

The Most Luxurious Train in the World



DURBAN ITINERARY + JOURNEY

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The Most Luxurious Train in the World

ITINERARY

PRETORIA TO DURBAN ITINERARY

FRIDAY	
10h00	The Pride of Africa departs Rovos Rail's Station in Capital Park.
13h00	Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travellers in the midway Lounge car or Observation carriage at the rear of the train.
18h15	Lunch is served as the train passes through Heidelberg (1 903ms).
19h30	The train departs Vooruitsig and climbs to 2 146ms as we traverse Majuba Hill.
22h30	Dinner is served in the dining car/s.
	The train arrives at Elandsplaagte for the overnight stop.
SATURDAY	
05h00	An early wake up call for a game drive in the Nambiti Private Game Reserve.
05h15 - 05h45	Tea, coffee, juices and pastries will be served in the dining car/s. Please ensure you are warmly dressed. As the morning drive progresses the weather can warm up considerably, so please also ensure you have hats and sun protection. Rain capes will be available if required.
08h00	The game rangers will stop for a short tea, coffee and bathroom break.
11h00 – 13h00	Brunch will be served in the dining car/s as we travel towards Estcourt.
14h00	Disembark for the 40min drive to Spionkop Lodge. A choice of two excursions are available : 1. An escorted tour of the battlefields or 2. Game drive in the Spionkop Game Reserve. The weather can be very warm, so please ensure you have hats & sun protection. As the evening progresses the weather can cool down considerably, so please also ensure that you take warm clothing.
18h30	Enjoy sundowners while overlooking the magnificent Spionkop dam.
22h00	A traditional South African dinner will be served at Spionkop Lodge. Overnight onboard the train.
SUNDAY	
07h00	Breakfast is served as the train departs Estcourt and descends the escarpment en route to Lions River station.
10h00	Disembark the train for a visit to the famous Ardmore ceramics gallery including an equestrian display and tea overlooking the river.
12h00	The train departs for Pietermaritzburg.
13h00	Lunch is served as the train traverses the spectacular Valley of a Thousand Hills.
16h00	Arrive in Durban.

**Excursions may be changed according to schedule achieved
Times are approximate and cannot be guaranteed**



The Most Luxurious Train in the World

ITINERARY

DURBAN TO PRETORIA ITINERARY

MONDAY	
10h00	The train departs from Durban station. Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travellers in the midway lounge car or observation carriage at the rear of the train.
13h00	Lunch is served as the train traverses the rolling hills of KwaZulu-Natal en route to Lions River station.
15h00	Disembark train for a visit to the famous Ardmore ceramics gallery, including an equestrian display & tea next to the river.
19h30	Dinner is served in the dining car/s.
23h00	Arrive in Ladysmith for the overnight stop.
TUESDAY	
05h00	An early wake up call for a choice of two excursions : Option 1- A game drive in the Spionkop Nature Reserve. Option 2- An escorted tour of the Battlefields. Tea, coffee, juices, fruit and pastries will be served in the dining car/s.
05h15 - 05h45	Please ensure that you are warmly dressed. As the morning drive progresses the weather can warm up considerably, so please also ensure you have hats and sun protection. Rain capes will be available if required.
11h00 – 13h00	Brunch will be served in the dining car/s as we travel to Elandslaagte.
15h00	Disembark at Elandslaagte for a game drive in the Nambiti Private Game Reserve. The weather can be very warm, so please ensure you have hats & sun protection. As the evening progresses the weather can cool down considerably, so please also ensure that you take warm clothing.
19h30	Dinner is served as the train departs for the overnight journey to Vooruitsig.
WEDNESDAY	
07h00 – 10h00	Breakfast is served as we depart Vooruitsig.
13h00	Lunch is served as the train heads towards journeys end.
16h00	Arrive at Rovos Rail's Capital Park Station, Pretoria.

Excursions may be changed according to schedule achieved

Times are approximate and cannot be guaranteed

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THE DURBAN JOURNEY

Early signs of man's first settlement along the banks of the Apies River, in whose two broad and well-sheltered valleys **Pretoria** is situated, go back at least 350 years. Both Sotho and Ndebele people have dwelt here and in 1825, Mzilikazi, the renegade Zulu chief who deserted Shaka with a number of followers, established a stronghold on the banks of the Apies. The first European traders and the missionary Robert Moffat visited him there. Other Zulus also came to call and stories of his newfound prosperity soon spread. Shaka learnt of Mzilikazi's whereabouts and sent his armies to obtain retribution for his desertion. Mzilikazi warded off the attack but was forced to flee to the Marico district in the Western Transvaal.

