

# THE ZULU KINGDOM UPDATE



PRODUCED BY TOURISM KWAZULU-NATAL

WWW.ZULU.ORG.ZA

This monthly newsletter highlights some of the best products and attractions in KwaZulu-Natal – and also gives you the latest news from the province...

## BE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY AT AMAKHOSI ON VALENTINES DAY

Love is in the air in February so if you are looking for a romantic escape, Amakhosi Safari Lodge, just 4 hours drive north of Durban in Zululand, runs a fabulous Valentine's Day special during the month of February. For just R1,890 per person per night sharing (Feb 2008), couples can enjoy luxury accommodation in a riverfront suite, brunch, high tea and a 3-course dinner, a Valentine dinner with a difference (we don't want to spoil the surprise), complimentary sparkling wine and much, much more! Two game activities with qualified rangers are also included. Fabulous views over the Mkuze River and the 12000 ha Big-Five Amazulu Private Game Reserve are not to be missed!

Amakhosi also now offers cultural safaris. Guests visit the nearby Maqonqo village where one of the lodge's staff members, who is a resident of the village, guides them through it. He will share his knowledge and teach guests about tribal culture and beliefs. Guests will also be able to see Maqonqo women weaving sleeping mats, taste traditional beer and participate in tribal singing. All donations from these visits go towards the lodge's upliftment programme for the local Zulu community, which aims to improve the quality of life for the villagers.

For more info on Amakhosi, 'Place of Kings', please visit <http://www.amakhosi.com> or email [info@amakhosi.com](mailto:info@amakhosi.com)



Getting cosy



Relax at the pool



Game viewing

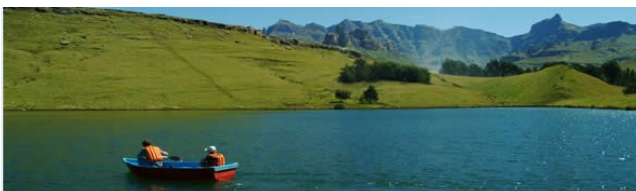


Romance in the bush

## DRAKENSBERG GARDENS' NEW WELLNESS CENTRE

Drakensberg Gardens Golf & Leisure Resort now boasts the new Vine-Knot Restaurant and a newly expanded and refurbished Wellness Centre. The new facilities at the Body & Soul Spa include 5 treatment rooms including a couple's room and a wet room (using Matis products from Paris), a fully equipped gym studio, group training sessions, sunbeds beside a cold plunge pool, indoor heated jet therapy pool, a steam room and two saunas as well as a juice bar. The Wellness Centre will be accessible to all guests for a minimal cover charge of R50/person/day.

<http://www.goodersonleisure.co.za/drakensberg.html>



## PHINDA NEWS

### **THE RETURN**

Great news from CC Africa's Phinda Private Game Reserve is the successful R268 million land claim settlement in August 2007 that saw the returned ownership of 9,500 hectares of land (two-thirds of Phinda) to its ancestral owners – the Makhasa and Mngobokazi clans. CC Africa, along with two community trusts has signed a 72-year lease-agreement for this land which was lost during the Apartheid years. CC Africa also paid both communities an up-front R18m to facilitate future joint ventures or community empowerment projects. In Zulu, Phinda means "The Return" and was the name chosen for the reserve after CC Africa acquired 13 000 hectares of degraded agricultural land, restored it to its pristine state, restocked it with the Big Five and developed the award-winning ecotourism destination 16 years ago. Now "Phinda" has assumed a deeper meaning. "This land was taken from my father because of Apartheid laws when I was two months old," says chairman of the Makhasa Community Claim, Inkosi (Chief) S H Gumede. "I made a vow when I was very young to return this land to its original owners. Now my dream has come true and we intend using the income we receive from CC Africa for projects that will benefit our children's children."



### **MOUNTAIN LODGE REFURB**

Other exciting news is the fabulous new face of **Phinda Mountain Lodge**. A R20 million rebuild and refurbishment, due for completion by May 2008, will see 25 newly transformed suites, complete with private plunge pools and outdoor showers. There are 2 family suites with fold-out sofa beds. The guest area is unrecognisable – the roof has been removed, and the area has been magically transformed into a u-shaped building with central al fresco courtyard. The intimate sitting areas are filled with sunlight, and the enclosable dining area now overlooks the reserve with the Ubombo Mountains in the distance.



