

FREE STICKER &
10+ VOUCHERS INSIDE

GUIDE TO THE Midlands Meander®

CHOOSE THE SCENIC ROUTE

FULL MAP AND DESTINATION
GUIDE TO BE DISCOVERED

BUILT BY BLOODINE

MEET THE FAMILIES
BEHIND THE MEANDER

THE NATAL MIDLANDS

A BIRDER'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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EDITION 2026/7

ZIPLINE ADVENTURES



10 ziplines THROUGH THE Forest Canopy

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A THRILLING ECO
TOURISM ADVENTURE

HIKING TRAILS · FUNCTION VENUE
SCHOOL GROUPS · TEAM BUILDING



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Bookings & Queries

076 241 2888

info@karkloofcanopytour.co.za

www.canopytour.co.za



KARKLOOF

**Canopy
Tour®**

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- 502 Carlyle College
- 503 Invermooi Estate
- 504 Hartford House
- 505 The Fisherman's Cottage
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- 507 Treverton Preparatory Schools & College
- 508 Sycamore Avenue Treehouse
- 509 Midlands Saddle and Trout



welcome

to the Midlands Meander - One of South Africa's most beautiful and inspiring destinations. Whether you are visiting for the first time or returning to a place you have come to love, we are delighted to have you here.

The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands has a special way of inviting you to slow down, take the scenic route, and savour the journey. Around every bend in the road, you'll discover something unique: talented artisans, welcoming cafés, charming accommodation, and breathtaking landscapes.

What makes the Midlands truly special is not only the places you visit, but also the people you meet along the way. Our members are the heart of the Meander, and their creativity, hospitality, and dedication help create the memorable experiences that bring visitors back year after year.

On behalf of our members and the entire Midlands Meander community, thank you for choosing to spend your time with us. We hope your journey through the Midlands is filled with discovery, connection, and moments that become treasured memories.

We look forward to sharing the magic of the Midlands with you.

Warm regards,

Sandy Chowles

Chairperson of the Midlands Meander Association

Thank you!

With thanks to our 2025/2026 Board of Directors:

Sandy Chowles (Chairperson)	The Old Mushroom Farm
Heidi Davidson (Treasurer)	Access Accounting
Neil Masson	Chocolate Heaven
Ian Field	Mount Park Guest Farm & Wedding Venue
Richard Kelland	Coefficient Industries
Etienne Pretorius	PBC Group
Travis Hesom	Treverton

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Your on-the-go guide
to the Midlands



What's On?

Scan the code for local events

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REFERENCE ICONS

-  **NEW MEMBER**
-  **CHILD FRIENDLY**
-  **PET FRIENDLY**
-  **WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY WITH TOILET**
-  **WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY**
-  **BUS & COACH ACCESS**
-  **FREE WIFI**
-  **OFFICIAL KZN BIRDING SITE**
-  **SELF CATERING**
-  **HALAAL**
-  **VEGAN**
-  **HISTORICAL BUILDING**
-  **FISHING**
-  **SPA**
-  **CAR WASH**
-  **420 FRIENDLY**
-  **PICKLE/PADEL/SPORTS**
-  **MIDLANDS MEANDER ASSOCIATION BUTTERFLY**
Midlands Meander Artisans
Handmade in the Midlands

Information

A QUICK NOTE ON HOW TO NAVIGATE OUR GUIDE AND THE MIDLANDS MEANDER.

unique route number
COLOUR CODED PER ROUTE

The Old Mushroom Farm
E: info@theoldmushroomfarm.co.za | T: +27 60 470 1218
W: www.theoldmushroomfarm.co.za

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The Old Mushroom Farm, as the name suggests, was once a working farm. The original growing tunnels farm sheds and staff housing have been transformed into dynamic spaces for visitors to explore. A contemporary, inviting atmosphere with inspiring architecture, diverse experiences, unique accommodations and a variety of shops, eateries, and amenities. Just 10 mins from Howick up the Karkloof Road. Enjoy live events, a food garden, kids play area, walking trail, and self-catering stays. A tranquil destination, perfect for the whole family & pets!









*you can scan
QR CODES
for more info*

*icons to
HIGHLIGHT
important info*

ROUTE REFERENCE

- ROUTE 1** Hilton | Howick | Karkloof
- ROUTE 2** Curry's Post | Balgowan | Mount West
- ROUTE 3** Dargle | Boston | Fort Nottingham
- ROUTE 4** Lion's River | Lidgetton | Balgowan
Nottingham Road
- ROUTE 5** Mooi River | Rosetta | Kamberg



DIGITAL GUIDE

Scan this code to download a digital version of this guide

#CreateNewMemories

Plan your day along the routes

ACTIVITY KEY:

 GOLF/PUTT PUTT	 DAY FISHING	 CHOCOLATE DIPPING
 KIDS AREAS	 MINI TRAIN	 MUSEUM/THEME PARKS
 ZIPLINE	 WATER ACTIVITIES	 WALKS/PICNICS
 MARKET	 GO-KARTING	 WINE/BEER/GIN TASTING
 EVENTS	 HORSE RIDING	 CANDLE DIPPING
 CAMPING	 FOOD GARDENS	 ART/SCULPTURES
 POOL TABLE/DARTS/TABLE TENNIS	 PICKLE/PADEL/SPORTS	 GAMES/PUZZLES

ROUTE 1

LA ROSE GOLF DRIVING RANGE



KARKLOOF FARMERS MARKET



THE OLD MUSHROOM FARM



KARKLOOF CANOPY TOUR



MIDMAR RESORT



ROCKWOOD KARKLOOF LODGES



ZULU MPOPHOMENI



STOCKOWNERS OUTDOOR PARK



BITE SOCIETY



ROUTE 3

MOUNT PARK GUEST FARM



INVERSANDA FARM COTTAGES



DARGLE FOREST LODGE



ROUTE 4

NOTTINGHAM ROAD BREWERY



ABINGDON WINE ESTATE



THE PLATFORM GALLERY



GOWRIE FARM LODGE & GOLF COURSE



BIERFASSEL RESTAURANT & PUB



RAWDONS BREWERY & COUNTRY ESTATE



THE NOTTINGHAM ROAD HOTEL



CHOCOLATE HEAVEN



CRYPTIQ ESCAPE GAMES



FORDOUN HOTEL & SPA



ROUTE 2

GROUNDCOVER LEATHER CO.



DE TIAMO DESIGN & RETAIL



BOSCH HOEK LODGE & GOLF COURSE



TROUTBAGGER FARM



BRAHMAN HILLS GARDENS, SPA, HOTEL & VILLAS



MIDLANDS ACTIVE SPORTS



ROUTE 5

MOOI RIVER COUNTRY CLUB



INVERMOOI ESTATE



Midlands Meander

VOUCHERS

CHOCOLATE HEAVEN

Route 4 | 437

Contact: +27 74 828 0132

MMA01

15% OFF when purchasing with the Voucher present.
Redeemable once per guide.

LA CLEF HOTEL

Route 4 | 420

Contact: +27 83 708 9133

MMA01

Complimentary welcome drink on arrival & **complimentary** home baked carrot cake during your stay.

NOTTING HILL LODGE

Route 4 | 422

Contact: +27 82 400 2918

MMA03

10% OFF when booking with code.

MOUNT PARK GUEST FARM & WEDDING VENUE

Route 3 | 306

Contact: bookings@mountpark.co.za

MMA04

10% DISCOUNT on meals in our Bull & Speir Restaurant per family.

STOCKOWNERS OUTDOOR PARK

Route 1 | 129

Contact: +27 76 315 7699

MMA05

1 FREE Bucket of Balls & **1 FREE** Coffee of Choice.

BITE SOCIETY

Route 1 | 120

Contact: +27 79 863 9606

MMA06

BUY 2 pizzas get **1 FREE** Tapas dish.

GROUNDCOVER LEATHER COMPANY

Route 2 | 201

Contact: +27 82 562 0874

MMA07

10% DISCOUNT on any purchase, made in store in Curry's Post, between Monday and Friday.

SHUTTLEWORTH WEAVING

Route 4 | 436

Contact: +27 76 709 3049

MMA08

10% DISCOUNT on any purchase made in our Nottingham Road Showroom from Monday to Saturday until August 2027.

KARKLOOF CANOPY TOUR

Route 1 | 123

Contact: +27 83 647 4595

MMA09

10% DISCOUNT when booking with code.

DE TIAMO

Route 2 | 203

Contact: +27 63 699 4434

MMA10

5% OFF all leather goods in store.

INDEZI RIVER CREAMERY

Route 2 | 205

Contact: +27 33 492 0571

MMA11

ONE complimentary Caprini (your choice of flavour) with any purchase of a Party Platter.

MMA12

ONE complimentary 300ml Kefir (your choice of flavour) with any purchase of 1 litre Kefir.

MMA13

THREE-FOR-TWO on 300ml Plant-Based Smoothies. Pay for two and get three.

LYTHWOOD LODGE

Route 4 | 416

Contact: info@lythwood.com

MMA14

25% DISCOUNT on our Gold/Silver/Diamond wedding packages for a midweek wedding Monday to Thursday excluding public holidays.

MMA15

MIDWEEK ACCOMMODATION SPECIAL

30% DISCOUNT or stay for two nights and third night on us, accommodation only. Discount applies to bookings via info@lythwood.com only.

St Ives

LODGE & VENUE

**Where Midlands History, Wild Beauty
& Family Legacy Come Together**

Set within 140 hectares of rolling hills, forests and tranquil dams in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, St Ives Lodge & Venue is a destination where rich heritage, abundant wildlife and warm country hospitality come together. Whether visiting for a weekend escape, a wedding, conference or family holiday, guests experience the very best of the Midlands in one remarkable setting.

A Rich Midlands Heritage

St Ives has played many roles throughout its history. Originally established as a thoroughbred stud farm in the early 1900s, it produced Legacy, winner of the 1933 Durban July. The estate later became a successful cattle, crop and timber farm, with its working timber plantation still forming part of the property's landscape today.

The surrounding Lions River area is steeped in history. In 1856, the last lion known to roam the region was shot nearby, giving the town its enduring name and marking an important chapter in the area's natural history.

Nature & Wildlife

The estate's rolling grasslands, indigenous forests and scenic dams provide a haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Free-roaming impala, zebra, wildebeest, bushbuck, blesbuck, reedbuck, porcupines and an abundance of birdlife can be spotted throughout the property.

Guests can explore the popular 5 km nature trail, enjoy peaceful walks or photography, while the dams - once stocked with trout and now home to bass, tilapia and carp - offer excellent fishing in a spectacular setting.

Accommodation & Dining

St Ives offers stylish lodge suites and spacious family-friendly accommodation overlooking the dams and countryside. Modern comforts, private patios and peaceful surroundings make it an ideal base for couples, families and business travellers.

Dining is equally memorable, with the Main Deck Restaurant serving breakfast and brunch with panoramic dam views, while the BOMA Grill & Bar offers relaxed lunches and dinners featuring wood-fired pizzas, seafood, hearty grills and its renowned ribs.

Weddings, Conferences & Events

Surrounded by breathtaking scenery, St Ives has become one of the Midlands' premier wedding destinations, offering lakeside ceremonies, elegant reception venues and beautiful seasonal backdrops.

The estate also caters for conferences, corporate retreats and special events, combining flexible venues, on-site accommodation, catering and outdoor activities to create productive and memorable experiences.

A Family Legacy

Since acquiring the estate in 2014, the Bloxham family has transformed St Ives through careful restoration, conservation and thoughtful development. Today, Ashley and Catherine Bloxham oversee the day-to-day operation, combining hands-on hospitality with a passion for preserving the estate's heritage and natural beauty.

More than simply a lodge, St Ives is a place where history is celebrated, wildlife flourishes, families gather and lasting memories are made - capturing the timeless spirit of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

By Ashley Bloxham



Hiking trails & Waterfalls

From easy walks to longer hikes, the KwaZulu-Natal, Midlands offers something for every explorer. Wander the trails and you'll discover waterfalls, views, and moments worth returning for.

MILESTONE FOREST WALK

Contact: +27 82 427 3365

An easy 2km walk through the indigenous forests of the Balgovan Conservancy with well signed paths, signs & tree ID cards.

THE TONY KERR TRAIL

FORT NOTTINGHAM | Contact: +27 82 487 0922

The Fort Nottingham Nature reserve is perfect for walkers, birders & botanists. Discover the wooded hillside on this 2km trail. Some steep sections. Bookings essential.

WESSA uMNGENI VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

Contact: +27 33 330 3931 / +27 87 711 1671

Just 1km from Howick on the Karkloof Road, this reserve is a great place to spend the day getting into nature, offering panoramic views, diverse walking trails, picnic spots and a variety of Wildlife.

KAMBERG NATURE RESERVE

Contact: +27 33 267 7251 / +27 64 780 4833 / +27 82 765 3025

An expanse of grasslands & rocky hills, with hikes to waterfalls, trout fishing and a rock art museum.

KARKLOOF CRANE & CONSERVATION CENTRE

Contact: +27 76 147 6686

Guided walk through the conservancy allows visitors to spot an impressive array of bird species, including the Wattled, Blue and Grey Crowned Crane as well as in the bird hides.

HOWICK FALLS GORGE WALK

Contact: Zama - Tourism: +27 83 421 1938

Beginning at the end of Harvard Street, the trail takes you through gorgeous riverine forest, grottos and meandering streams all the way to the pool at the bottom of the falls.

