

DRAKENSBERG

As the crow flies from Southern to Northern Berg.

The Berg is a bit like a magician's cloak. You put it on and suddenly you see the world differently. Bits of sorcery spill over into the most unexpected corners and before you know it, you're the world's most amazing wizard and whizzing through the universe on the magic carpet of your mind. You notice the detail in the weave of rock, smell the fat clouds, taste the fresh mountain air and start breathing in your soul. And the longer you stay, the less you want to leave.



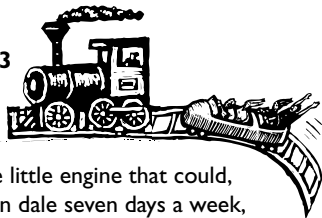
An amazing 120 of 200 plant orders known on earth are found in the Berg.

Spend your winter in the mountains where days are bright and sunny.



getting around

UNDERBERG EXPRESS
POBox 897, Underberg, 3257
Cell: 079 696 7108 / 082 408 9503
info@underbergexpress.co.za
www.underbergexpress.co.za



It's not a choo-choo, but, just like the little engine that could, these microbuses go up hill and down dale seven days a week, all over the Southern Drakensberg en route to Lesotho. They'll take you in comfort to wherever you want. From Bulwer to Sani Pass, Howick to Himeville, Durban airport to Underberg, Kokstad to Underberg. Not to mention all the bits in between. The drivers are friendly, knowledgeable and professional, and their competitive rates are a bonus. What's more, you can buy snacks on the journey to keep the wolf from the door.





DRAKENSBERG

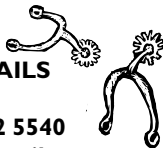
MIDLANDS MEANDER
AND BATTLEFIELDS

LESOTHO

I recently took up ice sculpting. Last night I made an ice cube.
This morning I made 12. I was prolific.



SOUTHERN BERG



KHOTSO BACKPACKERS AND HORSE TRAILS

Khotso Farm, POBox 19, Underberg, 3257

Tel/Fax: 033 701 1502

Cell: 082 412 5540

khotsotrails@futurenet.co.za www.khotsotrails.co.za

Drive through Underberg. Turn right onto

Drakensberg Gardens Road. 6km. Turn right at sign. 1km.

Yeehaa!

Khotso means peace in South Sotho



Crazy Steve (who can cook now) and his Khotso team are rearin' to go. Sooooo if you ever wanted to experience life on a 3 000 acre ranch, pull in. This is your lucky day.

That's right folks, the old Khotso farmhouse has been turned into the rootin'-ist, tootin'-ist hostel for cowboys and cowgirls alike, with loads of space for all y'all.

It's also a jammin' place from which to start a Lesotho pony trek or go riding at the ranch.

Chill out in the garden, say hi to Simon the horse when he walks into the kitchen, watch the stars at night, then move inside and snuggle up in front of the big ol' log fire with some Ol' Brown Sherry and you'll be singin' sweet songs in no time.

Throw in yummy farm cooking on a coal stove, and tea or coffee in bed in the morning and you've just got to ask yourself one question: "Do I feel lucky?" Well, do ya?

- Dorms R90; Doubles R220;
- Rondavels R150pp; Camping R50.
- Baz Bus shuttle from Howick, Pietermaritzburg and Kokstad.
- Shuttle to Durban.
- Internet. Laundry.

Take a peek at their
Lesotho lodge on page 197.



Trips to Sani Pass.
River tubing.
White water
rafting in season.

SANI LODGE BACKPACKERS

POBox 485, Underberg, 3257

Tel: 033 702 0330

Cell: 083 566 1997

info@sanilodge.co.za www.sanilodge.co.za

10.5km down the Sani Pass Road, on left.



Drakensberg Adventures offer horse riding, guided overnight hikes, Rock Art tours, rafting and i-5 action packed days in Lesotho (see page 290).

Established in 1992 on a farm bordering a World Heritage Site, Sani Lodge is surrounded by the awesome Drakensberg Mountains and run by original owners Simone and Russell (author of

"A Backpacker's Guide to Lesotho"). It's a homely place in which to kick off your shoes

SPECIAL PACKAGES

Essential Drakensberg
3 nights - R875

Hikers Heaven 4 nights - R1060

Price includes dorm bed, meals and tours - unbeatable value!

and soak your soul in tranquility

while you revel in the superb views from the veranda - the meeting place for friendly chatter, sundowners and stargazing. The

cosy lounge has a fireplace and a well-stocked reading room.

Lashings of rural charm, a laid-back vibe, a cool dip pool, tasty meals, famous chocolate cake, Josie the cow's free farm milk and home-made yoghurt all ensure a memorable stay.

with her divine yoghurt,
Josie the cow really stands
out from the crowd



☛ Dorms R80; Doubles R100pp; En suite heated rondavels R130pp; Self-catering cottages R150pp; Camping R50.

Rooms serviced daily. Baz Bus link in Kokstad. Daily transfer from Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Internet café. Laundry. Moola Magic/AroundAboutCars discount. BSA.

