





Zulu dancing at Isibindi



Diving at Thonga Beach



Leopard



Drakensberg Mountains

KwaZulu Natal

KwaZulu-Natal or the ‘Zulu Kingdom’ is located north of Eastern Cape yet South of Johannesburg, bordered by the warm Indian Ocean to the East and the high escarpment of the Drakensberg Mountains to the West. This colourful province offers a host of attractions and makes an ideal location for a second time visit to South Africa or those blessed with more than a few weeks to explore the Rainbow Nation.



Zulu History & Culture - Indian Ocean coastline - Game Reserves - Mountain experiences

Activities and Attractions

The stunning and extremely scenic Drakensberg Mountains or ‘Ukhahlamba’ (Barrier of Spears in Zulu) are now rightly accredited with World Heritage Sight status. Situated approximately equidistant from Johannesburg and Durban, recommended activities include hiking, fishing, horse riding and the opportunity to view ancient Rock Art. The province is also steeped in history, some of the most famous locations being that of the Anglo, Boer and British Battlefields including Rorke’s Drift, Spioenkop and Isandlwana. Visitors of all ages can enjoy hearing tales of incredible courage from these times and the subsequent reconciliation.

The coastline offers a host of stunning beaches where visitors can experience warm coastal waters, excellent surfing and some of the best diving in South Africa. Nature also abounds with dolphins visible year round, turtle nesting in the Summer and the great ‘Sardine Run’, usually taking place around June.

To the North are a host of excellent game reserves such as Phinda, offering Big Five viewing as well as the iSimangaliso (Greater St Lucia) Wetland Park. However, please note a stay here will take you in to a malarial area.

The Province is also home to one of Africa’s most famous kingdoms, The Zulu, and therefore steeped in living culture and tradition.

Accommodation

KwaZulu-Natal offers a wide selection of accommodation set in some spectacular settings, all within easy reach of the major attractions and many with a range of activities

on site from horseriding to boating. Here we feature a selection of properties all offering a different insight into this unique region of South Africa, including a number of new hotels opening in 2010.

Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min temp °C	26	27	25	23	20	18	18	18	19	21	24	25
Max temp °C	16	16	14	12	9	8	7	8	9	11	13	15
Rainfall (mm)	15	17	20	41	69	93	82	77	40	30	14	17



KwaZulu-Natal

Accommodation



Isibindi Zulu Lodge ***

Situated in a private game reserve in the ruggedly beautiful Zululand, the Lodge is only a stone's throw away from the historically momentous Anglo-Zulu Battlefields. This peaceful bushveld retreat offers activities including game-viewing, battlefield tours and Zulu cultural experiences whilst staying in one of 6 unique 'beehive' thatched stand-alone suites with overhead fan.

Pool - Restaurant - Bar



Family

Whilst no specific activities are offered for families, there are no age restrictions on the range of interesting activities which can be appreciated by all. One child can share with parents.



Cathedral Peak Hotel ****

This family-owned hotel is set in a heart of the Drakensberg Mountains, a World Heritage Site. The hotel provides 74 temperature-controlled rooms and suites with TV, mini bar and veranda alongside an astounding array of activities from pony rides, to mountain bike trails & quad bike adventures. Golf enthusiasts can enjoy the 9-hole course, whilst Bushmen Rock Art expeditions are on offer!

Pool - Tennis Court - Golf Course - Games Restaurant - Bar



Family

Children will be kept busy with special holiday entertainment programmes including tractor rides, clown shows and craft workshops. Up to 2 children can share thatched family rooms.



The Oyster Box *****

Situated overlooking the historical landmark, the Umhlanga Lighthouse, The Oyster Box has long been one of South Africa's most distinguished and much-loved hotels. Re-opening for 2010 after an extensive renovation and refurbishment programme, with 86 rooms set in the tropical gardens, it provides a luxurious ocean-front retreat for those visiting the Zulu Kingdom.

Pools - Spa - 3 Restaurants - 2 Bars - Cinema



Family

The direct beach access and Children's Club will ensure younger guests are enthralled. Up to 1 child under 16 can share or inter-connecting rooms and villas are also available.



Fairmont Zimbali Lodge and Resort ****

Located under an abundant forest canopy along the Dolphin Coast, guests staying in one of the 76 rooms at Zimbali Lodge can be pampered in the signature spa or play golf on the 18-hole championship course. In addition, from mid 2010, a new Resort featuring terraced swimming pools with views to the Ocean provides a further 154 rooms and numerous dining options.

Pools - Spas - Tennis - 18-hole Golf Course - Variety of Restaurants and Bars



Family

A variety of accommodation options are available for families wishing to share or book interconnecting rooms at both the Lodge and the Resort, whilst the latter also features a children's club.

“&Beyond yet again delivered an exceptional safari experience, both in terms of game viewing and accommodation”

Phinda Game Reserve



Phinda Private Game Reserve ★★★★★

Set within easy reach of the Indian Ocean on the Northern KwaZulu-Natal coastline, therefore ideal for those seeking the optimal Bush and Beach combination, Phinda is known for its abundant wildlife, diversity of striking habitats and wide range of activities. Guests are assured an exclusive game viewing experience whilst staying at one of the 6 luxurious Lodges within the Reserve, including 2 exclusive use ‘Homes from Home’ which come complete with private game drive vehicle and dedicated chef and ranger.

Pool - Restaurant - Bar

Family

Mountain Lodge and The Homestead provide family accommodation options such as suites and interconnecting rooms. The ‘Planet Manager’ programme will also enable younger guests to make the most of their experience.

Thonga Beach Lodge ★★★★★

This intimate lodge nestles on the pristine Northern coast, within the Isimangaliso World Heritage Park. The warm waters offer superb snorkelling and diving whilst other activities include forest walks, kayaking and seasonal turtle tracking. 12 air-conditioned circular rooms with mini bar offer luxury accommodation with views over the forest or ocean and meals can be enjoyed in al fresco locations.

Pool - Spa - Watersports - Restaurant - Bar



Family

The Lodge offers a stunning location for families wanting a beach holiday in a wilderness setting. All range of activities will keep them busy but please note only 1 can share with parents.

Rocktail Bay Beach Camp ★★★★★

17 en-suite tented rooms with fans are shaded by the sanctuary of the lush Maputaland Coastal Forest which covers the ancient dunes that edge this stunning coastline. With the Marine Reserve just offshore and the beach a leisurely 15-minute walk away, world-class diving and snorkelling opportunities and other adventures including seasonal turtle tracking are on your door step!

Pool - Watersports - Wildlife viewing - Restaurant - Bar



Family

The proximity to nature and host of exciting activities will keep children busy. 2-bedroomed family suites, suitable for up to 3 children sharing with their parents, create a luxury tented experience that will be fun for all!