Howick Falls: Heart of Howick

Known as KwaNogqaza, or "Place of the Tall One," Howick Falls is steeped in Zulu legend. Said to be home to the Inkanyamba - a powerful serpent-like creature - this striking waterfall carries both beauty and mystery. Whether for the view or the story, it's a stop you won't forget.

- Location: Howick, on the Umgeni River.
- Height: ~95 m (310 ft)
- Access: Easy public platform in Howick; adventurous hikers can follow a trail down to the thunderous base.

uMngeni Valley: Cascades & Shelter Falls

Hidden Trails and Cool Pools... Tucked inside the reserve, these trails wind past waterfalls, wildlife, and wildflowers.

- Location: Within uMngeni Valley Nature reserve.
- Height: Modest cascade.
- Access: Easy/moderate walk separate from the main fall.

Karkloof Falls

This waterfall is a natural gem surrounded by rich biodiversity - ideal for eco-conscious visitors seeking a peaceful, nature-filled adventure.

- Location: Karkloof Nature Reserve, west of Howick.
- Height: ~105 m; nearvertical drop.
- Access: Public hiking trail (~6.9km return) through forest reserves.

INHLOSANE MOUNTAIN

Contact: +27 83 639 1114 / WhatsApp(Only) +27 66 296 9039

The iconic hill that's visible from anywhere in the Midlands can be reached! It's a nice steep hike up to the top of the hill, trailing through beautiful indigenous mist belt forests before popping out into the open hillside. A restaurant is available for light meals and refreshments at Mount Park.

THE KARKLOOF FALLS

Enjoy this 6.9km out and back trail to the 105 meter dramatic drop of the Karkloof falls. The road entrance is off the Karkloof Road traveling out of Howick. Signposted.

BALGOWAN CONSERVANCY INFO CENTRE

Contact: Jessica Young: +27 82 940 9039

Email: balgowanconservancy@gmail.com

Find out more about the Bushpig Trail and Michaelhouse Oribi Reserve and the trails that lie within.

KILGOBBIN FOREST WALK in Dargle Nature Reserve

Contact: Barend Booysen: +27 82 787 0797

First Thursday of each month | 09:00 – 11:00 AM

R50 fee (100% of proceeds go to the Dargle Conservancy)

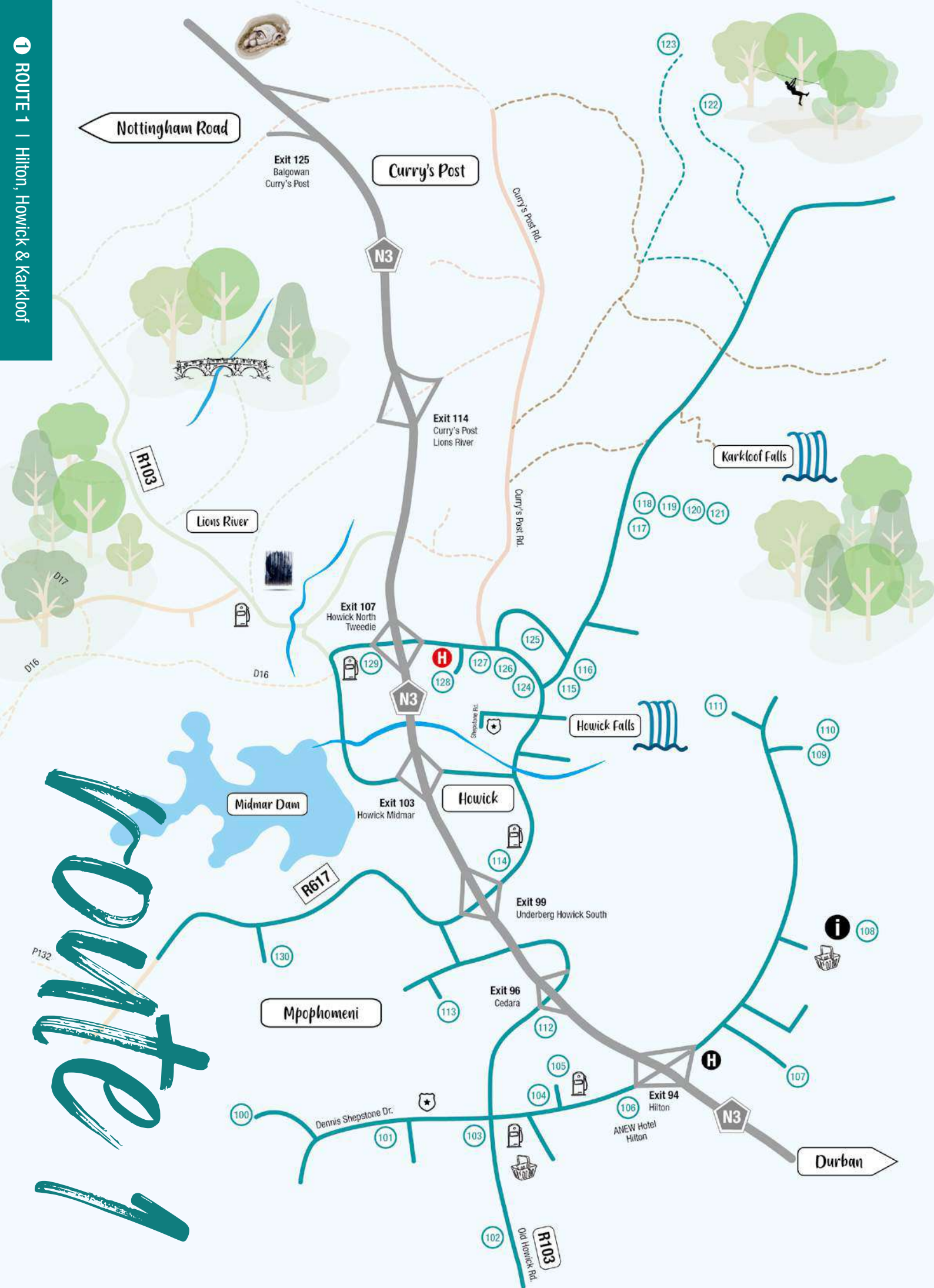
DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Scan for more information on local walks, talks and events.

E: chairman@dargleconservancy.org.za
W: www.dargleconservancy.org.za



Discover *the Midlands*, one trail at a time.



ROUTE

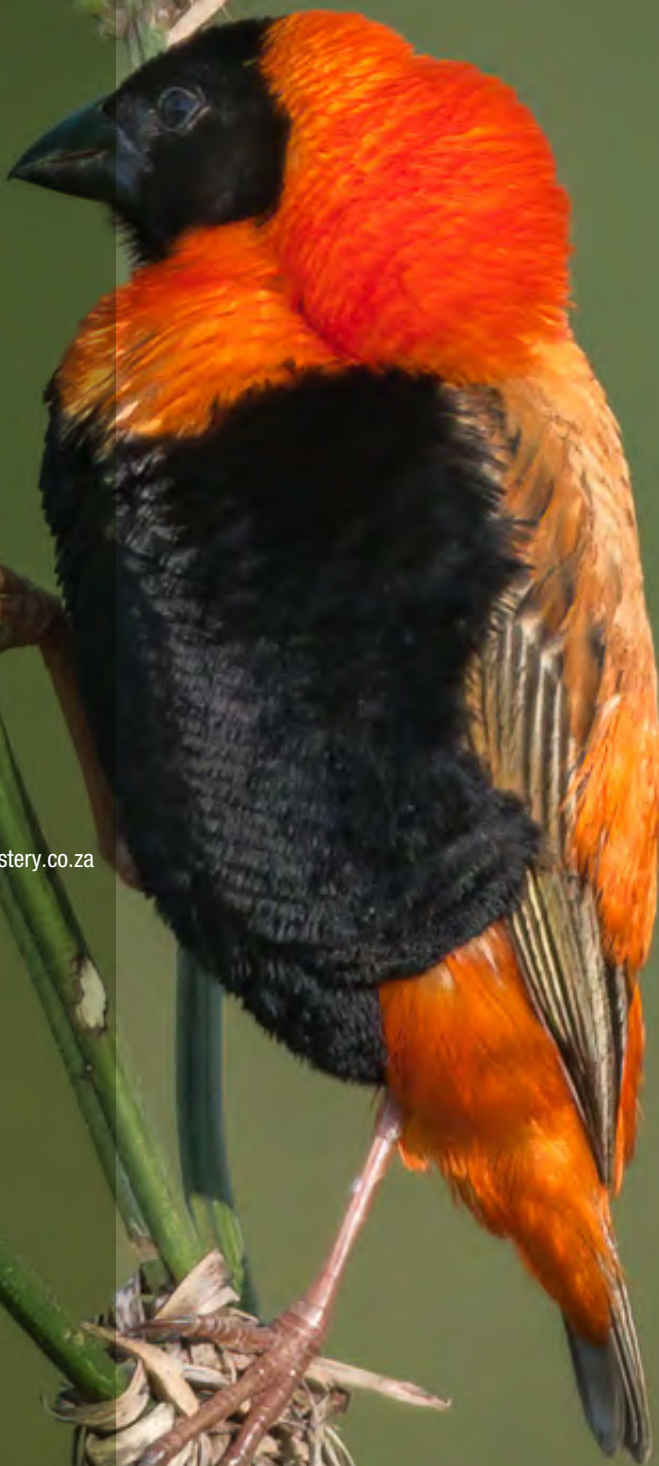


HILTON | HOWICK | KARKLOOF

Route 1 takes you from Hilton, through Howick and out to the beautiful Karkloof, ending at Rockwood Lodges where you can create your own adventure on the various trails, dams, forests, and grasslands in the Karkloof Nature Reserve, and have the exhilarating Karkloof Canopy Tour on your doorstep. Enjoy a hearty breakfast and a bit of shopping at the Karkloof Farmers Market, on Saturday mornings, or head slightly out of town to experience a cultural tour in Mpophomeni.

WHO'S ON ROUTE 1?

100	The Knoll Historic Guest Farm	+27 76 555 5408
101	Cowan House Preparatory School	+27 33 343 3261
102	Jackie Cameron School of Food & Wine	+27 76 505 7538
103	Crossways Hilton	+27 33 343 3267
104	St Anne's Diocesan College	+27 33 343 6100
105	Laddsworth Primary School	+27 33 343 3256
106	ANew Hotel Hilton	+27 33 343 3311
107	66 on Monzali Hilton Guest House	+27 71 456 0892
108	Sagewood Café	+27 71 589 5566
109	La Rose Golf Driving Range	+27 82 445 6441
110	The Aloes Farm - The Studio & The Gallery	+27 84 506 7879
111	The Hilton Bush Lodge	+27 33 004 0033
112	Rotunda Farm Stall	+27 33 343 4205
113	Little Fields Country House & Cottages	+27 83 407 3310
114	Slee Guest House	+27 83 685 2436
115	The Ruby Orchard	+27 33 330 2673
116	Forty One Restaurant and Bar	+27 60 699 7383
117	Karkloof Farmer's Market	+27 72 902 4196
118	The Old Mushroom Farm	+27 60 470 1218
119	Margaret Anne Handcrafted Candles	+27 73 476 1056
120	Bite Society	+27 73 382 1765
121	Midlands Books Pty LTD	+27 82 382 2755
122	Karkloof Canopy Tour	+27 76 241 2888
123	Rockwood Karkloof Lodges	+27 31 502 4043
124	BlueBird Coffee Roastery	hello@bluebirdroastery.co.za
125	The House @ 9	+27 83 383 4882
126	Terbodore Coffee Roasters	+27 33 330 2380
127	The Green Lantern	+27 72 891 2062
128	Howick High School	+27 33 330 2858
129	Stockowners Outdoor Park	+27 76 315 7699
130	Zulu Mpophomeni Tourism Experience	+27 33 238 0288



The Knoll Historic Guest Farm

E: info@theknoll.co.za | T: +27 76 555 5408 | W: www.theknoll.co.za

The Knoll Historic Guest Farm offers farm stay self-catering accommodation, vibrant gardens, and scenic countryside views in Hilton, Natal Midlands. Ideal for weddings, family getaways, or music and nature lovers, it provides a tranquil escape just outside town - combining convenience with a peaceful setting. Whether you seek a romantic wedding venue or a relaxing retreat, The Knoll delivers a welcoming, home-away-from-home experience on a historic farm.

Trading Hours: 8am - 5pm



100

Cowan House Preparatory School

Cowan House is an Independent, Co-Educational Preparatory school nestled in the heart of Hilton on a beautiful expansive campus. We offer Grade RRR - Grade 7 and boarding from Grade 1.

E: admissions@cowanhouse.co.za
T: +27 33 343 3261
W: www.cowanhouse.co.za



101

Jackie Cameron School of Food & Wine

Impress your guests...From picnics to banquets we deliver professional panache for groups of 15+. You choose the venue, on-site and off-site, and specify your budget. We add the wow factor.

Trading Hours: 8am - 4pm

E: admin@jackiecameron.co.za
T: +27 76 505 7538
W: www.jackiecameron.co.za



102

Crossways Hilton

E: crosswayshilton@gmail.com | T: +27 33 343 3267 | W: www.crosswayspub.co.za

Crossways Pub and Restaurant was established in 1909 and is situated in the heart of Hilton and is the start of the Midlands Meander. We offer a friendly, cosy atmosphere with our Family orientated Pub and Restaurant, offering a kiddies play area, traditional pub lunches and wood-fired pizzas.



