

Table Of Content

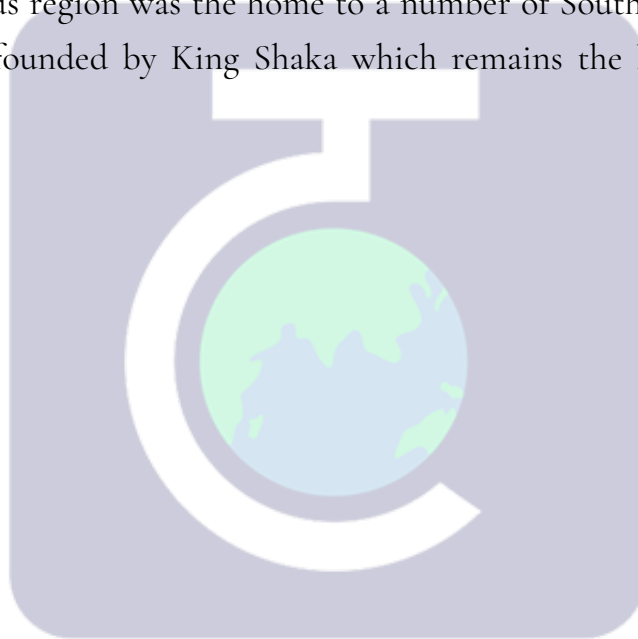
Geographical location	3
Neighbouring cities/countries	4
Significance	5
History	6
Cultural identity	7
Natural resources	8
Key site seeing places (paid and free)	9
- Paid	9
-- uShaka Marine World	9
-- Moses Mabhida Stadium	9
-- Umgeni Bird Park	10
-- THE GREEN HUB	10
- Free	12
-- SAHARA stadium	12
-- Cell C Sharks	12
-- Gateway Theatre of Shopping	12
-- Pavilion Shopping Centre	12
-- Heritage Market Shop	13
-- Victoria Street Market	13
-- Musgrave Centre	13
-- Kwa Muhle Museum	13
-- Durban Botanic Gardens	14
-- Valley of a 1000 Hills	14
-- Umhlanga	15
-- Durban Natural Science Museum	15
-- Golden Mile Beach	16
Key sites sports & adventure	17
Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums	19
Spas and relaxation	20
Events calendar	22
Key local guides and tours	25

Transportation hubs	26
Transportation cost	27
Baggage allowance	28
Must try food and local savouries	29
Restaurant & Nightlife	30
Average meal cost	34
Shopping	35
Tourist benefits	36
Essential local apps	37
Driving	38
Travel essentials	39
Essential clothes	40
Local currency	41
Change vendor's commission, ATM charges	42
Staying connected	43
Time Zone	44
Languages	45
Political Scenario	46
Economic Scenario	47
Religious belief	48
Visa requirements	49
Essential vaccination	50
Theft and Safety	51
Embassy/Consulate	52
Accessibility	53
Emergencies	54
Do's and Don'ts	55
Tipping basics	56
Pet info	57
Conclusion	58
Disclaimer	59

Index

1. Geographical location

Extending for 800kms along the east shore of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal is isolated into eight distinct topographical locations with Durban as the biggest city. The South Coast, North Coast and the lesser known Elephant Coast are the three major regions that border the Indian Ocean. Inland, the Drakensberg mountain range, ascending to 3,482 meters (11,424 ft), borders Lesotho while the Midlands locale around Pietermaritzburg is made of moving slopes and lavish meadows. The battlefields region was the home to a number of South African battles and also encompasses Zululand, founded by King Shaka which remains the heart of the culture and history of the region



Index

2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Major Cities Close To Durban, South Africa Are Petermaritzburg (78.2 Kilometers), Richmond (94 Kilometers), Scottburgh (76 Kilometers). Other Cities Neighbouring Durban Are KwaZulu-Natal Which Is At A Distance Of 270.6 Kilometres, Nelspruit Which Is At A Distance Of 695.7 Kilometres.



3. Significance

Durban has been a great tourist destination for more than half a century. Characterised by round the year sunshine, Durban is known for its golden beaches. It is a major host to a number of international events and conferences and sports events. The culture of Durban is characterised by the influence of African, Eastern and Western influences. Durban also provides multiple options of breath-taking scenery beyond the city. Covered by coastal areas in the North and South and with hills on the west.