CC Africa invite all of their trade partners to come and experience the new face of Phinda Mountain Lodge, and please don't miss their major launch at Indaba in May! <http://www.ccafrica.com/reserve-1-id-2-1>

## AFRICAN INSIGHT'S 'HOLIDAYS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

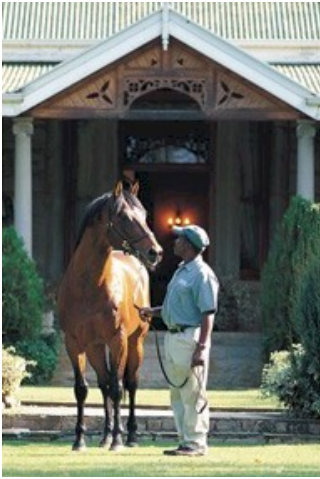


From their headquarters in the Dargle Valley in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, African Insight™ offer holidays throughout Southern Africa. This pioneering company, it was the first South African tour company to dedicate itself totally to a business model based on the international principles of responsible tourism and the pursuit of an ethos of "Holidays That Make A Difference™".

We would like to congratulate African Insight™ on being nominated and 'long-listed' in four categories for the **2007 Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards**, namely 'Best in a Park or Protected Area', 'Best Tour Operator', 'Best for Poverty Reduction' and 'Best for Conservation of Cultural Heritage', reaching the semi finals in the last category. Although they did not win the award in the end due to stiff international competition, just being nominated is a real tribute to the work they are doing for conservation and community upliftment.

African Insight™ offer genuine cultural homestay experiences in two rural KwaZulu-Natal communities, namely Mhlathuzana near Eshowe and Mabandla in the Umzimkhulu Local Municipality. These homestays give visitors an authentic insight into contemporary rural Zulu culture. Overseas groups are hosted for between 2 and 5 nights. In addition to learning and experiencing local culture they have established volunteer work programmes with 85% of groups opting to take part in raising funds for building materials and equipment required. So far the projects have injected R136,250.00 into these communities and £3,950.00 has been raised for the volunteer programmes. For more information contact Andrew Anderson on [Andrew@africaninsight.co.za](mailto:Andrew@africaninsight.co.za) or visit [www.africaninsight.co.za](http://www.africaninsight.co.za)

## HARTFORD HOUSE DURBAN JULY HANDICAP WEEKEND



Home to the family of the last prime minister of the Colony of Natal, the 5-star Hartford House is situated on South Africa's most famous thoroughbred farm, Summerhill Stud, near Giant's Castle. Chosen by the Rulers of Dubai as the location for their priceless stallions, the "gem of the Midlands" is remembered by chroniclers as one of the country's most beautiful homes, with its award-winning gardens and acclaimed fine dining.

The 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008 will see the annual race take place at Greyville Racecourse in Durban. Hartford House is offering a special package for just R5 800 per person (Nett), sharing, for three nights.

This includes:

- Friday night dinner and the activity offered as a July Handicap warm-up (to be confirmed).
- Saturday breakfast, transfer to and from Greyville Racecourse, entry into the Summerhill Box, lunch and drinks. A light in-suite dinner platter, with a bottle of our weekend's promotional wine
- Sunday breakfast, an invitation to the Summerhill Stallion Day with lunch and drinks. A light in-suite dinner platter, with a bottle of our weekend's promotional wine
- Monday breakfast.
- For more info please visit <http://www.hartford.co.za> and <http://www.vodacomdurbanjuly.co.za>

## ZULULAND RHINO RESERVE UPDATE

The Zululand Rhino Reserve was established in July 2004, between Hluhluwe and Mkhuzi on the Elephant Coast, by landowners who removed the internal fences between their farms in order to create a 20 000 hectare endangered species reserve, and in particular, to actively promote the conservation of Black Rhino.



The reserve also became home to eleven rehabilitated Baboon, released by CROW (Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife) in October 2007. They have since adapted well and have remained together as they explore their new home. The reserve will also soon welcome two serval as soon as they are a little older...also rescued by CROW and rehabilitated. For more information on how they are getting on visit <http://www.zululandrhinoreserve.co.za>. A recommended property for visitors wanting to stay in the reserve is Leopard Mountain Game Lodge. For more info please visit [www.leopardmountain.co.za](http://www.leopardmountain.co.za)

For more information, please visit [www.zulu.org.za](http://www.zulu.org.za) or contact Ethos Marketing, the UK office for KZN Tourism on 01403 243 619 or [info@ethosmarketing.co.uk](mailto:info@ethosmarketing.co.uk).

Many thanks to Roger de la Harpe for the use of his images.

Don't forget that numerous high res images of the Zulu Kingdom can be downloaded from our gallery on <http://gallery.ethosmarketing.co.uk/photo/tkzn>

Whilst every care has been taken, I apologize for any incorrect information that might have been taken from outdated websites.

If any kzn suppliers have news snippets that they would like to see included in this newsletter please email 300 words plus your website address and contact details to [Claire@ethosmarketing.co.uk](mailto:Claire@ethosmarketing.co.uk)