



DURBAN and surrounds



Lapped by the Indian Ocean with warm year-round swimming, sun tanning and surfing, Durban is the third largest city in the country with the largest port in Africa. Lying between the sunny beaches of the South Coast and the game parks of Zululand, it is the gateway to the Kingdom of Zululand and the majestic Drakensberg Mountains.

Here East meets West, First World meets Third, and Zulu, English and Indian cultures rub shoulders in spicy architectural juxtapositions that are sandwiched between vibrant markets, the Golden Mile and sprawling townships.

uShaka Marine World
 The largest marine world in Africa is jam-packed with designer shops, eateries, extreme water slides and a vast aquarium.

getting around



AROUNDABOUTCARS - CAR HIRE SOUTH AFRICA

Share call number: 0860 HIRE CAR or 0860 447 3222

After Hours: 084 422 4022 info@aroundaboutcars.com

www.aroundaboutcars.com What! Me? Pee against that!

In Durbs, you can tell a lot about someone from the car they drive ... what they do, how old they are, where they live...

AMANZIMTOTI: surf stickers cover the car which is more rust than paint, 6 tanned bodies inside, 6 bodyboards outside.

UMHLANGA: huge, shiny, own internal climate, person on a cell in the driver's seat (not necessarily driving).

BEREA: off-road/armed forces/monster-truck with baby-on-board stickers, cereal and milk stains on the side windows.

CHATSWORTH: tinted windows, fins, mags, airbrushed flames and low-level flying.



To find an AroundAbout car perfectly suited to you, see page 18.



shuttles • tours • events



I'll fix that darn mole for once and all...



GOLF GOT YOU SOUTH AFRICA

Central Drakensberg, POBox 383, Winterton, 3340

Tel: 036 488 7255

Cell: 084 581 6492

fiona@golfgotyoub.com

www.golfgotyoub.com

A member of SATSA and KZN Tourism, this registered tour company is based in the Central Drakensberg. Their shuttle service operates in and around the Drakensberg, picking up at Johannesburg and Durban airports as well as other places by arrangement. So if you need a ride into the Berg, voila! They transport both individuals and groups, hire out coaches and shuttles, and offer accommodation in the Berg. Golf Got You also organises events and team building and are experts on South Africa's glorious golf courses. Duh!

adventure



CALYPSO DIVE AND ADVENTURE CENTRE

POBox 11500, Marine Parade, Durban, 4056

Shop K8, uShaka Marine World's Village Walk

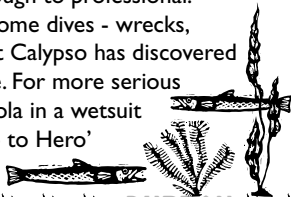
Tel: 031 332 0905

Fax: 086 604 9421

info@calypsoushaka.co.za

www.calypsoushaka.co.za

Take the plunge and join your fishy friends on a scuba dive at the uShaka Marine World. Hooked? Do a course at the PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Centre who run scuba courses ranging from entry level all the way through to professional. You'll be able to explore Durban's awesome dives - wrecks, caves, offshore reefs and even more that Calypso has discovered during their exploration of the coastline. For more serious water-babies who dream of earning moola in a wetsuit and mask, there's a 6 month 'From Zero to Hero' career development course.



MARULA TOURS

info@marulatours.com www.marulatours.com

Spend 2 days and 1 night in Zululand with Marula Tours. This tour leaves from Durban and includes a 6 hour game drive in Hluhluwe, where the Big Five roam, and a two hour cruise on St Lucia estuary which is just the spot to encounter hippos and crocs. Stay in a Zulu homestead, take a 2 hour community walk with a local guide and learn about Zulu culture. A traditional meal and dancing are included in the price of R1 800pp.



Marula also offer self-drive safaris in Namibia and SA, and thanks to their expert advice, travellers can enjoy the freedom of independent, informed travel.

SKYDIVE DURBAN

Pietermaritzburg (Oribi) Airport

Cell: 072 214 6040

Fax: 086 696 4178

vernon@skydivedurban.co.za

www.skydive-tandem.co.za

Bald guys never have
a bad hair day.



Take a leap of faith from a plane cruising 10 000ft above mother earth. There's no need to meet your maker though, as you'll be safely strapped to a qualified cord puller/parachute lander/experienced tandem instructor.

First there's the ground briefing and a 25 minute plane ride over Maritzburg's incredible scenery, then there's freefalling (all 35 long seconds of it) and after that a fab bit of floating, a spot of solo flying and then a massive measure of adrenaline rushing. A post-jump snack and braai will let you land back into your body.



