



BATTLEFIELDS ROUTE K W A Z U L U - N A T A L

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DUNDEE TOURISM

INCLUDES DUNDEE, GLENCOE AND WASBANK
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Fax: 034 218 2837
Email: info@tourdundee.co.za
Website: www.tourdundee.co.za

TALANA MUSEUM - DUNDEE

Tel: 034 212 2654
Fax: 034 212 2376
Email: info@talana.co.za
Website: www.talana.co.za

LADYSMITH/EMNABITHI

INCLUDES SIEGE MUSEUM, CULTURAL CENTRE,
COLENSO AND VAN REENEN
Tel: 036 637 2090
Email: tendlovu@ladysmith.co.za
Website: www.ladysmith.co.za

SIEGE MUSEUM - LADYSMITH

151 Murchison St Ladysmith
Tel/Fax: 036 637 2992
Email: ismakhubo@ladysmith.co.za

NEWCASTLE TOURISM

Office: Town Hall, Scott Street
Tel: 034 315 3318
Email: info@newcastle.co.za
Website: www.tourismnewcastle.co.za

FORT AMIEL MUSEUM

Tel: 034 328 7621
Email: museum@newcastle.gov.za

CARNEGIE ART GALLERY

Tel: 034 328 7622
Fax: 086 6913342
Email: gallery@newcastle.gov.za
Website: www.carnegie-art.co.za

VRYHEID/ABAQULUSI

Carnegie Building
c/o Landdrost and Mark St Vryheid
Tel: 034 982 2133 x 2229
Fax: 034 982 3497
Email: information@abaqulusi.gov.za
Website: www.abaqulusi.gov.za

NIEUWE REPUBLIEK MUSEUM

Landdrost Street Vryheid
Tel: 034 982 2133 x 2287
Fax: 086 504 9638
Email: museum@abaqulusi.gov.za

UMLALAZI TOURISM

INCLUDES ESHOWE, GINGINDLOVU AND
MTUNZINI
Office: Hutchinson St, Eshowe
Tel: 035 473 3359/3327
Fax: 035 474 4733
Email: ronel@umlalazi.org.za
Website: www.visitzululand.co.za
www.umlalazi.org.za

FORT NONGQAYI MUSEUM - ESHOWE

Tel: 035 474 2281
Email: zhm@umlalazi.org.za

MTHONJANENI TOURISM - MELMOTH

Tel: 035 450 2082 x 221
Email: tourism@mthonjaneni.org.za
Website: www.melmoth.co.za

MTHONJANENI ZULU HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Tel: 035 450 0904
Email: info@mthonjanenilodge.co.za
Website: www.mthonjanenilodge.co.za

MSINGA TOURISM

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Email: mzwandile.buthlezi@msinga.org.za

NQUTHU TOURISM

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Email: nmadela@nquthu.gov.za

HERITAGE

AMAFA HERITAGE

Amafa KwaZulu Natali
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website: www.heritagekzn.co.za

ONDINI MUSEUM - ULUNDI

Tel: 035 870 2051
Email: amafahq@mweb.co.za

UMGUNGUNDLOVU MULTI-MEDIA CENTRE - ULUNDI

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Website: www.heritagekzn.co.za



UMZINYATHI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
www.umzinyathi.gov.za



UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
www.uthukeladm.co.za



ZULULAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
www.zululand.org.za



BATTLEFIELDS ROUTE
K W A Z U L U - N A T A L

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www.battlefieldsroute.co.za
www.battlefieldsregionguides.co.za
www.battlefields.kzn.org.za

The Battlefields Route Association acknowledges the contributions and assistance of the committee members, tour guides, involved organisations and district municipalities in the compilation of this tourism guide. Full details of the attractions and accommodation options on the Battlefields Route are available from the tourism offices listed in this publication.

www.ericadesigns.co.za

THERE'S MORE TO THE BATTLEFIELDS THAN YOU EVER IMAGINED!

The Battlefields Route in KwaZulu-Natal draws visitors from around the world. But do not be misled by the name of this exciting tourism experience into believing that its famous battle sites are the sole attraction.

