
Tourism KwaZulu-Natal



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To: All media

Attention: News Editors and Journalists

GET TOGETHER THIS VALENTINE'S MONTH IN KZN

Valentine's Day isn't just a reason to focus on romantic love – it's a great opportunity to find that perfect excuse to remember the value of true togetherness - to celebrate friendships and to enjoy time out with a group of people who will help make special memories that could last a lifetime.

Whether you're a group of single's enjoying each other's company or a collection of couples who are taking the time out to have fun, KwaZulu-Natal offers some really special opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors this Valentine's month.

Great summer weather, stunning scenery and opportunities to do the sorts of things that would never fit into your daily routine are a great way to start out the year on a positive note, Pinky Radebe Senior Manager PR and Communications, TKZN, points out.

"For the past couple of years, we've been confined to our homes and immediate neighbourhoods and either unable to or nervous about moving a little out of our comfort zones to enjoy special occasions. But that is all behind us now and, once again, we are free to appreciate the very many special things that are right on our doorsteps," she says.

So, rally your buddies and either plan a day trip or a long weekend to take in the wonders of KZN – and don't forget to post plenty of pictures so everyone can share the excitement.

North coast magnificent beach walks and rock pools

Although the obvious destination in KZN might seem to be the coast, not every visit has to be the traditional beach towel and suntan lotion type experience. Dotted all along the KZN Coast are some really special marine protected areas and even historical sites, not to mention a world heritage site in the form of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. In addition to the more obvious activities like snorkelling or deep sea diving, groups can also enjoy simply walking along some of the magnificent beaches with their rock pools and expanses of white sand. Peek at the massive Nile crocodiles catching some sun at the mouth of the St Lucia estuary or make your way through the exotic dune forests along a plethora of wooden walkways.

Visit hidden treasures

If you're heading South, take a guided tour through the fossil filled Petrified Forest or visit one of the world's smallest desserts. Alternatively, grab an old style map and try to find all the wonderful olde worlde light houses along the KZN coast – with a single gathering point at the end of the excursion to find out who found the most. With a little extra planning, you could even organise a trip to the Whaling Station on Durban's Bluff, now with heritage site status as a tribute to growing whale conservation.

Take a glamping safari

KZN is also one of the provinces with one of the greatest safari and wildlife offerings. There's a huge variety of experiences on offer – from camping at Mpila in the Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park to pitching your tents at Cape Vidal, Zululand's Bonamanzi or even the Tala private Reserve near Pietermaritzburg.

Mkuze, with its wonderful fever tree forest as well as Bonamanzi are great alternatives to the bigger parks with savannah grasslands, dense sand forests, mangroves and wetlands and majestic fever trees.

With a slightly bigger budget, you can try glamping – larger safari tents with the comforts of a four or even a five-star hotel and bush style meals to match. The Tembe Elephant Park is a great location with the added bonus of meeting up with some of the province's big tuskers.

A stop off at Springbok Lodge at Nambiti, just outside Ladysmith is another great glamping opportunity with regular game drives into the big five reserve. A quick google and you'll be amazed by the wide range of glamping opportunities that extend from the Pongola Game Reserve and Hluhluwe Bushcamp Glamping village through to beautiful lakeside and mountainside spots in the Drakensberg.

The best way to manage safaris during the very high hot summers in Zululand and beyond is to enjoy group game drives in the early morning, at sunset and at night. Group game spotting on an open vehicle is a great joint adventure and a stop off in the bush for a sunrise breakfast or sundowners are wonderful times to connect. Spent the heat of the day in the pool or enjoying a midday siesta.

If the bush is not for your group, then try a team adventure in Zululand or the Drakensberg with everything from rock climbing to archery, paint ball and mountain biking.

Go golfing with your buddies

KwaZulu-Natal is also home to some of the country's premier golf courses. So, if you want to discover your inner Ernie Els or Tiger Woods, head South to the likes of Southbroom, Prince's Grant, Selbourne or San Lameer or north to the Durban Country Club, Mount

Edgecombe, Simbithi or Zimbali. You can also T-off in the Drakensberg at a variety of different courses, including the Amphitheatre, Champagne Sports and the Drakensberg Sun.

Sample some of KZN's best cuisine

Last but not least, says Radebe, don't let the Valentine's sun set without sampling some of KZN's best cuisine. If you split the bill, you can enjoy a haute cuisine at the likes of Cleopatra's Guest House, Hartford House or the Jackie Cameron School of Food and Wine in Hilton or even the 9th Avenue bistro and Havanna Grill in Durban. Explore Umhlanga and Florida Road for the very best gastronomy.

Looking for something a little out of the ordinary? Pull in at Surfriders Café on the Durban Promenade or enjoy high tea on the verandah at the Oyster Box Hotel. If you're south, head to the iconic waffle house for a never-to-forget treat or go inland to the Fables Eatery where the ingredients for the delicious dishes are sourced from their beautiful Midlands Garden.

Whatever your choice to celebrate Valentine's – fall in love with the province of KwaZulu-Natal!

Ends.

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