103

St Anne's Diocesan College

St Anne's Diocesan College is an independent girl's high school situated in Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal, with a long tradition of providing excellent, balanced and globally relevant education.

E: mist@stannes.co.za
T: +27 33 343 6100
W: www.stannes.co.za



104

Laddsworth Primary School

Laddsworth Primary School is a 123-years-old, offering value-driven, quality education to its community since 1903. It is set in the heart of Hilton, catering for boys and girls from Grade One to Seven.

E: pro@laddsworth.co.za
T: +27 33 343 3256
W: www.laddsworth.co.za



105

ANEW Hotel Hilton

E: hiltonres1@anewhotels.co.za | T: +27 33 343 3311
W: www.anewhotels.com/hotels/hilton/

Located at the gateway to the Midlands Meander, ANEW Hotel Hilton offers a refreshing blend of heritage charm and modern upgrades. Recently renovated, the hotel now boasts stylish new public spaces including a contemporary restaurant, inviting bar, tranquil tea garden, and a beautifully refreshed courtyard—perfect for relaxed gatherings or quiet moments. Whether you're visiting for business, leisure, or a Midlands wedding, ANEW Hotel Hilton provides a warm welcome and an ideal base to explore the surrounding attractions. Experience comfort, convenience, and heartfelt hospitality in the picturesque village of Hilton, just outside Pietermaritzburg.



106

66 on Monzali Hilton Guest House

66 on Monzali Hilton is a luxury 4-star guesthouse offering stylish rooms, free parking, fast Wi-Fi, and optional meals and massages. Conveniently located near the N3, Midlands Meander, Hilton amenities, Howick, and Pietermaritzburg, welcoming all travellers.

E: bookings@66onmonzali.co.za
T: +27 71 456 0892
W: www.66onmonzali.co.za



107

Sagewood Café

E: orders@sagewoodcafe.co.za | T: +27 71 589 5566 | W: www.sagewoodcafe.co.za

A well established Artisan Restaurant & Deli, where food, nature & designs blend in harmony. Healthy cold pressed juices, kombuchas, breakfast, brunch, lunch & hand-crafted baked goodies, available 7 days a week. See you at Sagewood for some passion on a plate!

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm
Saturday: 8am - 4pm | Sunday & Public Holidays: 8am - 4pm Closed:
Christmas & New Years Day.



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Book your stay in
the Midlands
find your perfect home
away from home....



Share your *Midlands Moments* with us
tag @midlandsmeander in your posts

La Rose Golf Driving Range

E: noelineverbizier@gmail.com | T: +27 82 445 6441 | W: www.larosedesvents.co.za

La Rose Golf Driving Range, located in Hilton, offers a scenic and relaxed setting for golfers of all skill levels to practise their swing. The facility features ten bays, including sheltered and grass bays, plus a jungle gym and tuck shop for families. Visitors enjoy the peaceful Midlands views, fresh air, and welcoming atmosphere. The venue also caters for daytime functions, team-building events, and celebrations, with spit braai packages available for groups. Refreshments and snacks are available on request.



109

The Aloes Farm - The Studio & The Gallery

110

Two beautifully appointed self-catering cottages for 5-6 guests, offering peaceful surroundings, stunning views, proximity to Hilton schools, and original art for sale.

E: bookings@thealoesfarm.co.za
T: +27 84 506 7879
W: www.thealoesfarm.co.za



The Hilton Bush Lodge

111

15 luxury accommodation units and a renovated wedding venue overlooking the uMngeni and Reitspruit Valleys. Our lodge is just minutes from the centre of Hilton, yet completely concealed by accacia trees, tall aloes and wild grass. Trading Hours: 7:30am - 3:30pm.

E: reservations@thehiltonbushlodge.co.za
T: +27 33 004 0033
W: www.thehiltonbushlodge.co.za



Rotunda Farm Stall

E: hiltonfarmstall@gmail.com | T: +27 33 343 4205
Social Media: @rotundafarmstall

Situated conveniently in Hilton on the N3, Cedara interchange. Call in at the start or end of your Meander for a unique experience. There is something for everybody. Browse to your heart's content, or shop till you drop. Always something. Round it off with a delicious cappuccino.

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am - 5:50pm | Sat, Sun & Public holidays: 8am - 5pm



112

Little Fields Country House & Cottages

113

In a beautiful natural setting, close to the N3 between the quaint villages of Howick and Hilton, Little Fields offers modern country accommodation options: Country House, Loft Cottage, Forest Cottage, Green House and Gardeners Cottage.

E: bookings@littlefields.co.za
T: +27 83 407 3310
W: www.littlefields.co.za



Slee Guest House

114

We offer comfortable accommodation with ten rooms including one family apartment. The guest house has Wi-Fi, a fireplace, access to kitchen and dining room. The property is situated 3km from Fairways Shopping Centre and 4 km from Howick Falls.

E: info@sleeguesthouse.co.za
T: +27 83 685 2436
W: www.sleeguesthouse.co.za



The Ruby Orchard

E: info@therubyorchard.co.za | T: +27 33 330 2673 / +27 71 369 0900
W: www.therubyorchard.co.za

The Ruby Orchard at Yard 41, Howick. Our Natural, homely & refreshing store housing a beautiful range of home décor, reclaimed furniture, mirrors, frames, ceramics, gorgeous clothing and simply lovely gifts. The perfect shop for elegant, bespoke pieces you will not find anywhere else. We look forward to welcoming you!

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
Sat 8am-3pm, Sunday 9am-2pm | Public Holidays: 9am-3pm



115

Forty One Restaurant & Bar

116

E: forty.onekzn@gmail.com | T: +27 60 699 7383

Forty One Restaurant is a vibrant Mediterranean-style restaurant situated in Yard41, Howick. We specialize in the art of open woodfired cooking, featuring our custom Braserio and a woodfired pizza oven. Nestled within Howick at Yard 41, we offer breathtaking views of the stunning Umngeni Valley. We offer a warm and inviting atmosphere that's perfect for families and friends alike. Our beautiful interiors and excellent service ensure you feel right at home while enjoying high-quality food in a great welcoming atmosphere. Open: Monday to Sunday: Breakfast & Lunch. Wednesday to Saturday: Dinner



Karkloof Farmer's Market

117

A unique in-door market with a wide variety of stalls, offering everything from fresh vegetables to delicious home baked treats. Hearty breakfasts, premium coffee, local crafts & activities for kids.

E: kim@karklooffarmersmarket.co.za
T: +27 72 902 4196



Margaret-Anne Handcrafted Candles

119

Beautifully designed handcrafted candles made from sustainably sourced soy wax where art meets fragrance. Explore reed diffusers, room sprays, massage oil and crystal candles that add sparkle, truly transforming any space into a soothing sanctuary.

E: ma-candles@pm.me
T: +27 73 476 1056
Instagram: [margaretanne.candles](https://www.instagram.com/margaretanne.candles)



Bite Society

120

E: info@homeslice cafe.com | T: +27 73 382 1765

Bite Society is a relaxed countryside restaurant serving wood fired meals. They are well known for their thin base pizza's, tapa's-style sharing plates and refreshing drinks in a beautiful farm setting. Perfect for long lunches and laid back gatherings.

Trading Hours: Friday - Sunday 11am - 7pm | BYOB



Karkloof Canopy Tours

122

E: info@karkloofcanopytour.co.za | T: +27 76 241 2888 | W: www.karkloofcanopytour.co.za

Soar through the magnificent Karkloof indigenous forest on one of South Africa's most celebrated zipline adventures. Glide between elevated platforms high above the forest floor, surrounded by towering trees, waterfalls, wildlife and breathtaking scenery. This guided 2-hour adventure includes refreshments and is suitable for ages 6 and older. Accompanied by two professional guides throughout, guests enjoy a safe, exciting and unforgettable experience in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Whether seeking family fun, adventure or a unique nature experience, the Karkloof Canopy Tour is a must-do Midlands attraction. Bookings essential.



The Old Mushroom Farm

118

E: info@theoldmushroomfarm.co.za | T: +27 60 470 1218
W: www.theoldmushroomfarm.co.za

The Old Mushroom Farm, as the name suggests, was once a working farm. The original growing tunnels farm sheds and staff housing have been transformed into dynamic spaces for visitors to explore. A contemporary, inviting atmosphere with inspiring architecture, diverse experiences, unique accommodations and a variety of shops, eateries, and amenities. Just 10 mins from Howick up the Karkloof Road. Enjoy live events, a food garden, kids play area, walking trail, and self-catering stays. A tranquil destination, perfect for the whole family & pets!



Midlands Books PTY Ltd

121

E: robert@midlandsbooks.com | T: +27 82 328 2755 | W: www.midlandsbooks.com

Midlands Books & Collectables is the biggest bookshop in KwaZulu-Natal, home to over 65,000 books and an ever-changing selection of rare books, coins, banknotes, militaria, jewellery and other fascinating collectables. Whether you're a passionate reader, dedicated collector or curious treasure hunter, you'll find something unique waiting to be discovered. We also offer free valuations and purchase quality books and collectables. A destination not to be missed in the heart of the KZN Midlands.



Rockwood Karkloof Lodges

123

E: reservations@rockwood.co.za | T: +27 31 502 4043 | W: www.rockwood.co.za

Secluded Self-Catering Country Getaways for families, couples and small groups: Discover the magic of our four unique lodges, tucked away in the pristine Karkloof Nature Reserve. Less than two hours from Durban, your journey ends at the scenic escarpment, where farm fields, grasslands, herds of Nguni cattle and indigenous forests welcome you. Choose from the luxurious Rockwood Farm House, charming Farm Cottage overlooking Spitzkop Dam, the hidden Forest Lodge or Mountain Cabin nestled deep in the indigenous forest. Whether you seek adventure or tranquility, Rockwood offers exclusive trails for cycling, hiking, and trail running, alongside exceptional birding opportunities. This retreat blends comfort, seclusion, and natural beauty into the heart of the Karkloof.



LEADING
SPITBRAAI
CATERERS
IN KZN

+27 79 863 3840 | info@kzncaterers.com | www.kzncaterers.com



BlueBird Coffee Roastery

124

E: hello@bluebirdcoffeeroastery.co.za | W: www.bluebirdcoffeeroastery.co.za

Welcome to our specialty coffee roastery, café and training centre. By working with world-class producers, we access some of the best green coffee. This, combined with our distinctive roast approach, has led to Bluebird becoming internationally recognised for quality, and to winning 2025 SA Roastery of the Year. We work with cafes in London, Munich, New York, Hong Kong, and Paris, proudly shipping world-class coffee from Howick. This is not your average café; expect to taste something new!



The House @ 9

125

E: jen@jtheron.co.za | T: +27 83 383 4882 | W: www.houseat9.co.za

The House @ 9 brings under one roof Practitioners who work holistically to create a supportive and community orientated environment for you to reset, recharge and rejuvenate. You'll find something for everyone: Yoga, Pilates, Callanetics, Music-Therapy, Sound-Journeys and more in the dedicated Studio. Working from the House are Massage, Reflexology, Beauty, Kinesiology, Cranio-Sacral Therapy, Reiki, Quantum-Hypnosis-Healing-Therapy, Dietician, Trauma-Counselling, Child-Counselling, Haptotherapy and Thermography Practitioners. Whether it's a pampering gift to yourself or a deep dive into your healing journey, we are here to assist you. Trading Hours: 7:30am - 5:00pm | Closed: Christmas & New Year.



Terbodore Coffee Roasters

126

E: kznaccounts@terbodore.com | T: +27 33 330 2380 | W: www.terbodore.com

Coffee Roasting, Coffee Sales and Coffee Bar. Our new shop in Main Road, Howick is open! Come and enjoy our beautiful space to enjoy our coffee, buy our coffee and watch us roast! Please contact us for the supply of coffee beans, as well as commercial coffee machines and grinders to the hospitality trade. We also have a workshop for the servicing of commercial espresso machines.



The Green Lantern

127

The Green Lantern self-catering cottages combines English country charm, with the magic of the KZN Midlands. The fully furnished, secure and cosy cottages offer single, double, and family accommodation for business or pleasure getaways. Solar power backup. Aircon & DSTV.

E: info@thegreenlantern.co.za
T: +27 72 891 2062
W: www.thegreenlantern.co.za



Howick High School

128

E: marketing@howickhigh.co.za | T: +27 33 330 2858 | W: www.howickhigh.co.za

Founded in 1967 in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, Howick High School is a respected co-educational high school, offering weekly boarding. Instilling wholesome values, it develops well-rounded South African citizens through professional, specialist-led education for Grades 8-12. The campus features high-quality facilities, including well-maintained sportsgrounds supporting 15 sporting activities, alongside diverse cultural and environmental programs. Additionally, the onsite coffee shop, The Rampant Lion, and Padel Courts are open daily to the public, offering a welcoming community space.



Stockowners Outdoor Park

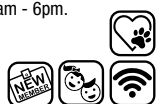
129

Stockowners Outdoor Park is the perfect place for the family day out. The café sells tasty meals, coffee, smoothies, milkshakes and more while there's so much to do including a driving range, jungle gym, pump track, zip line, cricket nets and 2 motorbike tracks. Trading Hours: 9am - 6pm. Closed Christmas & New Years

E: mundellmathew@gmail.com

T: +27 76 315 7699

Instagram: [@stockowners_outdoor_park](https://www.instagram.com/stockowners_outdoor_park)



Zulu Mpophomeni Tourism Experience

130

Experience genuine modern Zulu Culture in the Township of Mpophomeni in the heart of the Midlands, close to Nelson Mandela Monument. Indulge with delicious traditional meals, cultural & Zulu dances. Ancestral consultation and tours.