In 1837 the Voortrekkers discovered the fertile valleys of the Apies River and set up a number of farms in the area. One of these early settlers was Andries Pretorius, a hero of the battle of Blood River, who established a farm in the valley at the confluence of the Apies and Crocodile rivers. Shortly after his death the Apies valley was chosen as the site for the capital of the newly created Boer republic, the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR). Marthinus Pretorius, son of Andries, selected a site on the farm Elandspoort and on 16 November 1855 the new town was named Pretoria in honour of his father.

Pretoria grew up around Church Square, originally the market place and focal point of the Boer community. Several impressive buildings were built around the square such as the Palace of Justice and the old Raadsaal (parliament) of the ZAR. Today Pretoria is the administrative and diplomatic capital of South Africa. The most notable of the city's edifices is the Union Buildings; designed by Sir Herbert Baker and built on Meintjieskop, the hill that dominates the centre of Pretoria. Built on a low hill outside the city is the monolithic Voortrekker Monument. Completed in 1949 to commemorate the Voortrekker's pioneering spirit, it is seen by some as an important memorial to Afrikanerdom and by others as a reminder of apartheid. Its interior frieze is said to be the second longest in the world.

During October and November Pretoria seems to shimmer with a mauve haze of blossoming jacarandas. In 1888 a citizen of Pretoria, J. A. Celliers imported two *Jacaranda Mimosifolia* trees from Rio de Janeiro. He planted them in the garden of Myrtle Lodge, his home in the suburb of Sunnyside. They still stand in the garden of what is now Sunnyside School. In 1898 James Clarke obtained a contract to grow trees for the government. He ordered seed from Australia and included in the selection was a packet of seeds of the same species Celliers had imported. Clarke planted the seeds in the State nurseries at Groenkloof where they flourished. Today about 70 000 of these beautiful trees line the streets of the city.

Rovos Rail has its private station situated in Capital Park in Pretoria. This was once the bustling hub of steam locomotion in the old Transvaal. Officially opened in 1943, Capital Park, with its locomotive sheds and marshalling yard played a vital roll in the rail network around Pretoria before falling into disuse. Now the home of Rovos Rail, it boasts a small railway museum in addition to its other comprehensive facilities and will, with the addition of semaphore signals and a footbridge, recreate the atmosphere of a fully-fledged railway system. The gracious colonial style railway station serves as the new departure or arrival point for all train journeys except the Garden Route.

The train reaches the Goldfields of **Johannesburg** arriving slightly to the east at the major railway junction of **Germiston**. It is the site of the *Simmer & Jack* gold mine discovered in May 1887, within 9 months of gold being found in Johannesburg. The town of Germiston was laid out around the mine.

Prior to 1886, maps of the area where Johannesburg now stands depicted only a series of bush-covered ridges from which flowed a few small streams. When gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand, a vibrant tent town grew rapidly into a frontier city and then into a dynamic commercial and financial centre, now the capital of the Gauteng region, the third-largest city in Africa after Cairo and Lagos and the engine room of the sub-equatorial African economy. The province of Gauteng (pronounced with a guttural G) is the smallest and richest of the nine regions formed in terms of South Africa's Constitution of 27th April 1994. The name is a Sotho corruption of the Afrikaans word 'goud' which means gold. Literally 'the place of gold'.

The gold-bearing Main Reef was first struck by an itinerant Australian prospector named George Harrison, when he stumbled across an outcrop edging above the surface of the land in August 1886. His "Discoverers Claim" can be viewed in a park four kilometres west of the city centre where sandy quartz 'conglomerate' which trapped the fine gold dust around 2 700 million years ago is still clearly visible.

In Pre-Cambrian times, 2 700 – 2 400 million years ago, the area of the **Witwatersrand** (goldfields) was underwater. A vast inland sea, not unlike Lake Superior or Lake Victoria, covered the pre-existing, sharp-faced, volcanic rock scouring and eroding away the peaks and crevasses and releasing microscopic traces of gold into the water. Over three hundred million years these traces of gold became sedimented on the floor of the ancient sea or trapped for an eternity in a series of fossilised beaches. At the end of the period of formation, the lake dried up and a cubic area of 120kms East-West x 280kms North-South x 8kms deep existed, all bearing gold.

