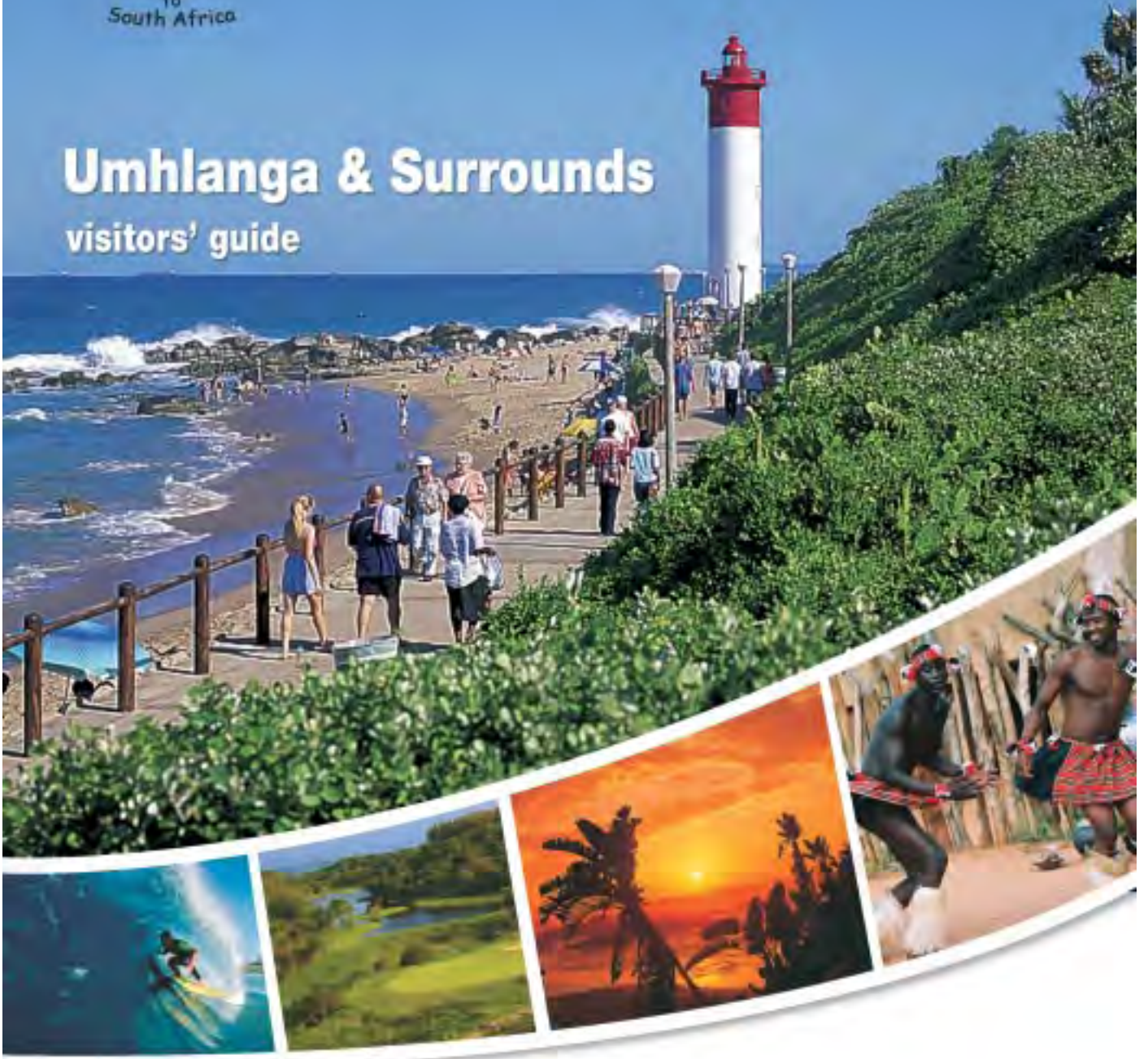




Umhlanga & Surrounds

visitors' guide



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ZULU CULTURAL FIRE EXPERIENCE

Dancers perform at the Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom.