E: frankmchunu11@gmail.com

T: +27 33 238 0288



authentic
showcases of
Zulu history,
heritage and
traditions

From Folk Club roots to *MiTH Magic*

Twelve Years of Music in The Hills

By Charles Webster

When four founders got together in early 2014 and decided to hold the first meeting of what was to become MiTH (Music in The Hills) on the 26th of March that year, they'd never have guessed the impact their decision would have on the Midlands music scene. It began as a simple gathering of 48 musicians and fans at Hilton's Crossways pub wanting to play songs together. Over the past decade, it has grown into arguably the Midlands' most loved live-music institution, hosted at the legendary Knoll Historic Guest Farm.

But MiTH didn't emerge out of nowhere. It followed in the footsteps of the legendary Maritzburg Musicians' Club - originally the Maritzburg Folk Club - which had been part of the region's cultural DNA for more than 40 years. The Midlands has always had a deep appetite for authentic live music.

MiTH carries that spirit forward, and has also given it new energy. From the beginning, the ethos was simple: a club created by musos, for musos - and for people who genuinely love music. There were no commercial ambitions. There still aren't. Nobody profits from MiTH except the artists, although the focus is more on creating a platform and providing a magical, listening audience - a place where developing artists and original music can grow and thrive.

The organisers volunteer their time, the venue provides a magical setting, and the money collected at the door goes almost entirely back to the artists (with a small amount for running costs and rent).

That authenticity became the club's secret ingredient. Audiences quickly realised MiTH was a place where the music actually mattered. Quiet listening became part of the culture. Talented musicians noticed that rare kind of audience and wanted to play there. Over time, the stage welcomed everyone from promising newcomers to respected professionals like Jason Hartman, Tony Cox, Peter Guthrie, Gavin Minter, Tim Parr, Larry Amos and many others.

MiTH meets every second Wednesday and has become far more than just another gig night. It is a community. A family. A place where young musicians get their first real audience, seasoned performers test new material on an audience that sits still and pays attention, collaborations are born, and friendships are formed. In a world increasingly dominated by algorithms, playlists and background noise, MiTH remains human: live musicians playing to rapt audiences. A quiet magic that happens when people gather together to listen.





ANEW®

HOTEL HILTON
PIETERMARITZBURG

ANEW Hotel Hilton Pietermaritzburg, one of the KZN Midlands' most recognisable landmarks, is entering a new era while honouring the rich heritage that has made it a community favourite for generations. Established in 1936, the historic Tudor-style property has long stood as a gathering place for travellers, locals, weddings, celebrations, and business events - its distinctive architecture and warm hospitality firmly woven into the fabric of Hilton and Pietermaritzburg's history.

Now, following a series of thoughtful renovations and expansions, the iconic property is redefining itself for a modern traveller while carefully preserving the character and charm that have made it so beloved over the decades.

Set among rolling gardens just outside Pietermaritzburg, the hotel today offers 97 refurbished rooms that balance contemporary comfort with timeless elegance. From family rooms and deluxe suites to accessible accommodation and a presidential suite, the upgrades reflect a broader evolution of the property - one that embraces modern convenience without losing sight of its heritage roots.

At the heart of the hotel remains Ellingtons Restaurant & Café, a long-standing favourite among both hotel guests and locals. The newly refreshed space continues to celebrate the Midlands' tradition of warm hospitality, with fireside dining, signature drinks, and menus inspired by local flavours. Throughout the hotel, historic black-and-white imagery and Ardmere-inspired design elements create a subtle dialogue between past and present, paying tribute to the stories and people that shaped the area over the years.

One of the most significant additions to the property is the newly introduced five-star self-catering Hilton Homestead by ANEW. Designed for guests seeking a more exclusive and residential experience, the luxury homestead marks an important step in the hotel's evolution. Featuring three en-suite bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, lounge, private garden, and braai facilities, the space offers a refined home-away-from-home experience while remaining connected to the broader hotel estate.

The property has also expanded its lifestyle offering with the addition of a modern on-site gym, complementing existing facilities that include landscaped gardens, conference venues, private dining spaces, and leisure areas. For many returning visitors, these upgrades represent not a reinvention, but a continuation of the hotel's enduring story.

For decades, ANEW Hotel Hilton Pietermaritzburg has been more than simply a place to stay. It has served as a meeting place, a milestone destination, and a familiar landmark for countless travellers passing through the Midlands. Its latest chapter reflects a property embracing the future while remaining deeply connected to the community and history that built its reputation.

As the hospitality landscape continues to evolve, ANEW Hotel Hilton Pietermaritzburg stands as a reminder that heritage properties can still move forward - gracefully, authentically, and without losing the identity that made them iconic in the first place.



**To book your next stay,
visit www.anewhotels.com.**

Guests joining the ANEW Rewards loyalty programme can enjoy savings of up to 20%* on accommodation.

Indezi River Creamery

THE ROBERTSHAW FAMILY

EST 1997

When Barbara Robertshaw was just six years old, her grandfather bought a farm in Balgowan and invited his entire family to give up city life and go farming. "I spent hours pottering in the greenhouse with him growing cut flowers," she remembers. Their first crop was strawberries which they sold at just 25c a punnet, while Barbara's enterprising grandmother turned the less-than-perfect fruit into jam. Next, Nancy and Sophie arrived on the farm - the start of a beloved Jersey dairy herd. Milk cans were left under the tree at the end of the road for collection by a commercial dairy until Barbara's entrepreneurial Dad realised that they would make more money by turning their milk into cheese themselves. In the pioneering spirit that would define their legacy, the family was soon selling small, waxed cheese heads, labelled in Barbara's neat script, at The Bow and Arrow in Nottingham Road and at Groundcover in Curry's Post.

The first 40 goats arrived in 1997 when the family bought a neighbouring property with the intention of making silk duvets and goat's milk dairy. Barbara's daughter Kate clearly recalls the sound of millions of silkworms munching on mulberry leaves, "they were so noisy"! The silk factory soon gave way to a growing dairy herd, and by the early 2000's, everyone knew Indezi River Creamery. Production happened in a pigsty-turned-factory, surrounded by fields of cows, with 10-year-old Kate and her cousins running the adjacent deli during the school holidays.

After Barbara's dad died in 2008, she was running things on her own. By 2018, Indezi was well-established and stable, so she asked if anyone else in the family was keen to join. Kate's family put their hand up, despite being comfortably settled in Cape Town. "The timing of our move was miraculous - it was just before COVID, so my children spent lockdown on our beautiful farm." In retrospect, Barbara is uncertain she could have continued alone through those challenging times. "Kate had been helping more and more over the years, so already had a good grip on how things worked." Having that extra mental and emotional support, and assistance with decision-making was just what Indezi needed. Together, they reworked the brand, established a new sales team, went big into retail, and everything blossomed.

Kate now handles marketing and communication. "I feel beholden to my family, to honour the efforts of three generations. I thought my grandparents were the best thing since sliced bread, but there is pressure that comes with that legacy." One thing that Kate has changed is that work stays at work. Business talk has no place at Sunday lunches or mid-week suppers. "Work can be all-consuming in a family business, so I try to keep the kitchen table free for other kinds of conversations."

Over 50 years since the big move, and the family is still surrounded by beautiful views, good clean air and the Indezi River running through it all. "We don't want to get too big and lose our soul," says Kate, "we want to add joy to people's lives. Importantly, we will never make food that we wouldn't happily feed our own children".



"...we want to add joy to people's lives."



THE OLD MUSHROOM FARM

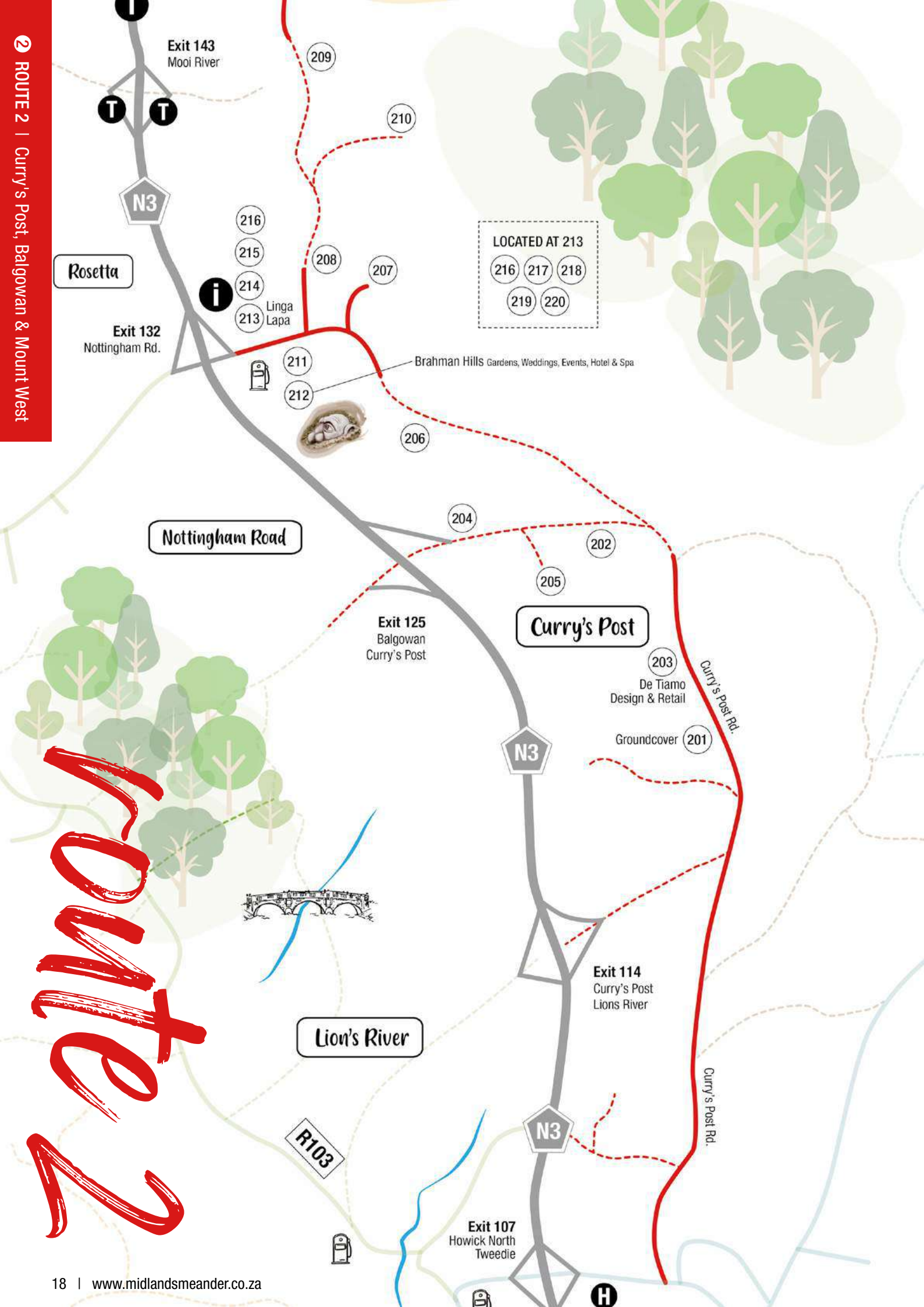
KZN RSA

ELEVEN KARKLOOF ROAD

Board & Trade

Explore the Midlands Meander from The Old Mushroom Farm. Set among rolling hills just 10 minutes from Howick, the former mushroom farm has been reimagined as a creative countryside retreat, where thoughtfully restored agricultural buildings house unique holiday accommodation, artisan shops, eateries, gardens and studios. Attend an event, host a function or spend the day exploring. Whether you're visiting for the day or here for a Midlands holiday adventure, The Old Mushroom Farm offers a memorable place to stay and explore.





Exit 143
Mooi River

T T

N3

Rosetta

Exit 132
Nottingham Rd.

i

216
215
214
213

Linga
Lapa

211
212



Brahman Hills Gardens, Weddings, Events, Hotel & Spa

LOCATED AT 213

216 217 218
219 220

Nottingham Road

Exit 125
Balgowan
Curry's Post

Curry's Post

203
De Tiamo
Design & Retail

Groundcover 201

Exit 114
Curry's Post
Lions River

Lion's River

R103

Exit 107
Howick North
Tweedie

ROUTE 2

CURRY'S POST | BALGOWAN | MOUNT WEST

Route 2 takes you out on the Curry's Post road from Howick, all the way to exit 132 at the Nottingham Rd interchange and Linga Lapa, famous for its quality mature steaks, locally made products and biltong. Stop and have a coffee while perusing the local crafter's products.

WHO'S WHO ON ROUTE 2?

