

Things to do in and around Umhlanga

Durban <http://showme.co.za/durban/tourism/tourist-attractions/>

■ Durban Tourist Attractions

Explore Durban's tourist attractions, activities and the many things to do in Durban and in the Durban area - from extreme adventure activities to milder family orientated activities. Also see ShowMe Durban's [Events & Entertainment](#) for a range of other things to do in Durban, to see 'what's on' near you and for a guide to the nightlife in Durban.

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Durban Beachfront

<http://www.southafrica.net/za/en/articles/entry/article-southafrica.net-durbans-beachfront-promenade>



Walkers, cyclists and joggers make daily use of the Durban beachfront promenade, a paved walkway linking Blue Lagoon in the north with Addington in the south. Park anywhere along the route and take a leisurely stroll with many like-minded individuals who're out to enjoy the sea breeze and sunshine.

Did you know? The first South African Surfing Championships took place in Durban in 1966.

Durban (eThekweni) is justifiably proud of its Golden Mile – a stretch of some of the safest swimming

beaches in South Africa.

A wonderful legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ is the imposing Moses Mabhida Stadium, from which a meandering brick-paved promenade stretches north to Blue Lagoon and south to Addington Beach.

Durban's beachfront promenade is well patronised by early morning joggers, cyclists, pram-pushing mums, dog-walking seniors and a host of walkers who love taking in the fresh, salt-laden morning breeze.

From Addington Beach, just north of Durban harbour, the promenade passes a laidback African-style restaurant overlooking the beach with a quaint pub on the pier that gives patrons a bird's eye view of surfers and bathers.

To the south is Vetch's Pier, with its great snorkelling opportunities, and a sheltered region popular among kayakers, windsurfers and jetski enthusiasts.

Next stop is uShaka Marine World, an impressive shipwreck-themed aquarium incorporating a Wet 'n' Wild water park. The aquarium is home to a diversity of Indian Ocean marine species and includes two excellent restaurants, one of which forms part of a shark tank. A number of curio and clothing shops, along with daily dolphin and penguin shows, complete this premier tourist attraction.

Both southern and northern beaches attract thousands throughout the year with waves ideal for swimming, surfing and body-boarding.

pass a number of piers along Durban's beachfront, most of which are used daily by anglers, and there's a host of hotels overlooking the beachfront, many offering excellent accommodation and restaurants. There are also more relaxed beer and burger spots, and a couple of trendy coffee shops worth a visit.

Travellers with small children might prefer to spend time at the paddling pools, where slides and fountains add to the kids' enjoyment. There's also the Rachel Finlayson salt-water swimming pool, as well as fast food eateries in and around North Beach.

Further north, you'll pass the Suncoast Casino, with its array of restaurants and private beach access, complete with rolling green lawns.

Heading north, you'll pass more swimming beaches and paddling pools manned by lifeguards, before reaching Blue Lagoon, a popular fishing spot where the uMngeni River flows into the sea.

Umgeni River Bird Park: <http://www.umgeniriverbirdpark.co.za/>



One of the highlights of the park is the free-flight bird show. Featuring an ever-changing cast of stars from around the world, the show is educational and loads of fun. Show times are at 11am and 2pm from Tuesday to Sunday with shows on Mondays only during school holidays. No visit to the park is complete without seeing the show. Please note shows are weather permitting.

The park is open from 9am to 5pm every day (closed Christmas day). Entry Fees are R52 for Adults and R33 for

Children (4-12 years) and R30 for Pensioners. We also have a range of Membership packages available which give you free entry for a year and a host of other benefits. Please email education@urbp.co.za for more details and prices or inquire at the gate when you enter the park.

Umhlanga Beachfront

The facilities along Umhlanga's beachfront are similar to what you may expect at other world famous beach destinations. The clean, white sandy beach and warm water of the Indian Ocean waters beckons. There are great seafood restaurants with seating almost on the beach.

Park on Lagoon Drive and walk down "Walkway to the Beach" (signposted). Some of South Africa's most famous hotels are along this coastline – the Cabanas, Breakers, Pearls, Oyster Box and the legendary Beverly Hills, Sol Kerzner's first hotel.



A beautiful paved walk meanders through a beach garden to your left, while a stroll to the right will bring you all the way up to Umhlanga Beach's landmark, Umhlanga Lighthouse.

The Oyster Box Hotel Spa



The Spa's six treatments rooms are an oasis of calm where the stresses and strains of everyday life are alleviated by a gentle, therapeutic massage treatment, based on ancient cleansing rituals.

Uniquely and proudly, The Spa also has within its elegant chambers one of South Africa's only Hammams - a sensual bathing retreat which evolved over a thousand of years in Roman times hailed as a place of cleansing and healing for both body and soul.



