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Tour Guide to KwaZulu-Natal



Module # 1 - KwaZulu Natal Province Overview**Component # 1** - KwaZulu-Natal Province Overview**Module # 2 - Cultural Overview****Component # 1** - Meet the Zulu people**Module # 3 - Historical Overview****Component # 1** - KwaZulu-Natal Historical Overview**Module # 4 - Wildlife and Nature Conservation Overview****Component # 1** - KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife and Nature Conservation Overview**Module # 5 - Explore The Battlefields****Component # 1** - Ladysmith and towns along the N11**Component # 2** - Dundee, Elandslaagte and others**Component # 3** - Utrecht, Vryheid and others**Module # 6 - Explore The Drakensberg****Component # 1** - The Drakensberg**Module # 7 - Explore The Midlands****Component # 1** - Pietermaritzburg and towns along the N3**Component # 2** - Midlands (other towns)**Module # 8 - Explore Durban and surrounds****Component # 1** - Durban and surrounds**Module # 9 - Explore the South Coast and Griqualand East****Component # 1** - South Coast and East Griqualand**Module # 10 - Explore the North Coast****Component # 1** - Sugar and Dolphin Coast**Module # 11 - Explore Zululand****Component # 1** - Zululand**Module # 12 - Explore Maputaland****Component # 1** - Maputaland

Module 1

Component 1



KwaZulu-Natal

Province Overview



Introduction

KwaZulu-Natal is also known as the 'Land of the Zulu', the 'Garden Province' with lush, green, rolling hills. It is commonly abbreviated to 'KZN'. KwaZulu means 'Place of the People of Heaven', and Natal is derived from the name bestowed by the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, meaning 'Christmas'. In the 1830s, the southern part was called Natalia, the name of the short-lived Boer Republic. It was known as the British Colony of Natal in the 1940s when it came under British control. To the north was the Kingdom of Zululand, which remained independent until 1879, whereafter it was also annexed by the British.

Before 1994, it was known as the Province of Natal, one of the four provinces of the Union and then the Republic of South Africa. Today, it also includes all the territory of the previous Bantustan, KwaZulu, created under the Apartheid regime. It is located along the shoreline of the Indian Ocean, with the warm Mozambique current, making it a very popular holiday destination in the country, with its sandy beaches and warm water.