Acknowledgements

Published by Artworks Communications in association with Umhlanga Tourism. Tel: 031-303 6466

TOURIST INFORMATION

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Email: info@umhlanga-rocks.com

Umhlanga Tourism is a KZN registered tourism establishment.



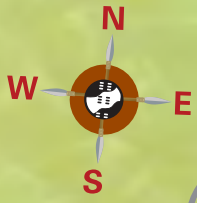
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Looking north from Umhlanga, you can appreciate the curve of the coast that goes on forever ...



AFRICA IMAGERY.COM

Umhlanga and surrounding areas



GETTING THERE

From Jo'burg and Pietermaritzburg
From the N3 approaching Durban take the turn-off to the N2, North Coast. Follow N2 northwards until the turn-off signposted Umhlanga.

From Durban
Follow the M4 north until you come to the Umhlanga turn-off. Alternatively take the N3 west from the city centre to Spaghetti Junction. Take the N2 north to Umhlanga, signposted North Coast.



Welcome to Umhlanga

VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD flock to Umhlanga to relax and have fun on one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. It is situated just north of the vibrant port city of Durban on the edge of the warm Indian Ocean, a cluster of holiday apartments, luxury hotels and B&Bs, upmarket office parks and shopping centres. The beaches stretch northwards for more than 200 kilometres, all the way to the spectacular Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site. Inland endless fields of sugar cane give way to tumbling hills and valleys.

Umhlanga offers excellent security, comfortable accommodation and a wealth of entertainment, shops, restaurants and nature trails. The spectacular Gateway shopping centre and Sibaya Casino are key attractions. Ocean enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers will be in their element. Surfing, fishing, whale and dolphin watching, scuba diving and microlight flips are just some of the activities available.

Gateway to world-class sites

Umhlanga is perfectly positioned to kick off your southern African adventure. It is just half an hour's drive from Durban International Airport, with easy access to beaches and the city. From Umhlanga you can travel north along the N2 to St Lucia, the Zulu Kingdom game reserves, Swaziland and Mozambique. Or you can go south to the Wild Coast, the glorious Garden Route and on towards Cape

Town. Alternatively head inland on the N3 to the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park, Johannesburg and the Kruger National Park.

A history of hospitality

Originally home to San hunter-gatherers, the area south of the Tugela River (incorporating present day Umhlanga) was later occupied by Nguni-speaking people who were unified under King Shaka in the early 1800s into the proud Zulu nation. The area came under British control soon after, becoming part of the large estate belonging to the great sugar magnate, Sir Marshall Campbell, who sailed to South Africa from Glasgow in 1850. Indian indentured labourers were brought in to work on the sugar estates in 1860, bringing with them a vibrant and colourful culture which gives the area its unique multi-cultural flavour.

In 1869, Umhlanga's first beach cottage, the Oyster Lodge was built on a site overlooking the sea, and in the true spirit of Umhlanga hospitality, tea and scones were served to passers-by. The reflective roof of the cottage was also used by passing ships' captains to navigate safely around the rocks. In 1954 Umhlanga's distinctive red and white lighthouse was built on the site of the original cottage, which made way for Umhlanga's first hotel, the Oyster Box.

Umhlanga means 'place of reeds' in Zulu.

CHRIS CHAPMAN, EDITOR

Brilliant Blue Flag beach

UMHLANGA IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR tourist destinations on the coast north of Durban where bathing is safe in the warm Indian Ocean and laidback fun in the sun beckons.



Umhlanga's main beach is one of the Zulu Kingdom's seven Blue Flag beaches. This international award is given each year to beaches that meet excellence criteria in four aspects of coastal management: water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management and safety and services, including excellent lifesaving standards, top-rated ablution and parking facilities and access for the disabled.

Superb surfing is available and regular fishing competitions and jetski displays are held off Umhlanga.

Book a dolphin-viewing excursion for a memorable experience. Deep sea whale-watching, scuba diving and gamefishing adventures are also available.

Locals and visitors enjoy fishing off the rocks and the beaches offer wide-open spaces for soaking up the sun all year round. Professional lifeguards are



Strategic paths link town to beach.