There's so much more to the Battlefields.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS ON THE BATTLEFIELDS ROUTE

WILDLIFE

Within the Battlefields Route and close by you will find a number of well known Game, Nature and Heritage Parks and Conservancies that include:

- Nambiti – Nambiti Plains | Nambiti Hills | Esiweni Lodge
- Leopard Mountain Game Lodge
- Kwa Cheetah Project at Nambiti Private Game Reserve
- Chelmsford Nature Reserve, Newcastle
- Balele Game Park at Utrecht
- Hluhluwe – Imfolozi
- Zululand Rhino Reserve
- Ntendeka Wilderness
- Weenen
- Ithala
- uMkhuze
- Phinda Mnyawana Conservancy
- Emakhosini-Opathe Heritage Park
- St Lucia Wetlands, Ismangaliso
- Spionkop Dam Nature Reserve
- Great uKhahlamba Drakensberg



BIRDLIFE

The Battlefields Route overlaps two fantastic birding routes, the Zululand Birding Route and the Amajuba Birding Route which together boast well over 400 different species of birds, many of which can only be seen in this part of Africa

ZULU HERITAGE

Included in the Battlefields Region is of course the Kingdom of the Zulu with Ulundi and the Emakhosini Opathe Heritage Park. This is the heart of Zulu Culture, the Spirit of Emakhosini, the Valley of the Kings, uMgungundlovu, the Zulu Cultural Museum at Ondini, and the remains of Cetshwayo's homestead. An experience not to be missed by anyone interested in the Zulu Nation. There are guides who specialise in taking visitors on tours into rural Zululand with visits to traditional homesteads. This is not a "canned" but a genuine experience.



SUPERB AFRICAN CRAFTS

Along the route you will find dedicated and talented craftspeople. Outlets for these crafts can be found in shops, museums, galleries. Or arrange a visit with a local guide to visit to crafters in situ. Experience hospitality and friendliness that you never expected and buy direct from the crafters. Take home tangible memories of a wonderful and exciting region.

ADVENTURE

Within the region there are a number of adventure resorts that include Hot Springs, supervised guided game walks, horse riding trails, hiking trails, white water rafting, canoeing and rock climbing. Battlefield and Rural Zululand tours can be done as a motor bike excursion. Horse back and cycle tours to certain battlefields are also available.

MAGNIFICENT SCENERY

Open rolling country, mountains and heart stopping mountain passes, sunrises and sunsets for lifetime memories. Refreshing afternoon thunder storms. Even the winter scenes have a beauty of their own.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on the Battlefields Route ranges from cosy guest houses and welcoming bed and breakfast establishments to mountain top lodges, game lodges and family guest farms, from country style hotels and lakeside chalets to cottages, caravan parks and campsites..

WEDDING VENUES

Along the Battlefields Route you will find exciting venues that can offer a wedding package with a difference. Sophisticated, country and wedding venues with distinction.



ADVICE

While visiting the region, guests are cautioned that for much of the year the temperatures are quite high and you are advised to wear comfortable clothing, comfortable shoes, a shady hat, sun protection cream and to have plenty of non alcoholic liquid refreshments. The Battlefields Route falls within a non malaria area, but should you be concerned, ask before visiting and you will get current advice. The Route is also in a non ebola virus area.

LITTER

All visitors are asked to please remember whether you are on a Battlefield or in a Game Reserve, do not litter and treat the areas with respect. Please only leave footsteps and only take away unforgettable memories.

BATTLEFIELD REGION TOUR GUIDES

MOST GUIDES SERVICE THE WHOLE REGION AND NOT JUST THEIR TOWN BASE

| NAME | TEL | CELL | EMAIL |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
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| Dave Sutcliffe | | | redcoat1@gmail.com |



BATTLEFIELDS & PLACES OF INTEREST



PLEASE NOTE
 This map is not to scale. Accurate road maps of the region are available from any of the tourism offices or museums on route.
 It has only been possible to include a selection of the more commonly visited sites on this map. For more sites and detailed google map locations, please visit our website www.battlefieldsroute.co.za

| KEY | |
|-----|---|
| | GPS Coordinates |
| | Contact Number |
| | Website |
| | Open Daily Except Good Friday & Christmas |
| | Open Weekdays Only |
| | Closed Sat PM & Sunday |
| | Entry Fee Payable |
| | Public Toilets |
| | Refreshments For Sale |
| | Interpretive Material |
| | Museum |
| | Museum & Shop |
| | Tour Guide Recommended |
| | Tour Guide and Tribal Permission Required |