Jump R1250; DVD R400.

TEKWENI ECOTOURS

222 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Durban Central, 4001

Tel: 031 332 0575

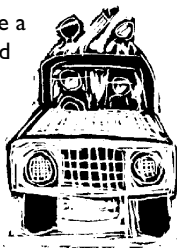
Cell: 082 303 9112

info@tekweniecotours.co.za

pershia@telkomsa.net

www.tekweniecotours.co.za

Established 15 years ago, Tekweni Ecotours have a proven track record and their cost effective and affordable tours offer real value for money. They specialise in tours to KwaZulu Natal's World Heritage sites, the Drakensberg and St Lucia Wetlands, and to the Hluhluwe/iMfolozi Game Reserve. Experience the tranquillity and beauty of the mountains or enjoy the thrill of seeing the Big Five, crocodiles, hippos and a



host of other animals in their natural habitat.



Their Face to Face tour visits rural Zulu villages in the majestic Valley of a Thousand Hills and takes you to the Inanda Dam where you have an opportunity to meet and talk to the local community, and share a real African experience. Every tour is different as each is influenced by what is happening at the time. Explore Durban, her main attractions and her highlights on their Durban City Explorer day tour.

Prices include entrance fees, accommodation where applicable, meals and transport. If possible they will customise tours to suit your requirements.

Trips can last anything from one to several days.

They also offer airport transfers and regional and national transfers.



You know it's going to be a bad day when you want to put on the clothes you wore home from the party and there aren't any.

AFRICAN SUNRISE

On Inanda Road,

11,5km east of Hillcrest village centre

Tel O/H: 031 776 4667

Tel:A/H: 031 776 3059

Cell O/H: 073 225 6331

africansunrise@tiscali.co.za

www.africansunrise.mobi

GPS: 29° 44' 12.41S 30° 50' 35.42E



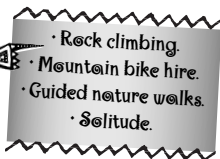
places to stay




Situated 35km out of Durban on 20 acres of lush farmland that leads down to a stream,

this coffee farm borders the Valley of 1000 Hills.

Get paid to harvest coffee beans from April - July, and then let the large colourful rooms, country peace, huge leafy garden and creature comforts become home for a while.



 Dorms from R85; Doubles/Twins from R280; Cottage R390; Camping R45. Please book ahead.

BANANA BACKPACKERS

1st Floor, Ambassador House

Cnr Pine and Prince Alfred Roads, Durban, 4000

Tel: 031 368 4062

Cell: 072 312 1695

tony@bananabackpackers.co.za

Walk down Pine Street towards the sea. Entrance is on corner.



Close to a mall, the city centre, its nightlife, highlife and denizens, Bananas has a bar, internet, DSTV, laundry service and a large kitchen. Jump aboard their shuttle and go to the Sun Coast Casino, uShaka Marine World and the beachfront, or ask them to book you a safari, tour or a rental car.

They have 24 hour security and a safe for your valuables.

 Dorms R80; Doubles/Triples from R210.

Weekly, monthly and group rates. Breakfast on request.

Airport shuttle drop point R30. Baz Bus agent.



AGAPE BACKPACKERS

60 Marine Drive, Bluff, Durban, 4052

Tel/Fax: 031 466 3960 Cell: 083 272 2830

agapebackpackers@absamail.co.za

<http://agapelodges.kwazulunatal.com>

From M4 South: Take Bluff/Edwin Swales turn-off. Follow 'beach' signs to Marine Drive.

Run by great people, this intimate place (just 10 minutes from the airport) is ideal for anyone looking for a little time out.

For starters, each cabin has delish air-conditioning and crisp bedding.

What's more, you can step out of your bedroom door and into the gorgeous rock swimming pool (ok, it's four steps not one), or

enjoy the soothing waterfall from the shade of the surfer-style pub while chatting over a beer or a cup of bottomless coffee.

(Anyone ever finish a cup of

bottomless coffee?) All Agape's other facilities (including the kitchen, laundry and a sheltered rooftop entertainment area) are in a separate building with awesome sea views.

Agape is just minutes from the famous Cave Rock surf break and a beach with enticing warm water. It's also just a 20 minute bus ride from Durban's city centre and its fab nightlife.

Psst. If you're here around October/November, it's a great spot for whale and dolphin watching.

🦋 Dorms R85; Doubles R190.

Baz Bus stop. Internet.

Secure lock-up parking. DSTV.

Laundry.

CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR THINGS TO DO:

Visit uShaka Island.

Swing over Oribi Gorge.

Tour game reserves.

Horse rides.