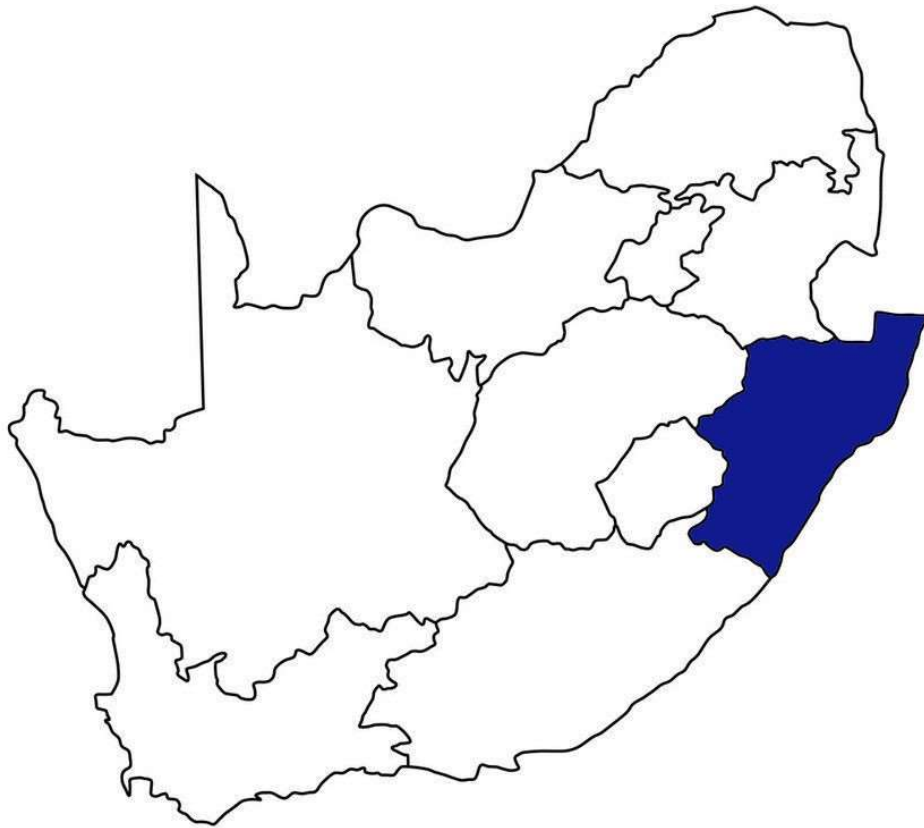




"There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills are grass covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it. The road climbs seven miles into them, to Carisbrooke; and from there, if there is no mist, you look down on one of the fairest valleys of Africa. About you there is grass and bracken, and you may hear the forlorn crying of the titihoya, one of the birds of the veld. Below you is the valley of the Umzimkulu, on its journey from the Drakensberg to the sea; and beyond and behind the river, great hill after great hill; and beyond and behind them, the mountains of Ingeli and East Griqualand."

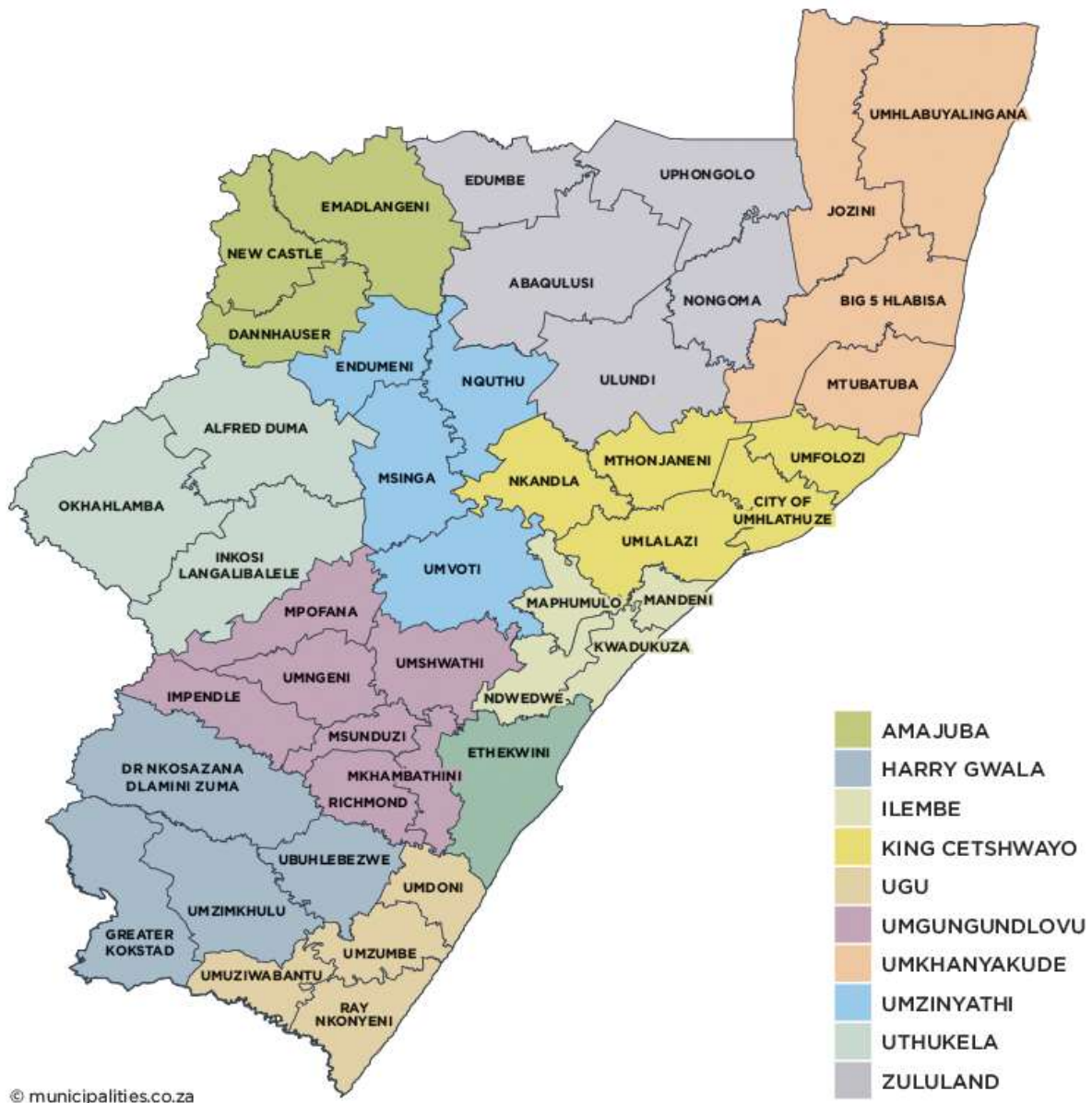
Cry the Beloved Country, Alan Paton.

