

Spotlight on Durban - Commonwealth Games 2022

Hot off the press is the wonderful news that Durban will host the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Moses Mabhida Stadium will play a major role in hosting the games, while the Rachel Finlayson Swimming Complex, just a few kilometres away on the promenade, will serve as the aquatics centre.

As the Fifa World Cup did in 2010, 2022 will be yet another milestone as the African continent gets set to host its first ever Commonwealth Games.

Did you know that Durban city was discovered by Western explores in 1497? Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama, came across Durban on Christmas day and named it Rio de Natal which means "Christmas River" in Portuguese. Durban city is now known by its full name of Durban Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Durban also has the highest Indian population outside of India. Their cultural influence can be seen everywhere, especially in the local cuisine. A local Durban (or Durbs as it is affectionately known) favourite is "Bunny Chow" - a loaf of bread hollowed out and filled with a mutton or bean curry.

Shaka Zulu, the famous Zulu king, ruled the lands surrounding Durban. Durban's new in-

ternational airport was named after him and is known as King Shaka International Airport. Emirates offers direct flights, or connect via Johannesburg, which is just a one hour flight away.

The greater Durban area offers a wide range of accommodation from the luxurious Oyster Box, to boutique style hotels such as African Pride Audacia Manor. Tsogo Sun hotels also have a large footprint in this area with the Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani.

In close proximity are a number of magnificent, Big Five game reserves, such as Phinda and the world heritage site, iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The mighty Drakensberg Mountain range is just two hours' drive away, close to the world-famous battlefields, site of the Anglo-Zulu wars. This really is a year-round destination, with subtropical weather and the warm Indian Ocean.



Home Hosted dinners in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

The latest offering in Victoria Falls is a home-hosted dinner or lunch. Guests are welcomed into a typical Zimbabwean house in 'Chinotimba', a high density suburb of Victoria Falls, located away from the town centre. This is where most of the population of Victoria Falls lives and is also known as Chinotimba Township.

It is a great experience for children or teens

who will enjoy meeting other young people and learn about their cultures.

Expect an authentic home-cooked meal - there will be options you are familiar with which are commonly eaten in Zimbabwe, such as beef stew, as well as some local dishes (such as mopane worms - dried caterpillars) that may be new to you. You do not have to try these if you are wary but it is great fun if you do.

Soroi Serengeti Lodge, Tanzania

The new Soroi Serengeti Lodge, with 25 individual chalets, is set high on a natural plateau with endless views over the vast plains of Musabi and affords guests a truly unforgettable African experience. The lodge is well located in central Serengeti, just a hour and a half game drive away from the Seronera Airstrip.

It is owned and managed by the Mbali Mbali Lodges and Camps Group. As a Tanzanian owned company, job creation is important. They have engaged with local villages, investing in community development, and conservation education in the schools.

The three-tier main deck, with swimming pool, fireplace, open-plan restaurant and kitchen, is where meals are served. This eco-friendly lodge

uses solar hot water geysers, inverters with batteries and organic room amenities, ensuring a low carbon footprint.

The Serengeti is famed for its annual migration, yet even when the migration is quiet, this park offers arguably the most exciting game viewing in Africa. Game drives set out at first light, returning in the late afternoon.

A hot-air ballooning safari over the Serengeti offers one of the most memorable experiences in the world. The safaris take off at dawn, rising slowly with the sun and floating in the direction the winds take you.

This lodge is well-suited for smaller incentive groups.



Brief updates from Southern & East Africa

Please don't forget that as of 01 September 2015, all visitors will have to apply for Kenyan visas online. E-visas can be applied for at <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>. The website is mobile-friendly, allowing applications to be completed from a mobile device. The system also accepts photos taken and uploaded from a mobile. Currently the website is only available in English.

Dragonfly Africa Platinum Club has two brand new additions! Virgin's **Ulusaba Private Game Reserve** offers a complimentary Ulusaba Encountered Wildlife book in the room upon arrival and a "stay for 4 nights pay for 3" special, valid until 21 December 2015 and from 10 January - 10 March 2016. The new Virgin **Mont Rochelle Hotel and Vineyard's** offer includes complimentary wine tasting (4 wines) and cheese board as well as a "stay for 4 nights pay for 3", valid from 1 May - 30 September 2016.



Dragonfly Africa is very pleased to announce that we have been awarded our ATOL licence for the UK market. This means we can safely offer ATOL-protected, flight-inclusive travel packages. Our ATOL number is **10995**. We look forward to bringing your next trip to life.



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