EARLY ZULU BATTLES AND HISTORICAL SITES

- King Senzangakhona's Grave and emaKhosini Opathe Heritage Park** » Ulundi Area
Senzangakhona, father of King Shaka, Dingane and Mpande. Buried at eSiklebheni, near uMgungundlovu. There is a new road off the road through the park to uMgungundlovu. From the Marker follow the footpath to the grave.
📍 S28° 23' 10.14 E31° 16' 5.22 📞 035 870 2052 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Gqokli Hill Battlefield** » Ulundi Area
About 10 kms south of Ulundi. Site of epic battle in 1818 between the forces of King Shaka and King Zwide of the Ndwandwe people. View point on road to Ulundi.
📍 S28° 22' 52.33 E31° 21' 40.66 📞 035 870 2051 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- King Shaka's Grave** » kwaDukuza
In 1828 after his assassination, King Shaka was buried here in what is now King Shaka Street in the centre of kwaDukuza (Stanger) Interpretation centre and DVD about King Shaka's reign and assassination on site.
📍 S29° 20' 24.477 E31° 17' 40.19 📞 032 552 7210 🗺️ 💰 🚻 🚰
- uMgungundlovu** » Ulundi Area emaKhosini Opathe Heritage Park
Spirit of emaKhosini Monument. Burial place of early Zulu Kings and King Dingane's royal residence (1829-1838). Also burial site of Piet Retief and his men. Open-air museum and New Interpretation centre.
📍 S28° 26' 9.52 E31° 16' 3.1 📞 035 870 2052 🕒 09:00-16:00 💰 🚶 🚻 🚰
- King Mpande's Grave** » Nodwengu Museum » Ulundi
King Mpande ruled Zululand from 1840 to 1872. His Grave and the Great Hut is situated in the centre of modern day Ulundi and can be visited daily. The site contains a memorial column, his grave and the large hut which includes some well displayed information on Mpande and the Zulu nation.
📍 S28° 17' 53.93 E31° 25' 33.62 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Ondini Cultural Museum and site of King Cetshwayo's Royal Residence** » Ulundi Area emaKhosini Opathe Heritage Park
Open-air museum & Kwa Cultural Museum, 9km outside Ulundi towards Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.
📍 S28° 19' 9.45 E31° 27' 28.86 📞 035 870 2052 🕒 09:00-16:00 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Dingane's Spring** » Take the Mtonjaneni turn off on R34.
Just past Mtonjaneni Lodge on the right you will see the interpretation board. Just follow the path down the hill to a muddy hole with trees covering the rocks. It is from here that Dingane's wives had to carry his water all the way down to uMgungundlovu. Sadly there is very little water there now.
📍 S28° 28' 15.29 E31° 20' 19.88 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- eNdongakasuka** » Mandini. Near John Ross Road Bridge over Tugela River on R102.
Site of battle between Prince Cetshwayo and his brother Prince Mbuyazi, which established Cetshwayo as King Mpande's heir.
📍 S29° 7' 24.41 E31° 24' 43.41 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

VOORTREKKER - ZULU WAR 1838

- Kerkenberg** » Oliviershoek Pass
1837 - On 12th November that Retief's daughter Debora painted his name on a rock to mark his 57th birthday.
📍 S28° 30' 19.7 E29° 06' 34.7 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Blijde Vooruitzicht & Barefoot Lady / Kaalvoetvrou**
These monuments stand on the top of Retief's Pass and is the point where his party stood and gazed on the beautiful hills and valleys of Natal. It is also the place where many of them left Natal.
📍 S28° 33' 19.56 E29° 8' 54.22 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Doornkop**
January 1838 - The site of Retief's laager when he left on his fatal visit to Mgungundlovu.
📍 S28° 49' 52.86 E29° 44' 40.74 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Saailaager** » Estcourt Area
12 February 1828. Zulu attack on Voortrekkers after execution of Piet Retief. The Zulus were repelled. Restored Voortrekker house on site. Follow Alfred Street in Estcourt, past quarry, and across stream. Memorial at fork in dirt road.
📍 S29° 00' 28.8 E29° 53' 18.2 📞 036 352 6253 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Bloukrans** » Estcourt Area
Many Voortrekker families were killed here during a Zulu attack, 16 to 17 February 1838. Memorial on site. Dirt road off R103.
📍 S28° 51' 02.3 E29° 50' 34.3 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

