

THE MIDLANDS

See the map on page 117
to check out the area.



Halfway between here and there, the Midlands lies between the dramatic mountains of the Drakensberg and the bloody battlefields of KwaZulu Natal.



Turn your back on the two and get ready to meander, stop, shop, try, taste and gaze. Shops packed with antiques, arts, crafts and studios-in-action all await, while tea shops, cafés and restaurants lurk around every bend, offering tantalising menus and the opportunity to stop and re-plan your order, erm, I mean route.

SOMETHING'S BREWING



There are nine micro breweries in KwaZulu Natal. They include the Firkin Brew Pub near Westville, the Nottingham Road Brewery in the Midlands, Farmers Brewery near Dundee, Wartburg Hof Breweries and the Zululand Brewing Company in Eshowe.



KARKLOOF CANOPY TOURS

Karkloof Road, POBox 138, Howick, 3290

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Cell: 083 228 8092

info@karkloofcanopytour.co.za

www.karkloofcanopytour.co.za



adventure



This is one of Africa's largest canopy tours. So go and play Tarzan and Jane. With aerial slides of up to 175 meters this trip offers

an unforgettable experience with spectacular views. Their guides will get you safely harnessed and onto steel cables and then set you off to glide through the serene, indigenous forest with its birds, monkeys, trees and plants for a few soul-feeding hours.

TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!

1km long foofie slide
through a forest.

R395 includes lunch, snacks, guides, equipment and a 4x4 trip.

Tours last 2 - 2.5 hours.



PIETERMARITZBURG



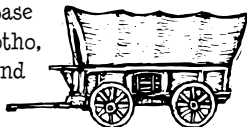
Named by the Boers in recognition of two leaders - Piet Retief and Gert Maritz -

who fought in the battle against the Zulus, and just 80km from Durban, this is the capital city of KwaZulu Natal. The city, famous for its beautiful gardens and shady tree-lined streets has a rich history and wonderful colonial architecture.

The famous three day Duzi Canoe Marathon to Durban starts here.



It makes a great base for exploring Lesotho, the Drakensberg and the Battlefields.



House guarded by shotgun 3 days a week. Guess which days.



PRINCE ALFRED STREET BACKPACKERS

312 Prince Alfred Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 345 7045

Fax: 086 631 7076

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chauncey@worldonline.co.za

www.chauncey.co.za



Looken' for me gold, are ya' now?

Slide down the rainbow into this pot of gay-friendly gold. Located in a 100 year old Victorian house, this cosy, comfy and creative haven is a real treat. Enjoy breakfast in the enchanting garden before you head off to explore the historic town. Back home, pop the cherry on the top and indulge in one of their chandelier-lit dinners before slipping between the sheets and into sweet dreams. Mmm. A sensuous slumber-land this.



• Singles R100; Single en suite R120; Doubles R200; Double en suite R240. Baz Bus stop. Laundry. Internet. BSA.

SLEEPY HOLLOW ADVENTURE BACKPACKERS

80 Leinster Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 342 1758

Cell: 082 561 5660


info@wylderide.co.za

www.wylderide.co.za

From N3: Take New England Road off-ramp toward city centre. Left at 3rd traffic light. Through 4th traffic light into Leinster Road.



This place simply doesn't live up to its name. Nope. Here, you're more likely to trip over a bicycle or some crampons than find anyone snoozing - despite a few places perfect for a spot of relaxing. So don't stand around doing nothing or you'll find yourself signed up for a spot of white water rafting or abseiling before you're able to say "yawn". Book a long cycle holiday or a short city tour here.

 Dorms R80; Doubles R300; Camping R45.

Money can't buy poverty.

uMPHITI BACKPACKERS AND ADVENTURE TOURISM

317 Bulwer Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 394 3490

Cell: 083 991 1353


umphiti@mweb.co.za

www.umphiti.co.za

From N3: Take New England Road exit towards city. Pass Casino. Keep right, after sports fields left into Bulwer. From bus stop on Chief Albert Luthuli: Head towards Scooters Pizza. 1st left. Right into Miller, left into Bulwer.



The fact that uMphiti is a beautiful red brick, high-ceilinged, brightly painted house with no-bunk dorms (woo hoo!) sounds like reason enough to stay. But even if it wasn't, it would be worth it just for Kelvin's kick-ass kitchen creations.

 Dorms R90; Doubles R220;

Single R160; Camping R60. Breakfast included. Baz Bus stop.



It is a mistake to think you can solve any major problems with potatoes.





THE BATTLEFIELDS

Here, ancient sights were replaced by battle cries as first the Zulus inflicted their power and cruelty in their attempts to dominate the region. This was followed by the greed of colonisation when Britain took on the Zulu. Then came the Boer war, the Second World War and finally, Apartheid. And so the country from Isandlwana to Rourke's Drift, Mafeking to Ladysmith, Soweto to Robben Island, resounds with battle cries. Plot your route and plan your visits and it's possible to follow the sounds of battle to any front...



BBI (BATTLEFIELDS BACKPACKERS INTERNATIONAL)

90 Victoria Street, POBox 633, Dundee, 3000

Tel/Fax: 034 212 4040 Cell: 079 534 3295

battlepackers@telkomsa.net

www.bbibackpackers.co.za

A 5 minute stroll from the town centre, this friendly little lodge (with its four-legged welcoming committee) lies midway between Durban and Jo'burg, close to the Battlefields and the Berg and en route to KZN game reserves and the St Lucia Wetlands. Moira greets new arrivals with a free ice-cold drink, while Evan, Battlefield specialist and tour guide, offers discounted trips to guests. BBI has a kitchen, braai and reading lounge.



• Dorms R90; Doubles/Twins R210; Camping R50.
Towels. Off-street parking. Internet.
Baz Bus and Greyhound transfers.

The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon,
but that we wait so long to begin it.

