World Heritage Sites, the fascinating Zulu Battlefields and beautiful coastline as well as some lesser known game reserves for safaris. The area is rich in culture, history and scenery, making an ideal destination to explore. This is a sample self drive itinerary, which we can amend to suit different durations, routes and to reflect specific interests.

At Native Escapes, we select accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Southern Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. Because we have visited many of the accommodations, we can make personal recommendations according to budget levels. We have on-the-ground services by way of ground handlers, who provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. Our ground handlers' contact number will be included in your final documentation for you to contact should you require assistance during your trip.

We comply with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to *Native Escapes* in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709. We have testimonials on our website: visit <http://www.nativescapes.com/aboutus.html> for more information.

Day 1:

Depart London on your overnight flight to Johannesburg

Day 2:

Arrive Johannesburg, where you will be met and provided with your accommodation vouchers, driving directions, maps and supporting information, and assisted to your flight to Durban. On arrival in Durban, collect your hire vehicle (Group S: Hyundai Tucson or similar: comprehensive insurance included), and drive to your accommodation for 2 nights at a wonderful lodge in the southern Drakensberg Mountains for a 2 night stay on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis.

The Ukhahlamba Drakensberg National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site of, an area of breathtaking mountain scenery. The area is a hikers paradise offering routes that range from a few hours to several days.

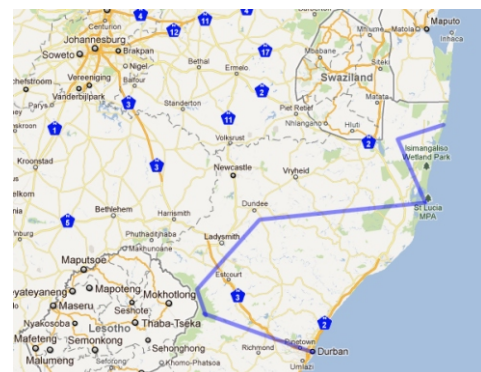
This lodge is situated in a truly romantic setting surrounded by mountains, creating a magical atmosphere. Excellent service supports the superb cuisine, and great care has been taken to create unique inspiring luxury accommodation. The Lounge and Pool Deck area offer panoramic views of the gardens and mountains, ideal to enjoy a late afternoon sunowner or to simply relax in the sun in one of the amazing hanging chairs or loungers. At night a Boma fire creates the perfect setting for star gazing. A well stocked wine cellar is on offer next to the dining and library area.

Take a scenic drive in an open game viewer to explore the magnificent view from on top of the mountain, while horse rides are available for the more energetic.

In the locality, explore the Rock Art at Kamberg, or superb hiking can be done on the Reserve.

Day 3:

Explore the local area.



Day 4

Today you drive through the magnificent scenery of the Drakensberg Mountains, to the northern Drakensbergs, for a 2 night stay in a lovely mountain lodge on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

Spend the afternoon and next day exploring the area on foot: there are hikes to the stunning Amphitheatre or hike to the Tugela Gorge the latter is an easy 14km hike, which includes views of the famous sheet rock face of the 'Amphitheatre' (an 8km wall of cliff and canyon) and the Tugela waterfall which plummets 948m in five clear leaps. Other activities are available.

Day 5

This morning you have an early start for a drive to the Battlefields area, for a 2 night stay at Fugitives Drift Lodge on a full board basis.

Accommodation here is in luxurious cottages; the rooms are spacious and have baths as well as showers with private verandah looking out over the tranquil gardens to the reserve. There is a large swimming-pool and horse-riding is a favourite activity on the reserve. The lovely, shady garden attracts a variety of birds.

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The reserve contains wildlife including giraffe, zebra, kudu, hartebeest, wildebeest, waterbuck and a host of smaller antelope, as well as prolific bird life. The main activity in the area is a tour of the Battlefields. In January 1879, 139 British soldiers successfully defended a small mission station against 4,000 Zulu warriors. This defeat, however, was only after the Zulus had virtually wiped out the British forces at Isandlwana. We highly recommend taking a half or full day tour with a local guide to learn more about this unique piece of Zulu history.

Day 6

At the Battlefields

Day 7

Today you drive on to St Lucia, where you will spend the next three nights at a guesthouse Lodge on a bed & breakfast basis.

The village of St Lucia is uniquely situated in a World Heritage Site, an area renowned for its outstanding natural beauty and diversity in eco systems. There are a number of activity options including a marine mammal experience, deep sea fishing, night game drives, a local village tour, horse riding or golf.

Days 8 & 9

In St Lucia

Day 10

Today you continue your drive to Thanda Game Reserve for a 2 night stay in a villa on a full board basis, including activities.

Situated in the privately owned 220 square kilometre Zululand Rhino Reserve, this chic style lodge has 8 sumptuous guest villas each with private deck and pool, complemented by lavish public areas. The reserve is known for sightings of the Big 5, cheetahs, hyena and wild dogs among others.

Activities are morning and evening game drives in open Land Rovers. The lodge also offers guided bush walks, and night walks at full moon. Other activities that can be arranged here are horse riding on the beach, diving and snorkelling and whale watching (seasonal).

Day 11

On Safari

Days 12 -16

Today you depart Thanda and head north to the Coastal Cashews, where you drop your vehicle and are transferred to Rocktail Beach Camp for a 3 night stay in a chalet on a full board basis, including activities.

Rocktail Beach Camp is located at the current Rocktail Dive Centre. The diving is conducted within a Reserve and World Heritage Site along unspoiled reefs and guests at Rocktail have the luxury of knowing that they alone have access to the sites along this stretch of the coastline.

The camp consists of 17 en-suite rooms featuring indoor showers and overhead fans. The wildlife is fascinating and days can be spent simply relaxing on one of the empty beaches or exploring the surrounding national reserves with the expert guides from the camp. Activities are numerous and include snorkelling, fishing, quad biking, stargazing and walks. Salt water fly-fishing, trips to Black Rock and Lake Sibaya to see the hippo are arranged daily.

Activities at an additional charge include scuba diving (including PADI courses), excursions to Black Rock (60-foot fossilised sand dune with spectacular views), riding, Sangoma (traditional herbalist) cultural visits, Zulu dancing, quad-biking and star-gazing.

Day 16

Today you return to Richards Bay Airport, where you drop off your hire vehicle in time for your return flight to Johannesburg, connecting in with your flight to London.

Day 17

Arrive London

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please ensure the following:-

Your passports are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below).

You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication.

You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas

Not required for South Africa, Namibia or Botswana. Visas are not required for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel.

Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

Health

The [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int/en/) (http://www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for hepatitis B.

Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended by the [Centres for Disease Control & Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (www.cdc.gov) for travel in South Africa. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be Recommended.

All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance

As part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is **essential** that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

We fully recommend that clients take out insurance at the time of booking to cover any cancellation charges