VOORTREKKER - ZULU WAR 1838

- Rensburg Koppie** » Estcourt Area » February 1838.
Young Martinus Oosthuysen courageously saved three Voortrekker families from Zulu attack. On a private farm between Estcourt and Mooi River. Arrange visit at Fort Durnford.
📍 S29° 00' 47.6 E29° 57' 00.217 📞 036 352 3000 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Veglaer** » Estcourt Area
Site of three day attack by Zulus on Voortrekkers' laager (13-15 February 1838). Actual site is now beneath Wagendrift Dam. Diorama explains battle, shows Voortrekkers' battle tactics. From Estcourt follow signs to Wagendrift Dam.
📍 S29° 04' 5.83 E29° 45' 54.33 📞 036 352 6253 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Sooilager** » 19th June to 1837
Maritz built a defensive laager using sods to build a wall underneath the wagons. It is here that Andries Pretorius joined the Trekkers on 22nd Nov and it is from here that the Wenkommando left for Mgungundlovu on 27th November 1838.
📍 S28° 56' 22.86 E29° 34' 45.18 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Blood River Battlefield & Ncome Zulu Cultural Museum** » Dundee Area
16 December 1838. Voortrekker's defeated Zulu Army. 64 full size replica bronze wagons set in laager on site. Off R33 between Dundee and Vryheid. Ncome Zulu Cultural Museum on the east side of the river.
📍 S28° 6' 18.94 E30° 32' 28.24 📞 034 632 1695 🕒 08:00-16:30 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Grave of Piet Retief** » KwaMatiwane » Ulundi Area
Piet Retief and his party executed on orders from King Dingane. Memorial is near the Royal Residence of Mgungundlovu. Off R34 near Ulundi. Entry Fee payable emaKhosini/Opathe Heritage Park.
📍 S28° 25' 36.38 E31° 16' 12.48 📞 035 450 2254 🕒 09:00-16:00 💰 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

REBELLION OF LANGALIBELELE 1873

- Carbineers' Grave** » Giant's Castle Reserve » 4 November 1873
Scene of first action by Natal Carbineers at Bushman's River pass against amaHlubi attempting to flee into Lesotho. Visit involves a long, strenuous and steep climb into the Drakensberg escarpment.
📍 S29° 19' 56.28 E29° 36' 57.60 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Rock "75"** » Giant's Castle Reserve
Large "75" inscribed by 75th Regt. on boulder en-route to San cave.
📍 S29° 19' 45.50 E29° 38' 4.96 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

ANGLO ZULU WAR 1879

- Fort Pearson and Ultimatum Tree** » North Coast » 11 December 1878
The British Government in South Africa presents ultimatum to King Cetshwayo's Indunas. The conditions of the Ultimatum were unacceptable to the Zulus and war broke out one month later. From Fort Pearson the British No 1 Column crossed the Thukela River to invade Zululand.
📍 S29° 12' 7.19 E31° 25' 7.35 📞 032 486 1574 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Nyezane Battlefield** » North Coast » 22 January 1879
The British coastal column moving up the north coast towards Ondini via Eshowe, was attacked by a large force of Zulus which they were able to drive off. The soldiers' graves are situated about 500m from road sign on the R68.
📍 S28° 57' 1.88 E31° 32' 35.6 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- The Siege of Fort kwaMondi (Eshowe) & British Military Cemetery** » Eshowe Area
22 January to 3 April 1879. Zulu forces under Prince Dabulamanzi besieged part of Col. Pearson's Column. British entrenched themselves around an abandoned Norwegian Lutheran Mission (kwa Mondji) and built earth fortifications - Fort Eshowe. Site Museum. Enquiries from Zululand Historical Museum Fort Nongqayi.
📍 S28° 53' 35.76 E31° 29' 48.60 📞 035 474 2281 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Isandlwana Battlefield** » Nqutu Area » 22 January 1879
British Camp over run by some 20 000 Zulus. Cairns mark places where British soldiers fell and were later buried. Off R68 between Nqutu and Babanango. Entrance fee payable at Interpretation Centre for access to Battlefield.
📍 S28° 21' 21.81 E30° 39' 2.97 🕒 09:00-16:00 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Fugitives' Drift** » Dundee Area » 22 January 1879
Fugitives' Trail - route taken by survivors from Isandlwana who crossed the Buffalo River at Fugitives' Drift. Lts. Melville and Coghill who were killed trying to save the Queen's Colours are buried on hillside above drift on Natal side. From Rorke's Drift follow signs. On private property.
📍 S28° 23' 10.63 E30° 36' 5.19 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