Golf.

Deep-sea fishing.

Scuba diving.

Do a boat trip with the

Natal Sharks Board.

Watch whales, dolphins and sharks.



Life is anything that dies when you stomp on it.

ANSTEYS BEACH BACKPACKERS INTERNATIONAL

477 Marine Drive, Bluff, Durban, 4052

Tel: 031 467 1192

Cell: 082 265 5574

ansteysbeach@mweb.co.za

www.ansteysbeach.co.za

From the M4 South: Take Bluff/Edwin Swales turn-off. Follow "Beach" signs. Look for sign on Ansteys Road/Foreshore Drive.



Run by the friendly Palmboom family and staff, the newly renovated Ansteys is situated a mere stone's throw from the Bluff's Blue Flag beach.

With warm water, consistent surf (Cave Rock is a short walk away), protected beaches, lifeguards and a comfy bed to plop into at the end of the day, guests often end up staying longer than they'd intended. Add a warm welcome and great atmosphere and it's hardly surprising that they often come back for more.

Ansteys is close to the city and airport, with Durb's rocking nightlife a short drive away. Party animals can club together and order a taxi for a hassle-free night out, while stay-at-homers can sip sundowners on the viewing deck or hang out at the beach restaurant across the road.

All in all, it adds up to a groovy and laid-back holiday.

 Dorms R85;

Doubles/Twins from R200; Self-catering flats from R300; Camping R40. Baz Bus stop. Safe parking.

Lock up safe. Internet café. Moola Magic discount.



It's funny the way most people love the dead.
Once you're dead, you're made for life. Hendrix.

HAPPY HIPPO ACCOMMODATION

222 Mahatma Ghandi Road (Point Road),
Durban Central, Durban, 4001

Tel: 031 368 7181/7196 Fax: 031 368 7196

info@happy-hippo.info www.happy-hippo.co.za

Follow uShaka Marine World signs on Mahatma Ghandi Road.

Cross Bell Street. 2nd building on left, next to the Engen Garage.



Durban's first purpose-built backpacker, The Happy Hippo, lives up to its name (and its purpose). Meticulously planned thanks to years of experience at her sister lodge the Hippo Hide, the Happy Hippo

is the next step up on the backpacking ladder.

Located near the docks on the fringes of a glitzy waterfront, you can walk in and say hi to the happy hippo crew. Feed the monster hippo guarding the reception something sweet for good luck and then sashay up the stairs to the enormous lounge with its ever-so-elegant couches and dangling lights. Then drop in on The Globe, their rooftop bar, and order a long cold cocktail while you wallow in the sexy view of the city skyline and all its twinkling lights.




There's a wireless broadband

internet café for laptop babes blogging their way around the global village. An in-house safari centre. A booking desk.

Truck-loads of indoor parking. A super kitchen. Super duper

rooms. And one of Durban's golden beaches is only 500m away...

Hey shoo wow!

 Dorms R90; Twins/Doubles R230; En suite R300;

Triples R300; Singles R200; En suite family room (sleeps 4)

R500. Prices subject to change. AroundAboutCars discount.

BSA. Baz Bus stop. Secure parking. Laundry. Safe keeping.

HIPPO HIDE LODGE AND BACKPACKERS

2 Jesmond Road, Berea, Durban, 4001

Tel/Fax: 031 207 4366

Cell: 072 132 9100

info@hippohide.co.za

www.hippohide.co.za

From M4: Right into Argyle. Left into Ridge. Right into Julia.

From N2 S: Left into Moore. Right into Manning (becomes Essenwood). Left into St Thomas. Right into Ridge. Left into Julia.




They're under a hippo-craftic oath to bring you a friendly, helpful, comfy, cultural and sociable backpacking experience...

Close to town, Hippo Hide oozes style and stay-a-few-extra-days comfort. The tropical garden conceals doubles and singles located in private wooden huts. There's also an en suite dorm. The bar overlooks an exotic rock pool that is ideal for lazy wallowing, sun worshipping and

sundowners (just keep an eye open for rampant hippos while you wiggle your toes in the water!).

Hippo Hide's efficient info desk prides itself on giving accurate information and organises anything from a cheap taxi to day and overland trips, car hire, scuba diving and activities around KwaZulu Natal and South Africa.

The entertainment area with its thatched gazebo has an all-weather pizza and braai oven and is just right for a social brew or two. Missing home? Buy someone a present at the dinky curio shop or get your fingers flying on the keyboard at their broadband internet café.

 Dorms R85; Doubles/Twins R200; En suite R280; Singles R170. Prices subject to change. Monthly rates on request. AroundAboutCars discount. Baz Bus stop. Secure parking. Laundry. BSA.