Then, about 2 000 million years ago, a meteorite, having the entire universe to slam into, selected this very spot to land! With enormous violence the meteorite slammed into the centre of the extinct lake, breaking the gold-bearing reef in half and faulting it down at an angle of 35 degrees southwards (the Vredefort Dome). The outer edge was, correspondingly tilted upwards, and this became the outcrop, which was discovered in 1886 where Johannesburg now stands.

From their infancy in the early days of 1886, the Witwatersrand goldfields - stretching along a gentle 120kms curve from Benoni to Krugersdorp *via* Johannesburg - proved themselves unique. The amount of gold in the ore was and still remains low, but the total reservoir of gold-bearing ore appears to be limitless. These two factors have determined the profile of the gold mining industry in South Africa. No single person can manage the industry - unlike the diamond industry which gave rise to great tycoons like Rhodes and Barnato - and only a mining house, consisting of several large shareholders, could raise the capital needed to successfully mine and process the enormous quantities of ore from which small quantities of gold are finally extracted.

The mine dumps of Gauteng, many of which are disappearing as they are reprocessed using advanced technology to capture small quantities of gold which escaped in the less refined methods of past years, are testimony to the scale of mining operations carried out over the years. The deepest mines in the world 3.7kms below the surface of the earth are found in South Africa. Mining houses usually control many mines in order to reduce financial risk and to benefit from economies of scale. The milling of the ore is only half the equation. The other half is the extraction of the ore in harsh conditions many kilometres underground, using cheap labour provided by great numbers of able-bodied men from throughout Southern Africa and specially Mozambique. Yet despite their size, the mining houses act as the entrepreneurs, identifying new prospects, carrying out exhaustive feasibility studies and keeping the country's economy buoyant as they extract gold from the earth. Names like Anglo American, AngloVaal, JCI and Gold Fields dominate the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and perforce, the South African economy.

The harsh realities involved in squeezing gold from the grudging ore are reflected in the lack of aesthetic presence in Johannesburg. In a city which is just over 100 years old, only four buildings predate 1900. And yet the vibrancy of the city is immediately apparent. It is robust and unpretentious; a mixture of tribal swirl and technological innovation in a region whose very name reflects the nature of its wealth – Gauteng, the place of gold. South Africa owes its state of development to gold. The 600 tons of 24-carat gold produced every year by the mining houses has paved the way, directly or indirectly, for the industrialisation and modernisation of a traditional African society. Today, with a new and democratic government in place, South Africa has taken up its rightful role as the powerhouse of the African continent.

Heidelberg was established in 1862, twenty-four years before Johannesburg. It was a main crossroad between Natal, the Orange Free State, the Cape and the Transvaal. It is situated close to the *Suikerbosrand* (Sugar Bush Ridge), 1 903 metres above sea level and has a wildlife reserve famous for birds. It was here, in 1895, that the rails were joined connecting the Transvaal and Natal railway systems.

The small village of **Balfour** derives its name from it being the place where, in 1906, the British ex-Prime Minister, Arthur Balfour, made a speech on the station platform.

Standerton's claim to fame is that it was, for many years, the parliamentary constituency of General Smuts, South African Prime Minister, 1919-1924 and 1939–1948. General Smuts was a great South African, a great imperial statesman and a great world leader. He first posited the idea of a League of Nations in 1917, which caught the imagination of President Woodrow Wilson. Smuts, it was, who wrote the preamble to the United Nations Charter in 1946 at San Francisco. He lost power to the National party of *Apartheid* in 1948 and lost the Standerton seat as well.

Charlestown marks the old border post between the British colony of Natal and the independent republic of the Transvaal pre-1899.

About 30kms before Newcastle, a high mountain looms into view, **Majuba Hill (Amajuba)** which is 2 146ms high. This is the site of the decisive battle which, on Sunday 27 February 1881, ended the first Anglo-Boer war with the defeat of the British army by the Transvaal Boers. The 554 British Redcoats had climbed *Amajuba* and held a strong position on the summit. But the determined assault of the 3,500 Boers under Generals Joubert and Smit overcame British resistance. 95 British soldiers were killed (almost all through the head) including General Sir George Pomeroy Colley, for the death of 1 Boer. This was the last battle fought by the British army in red uniforms (redcoats). They immediately switched to *Khaki*. Gladstone offered peace and independence to the Transvaal, which was finalised by the Pretoria (1881) and London (1883) Conventions. The first Anglo-Boer War ended after less than 3 months.

Newcastle, named after the Duke of Newcastle, was founded on the iron Industry, but, with worldwide competition, the furnaces have been shut down.