Location of The KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa



KwaZulu-Natal Province Overview

Municipal map of the Province



Source: www.municipalities.co.za

Coat of arms



Motto: 'Masisukume Sakhe'

This is isiZulu for: 'Let Us Stand Up and Build'. 'Peace, Unity and Prosperity'.

- The two symbols of KwaZulu and Natal, the **wildebeest** and **lion**, were chosen when the two regions were united as KZN.
- **The Drakensberg** is represented by the zig-zag stripe.
- **The star has a dual meaning:** It refers to the naming of the coastline by Vasco da Gama on Christmas day in 1497, calling it '**Natalia**'. It accommodates the Zulu myth that the Zulu people are 'people of heaven' or 'star people'.
- The Province's beauty is depicted by the **Strelitzia flower** on the shield.
- **The assegai** and **knobkerrie** behind the shield represent peace and protection.
- Wisdom and maturity are associated with the head ring (worn by Zulu elders) and form the crown's base.
- **The crown** itself resembles a round grass hut built in the Zulu style.

Demographics

Area	94, 361km ²
Highest elevation	3,451m (11,322 ft)
Population	12,417,210 (2022)
Languages	Zulu 77.8% English 13.2% Xhosa 3.4% Afrikaans 1.6%
Races	Black 84.8% Indian or Asian 9.3% White 4.1% Coloured 1.5% Other 0.3%
Capital	Pietermaritzburg
Largest city	Durban




Municipalities and districts

KwaZulu-Natal is divided into **one metropolitan municipality** (the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality) and **ten district municipalities** for local government purposes. The district municipalities are, in turn, divided into **forty-four local municipalities**.

Metropolitan municipality

 eThekweni Metropolitan





Amajuba District

 Dannhauser Local
 eMadlangeni Local
 Newcastle Local






Harry Gwala District

 Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local
 Greater Kokstad Local
 Ubuhlebezwe Local
 uMzimkhulu Local





iLembe District

 KwaDukuza Local
 Mandeni Local
 Maphumulo Local
 Ndwedwe Local

King Cetshwayo District

 City of uMhlathuze Local
 Mthonjaneni Local
 Nkandla Local
 uMfolozi Local
 uMlalazi Local





Ugu District

-  Ray Nkonyeni Local
-  Umdoni Local
-  Umuziwabantu Local
-  Umzumbe Local





uMgungundlovu District

-  Impendle Local
-  Mkhambathini Local
-  Mpofana Local
-  Msunduzi Local
-  Richmond Local
-  uMngeni Local
-  uMshwathi Local




uMkhanyakude District

-  Big 5 Hlabisa Local
-  Jozini Local
-  Mtubatuba Local
-  uMhlabuyalingana Local






uMzinyathi District

-  Endumeni Local
-  Msinga Local
-  Nquthu Local
-  Umvoti Local

uThukela District

-  Alfred Duma Local
-  Inkosi Langalibalele Local
-  Okhahlamba Local

Zululand District

-  AbaQulusi Local
-  eDumbe Local
-  Nongoma Local
-  Ulundi Local
-  uPhongolo Local

For this course, the different Tourist Regions have been chosen as an introduction to the Province:

-  Battlefields
-  Drakensberg
-  Midlands
-  East Griqualand
-  South Coast
-  eThekweni metropole and surrounds
-  Sugar Coast
-  Dolphin Coast
-  Zululand
-  Maputaland

Provincial government and politics

KwaZulu-Natal's provincial government sits in Pietermaritzburg. The foundation stone of the new legislative building was laid on June 21, 1887, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The building was completed two years later. On April 25, 1889, the Governor of Natal, Sir Arthur Havelock, opened the first Legislative Council session in the new building.

This was the former site of St Mary's Church, built in the 1860s. The congregation built a new church in 1884 at the corner of Burger Street and Commercial Road. The old building was demolished in 1887 to provide space for the legislative complex.

When governance was granted to Natal in 1893, the new Legislative Assembly took over the chamber used by the Legislative Council since 1889. Further extensions to the parliamentary building were made. The building was unoccupied until 1902 when it was used without being officially opened due to the country's being engulfed in the Anglo-Boer war. The war forced the Legislative Assembly to move the venue of its sittings, as its chamber was used as a military hospital.

