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Tourism KwaZulu-Natal



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## Media Release

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**To:** All media

**Attention:** News Editors and Journalists

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### **KWAZULU-NATAL'S BIG FIVE ADVENTURES**

How about a healthy shot of adrenaline at the end of a challenging year? Whether it's quad biking, mountain climbing, kite surfing or even exploring prehistoric sand stone caves, KwaZulu-Natal has a great deal to offer the nature-loving thrill seeker.

One does not have to go far to find the perfect outdoor adventure that will leave you feeling more energised and revitalised in a province that is rich with pristine game reserves, magnificent mountain landscapes, jaw dropping gorges, a sweeping coastline and more.

According to Pinky Radebe Senior Manager PR and Communications, TKZN, in a post-pandemic world, travellers are not only looking for more authentic memorable experiences but also activities that boost feel-good endorphins – with the added bonus of a photograph to prove that they really did dive off the edge of a gorge or swim with a huge predator!

Radebe says that adventure – or experience – tourism goes hand in hand with eco-tourism and KZN is stepping up as a ‘go-to’ destination for both. It appeals to adventurous travellers from far and wide due to its mild, year-round climate, stunning landscapes and beautiful beaches.

So, if you’re keen to get out of your comfort zone, explore KwaZulu-Natal’s Big Five Adventures:

## **1. GO ON AN OCEAN SAFARI**

From the incredible beauty of Cape Vidal and the eco-diversity of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park to the world renowned dive sites at Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks on the South Coast, Kwa Zulu Natal is the perfect place to explore the depths. Snorkelling at Sodwana Bay or at some of the wrecks dotted along the East Coast will reveal a marine world populated by stingrays, octopus, butterfly and sturgeon fish, tiger and ragged tooth sharks and even passing whales. Topping the marine adventure list is shark diving – either in the safety of a cage at uShaka Marine World or out at sea, or, for more experienced divers, scuba diving alongside these formidable predators.

## **2. RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS**

Bungee jumping, zip lining and abseiling are guaranteed to spark an adrenaline rush. The iconic Oribi Gorge is home to the Wild Gorge Swing - the highest swing of its kind in the world – which starts at the 170-metre-high Lehr's Waterfall and plunges 100m into the abyss of Oribi Gorge. This is equivalent to jumping a 33 storey building, reaching a speed of 120km an hour. There’s also the 80-metre cable suspension bridge which takes adventurers 130 metres off the ground, zipline across Oribi Gorge and a chance to step back into the abyss and abseil parallel to Lehr’s Fall.

Visitors to the Drakensberg can abseil at both Chicken Hill or at White Mountain Kloofing in the Injisuthi valley near Loskop is another attraction. After a drive in convoy, hiking parties ascend the mountain for an hour before abseiling down again via a cascade of waterfalls.

Last, but not least, is the exhilarating Karkloof Canopy Tour which cuts through the forest canopy within the lush Karkloof Forest Reserve via 2 platforms and 10 zip-line slides.

### **3. TRY WHITE WATER RAFTING OR GECKOING:**

Champagne Castle Adventure Centre, based at Dragon Peaks Mountain Resort in the Central Drakensberg is the perfect stop-off for a stint of tubing or gheckoing down the rapidly flowing Sterkspruit and 450m stretch of class 1-2 rapids. If you're feeling even braver, take on the mighty Umzimkulu River that flows through the Oribi Gorge. Traverse grade 2 to 4 rapids with names like 'the Omen' and 'the Brick'.

### **4. STEP INTO A CAVE;**

Although KZN is home to some of southern Africa's highest peaks, most challenging hiking trails and fascinating sand stone caves, these aren't for the faint hearted. There's an almost endless list of suggested hikes, rated according to fitness and mountaineering ability. One of Drakensberg's most challenging day hikes, the Chain Ladder Hike, takes hikers right up the Amphitheatre, a huge 1,200m high cliff face while the more moderate Lower Injisuthi Cave hike follows the river of the same name and passes by Battle Cave and Junction Cave, both famous for San rock art. Ascent of the 3,004m Cathedral Peak makes for an extremely challenging excursion while the five-day hike to Mafadi, the highest peak in South Africa, is another exacting option.

Alternatively, adventurers can head for the KwaXolo Caves near Margate on the South Coast. Securely harnessed, you'll will hike via a cable-and-rung system to the caves which are adorned with centuries-old San paintings. The tour has been recently upgraded with an extended ferrata system, high wire bridge, 1km long zipline and walkway bridge.

### **3. DRIVE – OR WALK – ON THE WILD SIDE:**

KZN boasts many Big Five game reserves. Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the oldest park in Africa, is the hub of rhino conservation and open vehicle or self-drive excursions will introduce you to lions, leopards, wild dog, elephants, buffalo and more. Other

fascinating destinations under the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife banner include the Mkuze Park and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park where river excursions and hikes can bring you up close and personal with hippos and crocodiles. Visits to the Thembe Elephant Park and Thula Thula Reserves promise close encounters with elephant while private big-five game reserves such as Zimanga, Phinda, Nambiti (near Ladysmith) and Thanda have a myriad of other options for those in pursuit of the ultimate bush experience.

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

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Hashtags: #KZNHasItAll #BelieveIt

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