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Tourism KwaZulu-Natal



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## Media Release

For immediate release

**To:** All media

**Attention:** News Editors and Journalists

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### Flying Solo this Valentine's Day

Going solo on Valentine's Day is something everyone tries to avoid, right?

Not really. Just because you're not part of a couple or find yourself spending Valentine's Day away from your partner doesn't mean you can't do something really special this time around. Do exactly what most busy bodies never get to do at the beginning of the year – plan some me time and use this as the perfect opportunity to spoil yourself or even do the very things that a partner might not enjoy sharing with you!

For the adventurers amongst us, KwaZulu-Natal is the perfect province where you can tick off those seemingly outrageous adventures that have always been on your bucket list. If you find yourself in the Midlands, take a Karkloof Canopy Tour and spend two fun hours zipping through the indigenous forest canopy before heading off for an ecowalk through the Karkloof Forest. If you're going South, head for Oribi Gorge and the world's highest gorge swing. You'll plunge 100 metres into the abyss off the edge of Lehr's Falls.

If you've always wanted to take to the sky, sign up for a unique mix of excitement and tranquillity and try hot air ballooning over the Drakensberg or even take a helicopter flip from Virginia Airport along the north or south coasts.

Prefer exploring the depths of the ocean? Try snorkelling and diving at Sodwana Bay, Kosi Bay or Mtunzini or sign up for a stint of shark cage or deep sea diving at Aliwal Shoal or Protea Banks along the KZN South Coast where one can explore mesmerising offshore reefs, rocky coves and even sunken ship wrecks.

Then there are those things that are often best enjoyed on your own – fishing, birding or hitting a few golf balls at a driving range.

The Drakensberg offers many ideal spots for a spot of trout, bass or carp fishing. Either sign up for a day's fishing at one of the province's beautiful dams or make a long weekend of it and head for one of many country lodges in and around the Drakensberg. If you're itching to fight off a feisty tiger fish or two, you can head north to Lake Jozini, the only lake in South Africa which is home to tiger fish. Alternatively, hop aboard a charter boat and spend a day deep sea fishing.

If you're an avid birder, KZN has wonderful spots to find those rare feathered friends. Pack your binos and bird book and head for the likes of Ndumo, the Hluhluwe Umfolozi and Mkuze Parks or the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. If you'd like an even more memorable solo birding adventure, try the exotic Dlinza Forest near Eshowe with its unique aerial boardwalk that takes you 127 metres through the forest canopy at 10 metres above the forest floor and culminates in a 20-metre high viewing platform.

We all know that not everyone likes a lazy day of shopping. So, if your loved one is absent, take a day drive to the Midlands or along the South Coast where you can enjoy stopping off at various farm stalls, delis and craft shops. If you're in the Midlands, grab a map and follow the Midlands Meander. You can stop off at Piggly Wiggly where you can not only grab a bite to eat but wander through the Zulu Lulu Gallery and other shops displaying a plethora of arts and crafts. Nottingham Road and Howick are also home to many fascinating shops and craft outlets. Other havens for shopaholics include the Mushroom Farm in Hillcrest and Fig Tree Farm in Waterfall.

Art lovers can enjoy quality alone time at one of the many galleries dotted around the province. The quirky Platform Gallery at Lion's River is packed with one of the largest fine art collections in the province while the Riverbend Art Gallery in Margate exhibits many top South African artists' work, including paintings, pewter ware, ceramics and stone carvings.

If you'd like some bling in your life, visit the Amazulu Palace, near Kloof. This is not only mosaic heaven but offers an eclectic collection by owner and artist, Peter Amm, that includes everything from massive mosaic pillars to ceramics and collectables salvaged from old Durban movie theatres and shops. Expect art deco inspired doors and windows and extremely decorative memorabilia. It is worth taking a R100 per person tour which not only buys you a commentary on all the quirky pieces but a cup of coffee or tea. Funds from tours (which must be pre-booked) go to charity.

Last but not least, the very best way to spoil yourself is to book some time out for pampering at one of the many spas throughout the province. There's plenty to choose from and different packages to suit different budgets stretching from suburbia to country lodges and even luxury safari getaways.

Ends.

**For more information go to social media links to Tourism KwaZulu-Natal:**

Website: <https://www.zulu.org.za>

Facebook: Tourism KwaZulu-Natal

Instagram: Tourismkzn official

Twitter: @TourismKZN

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Hashtags: #KZNHasItAll #BelieveIt

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