The Legislative Assembly and Council buildings have been protected as provincial landmarks. They formed a colonial Parliament of two houses: a Council of 11 nominated members and an Assembly of 37 elected members. The Natal Parliament was disbanded in 1910 when the Union of South Africa was formed, and the Assembly became the Natal Provincial Council meeting place. The council was disbanded in 1986.

Current composition

The African National Congress (ANC) holds power in the provincial legislature, winning the Province with a convincing overall majority in South Africa's 2019 elections. After the election, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) regained the title of the official opposition in the Province.

Zulu Monarchy

KwaZulu-Natal is the home to the Zulu Monarch. He is also the chairman of the Ingonyama Trust, which controls 32% of the Province's area.

Geographical features of the landscape

The Province has three different geographic areas (topography)

The Lowland Region along the Indian Ocean, which is narrow in the south but much wider towards the north. **The coastal regions** are typically subtropical thickets and deep ravines and some Afromontane Forest occurs on steep slopes.

The Natal Midlands is centrally located on a plateau with rolling hills, rising towards the west. The vegetation is mostly moist grasslands and isolated patches of Afromontane Forest. To the north, it is mainly moist savannah habitat.

Two mountainous areas are the **KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg** (also known as 'the Berg') in the west and the **Lebombo Mountains** in the east. The Drakensberg was formed through volcanic work and consists of solid basalt walls. This area hosts mainly alpine grassland. The Lebombo Mountains are ancient granite mountains forming low parallel ranges, running southwards to **Swaziland (now called Eswatini)**.



The main rivers

The Maloti Mountains (Lesotho) create South Africa's most important watershed, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State Drakensberg. It is also referred to as 'The Cradle of Rivers'. It gives rise to South Africa's major rivers in the region. **The Orange River** (Gariep) and tributaries mainly drain the Lesotho highlands, and the Eastern Cape watershed feeds either the **Orange River** or the **Umzimvubu River**, the latter flowing into the **Indian Ocean** at **Port St. Johns**.

In KwaZulu-Natal, many rivers and streams from the Drakensberg drain into the catchment areas of the largest rivers in the Province, all flowing into the **Indian Ocean**. The water is normally pollution and disease-free, seeing that no inhabitants live in the mountain's higher reaches.

The three largest rivers in the Province

River	Place where it flows into the ocean
Thukela/Tugela (largest)	North of KwaDukuza (Stanger)
Mkhomazi/Umkomaas	South of Amanzimtoti
Mzimkhulu/Umzimkulu	Port Shepstone (South Coast)

Other major rivers in the Province

River	Place where it flows into the ocean
Phongola	The northern boundary of the Province
UMfolozi	South of St. Lucia
Umhlatuze	Richards Bay/Empangeni
Umvoti	KwaDukuza (Stanger)
Umgeni	Durban
Umtamvuna	Port Edward, at the southern border of the Province

Climate

The climate in the KwaZulu-Natal Province is tourist-friendly year-round. Sea temperatures are also relatively stable, averaging 21°C all year, providing possibilities for various aquatic activities in any season, including diving, fishing, swimming, boating and surfing. Visitors to KwaZulu-Natal can look forward to a splendid climate. The largest city, Durban, enjoys warmth and sunshine, very occasionally mixed with light and steady rainfall. In Durban, the air is heavy with humidity, and the subtropical latitude of the city brings with it long, hot summers with rainfall and very mild winters. Durban boasts an average of 320 days of sunshine a year. Temperatures range from 16 to 25°C in winter. During summer, temperatures range from 23 to 33°C (between September and April). January is generally Durban's hottest month, with an average daily temperature of +/- 32°C. The warm Mozambique current flowing along the coast means wonderfully warm bathing throughout the year, the water seldom falling below 17°C even in winter. With these conditions, it is no accident that Durban is considered the 'holiday city' of KwaZulu-Natal.

Further north, conditions become subtropical to an even greater extent, and the estuarine environment of St Lucia and Kosi Bay brings steamy days and balmy nights. Moving inland, the low-lying coastline makes way for the emerald hills of Zululand and Thukela regions and still further east to the Great Escarpment, as altitudes rise, and temperatures drop. In the Drakensberg, the chilly towns of Bergville and Winterton provide a refreshing break from the swelter.

Coastal regions

A hot and humid, subtropical summer-rainfall area. The winters are quite pleasant. Further north, from Durban towards Mozambique, the climate becomes tropical. The Zululand north coast has the Province's highest humidity and warmest climate.