Tranquil rock pools at Umdloti, just a few kilometres north of Umhlanga.





S. CHAPMAN



S. CHAPMAN



P. BENDHEIM

stationed at all swimming beaches along the Umhlanga coastline and surfboards can be hired, along with loungers and umbrellas.

For a compelling taste of Umhlanga's safe, protected beaches and seafront accommodation, restaurants and attractions, the shore-hugging O'Connor Promenade provides an ideal walkabout. It stretches all the way from the northern edge of Umhlanga, to Durban View Park in the south. You can't miss the red and white lighthouse, a landmark that's kept shipping at a safe distance for more than half a century. For enthusiastic walkers and joggers there are distance-markers in place, but a leisurely stroll is equally accommodated with strategically placed viewing benches.

You can identify the indigenous plants along the promenade with the assistance of a handbook available from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. Each lamp pole on the walk has a number which correlates with the plants in the booklet.

A little north of the lighthouse is Granny's Pool, a sheltered bathing area between two rock formations that abounds in miniature sea-life and provides a safe launch for skiboats.



COURTESY SA TOURISM

A lifestyle investment

UMHLANGA HAS SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S most sought-after real estate with prime residential, office, shopping and tourism developments.

While it took almost half a century for the hotel industry to arrive in full force, Umhlanga is today a flourishing, cosmopolitan beach resort town with a fine array of luxury hotels, apartment blocks, B&Bs and self-catering holiday cottages.

It is a prime investment centre and gateway to the Big Five game parks, and is renowned worldwide as a premier holiday and investment destination. It features some of the best hotels, eco-estates, resorts and timeshare complexes in Africa.

The golf estate developments that paved the way for the modern upmarket community living experience have spread their green roofs around Umhlanga. Apart from those set in lush surroundings, others are setting new standards for cluster homes as the South African economy takes off. New corporate and retail centres have sprung up on the ridge above 'Millionaires Mile', where mansions dominate the landscape. Tasteful cobbled roads, designed to incorporate circles instead of robots, are fringed with palm trees and water features. This is all part of the 'new' Umhlanga that is attracting leading international names to the area.

Movie-makers, too, have discovered Umhlanga's scene-setting qualities, and tycoons, jet-setters and royalty are all visitors to this part of the coast.

Also on Umhlanga's doorstep is the Gateway Theatre of Shopping (031-566 2332), the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Umhlanga has 19 cinemas to entertain visitors, in addition to two major theatres. The Barnyard Theatre is a popular drawcard, offering a unique 'picnic theatre' experience.

Numerous roadside cafés, coffee shops, 24-hour take-aways, pubs, shops, countless markets and restaurants all contribute to Umhlanga's cosmopolitan atmosphere. Within walking distance of the Umhlanga village are many smaller shopping centres and malls. It has its own police unit, a post office, library and Tourist Information Centre.

La Lucia Mall

To the south is La Lucia Mall (031-562 8420), located off the M4 between Durban and Umhlanga Rocks. This prestigious community centre has grown with the area since opening in 1974. Several facelifts culminated in a R74-million upgrade in March 2003. It offers a beautiful shopping environment, has 115 stores and secure parking.

A few kilometres to the north of Umhlanga is the new R727-million Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom, a Sun International casino, hotel, conference and dining complex. It also boasts a top-class cultural village. Its theatre attracts top international and local acts. Contact (031-580 5000).

Close by is the site of the new international airport to be built at La Mercy, scheduled for completion in 2009, which will place Umhlanga on the map for international entrepreneurs and other 'movers and shakers'.



ZULU CULTURAL FIRE EXPERIENCE

A cultural show at Sibaya Casino and Entertainment Kingdom.



S. CHAPMAN

Beautifully laid out streets, all-year-round sunshine and prime real estate.



P. BENDHEIM

Prime office space in the upmarket Umhlanga Ridge.

Sport crazy Umhlanga

SPORTS FACILITIES in and around Umhlanga make it a perfect venue for people who love to play.