ANGLO ZULU WAR 1879

- Rorke's Drift Battlefield** » 22-23 January 1879
After the Battle of Isandlwana the Zulu reserves, about 4000 warriors in total, attacked the British Commissariat and Hospital at the Mission station at Rorke's Drift. Approximately 140 soldiers, mainly from "B" Company, 2nd Battalion 24th Regt fought for 11 hours to repel the attack earning 11 Victoria Crosses in the process. ELC craft centre. Off R68 from Dundee to Nqutu or the R33 from Dundee to Pomeroy.
📍 S28° 21' 29.46 E30° 32' 9.38 🗺️ 💰 🚶 🚻 🚰
- eNtombe Battlefield** » Myer's Drift » Paulpietersburg Area » 12 March 1879
At Myer's Drift on the eNtombe River a military convoy, en route to Luneburg, was attacked and overrun by Zulus.
📍 S16' 23.87 E30° 40' 47.94 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Hlobane Battlefield** » Vryheid Area » 28 March 1879
Hlobane Mountain. British attacked abaQulusi stronghold on Mountain but Zulu army arrived and British were forced to flee, many down Devil's Pass and others down Ityentika Nek, suffering heavy casualties. 20Km from Vryheid on Hlobane Road. This site is on private property and permission must be obtained to enter. It also requires a 4x4 vehicle to reach the summit.
📍 S27° 42' 40.01 E30° 56' 30.76 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Kambula Battlefield** » Vryheid Area » 29 March 1879
Some 22 000 Zulu warriors attacked fortified British position. Battle started at 13:30 and ended 17:30 when Zulus were driven off and pursued by horsemen until dark. 10 km from Vryheid on Paulpietersburg Road.
📍 S27° 41' 17.11 E30° 40' 6.13 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Gingindlovu Battlefield** » Eshowe Area » 2 April 1879
Zulu attack on Chelmsford's relief column on its way to relieve Eshowe was repulsed and Eshowe was relieved the following day.
📍 S29° 0' 35.04 E31° 34' 37.14 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Prince Imperial Memorial** » Nqutu area » 1 June 1879
The last hope of the Napoleonic dynasty died when Louis Napoleon was killed in a Zulu ambush on their reconnaissance patrol.
📍 S28° 7' 55.68 E30° 47' 49.72 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Ulundi Battlefield** » Ulundi » 4 July 1879
Situated adjacent to the Ulundi airfield, along the P700 (King Cetshwayo Highway) to Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. The final battle of the war, the British advanced across the White Mfolozi River onto the Mhlabatini plain and advanced towards the Zulu King's capital, Ondini. The entire Zulu army then attacked the British Square and were driven off with heavy losses. On the road (P700) to Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, just outside Ulundi.
📍 S28° 18' 40.29 E31° 25' 33.62 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

THE TRANSVAAL WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1880 - 1881

- Lang's Nek Battlefield** » Newcastle Area » 28 January 1881
(Laing is the name that has come down in history but the correct name is Lang's Nek) Unsuccessful attempt by British to break through Boer line into the Transvaal. Site can be viewed from N11 but to get to the monument and graves one must obtain permission from community trust. Farm entrance is at top of nek.
📍 S27° 27' 52.60 E29° 53' 5.56 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Schuinshoogte Battlefield** » Ingogo » Newcastle Area » 8 February 1881
British "show of force" under Maj. Gen. Colley was almost surrounded by Boers on road to Newcastle and only escaped in pouring rain after dark. On old road, turn off on R35 12km out of Newcastle.
📍 S27° 36' 56.373 E29° 52' 47.273 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Fort Mistake** » Glencoe Area
British signalling post built during the war. On east side of N11 near Mkupe Pass between Newcastle and Ladysmith. Car must be left at old filling station and you hike up hill. There is no interpretive material on site.
📍 S28° 10' 5.729 E29° 57' 34.718 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰
- Majuba Battlefield** » Majuba Mountain & Commemorative Farm » Newcastle Area
27 February 1881. The British occupied the top of the mountain and the following day the Burgers under Cmdt. Gen. Piet Joubert drove them off inflicting heavy casualties and forcing the British to negotiate a peace. Youth Lodge, picnic and caravan area.
📍 S27° 28' 50.32 E29° 51' 0.38 📞 017 735 1962 🕒 Closed Sundays 🗺️ 🚶 🚻 🚰

THE TRANSVAAL WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1880 - 1881

- 5 O'Neil's Cottage** » Newcastle Area
Home of Eugene O'Neil, became makeshift hospital for British after defeat at Majuba. Graves on site. The peace treaty ending the war was negotiated here. On N11 between Newcastle and Volksrust. Open daily.
📍 S27° 30' 1.96 E29° 51' 24.27 🗺️ 🗣️

ZULU CIVIL WAR OF 1883 - 1888

- 1 Battle of Ondini (3)** » Ulundi area » 21st July 1883
Zibhebhu attacked Cetshwayo's homestead at Ondini inflicting heavy casualties to the Usuthu faction with the King barely escaping with his life.
📍 S28° 19.383' E31° 27.942' 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 2 Battle of eTshaneni (Ghost Mountain)** » 5th June 1884
A major battle of the war where the uSuthu, supported by the Boers under Lukas Meyer, defeated Chief Zibhebhu and the Mandlakazi. 🗺️ 🗣️