A cat knows your every thought.
It doesn't care. But it knows.



HOME BACKPACKERS

34 Alcock Crescent, Berea, Durban, 4001

Tel: 031 208 9522 Cell: 072 596 5999

info@homebackpackers.co.za

www.homebackpackers.co.za

Follow P/maritzburg signs from town.

Take the Berea/Tollgate turn-off. Turn right over bridge.

Left into Seaforth. Left into Oakleigh. Left into Alcock.



Does your home have a swimming pool in the front garden and a popcorn machine at the front door? Bet you a bag of free popcorn it doesn't. Drop your pack and have a munch, then decide whether to make yourself at home with your brothas and sistas in the spacious dorm or a private room if that suits you better.

No matter what zed zone you choose though, staying here is bound to be a homely experience - right down to Sithembile who cooks a traditional Zulu meal on request.

If you're into independence, cook up a storm in their sunny kitchen, help yourself to tea and coffee and then wash your own dishes. Tee hee. Have a chat to Nicky Chovuchovu, the resident



expressionist painter who has a studio here. Who knows, you may leave with a piece of artwork tucked under one arm (and a tub of popcorn under the other.)

Home is close to markets, shops, restaurants and the city, and Durban's golden beaches are just minutes away by bus or car. They run a shuttle service, and can book tours, day trips and car rentals.

🦋 Dorms R85; Doubles/Twins R185; En suite R250.

Free 7th night and pick up (book in advance).

Baz Bus stop. DSTV. Internet. Bar. Braai.

Laundry. Secure parking. Lock up safe. BSA.



Never buy a car
you can't push

NOMADS BACKPACKERS

70 Essenwood Road, Berea, Durban, 4001

Tel/Fax: 031 202 9709

Cell: 082 920 5882

nomadsbp@mweb.co.za

www.nomadsbp.com

From N3: Take Berea Road turn-off. 1st left into Essenwood.

From N2 South: Take Moore Road. Turn right into Manning, becomes Essenwood. From M4 North: Take Argyle Road.

Left into Musgrave. Right at Berea Road. Right into Essenwood.

Situated minutes away from pubs, restaurants, movies and shops, Nomads is a friendly, homely spot run by Paul and Leigh. After 12 years of being in the business, they promise to provide efficient service in a welcoming atmosphere. So pull in, park off and pick their brains, 'cos they will go all out to help you with travel info and answer all your questions.

While you're chilling around the pool or hanging out at the Bambooza Bar you'll more than likely make a bunch of new friends, experience some memorable moments and have fun...

Nomads offers all the usual facilities that a traveller needs.

The bar, pool table and swimming pool are located in the original house whilst the second house has large, comfortable doubles and fans in all the rooms.

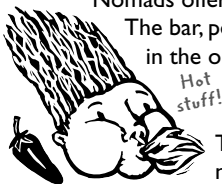
They offer meals and African and Indian theme nights to tempt your taste buds.

 Dorms R85 - R90; Doubles/Twins R200 - R240;

En suite R250 - R300; Triple R300. Moola Magic discount.

Baz Bus stop. City centre pick up. Internet. Secure parking.

Laundry. Linen. All meals. VIP. BSA.



One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is always making exciting discoveries.



ON THE BEACH

17 The Promenade, Glenashley, Durban, 405 1

Tel: 031 562 1591 onthebeach@telkomsa.net

Phone for directions or log onto www.durbanbackpackers.com

The warm Indian Ocean crashes onto a golden beach a mere seaspray away from these affordable luxurious en suite rooms that have a perfect sea view. Tea, coffee and TV (yup) are to hand. Hopefully the other hand is holding someone else's hand.



The small air-conditioned en suite dorms are next to the swimming pool and they are a 10 minute drive from the city centre and within walking distance of the La Lucia Mall and several fine restaurants.



☛ Self-catering. Internet. Secure parking.
Rates include a healthy breakfast. Baz Bus stop.

SMITHS COTTAGE

5 Mount Argus Road, Umgeni Heights, Durban, 405 1

Tel/Fax: 031 564 6313

Cell: 083 630 5038

smithscottage@telkomsa.net www.smithscottage.8m.com

This family run lodge is an easy 5 minute drive from town, beaches, the ICC and all major tourist and sporting attractions. Serviced daily, it's cosy and relaxed, with lots of home comforts. They boast a tropical garden with sparkling pool and sheltered braai* area, run a shuttle and do city and cultural trips. Monday is potjie* night.



1 free trip daily
to the beach.