Golfers are spoilt for choice with 10 courses, including some of the country's top-rankings with individual holes listed in the top 100 – all within a 35-kilometre radius of Umhlanga.

Mount Edgecombe, originally part of a sugar estate and mill, provides lush fairways bounded by magnificent subtropical vegetation: 140 years ago elephants roamed where golfers walk today.

The 18-hole Mount Edgecombe Country Club (031-539 5330) is home to one of the country's highest-rated courses, and the Mount Edgecombe Golf Lodge also has a challenging course.

Both Zimbali Country Club (032-538 1041) and Prince's Grant (032-482 0005) offer superior and challenging courses. Zimbali offers one of the toughest tests of golf in the region, with the inward nine providing a scenic distraction.

Also to the north is the Umhlali course (032-947 1181), and Tongaat boasts a nine-hole course, the Amatikulu Golf Course (035-331 1071). South of Umhlanga is the 5 883-metre Beachwood Golf Club (031-313 1777), and on the outskirts of Durban's CBD is the renowned Durban Country Club (031-313 1777). Nearby is the 9-hole Windsor Park Golf Club (031-312 2245), which has a mashie course, off-rates and equipment for hire for the not-so-serious and beginner golfers. Royal Durban (031-309 1373) is in the centre of town, surrounded by Greyville Race Course. Courses feature tropical vegetation, rolling parkland layouts and ocean vistas.

Main sports events

With its great weather (more than 320 sunny days a year) the people of the Zulu Kingdom are sport crazy!



A surfer snags a clean right-hander at Umdloti.



The Zimbali Country Club, with indigenous forests and sea views.



The Sharks in Super 12 action. Absa Stadium, their home ground, is ten minutes by car from Umhlanga.

Comrades Marathon (www.comrades.com)

Two major annual sporting events are the Comrades Marathon, the world's greatest ultra-marathon, run every year in June between Pietermaritzburg and Durban.

Dusi Canoe Marathon (www.dusi.org.za)

The annual Dusi Canoe Marathon is the main canoeing event in KwaZulu-Natal. It takes place in early January and attracts some 2 000 paddlers supported by a 3 000-strong crew. This world famous event stretches over three days through boiling rapids, deep African canyons and searing tropical heat. It starts at Camps Drift in Pietermaritzburg and ends at the Blue Lagoon, 10 minutes drive from Umhlanga.

Surfing (www.beachafrika.com)

Beach Africa, billed as the largest beach festival in the world, takes Durban's Golden Mile by storm for 10 straight days of fun in the sun in July. It includes day and night pro surf contests that attract the world's best surfers, a jet ski festival, beach sports like volleyball, fashion and beauty extravaganzas and massive beach parties.

Stadiums (www.durban.gov.za/eThekwin)

World-class sports facilities dominate the Walter Gilbert Road/NMR Avenue area, just 15 minutes' drive from Umhlanga.

Absa Stadium is a test rugby venue and the home of the Sharks rugby team, and next door Kingsmead is a well known international test cricket venue.

Two professional football teams – Manning Rangers and Zulu Royals – keep soccer fans loyal at nearby Kings Park. Their base is a stadium next to Absa Stadium.

Other sports clubs in the extended Kings Park complex cater for archery, hockey and athletics. Over the road is the Kings Park Olympic Swimming Stadium.

Durban July (www.goldcircle.co.za)

Greyville race track, in the heart of Durban, hosts two of South Africa's premier horse racing events each year, The Durban July and the Gold Cup. Within and around it is the Royal Durban Golf Course.

Take a walk on the wild side

STAY ON COURSE AS YOU EXPLORE A HERITAGE TRAIL, or take to the forests and revel in nature that is aeons old.

Umhlanga, Zulu for 'place of the reeds' for the profusion on the banks of the Ohlange River that flows just north of Umhlanga, was once part of a coastal dune forest system. It provided sanctuary to a myriad wildlife species, many of which are still to be found in bird, marine, and wildlife preserves in and around the area today.

Notable among these is the Hawaan Forest. This unique indigenous woodland has remained in its natural state for centuries. It is a beautiful forest characterised by important species of trees with tropical attributes, and many small animals.