201	Groundcover Leather Company	+27 83 516 0483
202	Newstead Farm	+27 33 675 6031
203	DE TIAMO Design & Retail	+27 63 699 4434
204	Bosch Hoek Lodge & Golf Course	+27 60 974 9961
205	Indezi River Creamery & Dairy Shoppe	+27 33 492 0571
206	Troutbagger Farm	+27 83 270 3817
207	The Gallery Wedding Venue	+27 83 391 5505
208	Oakridge Farm Cottage	+27 82 880 2184
209	Midlands Active Sports	+27 72 869 5903
210	Infinity @ Enfin Art Estate	+27 74 123 7856
211	Healing Earth Spa at Brahman Hill	+27 33 266 6965
212	Brahmans Hills Gardens, Spa, Hotel & Villas	+27 33 266 6965
213	Linga Lapa	+27 33 266 7001
214	Elula Coffee & Café	+27 61 898 4939
215	Nguni & Aloe	+27 72 851 9284
216	Adorn - The Make Up Studio	+27 64 631 1450
217	Babanentse Primary Co-Operative	+27 67 112 6667
218	Senzakahle Primary Co-Operative	+27 78 754 3168
219	Senzokuhle Primary Co-Operative	+27 79 734 7301
220	Siyaphambili Disabled Basket Weavers	+27 72 454 7718
221	Themba Creations Co-Operative	+27 83 375 6271



Groundcover Leather Company

201

E: daniel@groundcover.co.za | T: +27 83 516 0483 | W: www.groundcover.co.za

Groundcover was born in the Midlands in 1990 from a passion for leatherwork and a desire to build a meaningful livelihood. Tucked away in a restored settler's cottage, you will find a wide range of handcrafted leather footwear, bags, accessories, and Nguni products—all made by skilled artisans, right here on our farm.

Now in the hands of the second generation, the legacy of sustainability, craftsmanship and community continues. We source all our materials locally and handcraft everything in our solar-powered factory. We dedicate 10% of revenue to staff welfare, while sustaining more than 30 jobs and supporting the education of over 50 children.

Trading Hours: 8:30am - 5pm | Closed: Christmas Day



DE TIAMO Design & Retail

203

info@detiamo.co.za | T: +27 82 096 3758 | W: www.detiamo.co.za

DE TIAMO is a proudly female-owned fashion brand born during COVID, built on creativity and community. Led by a team of qualified women designers and seamstresses, the brand brings refined luxury to everyday wear in the Midlands. Each piece is thoughtfully designed and locally made, supporting craftsmanship and ethical production. Known for its bespoke approach, timeless silhouettes, and attention to detail, DE TIAMO creates collections that balance comfort with understated elegance. Operating off the grid on solar power and borehole water, the brand uses 100% linen and cotton, celebrating sustainability, local talent, and modern femininity.

Trading Hours: Weekdays: 8am - 4pm. Weekends & Public Holidays 9am - 4pm. Closed: Christmas & New Years Day



Newstead Farm

202

Throw off the shackles of the city life, reconnect with your family and loved ones by staying in one of our comfortable self-catering cottages! Newstead Farm is about relaxing by the fire, enjoying some bass fishing, feeding the horses, playing some tennis, going for a walk or enjoying a bike ride through the natural forests.

E: tracy@newsteadfarm.co.za
T: +27 83 675 6031
W: www.newsteadfarm.co.za



Indezi River Creamery

205

E: info@indezi.co.za | T: +27 33 492 0571 | W: www.indezi.co.za

You've got great taste. Choose good food. Our pasture-raised herds make creamy milk just right for handcrafted cheese, yoghurt, kefir, and butter. We want you to feed your family well: add magic to your everyday with our yoghurt and kefir. Manage health challenges with the ideal alt milk: goat's! Show your class by serving local speciality cheeses to guests. Choose your own selection from our Dairy Shoppe. Bring a cooler box to fill up. You'll agree it's Absolutely Legendary.

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am - 4pm | Saturday: 8am - 2pm
Public Holidays: 8am - 12pm



The Gallery Wedding Venue

207

The Gallery is a hidden "Country Gem". Combining a premium boutique and multiple award-winning Bed and Breakfast with a magnificent four-tiered country wedding venue overlooking the beautiful Midlands countryside – it is a truly remarkable experience.

E: info@thegalleryweddings.co.za
T: +27 83 391 5505
W: www.thegalleryweddings.co.za



Bosch Hoek Lodge & Golf Course

204

E: golf@boschhoek.co.za | accommodation@boschhoek.co.za
T: +27 33 234 4232 / +27 76 792 5288 | W: www.boschhoek.co.za

Experience Bosch Hoek – a serene escape in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. Play our 9-hole, 18-tee championship course, unwind in luxury lodge accommodation, and dine in style. Our versatile conference facility and scenic venue are perfect for events, micro weddings, and private functions. Whether you're golfing, celebrating, or escaping the city, Bosch Hoek offers a unique blend of nature, comfort, and charm. Come discover where great memories are made.



Troutbagger Farm

206

E: carpetbagger@mweb.co.za | T: Shirley +27 83 270 3817
Gary +27 82 413 5003 | W: www.troutbagger.com

Situated 4 kms from N3/ Nottingham Road interchange on the Curry's Post road P165. A well renowned trout & bass fishing destination. Two separate dams with the biggest trout being recorded of 7.4kgs and bass of 6.1kgs. Meet Springbok angler Gary & his wife Shirley Maas. Accommodation: 2 three bedroomed self-catering cottages with all amenities plus 2 double rooms, all with full DSTV and WiFi.





Fresh ideas. Heritage values.

For more than half a century, our family has been stewarding land in the Indezi valley. Five generations with the wind of the Midlands through their hair.

There have been ups and downs, but we've travelled the road together, and enjoyed something magical along the way.

At Indezi River Creamery, it's our mission to share that magic with you. From Granny Moo's handcrafted cheese recipes (begun in her kitchen back in 1992!), through Grampa Moo's innovation of longer life goat's milk, to the hugely popular kefir range, everything we do is rooted in our values.

At the heart of it is:
you deserve to eat good food.
So, go on! Host friends well. Look after your health and that of your family. Trust that the food you're sharing is as wholesome and nutritious as the land it comes from.

It's your way to *make every moment magic.*



Indezi River
C R E A M E R Y

To find out more
about our story, go to
www.indezi.co.za.

Find us on Route 2,
at **Number 205.**

Oakridge Farm Cottage

208

Situated on a small farm close to Nottingham Road and Curry's Post, Oakridge Farm Cottage is ideal for a couple or two singles sharing. It is simply but beautifully decorated and fully equipped for self-catering. Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

E: admin@oakridgefarmcottage.co.za
T: +27 82 880 2184
W: www.oakridgefarmcottage.co.za



Infinity @ Enfin Art Estate

210

Creative destination venue for an immersive art experience with panoramic Drakensberg views and bespoke gallery accommodation. The 100 acre estate features Harbour 137, a remarkable sculpture park showcasing large-scale works celebrating the intersection of fine art, physics, and nature. *By Appointment Only.*

E: infinity@enfinestate.co.za
T: +27 74 123 7856
W: www.enfinestate.co.za



Midlands Active Sports

209

E: louis@midlandsagrisolutions.co.za | T: +27 72 869 5903 | +27 84 595 1624
W: www.midlandsagrisolution.co.za

Midlands Active Sports is the Midlands go-to destination for action, sports and fun. Enjoy indoor cricket, exciting off-road go-karting and fantastic party and event venue perfect for birthdays, team building and school outings. Whether you are training, competing or celebrating, Midlands Active Sports offers a safe, energetic environment for all ages. Bring your friends, bring your team, and experience the thrill of sport and adventure in the heart of the KZN Midlands.



Brahman Hills Gardens, Spa, Hotel & Villas

212

E: reservations@brahmanhills.co.za | T: +27 33 266 6965
W: www.brahmanhills.co.za

Brahman Hills is a sanctuary of serenity, wellness and excellence in the KZN Midlands. Discover award-winning gardens, the world-record Serenity Garden labyrinth, an underground orchid house, restorative spa rituals, elegant accommodation and memorable dining. Wander living landscapes filled with art, reflection and seasonal beauty, then pause for coffee, lunch, wine or a longer country escape. From romantic getaways and weddings to day visits, wellness journeys, conferences and family gatherings, every experience is designed to help guests exhale, reconnect and feel cared for. Come for the gardens, stay for the calm, and leave restored. Where nature, luxury and stillness meet beautifully.

Trading Hours: 6am - 11pm daily, 7 days a week



Linga Lapa

213

E: slimmac@telkomsa.net | T: +27 33 266 7001 | W: www.lingalapa.co.za

We would love to welcome you to Linga Lapa! We are a family-run business based at Exit 132 interchange (Nottingham Road off-ramp) off the N3 freeway. Linga Lapa comprises 3 main businesses: Linga Lapa Butchery, Deli and Bakery; Elula Coffee and Cafe; and Nguni & Aloe - Locally crafted. Linga Lapa was started 22 years ago and is now well-known as a stop of choice for locals, Midlands Meander visitors and N3 travellers. We are one of the top biltong outlets. We source our quality meats in KZN, and you can sample our perfectly aged steaks in the restaurant. We have an amazing selection of sweets, jams, preserves and other homemade goodies. Our pies are delicious, and the freshly baked bread is a favourite!



Healing Earth Spa at Brahman Hills

211

Surrender your body and mind to the healing powers of nature as you relax in an array of our luxury bespoke and pampering experiences. Offering 6 beautiful treatment rooms and 2 couples bath suites.

E: bhspa@healingearth.co.za
T: +27 33 266 6965
W: www.brahmanhills.co.za/spa



Elula Coffee & Café

214

E: slimmac@telkomsa.net | T: +27 61 898 4939

Awesome coffee served daily from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Our restaurant is open daily for breakfast and lunch. First order at 7:30am and last order at 3pm. Tasty grilled meat dishes, burgers, toasties and more on our menu. Friendly, family atmosphere, warm fires. Dog friendly. Enclosed boma and outside area with children's playground. Enjoy a relaxed break with us!

Trading Hours: Monday - Saturday: 7:30am - 3pm & Sunday: 8am - 4:30pm.
Open on Public Holidays: 7:30am - 3pm.
Closed: Christmas Day & New Year's Day.



download our *app*
your on-the-go guide
to the Midlands



Nguni & Aloe

E: nguni.aloe@gmail.com | T: +27 72 851 9284

Locally crafted. We love the Midlands and everything it has to offer! Nguni & Aloe is an outlet for locally crafted, created, and curated goods. Whether you are looking for something for yourself, your home, or a gift for someone special, our unique goods will offer you lovely options to choose from. We stock a wide range of products including nguni hides, Jim Green boots, cosy jerseys and jackets, knitted goods, woodwork, leather work, handcrafts and art. We also stock a selection of beautiful, locally grown succulents. We are based at Linga Lapa.

Trading Hours: 8:30am - 5pm except Christmas Day and New Years Day.

215

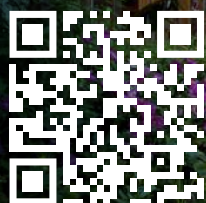


Adorn - The Make Up Studio

E: adornmakeupza@gmail.com | T: +27 64 631 1450 | W: www.adornmakeup.co.za

ADORN makeup & hair studio is situated in the heart of the Midlands. We offer professional hair styling and makeup services for brides and your special events. We hold international qualifications and have over a decade of professional experience in the industry working for brands such as M.A.C and Estee Lauder. Our team can travel to your desired venue, or you are welcome to let us Adorn you at our studio right next door to Brahman Hills, Netherwood & Fordoun.

Trading Hours: 8am - 5pm (Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun)
Closed: Tue, Wed, Christmas Day & New Years



Book your stay. *Wake up in the Midlands*

MIDLANDS MANOR

Assisted & Independent retirement
and respite facility

OUR STORY

Midlands Manor is a family built and founded establishment. It reflects a genuine commitment to creating a warm, homely environment where residents feel valued and at ease.

Set in the heart of the Midlands, Howick, the Manor provides a balance of independence and support tailored to individual needs. Residents enjoy peaceful surroundings, thoughtfully designed living spaces, and a strong sense of community.

What sets Midlands Manor apart is its personal touch. Being family-run means every resident is known and cared for as an individual, with attentive staff who build meaningful relationships.

For both residents and their families, Midlands Manor offers reassurance, comfort, and a true sense of belonging.

Contact Us :

☎ 072 015 3411

✉ midlandsmanor@gmail.com

🌐 midlandsmanor.com

📍 Howick, Midlands



Midlands ARTISANS



support local



on our online store

217

Babanentse Primary Co-Operative



This Co-Operative provides for the community using their skills. They manufacture clothes, embroidered products, silk-screening, school jerseys, tracksuits etc. Their work can be viewed at Mooi River shop No. 34 Market Street.

E: mthokoziomadlala788@gmail.com
T: Elsie Madlala: +27 67 112 6667



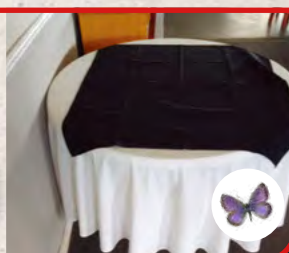
218

Senzakahle Co-Operative



Senzakahle Primary Co-Operative is a textile & clothing manufacturer operating from Bruntville. They use high quality fabrics to produce high quality products, including linen, curtaining, fleece, products & various items of clothing.

E: senzakahle@gmail.com
T: Zodwa Khoza: +27 78 754 3168



219

Senzokuhle Primary Co-Operative



This Co-Operative of local women who are now teaching the younger generation their crafts, crochet high quality bath & placemats, which are available at the Karkloof Farmers Market.

E: thullymncube462@gmail.com
T: Thuli Mncube: +27 79 734 7301



220

Siyaphambili Disabled Basket Weavers



This Co-Operative creates hand woven products including lamps, baby cribs, & home ware. Their work can be viewed at WozaWoza Tourism Centre in Mooi River.

E: management@midlandsmeander.co.za
T: Annie Tholakele: +27 72 454 7718



221

Themba Creations



This community based initiative supporting women who are seamstresses & crocheters operates in Middelrus and specialize in Shweshwe products.