The area around Ladysmith was hotly contested by the British and Boers during the **Anglo-Boer War** fought between 1899 and 1902. British imperialists were convinced that the leaders of Afrikaner nationalism posed a threat to imperial interests in South Africa, while the advocates of Afrikaner nationalism feared that British imperialists were intent on destroying Afrikaner independence. On both sides the conviction grew that there was not enough room for the two ideologies to coexist in South Africa, and each developed a suspicion of the other so deep that it bedevilled any possible diplomatic solution. In the words of Sir Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner and principal protagonist of the war: ' the future of South Africa is to be either a British dominion or an Afrikaner republic. It cannot be both.' The war broke out on 11 October 1899. The Boers, with the advantage of speed, attacked the lumbering British forces in Natal, invading from **Dundee (Battle of Talana)** to the northwest.

Glencoe is very close to **Dundee**, which is the site of the first battle, Talana, of the Anglo-Boer war, in October 1899. Dundee is the centre of the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) coalfields. Beginning in 1862, exports continue to this day *via* the port of Richards Bay just south of St Lucia Wetland Park. An estimated 2 700 million tons of shallow coalfields lie in northern Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The Nambiti Conservancy is a private Big Five bush retreat and game conservancy set on 20,000 acres of malaria-free bushveld at **Elandslaagte**. It has incredible biodiversity including savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacia trees. The Sundays River flows through the reserve and has two 40 metre waterfalls with magnificent ravine bush, home to several rare bird species.

Elandslaagte Rail siding is adjacent to Nambiti Private Game Reserve and has also been declared a historic battle site of the second Anglo Boer War. (Battle of Elandslaagte: 20 & 21 October 1899).

The small town of **Ladysmith** was named after the wife of the Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner, Sir Harry Smith in the 1840's. She was a young Spanish lady who was rescued from a fate worse than death by her gallant Sir Harry during the British attack on Badajoz, western Spain, during the Napoleonic wars.

Ladysmith was the cockpit of world interest between November 1899 and 28 February 1900 when it was besieged by the Boers.

On 30 October 1899, General Sir George White, the 62-year old commander-in-chief of the British forces, having reunited his forces at Ladysmith, now numbering about 11 000 men, decided to launch a complicated 3-prong attack on the Boer positions intending to outflank them to the right of the town. Everything went wrong for the British Colonel. French's troops arrived in position late, which caused Grimwood's right flank to be exposed to withering Boer rifle fire. White, on the basis of incorrect intelligence, which led him to believe that the Free State Boers were going to attack Ladysmith from the west, ordered a full retreat. The Boers attacked the retreating British troops from **Modder Spruit** and when they panicked, chased after them on horseback in a rout costing 1200 British men. The Boers lost 200. The Boers seized the heights around the town and tightened the net. The Siege of Ladysmith began. The day is known as 'Mournful Monday'. Sir George White called for help, which came, but was slow in arriving and gave rise to a series of battles known as **Spionkop**, Vaalkrantz and Tugela Heights.

This area is known as the '**Natal Battlefields**' which includes battlefields from four wars:

The Great Trek (Battle of Blood River)

The Anglo-Zulu War, 1879;

The First Anglo-Boer War, 1880-81;

The Second Anglo-Boer War, 1899 – 1902. People come from all over the world to visit these battlefields, which are still used as examples in the military academies.

"The Battle of Spionkop, 24 January 1900, must rank as one of the most needless battles in history. A deadly combination of an absentee General Buller and an administrative General Sir Charles Warren conspired to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. The mist covering the mountaintop hid the fact from the British troops that higher mountains surrounded them. When the mist cleared mid-morning, the Boers rained shells down with pinpoint accuracy on the British positions together with deadly sniper fire from their Mausers. Winston Churchill, having rejoined the British forces after his escape from Pretoria, climbed to the front in the company of Mohandas Ghandi, a Red Cross ambulance volunteer: an extraordinary crossing of the lives of two twentieth century leaders in extraordinary surroundings. Col. Thornycroft, in command on the summit, defied Gen. Warren and gave the order to withdraw during the night. The Boers, expecting further British resistance the next day, were on the point of retiring, but discovered that Spioenkop was theirs and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. The Battle was lost, not on the ground, but inside the head of Col. Thornycroft. . "

Shortly after Ladysmith, the railway line passes Umbulwana, from where, during the Anglo-Boer war, the Boers maintained a bombardment of the besieged British soldiers in Ladysmith. One of the huge Creosote guns which lobbed shells 10kms into the town from here now graces the entrance to the Ladysmith Siege Museum which contains much of interest concerning that period.