G. ERSKINE

Ancient trees create pallets of beauty in Hawaan Forest.



C. WADINGTON

A vervet monkey keeps a beady eye on hikers in the dune forest.

Entry is restricted, ([031-566 4018](tel:031-5664018)) and you need to book a place on a guided walk held on Saturdays at 8am. Ask too about the Umhlanga Ponds, one of the best birding sites on the coast.

Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve

The O'Connor Promenade, which hugs the shoreline, ends where the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Trail begins. This is a delightful hour-and-a-half trail on a well-marked path. Wander through stunning coastal forest on boardwalks that cross the Ohlange River on its way to the lagoon, buttressed by dunes. It is home to vervet monkeys, small buck and a profusion of butterflies and birds. Benches and picnic spots are discreetly provided. Follow the trail to reach both the beach and the lagoon, popular as a naturalist 'hideaway', among parasailing enthusiasts and boardsailors. The remains of a Stone Age seashell midden can also be found near the lagoon. Contact ([073-629 5457](tel:073-6295457)) to book guided walks held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Beachwood Mangrove Nature Reserve

South of Umhlanga, this is a well-organised reserve on the banks of the Umgeni River. A series of environmental education courses is held here, and guided canoeing trips through the mangroves can be arranged. Contact ([031-563 3187](tel:031-5633187)).

Greenacres Nursery

This top-class nursery, nestled alongside the Hawaan Forest, is home to exotic and indigenous plants. It is home to the KwaZulu-Natal branch of the South African National Bird of Prey Centre. You can see crowned eagles and other raptors up close and in flight on Sundays (11h00 for 11h30). Contact ([031-561 3003](tel:031-5613003)).

Sand and Rock Art

On the Umhlanga Main Beach take time out to watch talented artists creating spectacular sand sculptures.



C. WADLINGTON

A boardwalk links the trails that meander through Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve.

Discovering history



Some of KZN's icons of history: Mahatma Gandhi, John L Dube and Isaiah Shembe.

The Phoenix Settlement/Inanda Trail

At Inanda there is said to be more history per square centimetre than anywhere else in South Africa. On the Trail, your first call is the Phoenix Settlement where one of the major leaders of the 20th century, Mahatma Gandhi, devised his philosophy of passive resistance against injustice. His home has been rebuilt and re-dedicated as a monument to peace and justice.

Your next stop is just up the hill at Ohlange, the school founded by John L Dube, the first president of the African National Congress. You can pay your respects at the grave site of this famous man, not only an educationist and politician, but also newspaper editor, writer, minister and visionary. Dube's house is now a national monument. See also the place where Nelson Mandela cast his vote in South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

From Ohlange, it is a short ride to Inanda Seminary, one of the best-known schools for girls in Southern Africa and one of the oldest, too, dating from 1869. Its first principal was the remarkable missionary, Mary (Ma) Edwards.

In nearby Tongaat experience African culture with a visit to adjoining Hambanathi township.

Your last stop on the Trail is Ebuhleni, where you can experience the religious world of the Shembe church, which has a following of some four million members. The prophet Isaiah Shembe founded the church with its elaborate doctrine, dress and dance in the early years of the 20th century. Its headquarters were, until the 1980s, at Ekuphakameni, which you will see between Phoenix Settlement and Ohlange. Contact (031-300 2553).



P. BENDHEIM

The printing premises where, in 1903, Gandhi began publishing *Indian Opinion* and from which Dube launched *Ilange Lase Natal* in the same year.

Experience land, sea & sky

UMHLANGA ENJOYS A WARM SUB-TROPICAL CLIMATE year-round with temperatures around the low twenties – even in winter.

Fishing, both from a skiboat and the shore, is popular. Various establishments, including the Natal Sharks Board, offer whale and dolphin viewing trips. There are skiboat launches at both Umhlanga and Umdloti and skiboat fishing competitions are held regularly in the area.