Annual rainfall	1009mm
Daytime maximum (January -March)	21-28°C
Daytime minimum (June - August)	11-23°C

Midlands

The interior becomes progressively colder towards the north, with snow in the higher regions. The summers are usually quite hot, although not as humid as the coastal regions. However, winter temperatures can be significantly low. For example, the temperature in Pietermaritzburg is more or less the same as in Durban in summer but much colder in the winter. Another example is Ladysmith, with day temperatures in summer peaking at 30°C, but winter evenings can drop below freezing. The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is drier between the coastal strip and the southern Drakensberg Escarpment. It snows occasionally in the mountainous areas in the summer, but the Drakensberg experiences heavy snow in winter.

Borders

KwaZulu-Natal borders the following areas of Mozambique, Eswatini and Lesotho

- 📍 **Maputo Province**, Mozambique (far northeast)
- 📍 **Lubombo District**, Eswatini (northeast, east of Shiselweni)
- 📍 **Shiselweni District**, Eswatini (northeast, west of Lubombo)
- 📍 **Mokhotlong District**, Lesotho (southwest, north of Thaba-Tseka)
- 📍 **Thaba-Tseka District**, Lesotho (southwest, between Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek)
- 📍 **Qacha's Nek District**, Lesotho (southwest, south of Thaba-Tseka)

Domestically, it borders the following provinces

- 📍 **Mpumalanga** (north)
- 📍 **Free State** (west)
- 📍 **Eastern Cape** (southwest)






Economy






Agriculture

KwaZulu-Natal has the second-largest regional economy in the country after Gauteng. Durban is a rapidly growing urban area and is, by most measures, the busiest port in Africa. A good railway network links the city to other areas of Southern Africa. Sugar refining is Durban's main industry. Sheep, cattle, dairy, citrus fruits, corn, sorghum, cotton, bananas, and pineapples are also raised. There is an embryonic KwaZulu-Natal wine industry. Other industries (mainly in and around Durban) include textile, clothing, chemicals, rubber, fertiliser, paper, vehicle assembly and food-processing plants, tanneries, and oil refineries.

Coastal belt

-  **Sugarcane plantations:** Grow along the Indian Ocean coastal belt. It is this area's main product and contributor to the Province's economy.
-  **Bagas:** A by-product of sugarcane used to manufacture high glossy paper for calendars.
-  **Subtropical fruit**

Interior

-  Vegetables
-  Dairy and stock farming
-  Game ranching
-  Forestry: around Vryheid, Eshowe, Richmond, Harding and Ngome.
-  Tea Plantations: Ngome





Mining and industry

To the north, Newcastle is the Province's industrial powerhouse, with Mittal Steel South Africa (previously ISPAT/ISCOR) and the Karbochem synthetic rubber plant dominating the economy. In 2002, Newcastle became Africa's largest producer of chrome chemicals after completing a chrome-chemical plant.



Other large operations include diamond-cutting works, various heavy engineering concerns, the Natal Portland Cement (NPC), Slagment cement factory, and the Newcastle Cogeneration Plant (old Ingagane Power Station). This was recommissioned as Africa's first gas-fired power station by Independent Power Southern Africa (IPSA), and it supplies the Karbochem Plant with electricity. The textile industry is a major employer in the Newcastle area, with over 100 factories belonging to ethnic Taiwanese and Chinese industrialists.

Offshore mining of heavy mineral sands, including minerals with a concentration of significant economic importance at several locations, such as rutile, ilmenite, and zircon, are threatening the marine ecology of KwaZulu-Natal's coast, including the Tugela Banks; the fishing economy of the prawn and nurse fisheries are also threatened.

Resources of coal are mined in the northern areas around:

-  Dundee
-  Glencoe
-  Vryheid
-  Newcastle

Industries

-  The Province has undergone rapid industrialisation owing to its abundant water supply and labour resources. Industries are mainly concentrated in Newcastle, Ladysmith, Dundee, Richards Bay, Durban, Hammarsdale, Richmond, Pietermaritzburg and Mandeni.
-  Sugar refining is the most important industry in the Province. Textile, clothing, rubber, fertiliser, paper, vehicle assembly and food-processing plants, tanneries, and oil refineries are located in and around Durban.

Richards Bay

The centre of South Africa's Aluminium industry.

Aluminium smelter



-  The Richards Bay Coal Terminal exports coal, ranking South Africa second as an exporter of steam coal.
-  Richards Bay Minerals is the world's largest sand mining and mineral-processing operation.