ANGLO BOER WAR SITES

- 1 Talana Battlefield and Museum** » Dundee » 20 October 1899
First major Battle of the War between the British and the Boers. Boers occupied Talana Hill during the night and shelled British camp. British retaliated and drove Boers off hill only to find Boers occupied other Hills overlooking the town. Just outside town on Dundee, Vryheid Road. Self Guided trail, Sat/Sun & Public Holidays open 09:00-16:30.
📍 S28° 9' 21.62 E30° 15' 35.28 📞 034 212 2654 🕒 08:00-16:30 💰 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 2 Elandslaagte Battlefield** » Glencoe/Ladysmith » 21 October 1899
Boers occupied high ground overlooking railway line. British executed a classic conventional attack that resulted in a staggering defeat for Gen. Jan Kock's Boer force. On the R602 near junction with N11 between Ladysmith and Newcastle.
📍 S28° 25' 27.86 E29° 58' 56.8 📞 034 212 2654 🗺️ 🗣️
- 3 The Siege of Ladysmith** » Siege Museum
In addition to the remarkable Siege Museum next to the Town Hall there are numerous monuments and old fortifications all around the town.
📍 S28° 33' 33.00 E29° 46' 51.78 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- The Platrand** » Battles of Wagon Hill and Caesar's Camp » 6th January 1900
Boers sought to force British off the hill but were ultimately repulsed. (Charge of the Devons' and site of Burgher Monument)
📍 S28° 35' 14.05 E29° 46' 20.76 🗺️ 🗣️
- 4 Armoured Train Incident** » Colenso/Estcourt Area » 15th November 1899
Winston Churchill captured by Boer Forces after armoured reconnaissance train was derailed by Boers. Plaque is next to the road and cemetery is across the railway line. Turn off R103 at old Estcourt road close to N3.
📍 S28° 52' 30.31 E29° 46' 12.94 🗺️ 🗣️
- 5 Battle of Willow Grange** » Estcourt Area » 23 November 1899
Most southern point that a pitched battle was fought between the British and the Boers. Despite Boer advantage, they decided to withdraw back to the Thukela line. Cmdt. Gen. Piet Joubert injured and invalided to Pretoria. South of Estcourt along District Road off R103. Site is on private land.
📍 S29° 06' 12.86 E29° 55' 32.57 📞 036 352 3000 🗺️ 🗣️
- 6 Clouston Koppie of Remembrance & Battle of Colenso** » Colenso » 15 December 1899
Gen Sir Redvers Buller's first attempt to cross the Thukela River and relieve Ladysmith met with disaster at the Battle of Colenso. Memorials and graves moved to this site, which was Gen. Buller's headquarters during the battle. Several brigade hospitals were also situated here. Alongside the R103 at Colenso.
📍 S28° 46' 44.44 E29° 48' 36.60 🗺️ 🗣️
- 7 Gun Positions** » Colenso
Ten of twelve British Guns used during the Battle of Colenso lost to Boers under leadership of Gen. Louis Botha. Lt. Freddy Roberts, son of Field Marshal Lord Roberts, mortally wounded trying to save guns. Markers indicate gun positions, sites of original monuments and position where Freddy fell. Turn in to Colenso town at south end and cross bridge over railway. Position is on east side of road. Follow the signs.
📍 S28° 44' 19.93 E29° 49' 49.28 🗺️ 🗣️
- 8 Ambleside Military Cemetery** » Colenso
Burial site of soldiers of 5th Irish Brigade, killed in Battle of Colenso. Take Weenen/Colenso road from R103 (approaching from Estcourt) and turn left to Winterton. Follow signs.
📍 S28° 44' 14.52 E29° 47' 40.27 🗺️