Both wave surfing and kite surfing are popular along this stretch of coast. Kite surfers practice regularly at Tekweni beach, on the north side of Durban. Surfers and bodyboarders get good waves at the Umhlanga beach breaks, while Umdloti offers a few challenging beach and point breaks.

Diving

There are exciting dive sites accessible by boat from Granny's Pool, and some from shore through the surf for fit and experienced divers. They include an artificial reef that attracts a variety of fish, and The Trawler, (Fontao), sunk in 1990. Your dive skipper will show you an underwater wonderland of corals, sponges and tropical species. Contact (082-553 2834).

The Sharks Board

The Natal Sharks Board, the only organisation of its kind in the world, has its headquarters on the ridge overlooking Umhlanga. It seeks to further knowledge of sharks and maintains nets to ensure the safety of bathers along our shores.

Watch a spectacular half-hour audio-visual presentation that captures the drama of the ocean and the energy of the Sharks Board staff as they carry out their daily servicing of shark nets, and watch a shark dissection.

Visit the display hall and view a large variety of lifelike replicas of sharks, fish and rays. The curio shop is a treasure trove of



SHARKS BOARD

Visitors can swim in safety thanks to Sharks Board staff, seen here checking off-shore nets at dawn.

unusual and stylish gifts. The Sharks Board is open to the public from Monday to Friday. Contact (031-566 0400).

Air flips

Just south of Umhlanga is Virginia Airport, where you can take coast and inland sightseeing flights (031-563 7101). Try skydiving (072-214 6040) or a microlight flip (084-266 3359).

Dolphin viewing

Experience the thrill of the ocean while seeking dolphins in the warm waters off Umhlanga. Spotting whales, whale sharks and other dolphins is not uncommon in Umhlanga. Experience the thrill of a launch through the surf in a rubber duck with experienced skippers. Contact (083-659 1694).

A humpback whale breaches off Umhlanga in a spectacular display of power. Whale and dolphin watching trips are available.



SCENIC AFRICA PHOTOGRAPHY

Hazelmere Dam

Hazelmere Dam and Resort is a water sport mecca for those who love watersports and fishing. An outing to the shady picnic spots on the water's edge will reward you with sightings of zebra, wildebeest and many birds and butterflies. (032-533 2315).

Marine conservation

Deep-sea, rock and shore angling are some of the major attractions of the Umhlanga coastline, offering some of the finest fishing in the province. However, over-fishing has forced the authorities to enforce strict regulations to preserve many threatened species.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, are responsible for policing the new laws that require that anyone harvesting any marine resource, including all linefishing, has a permit to do so. Taking any intertidal resources, such as live shells, mussels and oysters, also requires a special permit. (www.rhino.org.za)

Deep-sea charter owners and bait and fishing equipment retailers can provide specific information on permitted catch numbers and sizes.



Umhlanga sunset.

Permits

Permits may be obtained by writing to the KwaZulu-Natal Marine Permits Office, Private Bag X15, Congella, 4013. Contact (031-274 1150) (Commercial); (031-205 5278) (Fishing). National permits are also obtainable from all SA Post Office outlets.

Gateway to adventure

GATEWAY THEATRE OF SHOPPING is much more than a shopping centre – it's a one-stop adventure and entertainment centre that will keep the whole family enthralled. So while mom and dad go shopping, the kids can get airborne at the Wave House, test their climbing skills on the vertical Rock, get a front-row seat at the giant IMAX, or explore the wonders of science at the ScienCentre.

The Wave House features the biggest Wave Loch stationary wave in the world and guarantees an adrenalin rush second to none. Two FlowRiders™ (smaller version practice waves) introduce you to the incredible sport of flowboarding, before you move on to the big one.

It also includes the best skate park in South Africa, designed by nine times world skateboarding champ, Tony Hawk. Contact (031-570 9200).

The Rock at Gateway is one of the leading climbing facilities in the world. At 22.5m (8 stories) high, it is the planet's highest free-standing indoor climbing wall. The Rock's 300 square meters of surface area currently has 25 climbing routes which range from 'dead easy' to 'near impossible', catering for everyone from beginners to hard-core rock climbers. Visitors to The Rock will be looked after by a trained instructor. Contact (031-566 4955).