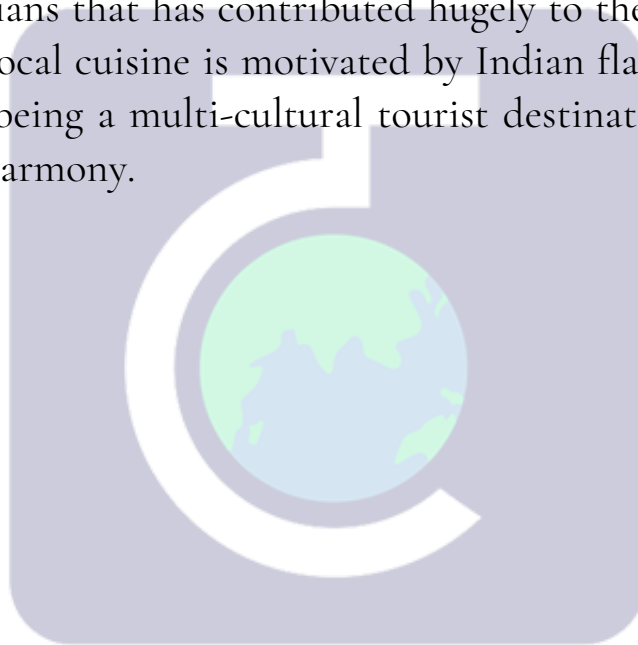
4. History

Archaeological remains derived from the Drakensberg region, indicates that Durban has been inhabited by people from the stone-age. Early history of Durban is not available in any written form and its history can be only dated to the discovery by Vasco Da Gama. Modern history for Durban dates back to 1824 when 25 British settled near the Farewell Square. It was later in the 1860s that the British set up a sugar cane industry and led to the immigration of settlers from Europe and the Cape Colony. This immigration led to the largest settlement of Asian and Indian community settlements in Africa in Durban.



5. Cultural identity

Durban is a historically rich city. Having been amidst the history of South Africa at all times and also remaining in the centre of the protests against Apartheid in South Africa has given it a multi-cultural flavour. Durban was also an important city in the British Empire due to its coastline advantage that gave rise to trade out of Durban. Due to the settlement of sugar factories, it saw the immigration of Asian, especially Indians that has contributed hugely to the present day Durban culture. A lot of its local cuisine is motivated by Indian flavours and lifestyle. It also prides itself by being a multi-cultural tourist destination with all faiths co existing in absolute harmony.



Index**6. Natural resources**

South Africa is the continent's largest producer of gold and also the fifth largest producer of diamonds in the world. This also contributes to a large part of their exports. Some of the key natural resources include gold, diamonds, silver, phosphate, iron ore and manganese. This has led to the blossoming of many industries including mining of gold and platinum, petroleum refining, chemicals and fertilizers.



Index

7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. uShaka Marine World

This marine theme park provides attractions to cater to all age groups. It has the 5th largest aquarium in the world that boasts of large sharks and rays as exhibits. Tourists can choose to go snorkeling and get up close with the creatures. The Marine World also has a theme park inside that has some of Africa's thrilling rides and also has an African-themed village setting that is best enjoyed while taking a stroll.

Address : 1, King Shaka Ave, point, Durban 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.8672537, 31.045854200000008

Contact : +27-31 328 8000

Website : <http://www.ushakamarineworld.co.za/about-us>

Nearest Public Transport : Point Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults- R199 Children/Senior- R158

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 09:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Moses Mabhida Stadium

This stadium was specifically built to host the FIFA World Cup and has since then been converted into a tourist attraction. The top of the stadium that can be accessed by the SkyCar offers an expansive view that has the Indian Ocean on one side and the entire city of Durban on the other.

Address : 44 Isaiah ntshangase Rd, Durban 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.8289571, 31.030386899999994

Contact : +27 31 582 8222

Website : <http://mmstadium.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Moses Mabhida train station

Entry Fee : Adults- R55

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Umgeni Bird Park

Founded by a bird-enthusiast over a stagnant water body, the Umgeni Bird Park now houses 45,000 bird across 500 species. The Bird Park is also home to a number of threatened and endangered bird species that are conserved here. The daily bird show is a major highlight of the aviary.

Address : 490 Riverside Rd, Durban 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.808634, 31.017356899999998

Contact : +27-31 579 4600

Website : <http://www.umgeniriverbirdpark.co.za/>

Nearest Public Transport : Umgeni Railway Station (not recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults- R40 Children-R20

Open & Close Timing : Daily: 09:00hours-17:00hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. THE GREEN HUB

The Green Hub is an eco-tourism spot in Durban. Located at the Umgeni river estuary, this attraction offers multiple options of adventure that range from canoeing to mountain-biking. Equipment are available for hire depending on the choice of activities at very nominal prices.