Now guests are invited to indulge in traditional Middle Eastern treatments in The Spa's beautifully designed Hammam while their imagination takes the on a mystical journey into the past. Old World time-honoured traditions, introduced into the new world offering - this is The Spa at The Oyster Box Hammam experience.

Wave House

<https://www.safarinow.com/destinations/umhlanga-ridge/FunParks/Wave-House.aspx>

Hip, hot and always happening, Wave House is the coolest place for youngsters to hang out in Durban. Conveniently located at Gateway's Theatre of Shopping in Umhlanga, it's also a fantastic spot for a family outing, offering an awesome fusion of boardsport cultures.



Choose an experience from mild to wild. Get n-nervous on the mighty D-Rex, the first of its kind double-point break standing wave. The two beach-break Flow Riders are suitable for beginners and family fun. Skaters will enjoy the 4 000 m² Skate Park designed by 10-time world skating champion, Tony Hawk.

And if all that action makes you hungry and thirsty, there are fully-stocked bars and a restaurant featuring a wrap-around deck overlooking the extreme sport action.

Regular entertainment ranges from live bands to amazing events. Durban's ultimate attracts numerous visitors including international board sport stars.

KwaZulu Natal Sharks Board

<https://www.safarinow.com/destinations/prestondale/PopularAttractions/KwaZulu-Natal-Sharks-Board.aspx>



An integral part of protecting the vibrant tourism industry, the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board has been protecting popular KZN beaches from shark incidents for over 40 years. KZNSB boats launch each morning to patrol the coast and clear the shark safety gear of any catches.

At least once a month each net is rotated ensuring that every net in the installation is removed and repaired before being placed back in the water. Marine growth as well as wear and tear can cause damage to the nets and it is only through the regular maintenance of equipment that an efficient and cost-effective service can be delivered to the local authorities.

The public are given a unique opportunity of being able to view firsthand the servicing of the nets off Durban's Golden Mile from the KZNSB Tour Boat. These two hour trips leave Wilson's Wharf at 06:30. After witnessing the meshing operations, there is the chance of opportunistic viewing of wildlife including seabirds. Trips are weather and sea conditions permitting. Bookings are essential – call 082 403 9206.

Gateway Theatre of Shopping

<https://www.safarinow.com/destinations/umhlanga-ridge/ShoppingMalls/Gateway-Theatre-of-Shopping.aspx>



One of the biggest malls in the southern hemisphere, Gateway Theatre of Shopping offers an incredible choice with 380 top-notch retailer stores, the most up-to-date entertainment and sophisticated fashion.

Visitors are guaranteed an experience way beyond what one would normally expect from a major shopping mall.

Grab your kids and let them lose on the soaring indoor climbing wall, the scary D-Rex or gentle wave machine. Wannabee Einstein's can have fun while exploring the secrets of the universe at the ScienCentre.

There's so much on offer for families at Durban's entertainment hub – even a dinner theatre that will have you slapping your thighs and rolling in the aisles with tears streaming down your cheeks.

Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom

<https://www.safarinow.com/destinations/hillhead/Casinos/Sibaya-Casino-and-Entertainment-Kingdom.aspx>

Superbly situated on 48 hectares of coastal highland, with 360 degree ocean and hinterland views, Sibaya combines spectacular elements inspired by traditional Zulu architecture with state-of-the-art technology, distilled from extensive research across the globe into the latest concepts in casino-resort entertainment.

This magnificent gaming and entertainment complex has brought a significant capital injection as well as employment opportunities to the province's coastal belt north of Durban. It has also offered an unprecedented experience of the vibrant multi-cultural background of KwaZulu-Natal, infusing elements of fantasy to create a richly rewarding entertainment environment.



Central components of this grand-scale fantasy environment are the outstanding casino facilities. These include the innovative use of smart cards for the convenience of all players, and 1001 slots and 37 tables available in three areas, a Main Casino floor, a Smoking Casino and the exclusive Royal Court Privé. The

Privé is the most sophisticated in the country and houses smoking and non-smoking slots and tables, and also boasts views of the Indian Ocean.

The Sibaya Casino & Entertainment Kingdom incorporates the Royal Sibaya Hotel, a luxury hotel with 12 suites and 24 rooms for exclusive use by top end gamers, as well as the Sibaya Lodge, a 118 room limited facility hotel catering for the leisure and conference market. Complementing these world-class hospitality facilities is an imaginative and comprehensive spectrum of restaurants and bars.

These include A2A a deluxe buffet featuring food from African to Asia; Aqua a speciality seafood restaurant; the Royal Court Grill a fine dining steak house, Sondela Tavern serving African fusion food, an exclusive MVG (Most Valued Guest) Lounge; a number of elegant bars, Gabbiano & Co Coffee Shop offering beverages, coffee and a light menu; and a fast-food court featuring three different food options Steers, Debonairs and Nando's.