E: jowatty0@gmail.com
T: Zanele: +27 76 992 8156
Joanne: +27 83 374 6271



N3TC

Safety. Convenience. Mobility.

PROJECT PROUDLY FUNDED BY N3TC

N3 Toll Concession (RF) (Pty) Ltd
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Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal and
Heidelberg in Gauteng.

f @ N3Route | www.n3tc.co.za



Discover a SANCTUARY of Serenity, Wellness & Excellence



A place where time slows and the world softens at the edges. Set in the heart of the Midlands, Brahman Hills is a Sanctuary shaped by nature and refined by 5-star luxury, created to restore both body and mind. This is more than a destination, it is an experience of stillness and connection, where nature, art, wellbeing, hospitality, and celebration exist in harmony.

Find Serenity

Wander the RHS award-winning Legacy Garden, where sculptures emerge in nature. Follow winding pathways into the evolving Serenity Garden, a 22-hectare labyrinth of stillness and beauty beneath open skies.

Wellness & Restoration

The Healing Earth Transformative Wellness Spa offers restorative treatments designed to relax the body, quiet the mind, and restore balance within a calming, immersive setting.

Excellence & Celebration

Stay in 5-star Premium Signature Villas offering dedicated care and refined luxury experiences, escape to our 5-star Classic Villas with jacuzzis, or retreat into the comfort of our 4-star Garden and Deluxe Garden Rooms.

Enjoy two restaurants within one exceptional setting — relaxed family dining or the elevated dining experience of Skyfall.

Life's most meaningful "I do's" unfold here, alongside memorable events and conferences, each shaped with thoughtful detail and dedicated expertise.

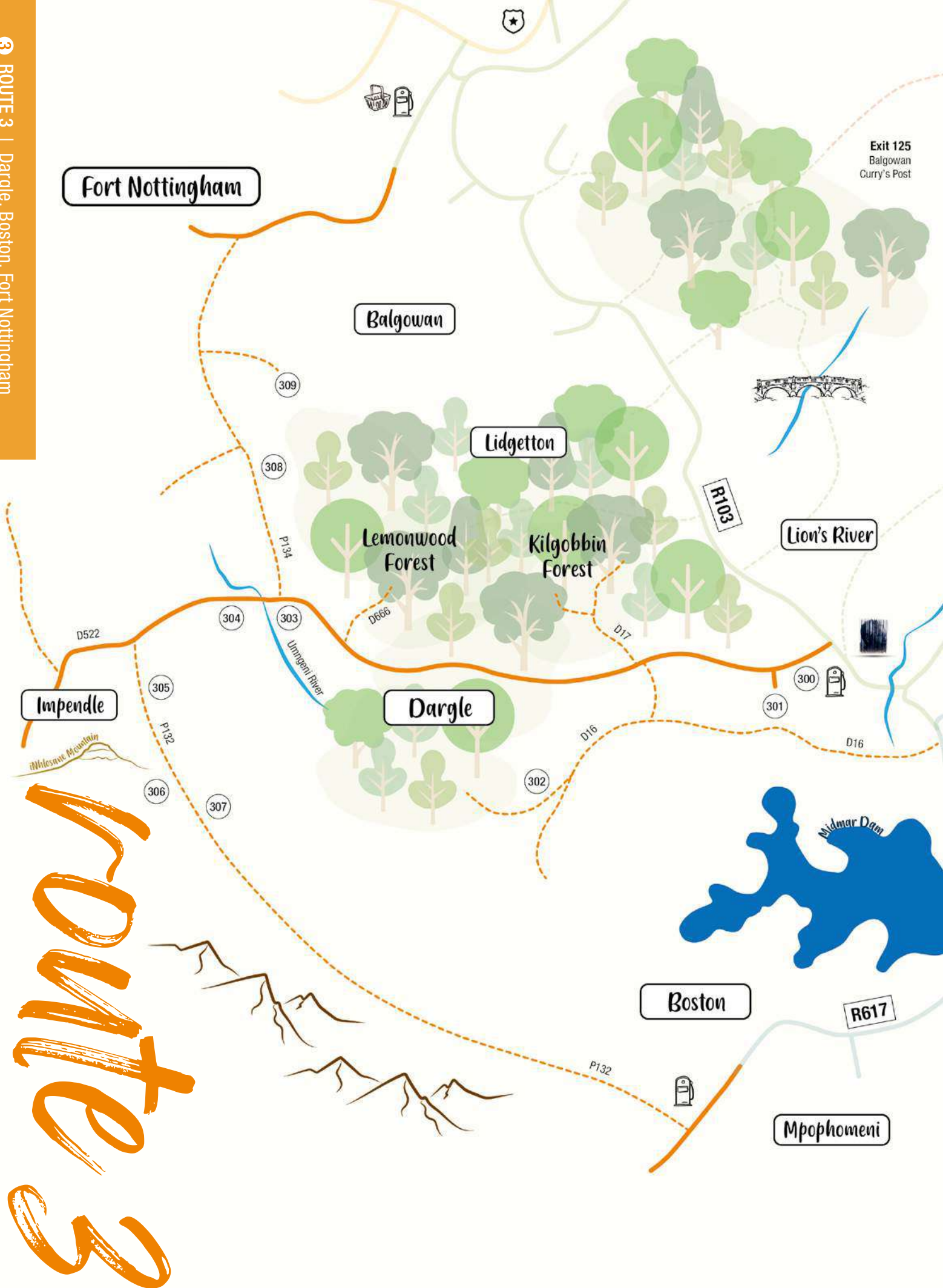
Find out more on www.brahmanhills.co.za or email reservations@brahmanhills.co.za for bookings.



BRAHMAN

H I L L S

A SANCTUARY OF SERENITY, WELLNESS & EXCELLENCE



ROUTE 3

DARGLE | BOSTON | FORT NOTTINGHAM

Route 3 takes you slightly off the beaten track through the beautiful Dargle valley to Boston and all the way through the back roads to Nottingham Road. Magnificent wedding venues, beautiful vistas and flowing rivers, rolling hills and farm animals galore add to a slower pace of life this end of the Meander. Start off at a lovely farm stall with delectable treats, coffee and local produce before working your way down the valley on to the dirt roads where you can enjoy the magic of the many activities this area offers. Horse trail rides, fishing, cycling and walking the iconic iNhlosane Mountain, while experiencing the comfortable country accommodations and their famous warm hospitality!

MORE TO SEE ON ROUTE 3?

300	Taste Buds Farm Stall Restaurant	+27 61 231 5124
301	Hebron Haven Hotel	+27 33 812 2704
302	Inversanda Farm Cottages	+27 82 772 1621
303	Old Camp Cottages	+27 66 274 3597
304	Beverley Country Cottages	+27 82 895 4002
305	Copperleigh Trout Cottages	+27 82 460 1815
306	Mount Park Guest Farm & Wedding Venue	+27 33 234 4601
307	Dargle Forest Lodge & Wedding Venue	+27 83 234 0436
308	Otters Den Self-Catering Cottages	+27 82 972 5537
309	Whispering Waters	+27 33 266 6893

Taste Buds Farm Stall Restaurant

300

Known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere, the farm stall offers a variety of home-baked goods, handmade décor items, local meat products, cheese etc. Enjoy our delicious home cooked meals, fully licensed bar and kiddies playground.

E: tastebudsfarmstall@gmail.com
T: +27 61 231 5124
Social Media: @tastebudsfarmstall



Inversanda Farm Cottages

302

E: info@inversanda.co.za | T: +27 82 772 1621 | +27 82 781 3875
W: www.inversanda.co.za

A working family farm where guests are welcomed by the Bate family and their furry entourage. Perfect for families who want to spend the weekend outdoors or cosy up to a roaring fire. Mountain biking, winding walks, river swims, or a good book by a crackling fire. Participate as much or as little as you like. If the kids are lucky, there may be a calf to feed. Well-behaved pets most welcome.



Beverley Country Cottages

304

E: info@beverleycountrycottages.co.za | T: +27 82 895 4002
W: www.beverleycountrycottages.co.za

Experience a farm stay with magnificent views of the Dargle Valley. Connect with the animals or bring your own! Four spacious self-catering cottages that have everything to ensure a comfortable stay. Meals are offered on request. Come and enjoy our country hospitality in these peaceful surroundings.



Dargle Forest Lodge & Wedding Venue

307

Escape to our family-owned rustic lodge and wedding venue, where panoramic views, personalised retreats, and guided trail horse rides inspire relaxation, natural horsemanship, meaningful connection, unforgettable celebrations, and lasting memories in a peaceful, back-to-nature setting.

E: bookings@dargleforestlodge.co.za
T: +27 83 234 0436
W: www.dargleforestlodge.co.za



Otters Den Self-Catering Cottages

308

E: reservations@ottersdensc.co.za | T: +27 82 972 5537
W: www.ottersdensc.co.za

Otters Den is a tranquil riverside retreat nestled along the Lions River in the heart of the KZN Midlands. Whether you're here for a romantic weekend, a family break or simply to unwind and explore the Midlands, Otters Den provides a welcoming escape where you can truly relax and reconnect. Each of our five self-catering thatched cottages, overlooks the river with stunning views of unspoiled countryside. Enjoy cozy fireplaces, fully equipped kitchen, a Jacuzzi spa bath, luxury linen and towels, and a private balcony. Well worth the stay!



Hebron Haven Hotel

301

E: stay@hebronha.co.za | T: +27 81 496 3434/+27 33 812 2704
W: www.hebronha.co.za

Hebron Haven Hotel in Dargle provides a refreshed KZN Midlands experience with newly renovated gardens and a pool. Guests can enjoy swimming, tennis, and picnics. Its @Hebron restaurant and bar is a local favourite, known for Friday Night Live Music and Sunday Roast Lunch. The hotel also offers versatile event spaces for conferences (10+ people) and a wedding venue for up to 100 guests.

Trading Hours: 7am - 8pm



Old Camp Cottages

303

Escape to our tranquil countryside accommodation in the heart of Dargle, KZN Midlands. Surrounded by rolling hills and scenic trails, it's the perfect place to breathe, unwind, and explore nature's beauty away from city life

E: oldcampcottages@gmail.com
T: +27 66 274 3597
W: www.oldcampcottages.co.za



Copperleigh Trout Cottages

305

Self-catering stay on Mavela Dam. Enjoy trout & bass fishing, farm animals, kayaking, and a wood-fired hot tub! Hike nearby iNhlolane Mountain for scenic views of the KZN Midlands. Perfect for nature lovers and peaceful getaways.

E: copperleightroutcottages@gmail.com
T: +27 82 460 1815
W: www.copperleightroutcottages.co.za



Mount Park Guest Farm & Wedding Venue

306

E: bookings@mountpark.co.za | T: +27 33 234 4601 | +27 66 296 9039
W: www.mountpark.co.za

Nestled in the upper Dargle beneath the majestic iNhlolane mountain, this family-run guest farm offers a serene escape into nature. Guests can enjoy the famous hike up iNhlolane, explore indigenous forest trails, and discover freshwater streams and springs. The farm features a charming animal farm, a variety of accommodation options, an onsite restaurant, and a working forge. It's also home to "The Barn under the iNhlolane" wedding venue and forest chapel - an idyllic setting for unforgettable countryside celebrations.



Whispering Waters

309

E: manager@whisperingwaters.co.za | T: +27 33 266 6893
W: www.whisperingwaters.co.za

Set in 100 hectares amid the rolling hills of the KZN Midlands, Whispering Waters offers 12 exquisitely decorated self-catering cottages plus the recent addition of the decadent Tuscan style farm house, all featuring luxuries such as under floor heating, Nespresso machines & fireplaces. Experience trophy trout fishing in 10 pristine dams, hiking trails & magnificent landscapes dotted with Nguni Cattle.



Get Schooled

THE MIDLANDS MEANDER WAY!

The Midlands is home to some of South Africa's most respected schools, where heritage, excellence and natural beauty come together. Visit these remarkable campuses and discover the traditions and opportunities that have shaped generations.



CARLYLE COLLEGE



CLIFTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



COWAN HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



ST ANNE'S DIOCESAN COLLEGE



HOWICK HIGH SCHOOL



LADDSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



MICHAELHOUSE



TREVERTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL & COLLEGE



Nestled in the heart of the Midlands, alongside a gently flowing river, enjoy the serene surroundings for a peaceful and tranquil retreat. Whether you're celebrating special occasions or simply looking to unwind and catch your breath, this is the perfect escape!



60 Dargle Road
Nottingham Road
reservations@ottersdensc.co.za
Cell: +27 82 972 5537
www.ottersdensc.co.za



FOREST THERAPY & NATURE IMMERSION

Guided Walks in Nature lead by an Internationally Certified Guide

Forest Therapy is a science based, and valuable alternative public healthcare practice. As a form of therapy, it is prescribed by medical practitioners in Japan, the USA, and Canada to support healing and well-being. We are proud to share the principles of the Japanese Shinrin-Yoku or Forest Bathing, at spectacular venues in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

The Forest is the pharmacy & Nature is Medicine!

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks"
John Muir

Reconnect ->>>> <<<<- Restore ->>>> <<<<- Rediscover



Allow us to organise a thoughtfully designed experience for your guests, your team, family, or friends. Through inspirational invitations, we help to connect, relax, and boost overall health.



somatula@academyofleisureciences.co.za



+27 824 848 146



<https://academyofleisureciences.co.za>

Fordoun

Hotel, Spa and Self-Catering

There are few places on earth that can match the space and unspoiled beauty of Fordoun. From vantage points on the farm, looking out over the Fordoun valley, one can see the entire range of the Drakensberg Mountains. The sunsets over the mountains are stunning, and at night, there is virtually no light pollution.