Address : 31 Stiebel place, Durban, 4025, South Africa

Zipcode : 4025

Location : -29.812947899999999, 31.0333560000000026

Contact : +27 31 322 6026

Website : <http://www.durbangreencorridor.co.za/>

Nearest Public Transport : umgeni train Station

Entry Fee : NOTE: Call to check for the entry fees

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



Index

7.2. Free

7.2.1. SAHARA stadium

Location : -29.85005829999999, 31.0278138999999956

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Cell C Sharks

Zipcode : 0

Location : -29.8247909, 31.0297037000000027

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Gateway Theatre of Shopping

The Gateway Theatre of Shopping offers many fashion and entertainment options for its visitors. The mall has everything under one roof for the fashion forward, the tech-savvy, socialites, and party animals.

Address : 1 Palm Blvd, Umhlanga, 4319, South Africa

Zipcode : 4319

Location : -29.7259994, 31.0658284999999952

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Pavilion Shopping Centre

The Pavilion Shopping Mall is the home to fabulous fashion, fun and fine food. It houses an exciting range of exclusive family-friendly restaurants, boutiques and many entertainment options for the old and young. It is the premier entertainment and shopping destination in KwaZulu-Natal.

Address : 5 Jack Martens Dr, Westville, 3629, South Africa

Zipcode : 3629

Location : -29.848027, 30.9363829000000012

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Heritage Market Shop

Location : -29.77758, 30.7677800000000016

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Victoria Street Market

Location : -29.8566989, 31.0154723000000056

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Musgrave Centre

Located in the sophisticated suburb of Musgrave in the beautiful province of KwaZulu-Natal, Musgrave Centre is a modern, aesthetically stylish and pleasing heaven for shoppers. Its style and convenience makes it an ideal shopping destination for tourists and locals alike.

Address : 115 Musgrave Rd, Berea, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.847586200000001, 30.999212299999954

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Kwa Muhle Museum

Kwa Muhle Museum is aimed at showcasing and sharing the fight against apartheid in South Africa. Housed in the former Native Affairs building in Durban, this museum is one of the 4 major historical monuments in the city. The museum is adorned with photographic and video displays to provide a holistic representation of early Durban.

Address : 130 Bram Fischer Rd, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.852710000000001, 31.023829999999975

Contact : +27 31 311 2237

Website : http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Services/ParksRecreation/museums/Local_History_Museums/Pages/KwaMuhle_Museum.aspx

Nearest Public Transport : Durban Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily- 11:00hours-16:00hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Durban Botanic Gardens

The Durban Botanical Gardens was the brainchild of the creators and curators of this park. Some of the world's exotic species of trees, cycads and orchids have separately dedicated sections. This site offers the travelers a break from the noise of the city by offering peaceful spots for picnics. Live music performances are a regular feature in the evenings.

Address : 70 St Thomas Rd, Durban 4001, South Africa

Zipcode : 4001

Location : -29.8479401, 31.006261399999997

Contact : +27 31 322 4000

Website : <http://durbanbotanicgardens.org.za/>

Nearest Public Transport : Berea road Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily: Winter- 07:30hours-17:30hours Summer- 07:30hours-17:15hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Valley of a 1000 Hills

The valley is characterized by lush tropical forests, waterfalls and wildlife. This scenic attraction, as the name suggests, has a number of valleys and ridges that with several resorts scattered around it. Some of the best attractions include the Crocodile and Snake Park, 1000 Hill Bird Park and the Arts and Crafts Village.

Address : The Valley of a 1000 Hills, Pinetown, 3670, South Africa

Zipcode : 1000

Location : -29.7206, 30.682899000000002

Contact : +27 21 777 1874

Website : <http://1000hillstourism.co.za/>

Nearest Public Transport : inchanga train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Umhlanga

Located along the Durban coastline near the Indian Ocean, Umhlanga has the best hotels of Durban located in the area. It provides tourist attractions and leisure activities that include surfing, fishing and snorkeling.

Address : Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal

Location : -29.7371408, 31.073638899999999

Nearest Public Transport : Avoca train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 6

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Durban Natural Science Museum

Durban Natural Science Museum is located inside the Durban City Hall. The museum is all about world's wild animals, stuffed birds, dinosaur fossils and preserved insects. Children get to learn about the African wildlife and its archaeological history. The museum also has an Egyptian mummy named Peter Amen and the popular exhibit of the extinct Dodo, which is one of the best-preserved skeletons in the world.

Address : City Hall, 234 Anton Lembede St, Durban, 4000, South Africa

Zipcode : 4000

Location : -29.8586086, 31.026327199999997

Contact : +27 31 311 2256

Website : http://www.durban.gov.za/City_Services/ParksRecreation/museums/nsm/Pages/default.aspx

Nearest Public Transport : Berea road train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Saturday- 09:00hours-16:00hours Sunday:
11:00hours-16:00hours

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Golden Mile Beach

The Golden Mile is one of Durban's most popular hangout spots not only for the Africans but also for tourists visiting the city. The beach is paved with golden sand shores that provide a wide expanse for sunbathers and swimmers to take a dip in the sea. There are a number of other destinations like Blue lagoon, uShaka marine world and skate park, alongside the beach. Cyclists, joggers and walkers are a regular sight on the beach. The beach is very well-maintained and is one of the cleanest beaches in the country.