ANGLO BOER WAR SITES

- 9 Battle of iNtabamnyama** » Bergville Area
Second British attempt to break through Boer lines. Battlefield is on private land and not open to public. It can however be viewed at a distance from Spioenkop Battlefield
📍 S28° 35' 58.49 E29° 27' 24.45 🗺️
- 10 Rangeworthy Military Cemetery** » Bergville/Ladysmith Areas
Situated below iNtabamnyama Battlefield. There is an access track from the R616 on the road to Three Tree Lodge
📍 S28° 39' 00.54 E29° 28' 06.60 🗺️
- 11 Mount Alice** » Ladysmith/Winterton
The position of Gen. Buller's headquarters during the Battle of Spioenkop.
📍 S28° 42' 11.64 E29° 32' 49.23 🗺️
- 12 Spioenkop/Spion Kop Battlefield** » Ladysmith/Winterton » 23 - 24 January 1900
Most futile and bloodiest of five battles fought in effort to relieve Ladysmith. Self guided trail with brochure available at entrance. On R616 between Ladysmith and Bergville.
📍 S28° 38' 56.52 E29° 31' 7.08 🗺️ 🗣️ 💰 🗺️ 🗣️
- 13 Spearman's Military Cemetery** » On R600 between Ladysmith and Winterton. On site of British Field Hospital. Private property, obtain permission to visit site.
📍 S28° 43' 17.3 E29° 32' 34.8 🗺️ 🗣️
- 14 Chieveley Military Cemetery** » Colenso Area
Site of No 4 Stationary Hospital. Burial place of Field Marshal Lord Roberts's son Lt. Freddy Roberts. Turn off R103 between Colenso and Estcourt and follow dirt road past railway station to cemetery.
📍 S28° 49' 48.89 E29° 48' 27.45 📞 036 637 2992 🗺️
- 15 Vaalkrans Battlefield** » Ladysmith/Winterton » 5-7 February 1900
Fourth unsuccessful attempt by Gen. Buller to relieve Ladysmith. Site is not easy to access.
📍 S28° 40' 31.1 E29° 37' 51.0 🗺️ 🗣️
- 16 Battle of Thukela Heights** » Colenso/Ladysmith Area » 12-28 February 1900
General Buller lead his troops through numerous battles on the south bank of the Thukela River, Cingolo Hill, Monte Cristo, Green Hill, Hlangwane - followed by operations on the north bank - Colenso Koppies, Wynne's Hills, Inniskilling (Hart's) Hill, Railway Hill, and Pieters Ridge before relieving Ladysmith. Turn off on road between Colenso/Ladysmith towards Ezakheni/Newcastle. There are numerous military cemeteries in the area, especially below Hart's Hill and Pieter's Ridge.
📍 S28° 42' 4.65 E29° 49' 25.72 📞 036 637 2992 🗺️ 🗣️
- 17 Helpmekaar Battle Site** » Helpmekaar » 13 May 1900
British forces broke through Boer line in Biggarsberg resulting in British recapturing Dundee. Remains of Boer fort on top of hill and British Military Cemetery. (From Anglo-Zulu War) behind police station. Note that the cemetery, the remains of star fort at the base of the hill from 1879 and the remains of the 1900 fort on the top of the hill are barely visible. On private land.
📍 S28° 29' 35.14 E30° 24' 25.25 🗺️ 🗣️
- 18 Botha's Pass Battlefield** » Newcastle Area » 8 June 1900
Pass captured from Boers by British during Gen. Buller's advance from Natal into the Orange Free State & ZAR. Site can be viewed from side of the R34 from Newcastle to Memel.
📍 S27° 36' 56.00 E29° 52' 30.12 🗺️ 🗣️
- 19 Alleman's Nek Battlefield** » Volksrust Area » 10 June 1900
British forces broke through Boer lines and entered the Transvaal. Take the Vrede road out of Volksrust and it will pass through Alleman's Nek. Take Memel Road and you'll find Boer Monument.
📍 S27° 25' 20.18 E29° 39' 46.03 🗺️ 🗣️
- 20 Scheepersnek Battlefield** » Vryheid Area » 20 May 1900
75 Swaziland Police and Vryheid burghers stationed here. During church service a Squadron of British cavalry arrived unexpectedly. After a short fight the British withdrew. 10km outside Vryheid on R33 to Dundee. Site on private farm, but visible from road.
📍 S27° 51' 01.35 E30° 40' 02.55 🗺️ 🗣️
- 21 Lancaster Hill** » Vryheid » 11-12 December 1900
Boers attacked British position. Lt. Col. Gawne was killed in the action Fortifications, gun emplacements and monument to Lt. Col. Gawne can be seen. Self guided trail with brochure. Part of Vryheid Nature Reserve.
📍 S27° 44' 53.67 E30° 46' 56.88 🕒 07:00-18:00 🗺️ 🗣️ 💰 🗺️ 🗣️
- 22 Blood River Poort Battlefield** » Vryheid/Utrecht Area » 17 September 1901
Battle fought during Gen Louis Botha's second invasion of Natal. Turn off R34 from Utrecht to Vryheid on to D251 after 8kms sign post and turn left at farm drive along farm road to graves, situated on extreme right of road.
📍 S27° 46' 56.07 E30° 32' 9.97 🗺️ 🗣️