DRAKENSBERG INTERNATIONAL BACKPACKERS

21 Highmoor Road, Grace Valley

POBox 11334, Kamberg, 3300

Tel: 033 267 7241

Cell: 082 884 8383

info@dragonflylodge.co.za www.dragonflylodge.co.za

From Rosetta: Take Kamberg turn off. After 35km, left into Highmoor Road. 4km. Left to Grace Valley.



Nestled in rolling farmland in a world heritage site at the foot of the towering peaks of Giant's Castle lies a lodge renowned for its hospitality and great home-made meals. Grab a pew at the campfire, listen to the eerie calls of jackals, and tell tales of exploration in the Central Drakensberg.



Dorms R90; Doubles R250;

Log Cabins R250 - R290; Camping R60.

In Italy you throw coins in fountains. Here you throw bones with a rangoma who'll tell you if you'll return.

GLENGARRY

Highmoor Rd, Kamberg, POBox 11202, Mooi River, 3300

Tel: 033 267 7225

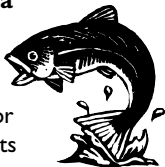
Cell: 082 783 3445

info@glengarry.co.za

www.glengarry.co.za

N3 into Nottingham Road. R103 to Rosetta.

Left onto Kamberg Road. 31km on tar road.



If trout fishing is your thing, then this is the place for you. So choose from well-equipped individual chalets or comfortable campsites and then cast your line into their river or well-stocked dam.

If you can't tell a fly from a bit of fluff, there's a 9 hole golf course, a secluded river for tubing or swimming and hiking or mountain biking in the Drakensberg in which to indulge.



En suite doubles R300; En suite 4-bed chalet R550;

Camping R55. Laundry. DSTV.



"Caution: Remove infant before folding for storage." - Warning on pram.

CENTRAL BERG

INKOSANA LODGE AND TREKKING

On the R600 below Champagne Castle

Tel/Fax: 036 468 1202

inkosana@inkosana.co.za www.inkosana.co.za



Inkosana Lodge has been around for 22 years, and like a good wine, it only improves with age. Surrounded by an inspiring indigenous garden, the mountains of the Little Berg and the towering peaks of Champagne Castle and Cathkin, we think the lodge is one of South Africa's best...


The rooms are spacious, airy and attractively decorated. They have an enormous lounge and dining room and although there's a fully equipped kitchen, we suggest indulging in their sumptuous 5 star breakfasts and divine dinners...

The Berg is all about hiking and climbing and Inkosana offers maps, guides and expert advice on local routes. You can do day walks to Nandi Falls, Blind Man's Corner (200m) or even Sterkhorn Peak (2900m) or Champagne Castle (3300m) if you're fit. Go and see the bushman paintings in the Zulu, Eland or Battle Caves.

Overnighters can do Ship's Prow Pass or Mafadi (3450m), the highest peak in South Africa. Raft, horse ride and mountain bike. Or drive to Giant's Castle, Cathedral Peak, the Royal Natal National Park and the Battlefields.



They run twice weekly shuttles to and from Lesotho with Maluti Treks.

 Dorms R100; Doubles/Rondavels R150pp; En suite doubles/Rondavels R200pp; Camping R75. Rates subject to change. Moola Magic/AroundAboutCars discount. Free Baz Bus pick up. Free shuttle to valley hikes.

Swimming dam. Herb garden.

Yellowwood walk.

Laundry service. BSA.



NORTHERN BERG

AMPHITHEATRE TRAVELLERS LODGE AND BACKPACKERS

Tel: 036 438 6675 Cell: 082 855 9767

amphibackpackers@worldonline.co.za

www.amphibackpackers.co.za

21 km north of Bergville on the R74.



Located at the foot of the Amphitheatre between the Royal Natal National Park and Cathedral Peak, this funky lodge has a cosy thatched bar and restaurant overlooking a horizon crowded with magnificent peaks. Take in the mountain-jammed view from the swimming pool while sucking on a psychedelic drink from the ever-expanding cocktail menu, then get ready, Get Set, GO!

Join one of their professionally run trips and explore a different part of the Berg each day. Or enjoy a staggering array of activities - sit on the summit of the Drakensberg, discover an unexplored part of Lesotho (see page 290), get to grips with rock climbing on a beginner's lesson, explore world heritage sites and national parks, horse ride, mountain bike, fly fish and abseil. The list goes on, and on.

But hey, if you want to do everything, you'll need at least 3 days! 4 if you're going to drink their cocktails.

Free.
Jacuzzi.
Sauna.
CLIMBING
Cave.



Don't miss their trip to Yugela Falls (the highest in Africa) with its knee-tingling chain-ladder climb and gob-smacking views.

📍 Dorms R85; Twins from R190; Doubles from R240;
Camping R55. Most rooms are en suite.

Baz Bus stop on their doorstep. Laundry. DSTV. Internet.

Pick up/drop off in Bergville and Harrismith.