Address : Golden Mile Beach, South Africa

Location : -29.8556281, 31.0403185999999978

Nearest Public Transport : Cape St. Martin train station (not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily- Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

8. Key sites sports & adventure

Quench your thirst for adventure at the friendliest South African city of Durban. From Cageless Swimming with the Sharks to Abseiling on the rocks, or race against the wind by kitesurfing, Durban has everything you'll need to experience that taste of thrill and adventure at South Africa.

- **Abseiling -**

Address : 18 Old Main Rd, Hillcrest, 3610, South Africa

Location : -29.789481,30.7747011999999

Contact No : +27 31 765 7724

Website : <http://msinsi.co.za/msinsi-activities/>

Nearest Public Transport : hillcrest train station (not recommended)

Entry Fees : R120

Open / Close Time : Daily- 06:00hrs-17:30hrs (May to September)
05:30hrs-18:00hrs (October to April)

Time Required : 3.00

Wait Time : 5-10 minutes

- **Cageless swimming with the Sharks -**

Address : Scottburgh Main Beach, Scottburgh, Durban, 4182, South Africa

Location : -30.279687,30.759905

Contact No : +27 71 705 8518

Website : <http://bluewilderness.co.za/>

Nearest Public Transport : Greyhound bus station (not recommended)

Entry Fees : R950 per person

Open / Close Time : Daily- 06:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 3.00

Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

- **Kitesurfing -**

Address : 5 forest cres, Umhlanga, 4051, South Africa

Location : -29.759594999999,31.06545

Contact No : +27 31 562 8886

Website : <http://ocean2air.co.za/>

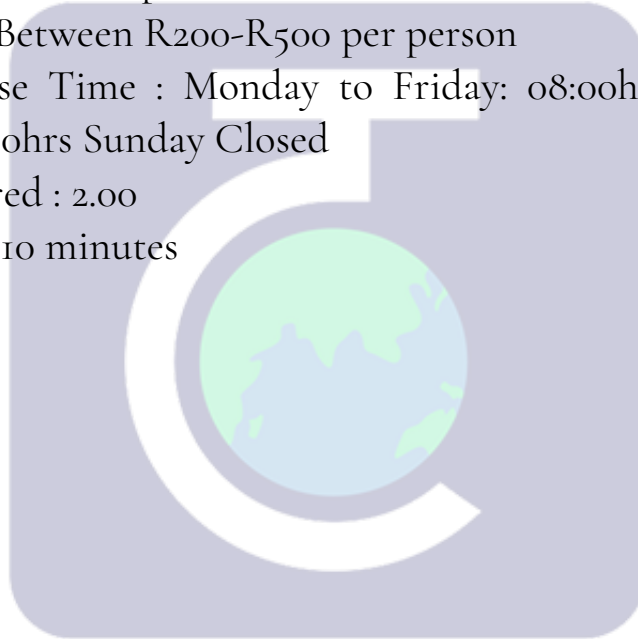
Nearest Public Transport : Avoca train Station (not recommended)

Entry Fees : Between R200-R500 per person

Open / Close Time : Monday to Friday: 08:00hrs-18:00hrs Saturday:
08:30hrs-13:00hrs Sunday Closed

Time Required : 2.00

Wait Time : 10 minutes



Index

9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Football, rugby and cricket are the most leading outdoor sports in the country. Some of the most prominent sports stadiums of Durban include: 1. Sahara Stadium Kingsmead 2. Cell C Sharks



Index

10. Spas and relaxation

Tired of exerting all day long while touring in Durban? Take a detour into one of the many fine relaxation spots the city has to offer. From peaceful massage therapies to rejuvenating spa bath, Durban makes sure you are well rested and prepared to venture into its enigmatic bosom.

- **Riverside Day Spa:**

Address : 10 Kenneth Kaunda Rd, Broadway, Durban, 4051, South Africa

Location : -29.806950999999999,31.032398000000057

Contact No : +27 31 564 6006

Website : <http://www.riversidedayspa.co.za/>

- **Fleur De Lis Spa:**

Address : 315 Ridge Rd, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.840664999999999,30.995664000000033

Contact No : +27 31 271 8228

- **Aamoy Spa:**

Address : 33 Chearsley Road, Westville North, 3629, South Africa

Location : -29.81248,30.922305999999935

Contact No : +27 79 024 1139

- **Heaven on Earth Day Spa:**

Address : 262 John Zikhali Road (Old Sydenham Road), Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.8400708,30.999469800000043

Contact No : +27 31 207 3364

Website : <http://www.heavenonearthspa.co.za/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Umgababa Beach Festival

The festival is celebrated on the 1st of January every year and has been the most attended event from the last 7 years. The festival consists of over 50 performances by poets, comedians, dancers and other forms of entertainment art.