Colenso itself was the site of an important battle during 'Black Week' (December 1899). The British guns had raced too far ahead of the infantry and came under devastating Boer fire. The draught horses were shot in harness rendering the guns immobile. After the retreat was sounded, the Boers captured the guns without much difficulty - a serious blow to British morale.

Colenso is named after one of the most interesting figures of Natal history, Archbishop Colenso, still a contentious figure. A brilliant and unconventional mind, who wrote several mathematical textbooks after studying at Cambridge, Colenso was appointed Archbishop of Natal in 1853. He learnt to speak fluent Zulu and, after some years pronounced the subversive doctrine that the Christian faith was not incompatible with African polygamy. This led to his being investigated by the Anglican hierarchy and condemned as a heretic. He was deposed from his bishopric and expelled from the church, whereupon he petitioned the Crown and, on a technical matter, was allowed to continue in office. He took the side of the Zulus against the British in the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879, which did not enamour him to the White colonists. It was of him that the British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli declared: 'The Zulus are a great nation. They defeat our generals. They convert our bishops and they terminate European dynasties.' (The latter, a reference to the last Napoleon being killed by the Zulus).

The railway line passes the sidings of **Chieveley** and **Frere**. On the left of the track at Chieveley is a memorial to **Winston Churchill** who was captured here on 15 November 1899 while trying to free an armoured train trapped by a Boer ambush. He succeeded in releasing the train only to be left stranded as it pulled away. Two Boers popped out of nowhere and he had to surrender. War memorials of different regiments stud the landscape commemorating the British soldiers who died during the various attempts to relieve Ladysmith in December 1899 and January 1900.

The Drakensberg Mountains were first named by the Voortrekkers (Dutch-speaking ancestors of the modern-day Afrikaners) who, when seeing the forbidding, unbroken chain of mountains with their heavily weathered peaks, thought that it reminded them of the spines on the back of a dragon, hence the name 'Dragon Mountain' or *Drakensberg* in Afrikaans. The average summit height is 3 200 metres, with the highest being 3 482 metres high. About 200 million years ago a vast outpouring of volcanic magma covered virtually the whole of southern Africa. Glacial movement and water action wore down this basalt in the interior, but on the sides, it eroded more slowly and in the Drakensberg one can see the 1 500 metre thick basalt (the dark rock) resting on top of the red sedimentary sandstone and 'red beds'.

A fort was built in 1847 to guard the fording place over the Bushman River – a staging point on the road from Pietermaritzburg to the north. Shopkeepers, blacksmiths and innkeepers were attracted to the area and in 1863 the growing town was named after Thomas Estcourt, an English parliamentarian who had promoted immigration to Natal. **Estcourt** is a small town, which services the needs of the surrounding cattle farmers. Estcourt meat products (especially bacon & pork sausages) are a household name in South Africa. Nestlé has a factory utilising the dairy products of the area. Built as a defensive point between 1847 and 1874, Fort Durnford, heavily haunted, dominates the height of the town.

Thirty years ago, when spaces were open and roads still unpaved, a few young artists and crafters settled in the hills and valleys of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Attracted by the region's natural beauty and the prospect of an alternative, country-based lifestyle, they built homes, workshops and studios and set about producing original works of art and craft, which they sold from home. As their cottage industries developed into successful small businesses, they were later to come together and establish the **Midlands Meander**, a collective marketing association.

To avoid the heavy gradient of the ascent from the coast, the railway line traverses a series of tunnels. This area is famous for three of South Africa's most prestigious private schools, Hilton College and St Anne's (**Hilton Road station**) and Michaelhouse (**Balgowan station**).

Ardmore was established by Fee Halsted-Berning twenty years ago. The studio, based at **Caversham**, gives artists the opportunity to work in an environment that encourages the expression of their imagination based on nature, Zulu folklore and tradition. The result is an incredibly rich tapestry of art that blends African artistic talent with western ceramic technology. Clay is shaped and sculpted with ingenuity, then painted with strong colour combinations and energetic designs to produce Ardmore's unique and enchanting signature style.

The Howick Falls on the Umgeni River cascade 120ms in a spectacular fall in the small town **Howick**. It is near here that the South African police captured Nelson Mandela in 1964, which resulted in his trial and sentence to life imprisonment.

The trout fishing in this area is excellent.

Pietermaritzburg, 80kms away from Durban, is the provincial capital in a relationship similar to that of Sacramento and Los Angeles.