Hotel

Fordoun Hotel is some 5 kilometres from Nottingham Road. All the land between is either the farm pastures or the natural grasslands and wetlands of the Bill Barnes Conservancy.

In 2005, the original farm homesteads and buildings, some dating from 1849, were opened as the Hotel and Spa after being meticulously renovated by renowned architect Nick Grice. All fit harmoniously into an almost-village, piazza-like ambiance, with the Spa at one end, the reception and lounges in the centre, and twenty-two individually themed, luxuriously appointed guest bedroom suites spread along the other end, via a wide, old-brick-paved walkway.

Gardens are park-like, with hectares of lawn spreading out on all sides, interspersed with London Plane and Oak trees, some planted over 150 years ago.

The Fordoun driveway is 700 meters long and is lined on both sides by Pin oaks, which create an avenue that some remark seems to symbolize, leaving the hustle and noise of our hectic lives in to a space of tranquillity and exclusivity. The Fordoun driveway is 700 metres long, lined on both sides by Pin Oaks, creating an avenue many feel symbolises leaving the bustle of daily life behind and entering a place of tranquillity.

Spa

The Spa at Fordoun is unique. It's built as a renovation and a reimagining of the original dairy. On entering, one is enveloped in warmth, scents, and light. A passage from the reception area leads to eight massage rooms and relaxation lounges. Central is an open courtyard with running water and sun loungers. The wet and active block adjoins the complex and houses a large heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room, gym/exercise area, and a flotation pool – built inside an old grain silo. Restaurant and food.

Fordoun prides itself on fine dining, as well as its renowned breakfasts, light meals, and snacks. The emphasis is on the provenance of all food, with in-season vegetables, eggs, and some meats straight off the farm. From the bread the kitchen bakes, to the proteins and salads, it's either the farm's produce, or the chefs know where it comes from and how it was grown, raised, and handled. The rule is "the health of what you eat is your health".



Self-Catering

Fordoun Farm Village cottages are exclusively for self-catering guests. With arguably the best views in the Midlands, there are 11 units, ranging from 3- to 2-bedroom and single-bedroom cottages. All have lounges, a kitchen area, and en-suite bathrooms. The Farm Village is situated away from, but within a short walk or drive from the hotel, spa or restaurant. At the center of this scenic spot is a cricket field, with, on the periphery, the vegetable and herb gardens, chicken runs, a beehouse, and pastures for sheep and cattle. The Farm Village is pet-friendly.

Special Events and Conferencing

Fordoun prides itself on the highest professional standards in hosting weddings, parties, and conferences. From small team meetings to up to 180 guests, attention to detail in timing, technical backup, and service quality is paramount. There are four separate conference or event venues on the property. These range from what is known as The Venue for large events, the Old Garage for between 15 and 40 delegates, The Pool and Hut for parties of up to 40, and the Cigar Lounge for private meetings or meals of under 15 people.

Walks and rides

On the estate, there are trails for walkers and mountain bikers. Trail distance choices range from 3-kilometer to about 15-kilometer loops. Pets must be kept under control on leashes. Walking or riding as far as Nottingham Road over the Bill Barnes Reserve (no dogs allowed), covers natural highveld grasslands and wetlands, with opportunities to see reedbuck, oribi, and grassland or wetland birdlife.

Staff and Security

Most of the Fordoun Staff either live in staff accommodation at Fordoun or in the Fordoun Staff Village, where 18 of the original farmworker families have title to their own homes. This is a community of Fordoun's owners and employees, one of interdependence and mutual reliance for security, financial stability, and growth. This relationship is reflected in happy, confident employees who greet every guest with a smile.

BOOK YOUR STAY

E: info@fordoun.com | T: +27 33 266 6217 | W: www.fordoun.com

Shuttleworth Weaving

THE SHUTTLEWORTH FAMILY

EST 1985

Who remembers liquid Easter eggs?

When the Midlands Meander Rolling Exhibitions began way back in 1985, intrepid visitors who made it up the bumpy road to Shuttleworth Weaving during the long weekend were rewarded with a glass of Old Brown Sherry (aka liquid easter egg). Helen and Andy were founder members of the Midlands Meander, quickly earning a reputation for exceptional quality hand woven cushions and carpets, never wavering from their intention to create original craft from the best materials available.

Andy remembers, "We got the hell in with formal employment and decided to buy somewhere to live that was far enough away from town that we couldn't commute."

"We bought a loom in pieces to begin with. I had to put it together and discovered that all the bits did not add up - we had one and a half looms in that box", Andy explains. A spinning wheel was the next purchase - carefully crafted from imbuia by a monk at Mariannhill Monastery. "We thought we should be able to live off our weaving, but for a long time our diet consisted of Tassenberg wine and potatoes!" Their oldest son Rob was literally brought up beneath the spinning wheel. With his siblings, he chopped wood, stoked fires for the dye pots and unravelled balls of freshly spun wool. Back then mohair was cheaper than wool and bales would arrive on the train to Nottingham Road Station. Fortuitously, a single bale fitted perfectly into their Cortina station wagon and was carted back to Fort Nottingham to become a work of art. "Mom and Dad didn't think they were hillbilly hippies (despite what the general public thought), they believed they were ordinary, straight down the line people making a living as best they could."

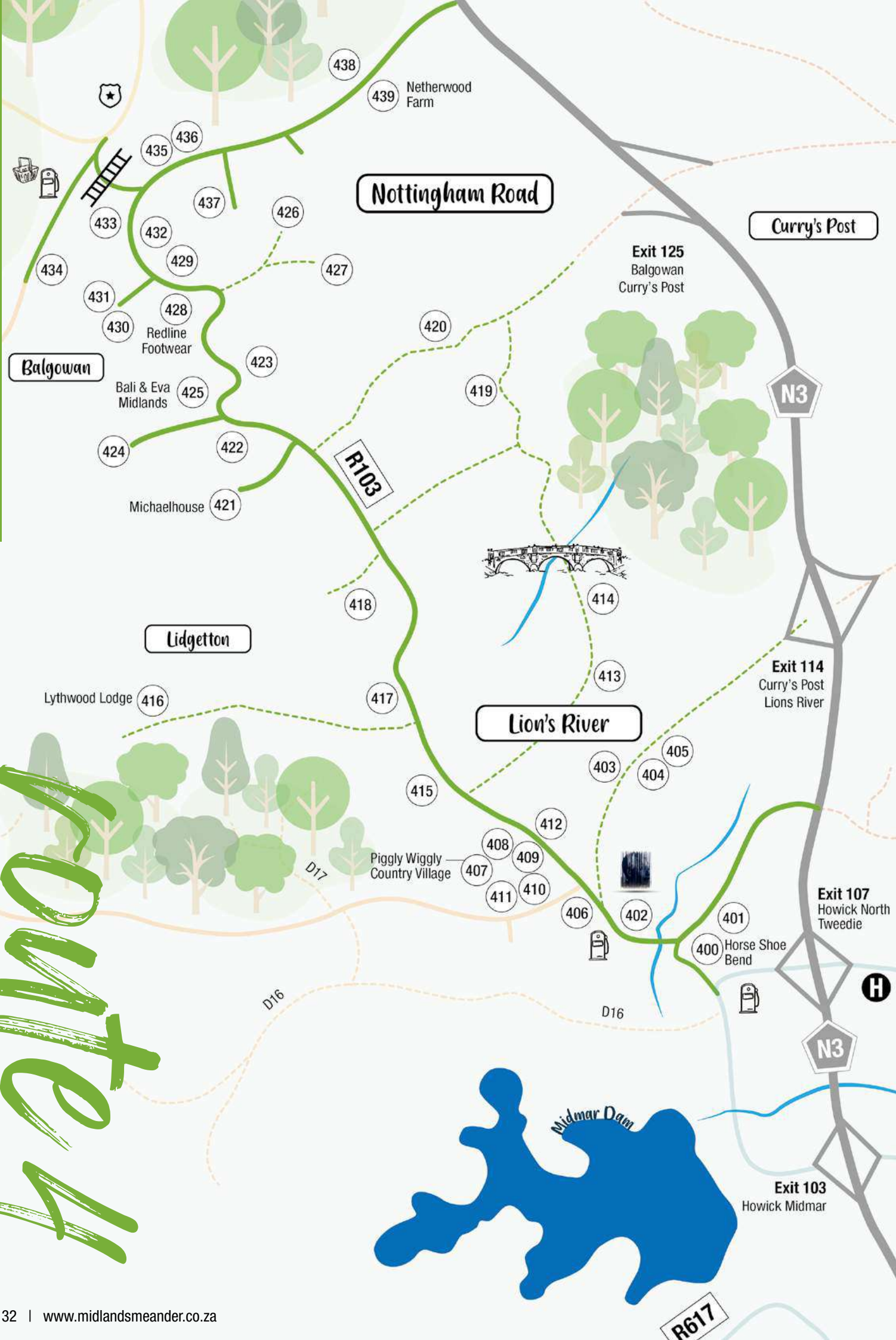


Rob, and his wife Julia, feel fortunate that they were able to work alongside his parents, learning the trade directly from them. As Helen's health deteriorated, Rob stepped up and, by 2010, he and Julia were running the Shuttleworth show. A new showroom, international agents, commissions for large lodges, an online store - Rob envisioned a bold future. The transition was not all smooth sailing. "My parents thought they would weave until they died, but clearly that was not an option. In the end, they were glad that Shuttleworth Weaving continued, despite the changes". Helen's criteria for her work was to create beauty, to do things her own way. She had a particular distaste for plain colour. Rob remembers the day she tottered over to the studio to see the biggest rug they had ever crafted (it weighed over 160 kgs) and proclaimed, "it is not very pretty". These days, Rob and Julia follow their client's briefs exactly to create pieces that add soulful, handcrafted luxury wherever they land in the world.

No longer do visitors have to brave that steep road - Rob and Julia have made shopping super easy with a Showroom in central Notties. Here you will find treasure at Easter and all through the year, but probably not in liquid form.



Route 4



ROUTE 4

LION'S RIVER | LIDGETTON | BALGOWAN | NOTTINGHAM ROAD

Route 4 takes you along the R103 between the N3 Exit at Tweedie (exit 107) and exit 132 (Nottingham Road). It offers wine tasting and delicious artisan food as well as arts and crafts, historical museums, and monuments of great importance. Magnificent hotels and restaurants with their fine dining and comfortable accommodations to rest your weary head, all offer our well-known Midlands hospitality.

EVEN MORE ON ROUTE 4!

400	Horse Shoe Bend	+27 71 229 8107
401	Lidgetton Crafters Guild	+27 82 554 5717
402	Nelson Mandela Capture Site	+27 72 351 0967
403	Misty River Guest House	+27 68 964 5726
404	Abingdon Wine Estate	+27 83 463 8503
405	Wild Hare Cottages	+27 79 491 3823
406	The Platform Gallery	+27 84 999 2223
407	Piggly Wiggly Country Village	+27 82 511 2769
408	The Dino Zone	+27 82 926 0626
409	Wedgewood Nougat Midlands Emporium	+27 33 001 0399
410	Great Rail Road Brewing Company	+27 84 512 5263
411	Highgate Wine Estate	+27 66 449 2620
412	St Ives Lodge & Venue	+27 33 234 4490
413	Glen Eden Lodge	+27 33 001 1527
414	Caversham Mill Restaurant	+27 33 234 4633
415	Tsonga Footwear	+27 87 379 6904
416	Lythwood Lodge	+27 82 681 3934
417	Rosewood Café	+27 73 618 6649
418	Millgate Midlands Retreat	+27 82 688 0270
419	Midlands Forest Lodge	+27 78 986 0241
420	La Clef Boutique Hotel	+27 77 368 1360
421	Michaelhouse	+27 33 234 1000
422	Notting Hill Lodge	+27 82 400 2918
423	Epic Karting	+27 31 100 2021
424	CryptIQ Escape Games	+27 64 680 9685
425	Bali & Eva Midlands	+27 82 563 2582
426	Glensheiling Caravan Park	+27 82 374 1270
427	Indigo Fields Farmhouse & Spa	+27 33 266 6101
428	Redline Footwear	+27 33 266 7011
429	Brookdale Health Hydro	+27 33 266 6208
430	Rawdons Hotel, Brewery & Country Estate	+27 33 266 6044
431	Nottingham Road Brewing Company	+27 33 266 6728
432	Gowrie Farm Lodge & Golf Course	27 33 266 6294
433	Bierfassl Restaurant & Pub	+27 74 377 7597
434	Bellwood Stud, Cottages & Wedding Venue	+27 82 495 5033
435	The Nottingham Road Hotel	+27 33 266 6151
436	Shuttleworth Weaving	+27 76 709 3049
437	Chocolate Heaven	+27 74 828 0132
438	Fordoun Hotel & Spa	+27 33 266 6217
439	Netherwood Farm	+27 83 592 9120



Horse Shoe Bend

E: management@horseshoebend.co.za | T: +27 71 229 8107
W: www.horseshoebend.co.za

Experience genuine Midlands hospitality at our picturesque centre nestled in rolling green hills next to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site. Browse curated selections from local artisans and renowned, quality brands while breathing in fresh country air. Family-friendly facilities include indoor and outdoor play areas, animal farm, pony rides and high wire obstacle course. Unwind at our restaurant with scenic views and cocktails. Join us for live music every Sunday afternoon and events showcasing the best of the Midlands. Come as you are for friendly service and real connections in tranquil surroundings – your perfect family day out destination.