Al-Ansaar Souk

The Al-Ansaar souk fair goes on for 11 days and is hosted at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

IASCA Bass Wars

This event is the ultimate show for car enthusiasts. Participants have to pay an entrance fee for entering the competitions whereas it is free for the spectators.

Bob Marley Earth Day Reggae Music Festival

This festival pays tribute to the music legend, Bob Marley. The festival is hosted at the uShaka marine world.

Durban City Marathon

The marathon is 42.2km long offering the participants to experience the best of Durban. Tourism INDABA

INDABA is one of the largest tourism marketing events in Africa. It showcases South Africa's best tourism products and attracts international media and buyers from around the world.

Annual Hip Hop Festival

Hip hop festival takes place at the People's park east on June 10. People from around the world participate in this festival to showcase their talent.

Durban Boat and Lifestyle Show

The show takes place at the Durban Marina showcasing boats of all sizes and shapes, towcars, luxury vehicles, outdoor equipment and caravans.

Durban Business Fair


The fair helps large businesses to promote their products and services. The fair also helps businesses to connect with each

other and understand the sector and find ways that can keep the businesses competitive.

Good Food and Wine Show

Good food and wine show is said to be Africa's largest culinary event launching in October, 2016.

Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concerts



Every year, we get to see different genres of concerts at the Kirstenbosch botanical gardens. On 20th November, Jimmy Nevis will be performing at the Kirstenbosch NBG and on 27th November, The 3rd Generation Band and Jah Prayzah are performing.

Durban Jazz Festival

As the name suggests, the festival showcases the jazz music, dance in the city and is celebrated around the beginning of December.

Fact Durban Rocks

It was founded by DJ Tira in 2006 to promote the Durban lifestyle and Afrotainment album launches.

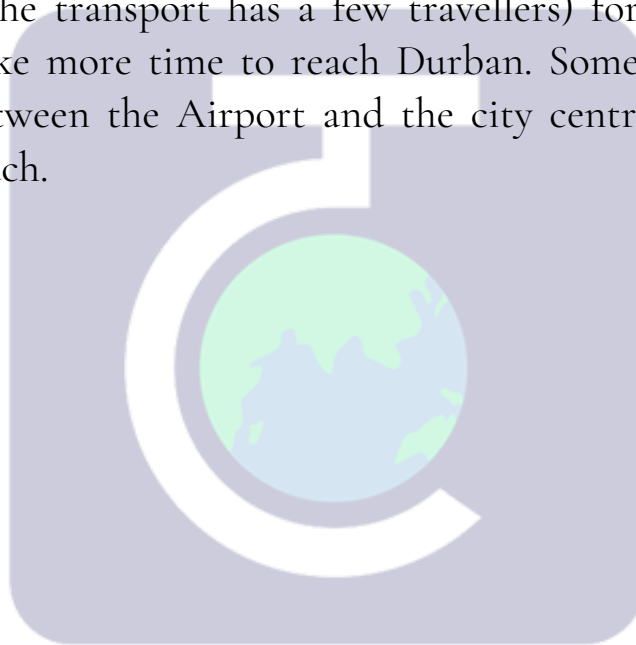
Index**12. Key local guides and tours**

Durban offers an eclectic mix of tourist options for all types of travellers. Different areas in Durban can be best explored by different modes of travel. Durban can be best explored best on foot and through guided tours. Some of the key guided tour operators in Durban are: 1. Durban Ricksha Bus tour 2. Durban City Tour Guides



13. Transportation hubs

The King Shaka International Airport, at La Mercy has been finished and is completely operational. The airport is 40.5 kilometres (30 minutes) away from the city centre. Taxi admissions from the new airplane terminal to the lodgings on Marine Parade and Durban can cost well over R400. In any case, alongside the taxi post, there is an airplane terminal transport service that leaves each hour on the hour (or when the transport has a few travellers) for R80 per individual, however it might take more time to reach Durban. Some of the other shuttle services that run between the Airport and the city centre are the EZ Shuttle Service, Margate Coach.



14. Transportation cost

Suburban travel is facilitated by the People Mover which are colourful buses that have a 15 minute frequency. A single journey ticket on these buses cost you a R5.50. Travellers can also opt for full day passes that start at R16. Services run between 05:00hours to 22:00hours every day. Train travel in Durban is mainly provided by Metrorail that offers services in the Gauteng, Eastern and Western Cape. A single journey on metro rail starts from R6.50 up to R12.50. Monthly and weekly passes are also available priced between R68 to R240.