The Voortrekkers had a good eye for town sites. After their defeat of the Zulus at the end of 1838 the trekkers selected farms and settled down to enjoy life in Natal. To serve as capital of their republic they created the town named Pietermaritzburg after their two leaders, Piet Retief and Gert Maritz and built the Church of the Vow to commemorate their victory over the Zulu impis. The site was in a fertile hollow at the foot of a tree-covered escarpment where the midlands of Natal rise 400 metres above the surrounding landscape. The soil was rich and there was ample water for irrigation from the river known as the Msunduzi ('the pusher' from the surging power of its floods).

The British took over Pietermaritzburg in 1843 and it became the seat of administration for Natal. The first lieutenant-governor, Martin West, made his home here, and Fort Napier, named after the governor of the Cape, Sir George Napier, was built to house a garrison.

The first newspaper in Natal, the *Natal Witness*, was published in Pietermaritzburg in 1846. This was a lively sheet which, in some of its editorial issues, had as its address the Pietermaritzburg gaol, owing to the imprisonment there of the editor for offending the governor.

In 1893 Natal received responsible government and a handsome assembly building was created in Pietermaritzburg to house its parliament. The British administration adorned the city with red brick imperial buildings in the Victorian Gothic style. Many of these buildings still stand and the characteristic atmosphere of Pietermaritzburg is red brick seen through luxuriant green foliage.

Today it is the provincial capital of Natal and the centre for numerous industries. Aluminium is produced here from material mined in Natal. Timber, wattle bark and dairy goods are also produced in the district.

It was on this station platform in 1894 that Mahatma Gandhi, as a young lawyer fresh out from England was thrown out of his 1st class train compartment by a White inspector thus changing the direction of his life, his country and the destinies of Britain and India. It was the reputation he gained fighting for Indian rights in Natal that led him on to fame and immortality later in India. There is a statue of Gandhi in the main street of Pietermaritzburg commemorating the twenty years he lived in South Africa (1894 – 1914).

Durban was once South Africa's busiest port. It is still the country's third largest city and principal port for general cargo. Built around a superbly sheltered bay and mile after mile (four in fact) of exquisite beachfront. The bay is the outstanding feature, a vast sweep of water, protected by the Bluff, a low wooded headland. The town is named after Sir Benjamin D'Urban, governor of the Cape Colony from 1842 -1847. The city is the centre of the country's Indian community, most of who are descendants of indentured labourers brought over from India to work on the sugar estates in the 19th century. When their contracts terminated they were given the choice of returning to India or staying on to farm here - most stayed. The city sprawl continues north up the coast, across the Umgeni River, to the resort town of Umhlanga Rocks

and inland to the Berea Heights, a range of hills, with wonderful views of the city and surrounds.

Like the Zululand coast to the north, Durban Bay, and surroundings were also submerged 100 million years ago. The waters of the Indian Ocean eventually receded to reveal the bay and its two promontories, the Point to the north and the Bluff to the south. Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed past this bay on Christmas Day 1497 and, to celebrate the occasion, named the region Terra do Natal ('land of the Nativity'). The first white men to walk the beaches, which centuries later would attract thousands of holidaymakers, were survivors of shipwrecks along the coast.

Durban has an English seaside feel about it too. Rickshaws on the Marine parade, superb shark protected beaches, a number of museums and cultural sights, the beautiful Botanical gardens are but a few of the city's many charms.

Durban, contrary to popular belief, is not the capital of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province, although the biggest provincial city, and the third largest in South Africa, population approximately 3 million and growing.

MAP



DISTANCE CHART

0	Pretoria, Capital Park			795
23	Irene	●	23	772
66	Germiston	●	43	729
89	Mapleton	●	23	706
116	Heidelberg	●	27	679
175	Teakworth	●	59	631
234	Standerton	●	59	561
281	Perdekop	●	47	514
312	Vooruitsig	●	31	483
331	Majuba	●	19	464
377	Newcastle	●	46	418
438	Glencoe	●	61	357
478	Elandslaagte	●	40	Nambiti Reserve 314
506	Ladysmith	●	28	289
530	Colenso	●	24	265
570	Estcourt	●	40	Spionkop Lodge 225
619	Nottingham Road	●	49	176
647	Lions River	●	28	Ardmore Ceramics 148
687	Pietermaritzburg	●	40	108
718	Camperdown	●	31	77
752	Delville Wood		34	43
776	Shallcross	●	24	19
781	Cavendish	●	5	14
795	Durban			0

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