IMAX is the ultimate movie experience. With crystal clear images five stories high and wrap-around digital surround sound, IMAX takes you to places you only imagined.



The Rock at Gateway provides a challenge for rock climbers.

Climb Everest. experience the weightlessness of space, dive into the undersea world of the most fearsome great white sharks, explore the mystery of the Nile or migrate across the plains of the Serengeti with one and half million animals. IMAX lets you feel like you're really there. (031-566 4415).

The Old Mutual-MTN ScienCentre is a world-class science that brings science and technology alive for both children and adults. The



In the tube at The Wave House.

ScienCentre entertains while it educates with over 200 magical interactive science and technology displays. These include giant whisper dishes, an amazing gyroscope, an air rocket, centripetal swing and a set of puzzling exhibits that will test your logic to the max. The ScienCentre also runs special weekend and holiday activity programmes for children and hosts a number of local and international science and technology related exhibitions and expos. Contact (031-566 8040).



The thrilling IMAX Theatre.



Edutainment at the ScienCentre.

Scenic drives

TUCKED AWAY a few kilometres from the coast the old North Coast road meanders through sugar cane fields and scenic river valleys. Now known as the R102, this old road will take you through the small coastal towns of Verulam, Tongaat and Umhlali, harking back to a bygone era. This



route weaves together a wealth of cultures and religions firmly intertwined in time and space. Here you can explore heritage trails and pick up souvenirs – colourful beadwork, skillfully crafted baskets or mats of woven grass and sculpted works of art.



Hungry travellers can pick up a bunny chow – curry in a half-loaf of bread.

KwaMashu

If local Zulu culture is what you are after, take a tour to the township of KwaMashu, check out the local market and witness a traditional Zulu healer communicating with the ancestors and preparing traditional medicines. Contact Umhlanga Tourism for details about community tourist operators (031-561 4257).

Verulam

Verulam was originally founded by British Methodist settlers in the 1950s. The colonial houses and sugarcane fields of 19th century Verulam have become home to a thriving Indian community bustling with colourful saris and bursting with flavour. Spicy samoosas and fearsomely hot curries provide a delicious treat.

Umdloti

Umdloti is a coastal holiday town, with chalets, bungalows, holiday apartments and B&Bs, overlooking a beautiful beach and tidal pool.

Tongaat

Since its founding days in 1945, Tongaat has supported one of the largest sugar producing districts in the world. It was originally a housing project for the sugar industry labour force, which included hundreds of indentured workers from India. Their influence lives on in all facets of the Zulu Kingdom's lifestyle. Be sure to visit its bustling market gardens.

Umhlali

Next on the roadway is the farming village of Umhlali, established by British and Scottish Byrne settlers in 1850. It lies inland from Salt Rock and Sheffield Beach. It has a quaint and unique Sugar Village theme and the buildings are designed and decorated in an 'old world' flavour. The shops are varied and visitors can enjoy fast food, homemade goodies and fresh farm produce.



A roadside craft seller displays his wares.

Arts & crafts

UMHLANGA boasts a proud creative heritage, and there are regular exhibitions of works at the Village Green by North Coast art groups.

The best in local arts and crafts are proudly displayed at the Sugar Coast Arts & Crafts Festival held at the Umhlanga Festival Grounds every Sunday.

Street vendors sell a colourful array of wares with strong Zulu and Eastern influences. Bustling markets in Verulam and Tongaat sell everything from spicy samoosas to fresh fruit and vegetables, grass baskets and colourful beads.



Delicious Cuisine

A STAY IN UMHLANGA ROCKS provides the perfect opportunity to relax and savour the wonderful ambiance of a coastal town in southern Africa. Here you will find a unique blend of cultures from East and West, with the pulse of Africa at its heart. Mediterranean-style establishments rub shoulders with Asian, Middle Eastern and exotic African restaurants, many of which include a panoramic view over the ocean.

Sumptuous cuisine will tantalise you with delicious smells, colours and textures, served in the informality of a pavement café, to gastronomic and scenic splendour.

