



## BATTLEFIELDS TOURS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Zulu War of 1879 is famous throughout the English-speaking world for the great battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift.

Fugitives' Drift's flagship tours to Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift have achieved the international reputation for which it is world-renowned. Led by Douglas Rattray and his team of fantastic guides, the thought-provoking and often emotionally charged tours are conducted daily to both battlefields. Please note that these tours are not suitable for children under the age of 12 years due to the lengths and the content of these tours. Battlefield kids tours can, however, be arranged. Tours to other battlefields and significant sites in the area are also available upon request and availability, and must be booked in advance.

### FLAGSHIP TOURS

#### **The Battle of Isandlwana**

*Learn of the bravery and mobility of the Zulu army that defeated the British army at the Battle of Isandlwana.*

Depart at 7:30am for Isandlwana, listening to a tape narrated by David Rattray playing in the vehicle explaining the background to the Anglo-Zulu War. There is a stop at 9:00 for a comfort break and to view the museum at Isandlwana. The lecture on the battlefield begins at 9:45 and concludes at around 11:45, when tea, coffee and refreshments are served. After the talk, wander around the battlefield, visiting the various graves, at your leisure.

The tour returns at about 1:00pm; just in time for lunch.

FUGITIVES' DRIFT LODGE AND GUEST HOUSE

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## **The Battle of Rorke's Drift**

*Listen to the famous story of Rorke's Drift, where 139 British soldiers were attacked by four thousand Zulu warriors; a British victory which saw the award of more Victoria Crosses (11 in total) than in any other battle in history.*

The Rorke's Drift tour departs at 3pm. Guests will have some time to look through the museum at Rorke's Drift, before the lecture starts on the battlefield at 4pm. The lecture concludes at around 6pm, after which guests can have a look around the memorials and graveyard.

## **OTHER TOURS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Battlefields Kids**

For keen young historians, we offer a *Battlefield Kids* tour. While our regular tours set off with the parents, shorter and more interactive tours on the property will engage and inspire their children with stories of the bravery and courage of the British soldiers and Zulu warriors. These tours will be followed by a short game drive and perhaps a guided walk through the museum.

### **The Graves Walk**

This 3 km round trip sets off daily at 4pm after tea and cake on the lodge deck. Taking about an hour to an hour of a half, guests will stop at various lookout and other poignant points to hear the story of Melvill and Coghill, two brave men who died saving the Queen's Colour on our property. The final stop on the walk allows you to visit the graves of these two brave men.

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## Nature Walks

Fugitives' Drift lodge and guest house are situated within a game reserve, which has an abundance of interesting plant life and wildlife. The animals that we have are mostly plains game (zebra, giraffe, and many species of antelope), and we also have extensive bird life, with approximately three hundred species of bird on the reserve.

We have a number of walking trails on the property, giving one the opportunity to connect with the wildlife and plant life on foot. There are also various lookout points, from which one can enjoy expansive views over beautiful Zululand. Walks can be either self-guided or guided. A guided walk gives one the opportunity to learn more about the medicinal uses of certain plants- used extensively in Zulu culture- and about the birds and other animals that can be found on the reserve. If you would like to do an unguided walk, please ask at reception for a map and a recommended route. If you would like to book a guided walk (offered in the mornings), please liaise with a staff member.

## The Fugitives' Trail

For keen walkers, it is possible to spend a morning doing the *Fugitives' Trail* from Isandlwana back to Fugitives' Drift Lodge. The trail is roughly 8 – 10 km (a little over 5 miles) and, depending on the state of the Buffalo River (which needs to be crossed at the end of the walk), may involve some swimming. The walk traverses some rough terrain, so should only be undertaken by guests with a reasonable level of fitness.

## Blood River

Another exciting excursion is to Blood River. This is where a battle was fought between the Boers and the Zulus on the 16<sup>th</sup> December (now a public holiday in South Africa), 1838. This trip is well worth the drive: 64 life-sized solid bronze wagons now sit on the site of the battle and are quite remarkable.

Note that this tour is subject to the availability of a guide, and must be booked in advance.

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## **The Prince Imperial Site**

Another place that brings the course of the bitter Zulu War of 1879 to mind is the place where Eugène Louis Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte, Prince Imperial of France and the last remaining Bonaparte, was killed by the Zulus on 1 June, 1879. A monument marks the site amongst the hills on the course of the Itshotshozi River. This trip can be added on to the Blood River tour.

Note that this tour is subject to the availability of a guide, and must be booked in advance.

## **Mangeni Falls**

Another possible trip is to the beautiful Mangeni Falls, where Lord Chelmsford found himself during the battle of Isandlwana. This is an incredibly scenic tour; one can take in some of the remarkable geography surrounding Isandlwana.

Note that this tour is subject to the availability of a guide, and must be booked in advance.

## **Masondo**

We also offer a trip to Masondo, which is a short drive and then a walk away, to see where the Zulu Army crossed the Buffalo River in their way back to attack Rorke's Drift.

Note that this tour is subject to the availability of a guide, and must be booked in advance.

## **Hlobane and Kambula**

The battle of Hlobane is unique in British history as it was one of the earliest battles where the British force was entirely mounted. This ill-fated expedition was to drive the AbaQulusi of the Zulus off their magnificent mountain stronghold. The ensuing action left at least two hundred men on the British side dead, while the number of Zulus who lost their lives will sadly never be known. The tour to Hlobane entails a drive through some of the most beautiful areas of Zululand. This is a full day tour, leaving at 07:00 and returning around 18:00. Note that this tour is subject to the availability of a guide, and must be booked in advance.

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