Escourt

Meat processing

Stocking factory.

The motor vehicle-manufacturing industry

-  Created a considerable multiplier effect on component and service providers.
-  The automotive leather industry has grown rapidly, with exports significantly increasing foreign exchange earnings.

Tourism


After sugar cane, tourism is the second-largest industry. The North and South Coast is a popular destination for local tourists. The annual Tourism Indaba also attracts many people, locals and foreigners.

Ecology tourism is increasingly important to the economy of KwaZulu-Natal. The area's rich biodiversity and efforts at conservation have been recognised. Tourists come to see the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These two major parks and that of Ndumo have wetlands of international importance listed as Ramsar sites for conservation.



Infrastructure





Transport

-  **King Shaka International Airport**, abbreviated KSIA, is the primary airport serving Durban, South Africa. Located in La Mercy, KwaZulu-Natal, approximately 35km north of the city centre of Durban, it opened its doors to passengers on May 1, 2010, just over a month before the start of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
-  The city is well-linked by **rail and bus services** to other major cities and is the busiest port for tourism.

Education and schools

According to the 2016 Community Survey, of the population aged 20 years and older, about 17% have no formal education, while only 5,8% attained a higher education qualification. More than two-thirds (70,9%) of the population in the Province have a secondary education, whereas 6,7% have primary education. Famous boy's schools include Hilton College and Michaelhouse.

Higher institutions:

-  **University of KwaZulu-Natal** (merger of the University of Natal and the University of Durban-Westville)
-  **University of Zululand**
-  **Durban University of Technology** (merger of ML Sultan Technikon and Technikon Natal)
-  **Mangosuthu University of Technology**

Sports






The Moses Mabhida Stadium

The Moses Mabhida Stadium is a stadium in Durban, South Africa, named after Moses Mabhida, a former General Secretary of the South African Communist Party. It is a multi-use stadium. The stadium became a venue for several events, like bungee jumping, concerts, cricket, football, golf practice, motorsports and rugby union.

It was one of the host stadiums for the **2010 FIFA World Cup**. The stadium is adjacent to the Kings Park Stadium, in the Kings Park Sporting Precinct, and the Durban street circuit used for the **A1GP World Cup of Motorsport**. It includes a sports institute and a transmodal transport station.






The stadium is located on the grounds of the Kings Park Soccer Stadium in the Durban sports precinct in the suburb of Stamford Hill. The stadium could hold 62,760 spectators during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Famous sports events

-  **Comrades Marathon:** An annual marathon run between Pietermaritzburg and Durban
-  **Midmar Mile:** A mile-long swimming race held annually at Midmar Dam.
-  **Dusi Canoe Marathon:** An annual canoe marathon starting in Pietermaritzburg and ending in Durban.
-  **Durban July:** South Africa's premier annual horse racing event at Greyville Racecourse, Durban.
-  **Mr Price Pro:** a premier international surfing event at Durban during winter (previously known as the 'Gunston 500').

Provincial sports teams

Football (soccer)

-  The South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) currently features the following teams from the Province:
-  AmaZulu, Golden Arrows and Royal AM (Durban)
-  Thanda Royal Zulu (Richards Bay)
-  Maritzburg United (Pietermaritzburg)
-  Royal AM Durban

Rugby union

-  United Rugby Championship
-  The Sharks
-  Currie Cup
-  Sharks

Cricket

-  SuperSport Series
-  Dolphins (successor to the KwaZulu-Natal cricket team)

Basketball

-  Kwazulu Marlins

Netball

-  Kingdom Stars
-  Kingdom Queens

Routes and orientation

Routes from the interior

The N3 toll road from Gauteng and the Free State enters KwaZulu-Natal at Van Reenen's Pass.

The N11 exits Mpumalanga to Charlestown towards Ladysmith, where it joins the N3.

The N2 starts from Ermelo in Mpumalanga and enters KwaZulu-Natal at Pongola, from where it continues south to Durban and along the South Coast. At Port Shepstone, the road turns inland to Kokstad, from where it starts its long journey through the Eastern Province down to Cape Town.

Other important routes

Two alternative routes from Mpumalanga to the Province are the R34 and the R33. The first leaves the N11 just before Newcastle en route to Utrecht and Vryheid, then south to Empangeni and Richard's Bay. The R33 enters the Province at Paul Pietersburg via Dundee, Greytown, to KwaDukuza (on the N2).