Other amenities include a sweet shop, as well as family amusement facilities, the Magic Company a children's entertainment centre and a crèche.

Krakatoa, Sibaya's 'volcanic eruption' three-tier show bar is an experience in sensory dazzlement. This night life venue, named after one of the most famous volcanos in history, is one of the most happening nightspots in town. The spectacular venue is split into three hospitality levels and is used all year round for product launches events and parties as well as being a nightclub on Fridays and Saturdays.

The 592 thatched iZulu Theatre which opened with the internationally acclaimed African Footprint and over four years has seen major productions grace its stage including Umoja, Bounce, Tap Dogs and Bollywood Crush.

Experience true African pampering based on traditional African healing therapies and indulgent royal rituals for men and women at the award winning Mangwanani Private African Day Spa at Sibaya. The spa is set in a spectacular authentic Zulu village overlooking rolling green hills with breath-taking views of the warm Indian Ocean.

Traditional and contemporary Zulu designs and themes recur throughout Sibaya. Exquisitely designed water features echo the tranquility of the nearby Ohlanga River in the complex's lushly landscaped, scenic surrounds.

The Barnyard Theatre Gateway

<https://www.safarinow.com/destinations/umhlanga-ridge/GalleriesAndMuseums/The-Barnyard-Theatre-Gateway.aspx>



Friendship, good food, wine and brilliant entertainment – the Barnyard Theatre at Gateway is where it all comes together.

The first Barnyard Theatre started as a homely, rustic farm theatre in Plettenberg Bay where friends and family could be entertained and eat, drink and talk into the small hours of the morning. It proved to be such a winner that more Barnyard Theatres started popping up all over the country.

There are currently 12 Barnyard Theatres in South Africa. While each theatre is a product of its individual setting, they all retain the quaint rustic charm of the original farm theatre's humble beginning.

Boat trips <http://showme.co.za/durban/tourism/boat-cruises-in-durbans-harbour-and-out-to-sea/>

See the City of Durban from the water. A boat cruise offers spectacular views of Durban and the eThekweni coastline from an alternate angle. Networking cruises, breakfast cruises or fishing charters: enjoy a sunset cruise, romantic dinner cruise or simply a scenic Durban Tour cruise.



1000 Hills Experience

<https://www.safarinow.com/things-to-do/valley-of-a-1000-hills/default.aspx>



The Valley of 1000 Hills is named after the many hills, cliffs and valleys which rise up from the banks of the Umgeni River as it flows from the distant Drakensberg mountains to the Indian Ocean. The diverse area combines the luxury of laid-back country living with an ancient, indigenous culture on its doorstep. The valley has been home to the Zulu people for centuries, with many continuing to practice and live their unique traditional lifestyle. Many local Zulu

people have maintained a traditional lifestyle in the Umgeni and Shongweni Valleys, giving the area a powerful sense of history and identity. Their colourful ceremonies and expressive, artistic culture give this area its vibrant atmosphere and creative energy. Explore the roots of Zulu culture by taking an organised tour deep into tribal lands. You can witness ancient Zulu ceremonies, as traditional diviners 'throw the bones' and communicate with their spiritual ancestors at pheZulu Safari Park. PheZulu also offers traditional Zulu dancing and cultural shows, as well as game drives, local curios, wonderful views across the valley and a crocodile and snake park. For those with adventurous taste buds and a carnivorous hunger, try out a crocodile steak at pheZulu's Croctilians Restaurant.

Drakensberg World Heritage tour

<http://africanbluetours.com/portfolio-items/drakensberg-world-heritage-tour/>



The Drakensberg Mountain range has an undulating, dominating beauty, but in addition to travelling through such breathtaking vistas, we're going to visit the World Heritage Site, Giant's Castle and the enigmatic Bushman paintings in the vicinity. The Drakensberg Mountain range has an undulating, dominating beauty, but in addition to travelling through such breathtaking vistas, we're going to visit the World Heritage Site, Giant's Castle and the enigmatic Bushman paintings in the vicinity. They're not far, so we set off on foot for a leisurely 3km round hike to the site of the caves to discover this magical legacy of the

bushmen. Our guide will share his knowledge of the paintings which date back 2 000 years. The mountain resembles a sleeping giant, hence the name.

These mountains are also considered the home of the Bearded Vulture and mighty Eland, so keep your eyes peeled for these rare beasts too. If you come on this tour in April, you'll see some crazy adrenaline junkies bombing down the mountain in the annual Giants Challenge mountain bike race!

We're bound to have built up an appetite, so we'll tuck into the hearty lunch laid on. Our return to Durban is via a visit to the Nelson Mandela Capture site – a historically significant moment in South African history and now commemorated with a world class sculpture in memory of Nelson Mandela and his heroic role in the struggle against apartheid.