If you're heading for the beach, pick up a succulent wors roll, sample some delectable biltong from a street vendor, or try a famous 'bunny chow' from a take-away.

When the sun sets, Umhlanga's vibrant nightclubs pump up a party atmosphere, and there are clubs for teens, 20-somethings and more sophisticated dine and dance venues. From jazz and maskanda to hip-hop and metal, music and dance venues abound.



COURTESY SA TOURISM

Celebrate a breathtaking view with a glass of champagne.



Travellers' information



For international calls into South Africa dial +27, remove the first (0) from the area code and dial the number, eg. 031-561 4257 becomes +27 (0)31 561 4257.

Tourist information

Umhlanga Tourism Association

Tel: 031-561 4257 • Cell: 082-904 9912

Email: info@umhlanga-rocks.com

Durban Africa

Tel: 031-304 4934 • www.durbanexperience.co.za

Tourism KZN

Tel: 031-366 7500 • www.zulu.org.za



Banks

All major South African banks and Building Societies have branches in the main towns. Banking hours are (Monday to Friday) 09:00-15:30 and (Saturdays) 08h30-11h00. Automated teller machines (ATMs) operate 24/7 hours and can be found in most shopping centres.

Foreign Exchange

Traveller's cheques and foreign currency notes of all major currencies can be exchanged at any commercial bank. American Express offices and most hotels have exchange facilities.

Credit Cards

Most department stores, shops, hotels and restaurants accept international credit cards ie American Express, VISA, Diners Club, MasterCard. Please note that petrol may not be purchased on credit cards in South Africa.

Value Added Tax

14% tax is charged on purchased goods and services. Foreign tourists can have their sales tax (VAT) refunded at a port of exit, provided the purchase exceeds R250. To qualify, visitors must have a valid foreign passport, the necessary tax invoices and the goods. The relevant office is in the International departures section at Durban International Airport. VAT for restaurant, accommodation, or car hire cost will not be refunded.

Consulates and embassies in Durban



Australia:	031-208 4163
Austria:	031-261 6233
Canada:	031-303 9695
Denmark:	031-202 9396
Germany:	031-305 5677
Italy:	031-368 4388/9
Netherlands:	031-202 0461
Norway/Sweden:	031-207 6900
United Kingdom:	031-305 2929
USA:	031-305 7600

Telecommunications



South Africa has a sophisticated telecommunications network. International dialling and full telex, telefax, and electronic mail facilities are available. There is full cellphone coverage in the Umhlanga area, and handsets are available for hire in the main shopping centres. Local SIM cards may be bought at retail outlets.

Transport



Durban International Airport receives direct flights from various international destinations as well as domestic services, including Kulula.com, Nationwide, SAA and British Airways. Intercity coaches and trains are reasonably priced

and depart daily for various destinations. The Mynah bus is a reliable local bus service that plies passengers around Durban and the suburbs. There is a regular bus service between Durban and Umhlanga. Tel: 031-309 5942/3, or Umhlanga Tourism 031-561 4257/6943.

Emergency numbers

Please make use of www.safe.kzn.org.za, part of a comprehensive KZN tourism safety initiative.

Police & Flying Squad:	10111
Ambulance:	10177
Fire & Ambulance:	031-361 0000
Tourist Support unit:	080-561 1297
Weather Bureau:	082-231 1603
Department of Home Affairs:	031-308 7900
Tourism KZN telephone:	031-366 7500
Durban International Airport:	031-451 6584
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife:	033-845 1000/031-304 4934
National Sea Rescue Institute:	031-332 9772
Mountain Rescue:	031-307 7744



Umhlanga directory listings

Tourist information

Umhlanga Tourism Association

Tel: 031-561 4257 • Cell: 082-904 9912

Email: info@umhlanga-rocks.com

Pets

Umhlanga Veterinary Hospital
181 Ridge Road, Umhlanga
Tel: 031-561 4023
Email: shepvvet@mweb.co.za

Theatre

The Barnyard Theatre
A unique rustic theatre offering musical compilation shows and featuring live bands.
Shop F222, Gateway
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