15. Baggage allowance

Suburban and out bound trains from Durban have no limit on the baggage that can be carried on board. The recommendation is however that tourists travel light with minimum or light baggage.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

Durban offers a great mix of local cuisines to its visitors. Among the offerings, some of the must have dishes include thre Bunny Chow, Fresh Sardines on toast and Shila Nyama



Index

17. Restaurant & Nightlife

While in Durban, South Africa one must definitely visit Durban beach and the area around Windermere for the best restaurants and nightclubs in the city. Following are few of the restaurants and nightclubs in Durban:

Food -

While in Durban, South Africa one must definitely visit Durban beach and the area around Windermere for the best restaurants and nightclubs in the city. Following are few of the restaurants and nightclubs in Durban:

- **Victory Lounge:**

Address : 187 Dr Yusuf Dadoo St, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.85560289,31.016916300

Contact No : +27 31 306 1906

- **Max's Lifestyle Umlazi:**

Address : 6 Mbe Rd, Umlazi, 4089, South Africa

Location : -29.9572701,30.923107399

Contact No : +27 31 906 1393

Website : <http://www.maxslifestyle.mobi/>

Open / Close Time : Daily-07:00hours-00:00hours

- **9th Avenue Bistro:**

Address : Shop 2, Avonmore Centre, Ninth Avenue, Morningside, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.83656289,31.013985999

Contact No : +27 31 312 9134

Website : <http://www.9thavenuebistro.co.za>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Friday: 12:00hours-14:30hours and 18:00hours-21:30hours Saturday & Monday: 18:00hours-21:30hours Sunday: Closed

- **Freedom Cafe:**

Address : 34 St Marys Ave, Greyville, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.8388517,31.019318200

Contact No : +27 31 309 4453

Website : <http://www.tastefreedom.co.za>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Sunday: 07:00hours-16:00hours Monday: Closed

- **Capsicum Restaurant:**

Address : Britannia Hotel, 1299 Umgeni Road, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.81201809,31.018822600

Contact No : +27 31 303 2266

Website : <http://www.hotelbrits.co.za>

Open / Close Time : Daily: 07:00hours-21:30hours

- **Al Firenze:**

Address : 21 Ray Paul Drive, Durban, 4019, South Africa

Location : -29.752699,31.057715000

Contact No : +27 31 572 5559

Website : <http://www.alfirenze.co.za/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Sunday: 12:00hours-15:00hours and

18:00hours-22:00hours Monday: Closed

- **Butcher Boys Morningside:**

Address : 170 Florida Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.832921,31.016853200

Contact No : +27 31 312 8248

Website : <http://butcherboysgrill.co.za/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday: 12:00hours-14:30hours and 18:00hours-22:00hours Friday to Sunday: 12:00hours-15:00hours and 18:00hours-22:30hours

- **ROCCA BAR:**

Address : Ballance Rd, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.8295751,31.025896399

Contact No : +27 71 640 6489

Open / Close Time : Wednesday to Saturday: 18:00hours-06:00hours Sunday to Tuesday: Closed

- **Joe Cools Restaurant:**

Address : 137 O R Tambo Parade, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Location : -29.8500059,31.038190900

Contact No : +27 82 378 8068

Open / Close Time : Daily- 08:00hours-05:00hours

- **Billy The Bums:**

Address : 504 Lillian Ngoyi Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001, South

Africa

Location : -29.82094189,31.022984599

Contact No : +27 31 303 1988

Website : <http://billythebums.co.za/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Saturday: 12:00hours-02:00hours Sunday:
Closed



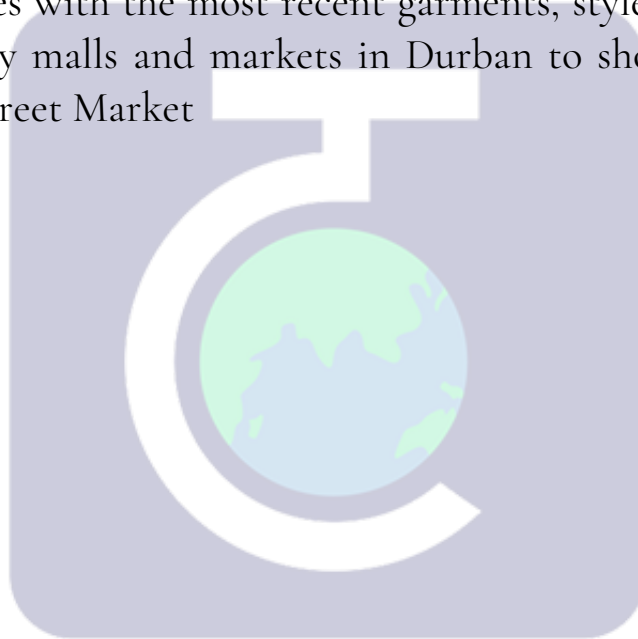
Index**18. Average meal cost**

A three-course meal in Durban costs as following: • Expensive restaurant (expat area): R600 • Inexpensive restaurant: R100 • Mid-range restaurant: R380 • Alcohol Prices: Domestic Draught (0.5 litre): R20; Imported Beer (0.33 litre): R24