ANGLO BOER WAR SITES

- 23 Mount Ithala Battlefield** » Babanango Area » 25-26 September 1901
Attacking Boer Force beaten off by determined British counter attack during Gen. Louis Botha's second invasion of Natal. Site is difficult to access.
📍 S28° 31' 08.65 E31° 02' 08.30 📞 035 870 0552 🗺️ 🗣️
- 24 Fort Prospect** » Babanango Area » 26 September 1901
Outpost manned by 80 British Soldiers was attacked by 400 Boers. The Boers were eventually forced to withdraw. This site is difficult to find.
🗺️ 🗣️
- 25 Holkrans Battlefield** » Vryheid Area » 6 May 1902
56 Burghers killed in a surprise attack by a Zulu Impi. Between Vryheid and Paulpietersburg.
📍 S27° 36' 23.36 E31° 10' 14.27 🗺️ 🗣️

THE 1906 POLL TAX ("BHAMBATHA") REBELLION

- 1 Ambush Rock, Mpanza** » Greytown
Police column sent to collect two women and a child from Marshall's Hotel and storekeeper's wife from Keate's Drift. Ambushed en route back to Greytown. Four policemen killed. More information in Greytown Museum.
📍 S28° 54' 48.17 E30° 33' 24.62 🗺️ 🗣️
- 2 Bhambatha 1906 Police Memorial** » Greytown » 4 April 1906
Memorial to four Policemen including Trooper Aston.
📍 S28° 58' 38.55 E30° 34' 44.34 🗺️ 🗣️
- 3 Mome Gorge** » Nkandla Area » 10 June 1906
Scene of the battle that broke the back of the Rebellion. 575 rebels and 3 colonial soldiers killed. No signage, very remote, not suitable for vehicles with limited ground clearance.
📍 S28° 44' 7.46 E31° 03' 3.99 🗺️ 🗣️ !

PLACES OF INTEREST

NOTE: DETAILS ON ALL THE MUSEUMS CAN BE FOUND ON www.battlefieldsroute.co.za under ATTRACTIONS - MUSEUMS

- 1 Talana Museum** » Dundee
📍 S28° 9' 21.62 E30° 15' 35.28 📞 034 212 2654 🌐 talana.co.za 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 2 Ladysmith Siege Museum** » Murchison Street » Ladysmith
📍 S28° 33' 33.00 E29° 46' 51.78 📞 036 637 2992 🌐 ladysmith.co.za 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 3 Fort Amiel** » Newcastle
📍 S27° 44' 45.01 E29° 55' 16.91 📞 034 315 3318 🕒 10:00-16:00
- 4 Fort Nongqayi (1883) Museum Village** » Eshowe
📍 S28° 53' 53.98 E31° 29' 48.98 📞 035 474 2281 🌐 visitzululand.co.za 🗺️ 🗣️ 💰 🗺️ 🗣️
- 5 Ncome Zulu Cultural Museum** » Ncome/Blood River
📍 S28° 6' 22.13 E30° 32' 45.00 📞 034 271 8121 🌐 ncomemuseum.co.za 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 6 Historical Utrecht & Ou Pastorie Museum 1888** » Utrecht
📍 S27° 39' 20.75 E30° 19' 5.48 📞 034 33 3041 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 7 Mtonjaneni Museum** » At Mtonjaneni Lodge just off the R34 east of the Ulundi turn off
📍 S28° 28' 19.13 E31° 20' 22.70 📞 035 450 0904/5 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 8 Ondini Cultural Museum** » Ulundi Area
📍 S28° 19' 9.45 E31° 27' 28.86 📞 035 870 2052 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 9 King Mpande's Grave** » Nodwengu Museum » Ulundi
📍 S28° 17' 53.93 E31° 25' 33.62 🗺️
- 10 Concentration Camp Memorial & Monument to Boer casualties in Transvaal War of Independence** » Volksrust in the town square next to the municipal buildings
📍 S27° 22' 3.97 E29° 53' 7.79 🗺️
- 11 Birthplace of General Louis Botha** » Greytown
📍 S29° 05' 31.5 E30° 36' 25.8 🗺️
- 12 Fort Durnford Museum** » Estcourt
📍 S29° 00' 56.00 E29° 53' 20.63 📞 036 352 3000 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 13 The Lucas Meijer House Museum** » Landrost Street » Vryheid
📍 S27° 46' 5.70 E30 47° 46.82 📞 034 982 2133 ext 2271 🗺️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 14 Durban and Surrounding Areas (eThekweni) Historical Sites**
There are a number of interesting military history sites in Durban & the surrounding areas.
📞 083 654 5880 🌐 battlefieldsregionguides.co.za