☛ Dorms R85; Doubles from R220;
Self-catering cottage (sleeps 4 - 6) from R500.
Baz Bus stop. Secure parking. Laundry.
Self-catering kitchen. Internet. Airport transfers.



If procrastinators had a club, would they have a meeting?

TEKWENI BACKPACKERS HOSTEL

169 Ninth Avenue, Morningside, Durban, 4001

Tel: 031 303 1433

Info Centre: 031 303 1199

info@tekwenibackpackers.co.za

www.tekwenibackpackers.co.za

Situated in the trendy Florida Road area with its cosmopolitan vibe, street cafés, globetrotting restaurants, pubs, clubs and funky ambience, Tekweni lives up to its motto "Tekweni goes off."



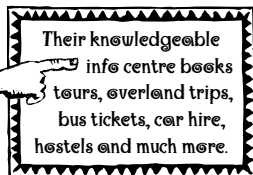
Chances are you won't get away without at least one good party...

Durban's first hostel, Tekweni is well run by passionate staff and plenty happens here.

Whether it's an everyone-join-in-braai, a bunny chow* night, a mad knocking back of shooters with crazy names, or cheering on your favourite sports team at the poolside bar, there's a

constant hum of activity...

If you need a bit of quiet, there are abundant private rooms and the two neighbouring houses offer a more mellow vibe. So go and re-charge, then when you're ready, come back for more.



☛ Dorms from R85; Doubles from R260; Singles from R180; Triples and quads R100pp. Monthly rates on request. Internet. Satellite TV. Sports bar. Hair salon. Braai nights Tues, Thurs, Sunday. Baz Bus stop. Secure off-street parking. Swimming pool.

Some women hold up dresses that are so ugly and they always say the same thing: "This looks much better on." On what? On fire?



SURF N DREAMS

110 Springfield Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001

Tel/Fax: 031 208 0708


Cell: 083 227 2083

info@surfdreams.co.za

www.surfdreams.co.za

Pack your baggies for this cool surf lodge situated a hop, skip and surf away from funky Florida Road and its trendy eateries, clubs and bars. Can't surf? No problem. They can hook you up with surf and kite surfing lessons. Can surf? Do. Then chill between surfs right here, with the pool table, darts, DSTV lounge, wireless internet and swimming pool. When the sun has set, gather for a high five at Steamers Cove, the lodge's vibey entertainment area and get ready for a night on the town.



 Dorms R110; Doubles R290.

*If carrots get you drunk
rabbits would be messed up.*

CANE CUTTERS

Starr and Polkinghorn Farm

Sheffield, near Ballito

Tel: 032 947 0851

Fax: 032 947 0855

stay@canecuttersresort.co.za

www.canecuttersresort.co.za

From N2: Take Salt Rock (exit 214) turn-off. Follow signs to Salt Rock (500m). Turn left at Sheffield Beach and follow signs.



North Coast




Cane



Set on a working sugar cane farm close to Ballito, these original cane cutters cottages have been revamped into comfortable rooms. Visit their unspoilt private beach and lagoon, quad or mountain bike and walk in nature.

Facilities include a swimming pool, boma, volleyball court, trampoline, pool table, ping-pong, ADSL, big screen sports, a restaurant and a pub.

 Dorms from R100; En suite doubles R300.



THE SECRET SPOT

Main Road, Shaka's Rock

Cell: 082 495 9811 or 073 562 9278

info@secretspot.co.za

www.secretspot.co.za

From N2 North: Take Shaka's Rock off-ramp (±30 minutes from Durban). Head 2.5km towards beach. They are on the right.

The Secret Spot has been kept a Top Secret for three years now, and although they are still hidden away between the trees above Shaka's Rock beach, the cat's finally out of the bag.

Yup, the beans have been spilt and it's now a popular stop with surfers and travellers alike.

That said, you still have to know the ...ssh... secret to get in.



Their immaculate garden is a haven for wooden cabins, cottages, luxury safari tents, a swimming pool and a zooty cocktail bar.

Once you've cracked the code, you'll be met by a bunch of happy people, and surfers will think they've died and gone to heaven when they meet this lot.

Their daughter is doing the world circuit, Bongi is an international surfing judge and Mike has a fully kitted shaping

bay. But there's even life beyond waves...

Bongi will introduce you to Zulu village culture and nearby game reserves overflow with feathered, clawed, horned and hooved beasts. Day done, return to a home-cooked meal, a pizza or some lip-smacking Mozambican peri-peri chicken.



 Dorms R90; Doubles from R240; Tented units R210.



Whenever I date a guy, I think, is this the man I want my children to spend their weekends with?