Index**19. Shopping**

Durban is a shopper's heaven and offers a wide range of shopping options. Road markets in and around the city offer an assortment of artworks and beadwork. The Indian locality in downtown Durban offers an enormous collection of products from the East and additionally flavours and curry powders. Boutique apparel shops are available in plenty while the shopping centres house all the enormous chain stores with the most recent garments, style embellishments and toys. Some of the key malls and markets in Durban to shop at are: 1. Heritage Market 2. Victoria Street Market



20. Tourist benefits

VAT in South Africa is at 14% of purchases and services. Foreign tourists are allowed to reclaim their value added tax on a collective purchase of more than R250 at multiple offices for refund in the city. The VAT office for refund is also set up at the Durban International Airport.



21. Essential local apps

One should have these following apps with them when travelling to Durban which includes Uber to book a taxi on the go, SnapScan helps to pay for goods purchased by scanning bar codes on the goods since your credit card is linked with the snapscan app.



22. Driving

Every person who drives a motor vehicle in South Africa must carry either a driver's license issued by South Africa itself or an international driver's license that is accepted in the South Africa including one from his/her home state. The speed limit on urban freeways and highways are 120 km/h whereas it is restricted to 100 km/h on secondary and rural roads.



Index**23. Travel essentials**

The standard electricity supply in the South Africa is 230 volt – 50 Hz AC, 15 A and plugs have two or three prong round pins. Remember to bring an adapter or converter if you need it.



Index**24. Essential clothes**

The standard electricity supply in the South Africa is 230 volt – 50 Hz AC, 15 A and plugs have two or three prong round pins. Remember to bring an adapter or converter if you need it.



25. Local currency

The official currency of South Africa is the South African Rand. The exchange rate is 1 USD= 14 ZAR.



26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Credit cards are accepted at most or all shops, restaurants and hotels. South Africa has a sophisticated banking and commercial set up. The Unique Rand Card (UR Card) is a good way to carry money in the absence of credit cards. It offers discounted accommodation and travel packages. It is very easy to find ATMs in the mother city of Durban. Travellers cheques are accepted everywhere in Durban. Authorised Dealers with limited authority (ADLAs) status have been given to banks to facilitate travel related transactions.



27. Staying connected

Most hostels, hotels, cafes and restaurants in Durban offer free wi-fi facility to their customers. As far as cell phone connectivity goes, the city is covered by the GSM 900/ 1800/ GPRS/ HSPDA network. There are three main operators in the city i.e MTN, Cell C and Virgin Mobile and Telkom. The process of obtaining a sim is pretty simple in South Africa where in a visiting national is required to produce a valid passport and the details of accommodation in South Africa.



28. Time Zone

Durban observes SAST. It is CET (UTC+2)



Index**29. Languages**

The most commonly spoken language in Durban is Afrikaans, English is also commonly understood. The localites have a number of colloquial words for a number of things. Although English is one of the 11 official languages in South Africa, it could become a problem communicating with the locals in the language. However the friendly nature of the city should help you with it.



Index**30. Political Scenario**

Xenophobia is a major concern in Durban. With fresh tensions between locals and foreigners in Durban, there has been a looming danger of violence in the city. There have been instances of looting in shops and establishments owned and operated by foreigners near the Durban City Centre. Separate requests for staging protests have been constantly shot down by the Zuma government in South Africa and has led to these tensions leading to other cities in South Africa. Major reasons for these political tensions have been linked to the economic disparity amongst the locals and the foreigners. Visitors are advised to be aware of their surroundings at all times to stay away from such happenings in the city.



31. Economic Scenario

Durban has a large and diversified industrial set up. Some of the key sectors contributing to the economy include manufacturing, tourism and transportation. The coastal location and a huge port is a very important factor for its export industry. Durban is the third richest city in South Africa and generates about 15% of the national output.



Index**32. Religious belief**

Christianity is one of the most dominant religion in South Africa. The census report of 2001 showed a total of 80% of the entire population to be Christians. Islam comprises of about 2 % of the population and is a distant minority. Hinduism makes up about 1.2% of the South African population. Durban is a classic example of how religions can co-exist in a mixed environment. The Emmanuel Cathedral and the Jumma Masjid have co-existed next to each other for years with any communal issues.



Index**33. Visa requirements**

The visa requirements are different for different countries of residence of the traveller. Visa requirements depending on the country of residence can be found on: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries> It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application.



34. Essential vaccination

One does not need to take any specific vaccination before entering this country. Advice: There is no risk of yellow fever in South Africa. The government of South Africa requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does not include the US. If you are traveling from a country other than the US, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever#4728>



35. Theft and Safety

South Africa as a country is one of the safest countries in the world where there is zero tolerance for crimes. It is advised that you do not carry large sums of cash and valuables in the open. Visitors are advised to be wary of street children and beggars who may approach you for alms. Keep your photocopies of documents on you at all times and be vigilant around ATMs and be known of emergency numbers in Durban.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

A list of foreign embassies and consulates of Durban, South Africa can be seen online at: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/south-africa>



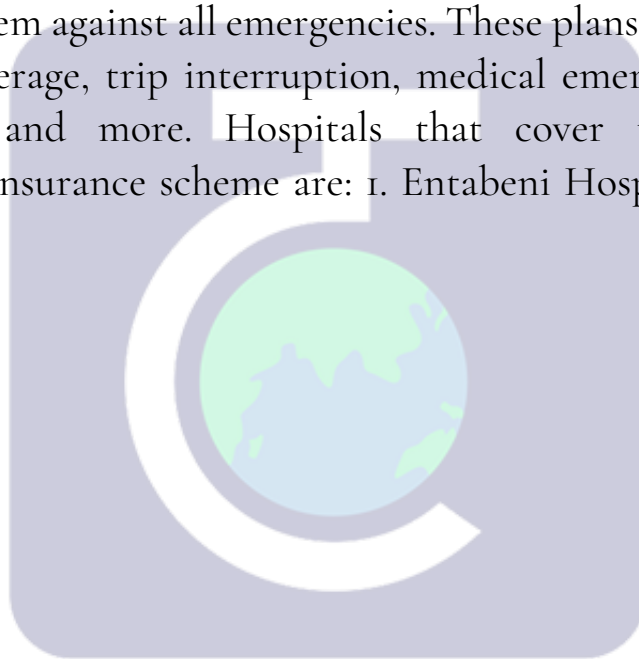
37. Accessibility

Durban as a destination is wheelchair and disabled friendly. The buses that are run by the municipality called the People Mover are fitted with special ramps for the disabled. Most civic infrastructures have special access and facilities for the disabled.



38. Emergencies

Durban does not have a single number to report emergencies. The Durban Metro Police can be reached on +27-31361000. Emergency ambulance services can be reported on 10177. The hospitals in Durban are state of the art with complimentary pharmacies that also remain 24X7. These hospitals have highly trained doctors. Travelers are advised to carry medical insurance plans prior to the trip that cover them against all emergencies. These plans may include valuable medical expense coverage, trip interruption, medical emergency assistance and treatment services and more. Hospitals that cover travelers under the international travel insurance scheme are: 1. Entabeni Hospital 2. Life Westville Hospital



Index

39. Do's and Don'ts

Do's. • Make sure the handshake is firm and not lose. Feeble handshake is taken as ill-mannered in South Africa. • While exchanging gifts, use either both hands or your right hand. Open the gift immediately after you get it. • Ask permission before clicking someone's photograph • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance.

Don'ts • Never count/ exchange your money on the street. • Don't flag down a taxi on the street buy book it from a reliable source beforehand. • Do not call Afrikaans "Dutchmen" or "Kitchen Dutch". They don't consider themselves Dutch and will not appreciate any such gesture • When on a Safari, do not imitate animal sounds, throw objects, or corner a wild animal. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. • Avoid Durban Airport during peak hours. • Don't wander near the City Centre at night • Hire a self-drive car. It is expensive to drive and it is equally dangerous. • Do not use the words "Black" and "nigga"

Index**40.Tipping basics**

Tipping and rounding up of restaurant bills and taxi fares is common. The usual tipping amount is 5 - 10% of the total bill. Tips are paid in cash directly to the waiters even if you've made the payment using a credit card.



Index**41.Pet info**

South Africa has set regulations for pets entering the mainland. All animals are microchipped with a 15 digit ISO microchip. It requires an application submitted to the Director of Animal Health, post which a Veterinary Import permit is issued.



Index

Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Durban is a laid back city yet urbanized. It offers a mix of Zulu culture and a large Indian population that speaks English. Durban benefits from the yearlong subtropical climate with temperatures staying in the range of 20 degrees. Durban has been declared the “friendliest city in South Africa” and is one of the most sustainable cities in the world. It is rich in terms of its historical culture and offers some very exciting indigenous cuisines to the travelers. Durban by virtue of its expansive coastline offers good beaches and aquatic life. The natural reserves in South Africa and Durban offer great experience in terms of wildlife and some of the most wonderful adventure activities.



Index

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