Trading Hours: Monday - Sunday: 9am-4pm. Closed: Christmas and New Year's Day

400



Lidgetton Crafters Guild

E: rosslandsfarm@gmail.com | T: +27 82 554 5717

Lidgetton Crafters Guild started off as an upliftment group for our local community has grown from 5 Gogos learning how to crochet and sew, to what it is today. We have received donations of sewing and knitting machines and a complete pottery. We now offer a wide range of handmade goods, from crochet rugs to hand-crafted pottery and ceramics. We are situated on the P133, best known as the road to Caversham Mill.

Trading Hours: Thursday - Sunday: 10am - 3pm and all Public Holidays except Christmas.



Sponsored by N3TC



401

Nelson Mandela Capture Site

The Capture Site commemorates the life of Nelson Mandela with a Museum and a world renowned Sculpture. Coffee and Gifts shops on Site. Site also offers venue hire for sporting events, conferences, and workshops. Trading Hours: Monday - Sunday: 8:30am - 5pm.

E: info@thecapturesite.co.za | T: +27 87 093 9419 |
W: www.thecapturesite.co.za



402

Misty River Accommodation & Venue

Nestled in the Midlands, Misty River offers luxury riverside accommodation, peaceful surroundings, elegant suites, and a relaxing country escape with scenic views, warm hospitality, and tranquil gardens perfect for couples, families, and weekend getaways.

E: hello@mistryriversguesthouse.com
T: +27 71 463 7246
W: www.mistryriversguesthouse.com



403

Abingdon Wine Estate

E: jane@abingdonestate.co.za | T: +27 83 463 8503 | W: www.abingdonestate.co.za

A unique pioneering wine estate, creating certified estate wines since 2007. Enjoy personalised wine tasting from our range of sparkling, white & red wines. Enjoy lunch overlooking the vineyard or in front of our cosy fireplaces. The Smorthwaite family look forward to sharing their passion with you.



404

Wild Hare Self-Catering Cottages

Tranquil, charming, secluded and welcoming, Wild Hare Cottages offer cozy self-catering accommodation overlooking the Lions River Valley. Surrounded by nature, birdlife and starlit skies, guests enjoy comfort, privacy, fireplaces, country hospitality and authentic Midlands experiences.

E: wildharecottages@gmail.com
T: +27 82 602 6641
W: www.wildharecottages.com

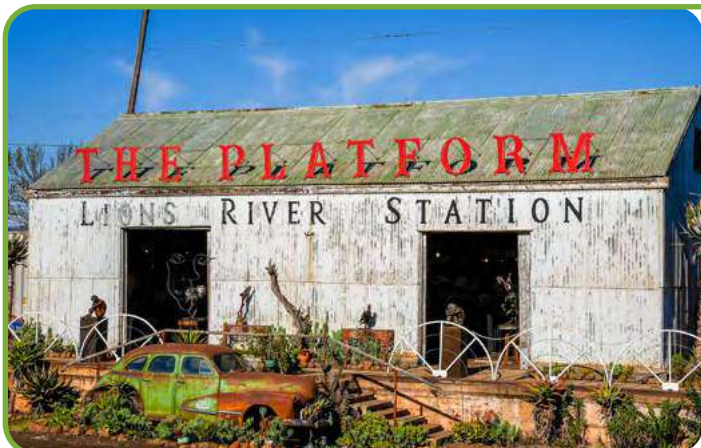


405



What's On?

Scan the code for local events



The Platform

E: sales@theplatformgallery.com | T: +27 84 999 2223
W: www.theplatformgallery.com

Five reasons to stop. The Platform Gallery houses one of South Africa's largest bronze sculpture collections alongside fine art in every medium. Where serious collectors and first-timers alike find their next piece. Warm your evenings with a Smokeless Fires pit: precision-engineered stainless steel that burns hotter, cleaner, and smoke-free. The Nguni Guy brings a hand-selected world of Nguni and game hides, leather bags and bespoke pieces straight from the veld. Pick up a character-rich jacket at Mr Thrifty, then end at The Local Café. Great food, even better coffee and the occasional performance at the Midlands' most unforgettable venue: a double-decker bus.



406



Piggly Wiggly Country Village

407

E: admin@pigglywiggly.co.za T: +27 82 511 2769
W: www.pigglywiggly.co.za

Piggly Wiggly Midlands is a beloved family destination nestled in the KZN Midlands, offering something for everyone. Visitors can enjoy a variety of attractions including artisanal shops, a charming coffee shops and eateries, wood-fired pizza, craft beer and gin, and the best coffee. Kids love being able to play out in the fresh country air and have a huge variety of activities to choose from, which the adults can enjoy too! Piggly Wiggly also hosts vibrant events, creative workshops and much more. With its warm, rustic charm and strong focus on community, Piggly Wiggly is a must-visit spot for families, foodies, and travellers coming through.

Trading Hours: Monday - Sunday: 9am - 4pm.
(Please see our website as different shops vary in opening times)



The DinoZone

408

E: hello@thedinozone.com T: +27 82 926 0626
W: www.thedinozone.com

The DinoZone is all about dinosaurs and palaeontology along with a huge dollop of fun. Make friends with Marmaduke the T Rex, dig up a dinosaur, build volcanoes, go on a 3.5-billion-year journey, cast a fossil, and learn about our ancient world. There is an old-time mining sluice for you to prospect for real gemstones, so you can head on home with a bag of swag, but not before we graduate you up to the Bone Diggers' Club. See you there.

Trading Hours: Wednesday - Sunday: 9am - 4pm | Closed: Monday & Tuesday



Wedgewood Nougat Midlands Emporium

409

Visit the Wedgewood Emporium at Piggly Wiggly and experience our beautiful gifting showcase, sample our newest inventions, and enjoy our unique Wedgewood Nougat Ice Cream. Wedgewood Nougat is a family business.

E: home@wedgewoodnougat.co.za
T: +27 33 001 0399
W: www.wedgewoodnougat.co.za



The Great Railroad Brewery Company

410

Taproom located inside the Pizza Place @ Piggly Wiggly. We offer craft beers, G&T, Rum & Berry, Ciders on tap. Microbrewery re-locating to the Midlands.

E: greatrailroadbrewing@gmail.com
T: +27 84 512 5263
W: www.ballitobrewingcompany.co.za



Highgate Wine Estate

411

Wine Tasting, Brunch, Lunch & Friday Dinner. Your next favourite venue for Weddings, Small/Big Functions and In-House Events.

Trading Hours: Sunday to Thursday: 9am - 4pm. Friday: 9am - 9pm.
Saturday: 9am - 5pm.

E: info@highgatewineestate.co.za
T: +27 66 449 2620
W: www.highgatewineestate.co.za



Glen Eden Lodge

413

E: reservations@glenedenlodge.co.za T: +27 33 001 1527
W: www.glenedenlodge.co.za

Glen Eden Lodge, located in the picturesque Caversham Valley, and a short 15-minute drive from Howick, is a luxury boutique hotel offering six intimate individually-decorated luxury suites. Guests enjoy easy access to the expansive gardens, with valley views and access to the majestic Lion's River flowing through the property. The new restaurant, cocktail lounge and business centre are uniquely built around the property's historic 1875 Methodist chapel, with space for intimate weddings, private dinners and functions, conferences, and corporate retreats.



St Ives Lodge & Venue

412

E: reservations@stives.co.za T: +27 33 234 4490 W: www.stives.co.za

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque Lions River Valley, St Ives is a cherished family-owned estate with a rich history dating back to the 1800s. Home to the Bloxham family, it boasts St Ives Lodge, The BOMA, and an exclusive wedding and event venue. Zebra, wildebeest, and antelope roam freely, while guests enjoy private access to fishing and the scenic surroundings. Just minutes from Midmar Dam and the Mandela Capture Site, it's a must-visit Midlands treasure.

Trading Hours: 8am - 5pm | 7 days a week



Tsonga Footwear

415

E: midlands.meander@tsonga.com T: Shop: +27 87 379 6904 & Office: +27 33 387 9200 W: www.tsonga.com

Using the finest leather and with our handcrafted promise, Tsonga handbags, shoes and accessories are unique in style and comfort that is unmistakably Tsonga. Our beautiful range of leather sandals, shoes, boots, bags and accessories are manufactured in the heart of the Midlands where we have been lovingly creating our design driven ranges for over 20 years.

Trading Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am - 4pm, Friday to Sunday & Public Holidays: 9am - 5pm.



Caversham Mill Restaurant

414

Tucked away in the heart of the Midlands Meander, Caversham Mill Restaurant is our cherished family-run retreat, offering breathtaking waterfall views, flavourful cuisine, and warm, heartfelt hospitality. Ideal for lingering lunches, special celebrations, or peaceful escapes.

E: reservations@cavershammillrestaurant.co.za
T: +27 33 234 4633 | +27 63 958 9419
W: www.cavershammillrestaurant.co.za





Lythwood Lodge

E: info@lythwood.com | T: +27 82 681 3934 | W: www.lythwood.com

Voted by SA Tourism as "Best 4 star Country House in KwaZulu Natal." Lythwood is situated in the mystical mountains of the KZN Midlands, is the ideal setting for that extra special wedding, weekend away or conference. From small, intimate to the large social event, picnics to banquets, indoors and outdoors. Unique reception area, on-site chapel and manicured gardens. Generators and solar panels installed on site.

416



Rosewood Café

E: rosewoodcafezn@icloud.com | T: +27 73 618 6649

Discover Rosewood Cafe, a friendly neighbourhood favourite tucked in the Midlands, just five minutes from Piggly Wiggly. We pride ourselves on quality halal breakfast and lunch dishes, paired perfectly with our specialty coffee selection. Families are always welcome, with a relaxed, child-friendly atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. Choose comfortable indoor seating or soak up the outdoors in our garden. Whether you're grabbing a quick bite or settling in for a leisurely meal, Rosewood Cafe offers great food, great coffee, and a warm welcome every time.



Millgate Cottage

E: manik.moon@gmail.com | T: Accommodation: Chris: 082 688 0270
Bistro: Ilonka: 074 0190939 | W: www.millgate.co.za

We offer comfortable self-catering accommodation ranging from compact, one-bedroom suites to our larger one bedroom family chalet. We have a 9-hole putt-putt course, swimming pool and a games room available for use by guests. Wi-fi is available in all rooms. Shazorro, our onsite Bistro and bakery offers freshly baked goods and meals with a German flair, authentic sausages too! A deck facilitates indoor and outdoor dining overlooking the gardens. Our gift shop/gallery, Strange Days, offers eclectic curiosities, books and records!



Midlands Forest Lodge

E: forest-lodge@ecotourism.co.za | T: +27 78 986 0241 | W: www.ecotourism.co.za

Midlands Forest Lodge boasts 15 hectares of indigenous mist-belt forest. We have two types of Yellowwood trees scattered through the forest. Some trees are estimated to be over 600 years old. There is also a large Sneezewood tree which is one of the oldest still standing in the area. Midlands Forest Lodge is fantastic for birding enthusiasts. One of our guests said: "My goodness. I feel like I stepped into paradise. I am a massive birder and I think I may spend my two days on the balcony! I will definitely be encouraging others to visit your beautiful space."

Trading Hours: 8am - 4pm, 24 hours accessible on phone.



La Clef Boutique Hotel

E: info@laclef.co.za | T: +27 77 368 1360 | W: www.laclef.co.za

Tucked away in the heart of the Midlands, La Clef Boutique Hotel is your serene luxury escape, perfect for romantic getaways, quiet weekends, or intimate events.



Michaelhouse

E: info@michaelhouse.org | T: +27 33 234 1000 | W: www.michaelhouse.org

Michaelhouse, founded in 1896, is a South African boarding school for senior boys, with an international reputation. Situated on a secure 680ha estate, the distinctive architecture of interlinked quadrangles inspires a sense of belonging amongst the 640 boys. Visit the Herbert Baker-designed chapel or our nature reserve, or get in touch with our events coordinator to arrange a unique wedding or red letter occasion.



Notting Hill Lodge

422

Notting Hill Lodge is situated between Nottingham Road & Balgowan. At the heart of the Midlands Meander & 2km from Michaelhouse School. We offer various accommodation options, King Suites, Twin rooms, or Family Cottages.

E: info@nottinghilllodge.co.za
T: +27 82 400 2918
W: www.nottinghilllodge.co.za



Find Your Midlands Feeling

#midlandsmagic

Epic Karting

423

E: bookings@epickarting.co.za | T: +27 31 100 2021 | W: www.epickarting.co.za

Home to an exhilarating outdoor Electric gokart track. The only outdoor electric track in South Africa! An experience for any age! Adults and kids welcome with our full electric 2 seater kart. Sandart, indoor play, lifestyle, food and gifting shop as well as Midlands Harvest Cafe serving snacks, light lunches, milkshakes and cappuccinos.



CryptIQ Escape Games

424

E: cryptIQescape@gmail.com | T: +27 64 680 9685 | W: www.cryptIQescape.net

Challenge your family, friends, date or colleagues with memorable go-to activities, no matter the weather. Solve mysteries and beat the clock in one-of-a-kind escape rooms: a fantastically fun hour-long puzzle challenge for adults and teens alike. Meet quirky animals. Explore new worlds in phenomenal Virtual Reality experiences. Get your kicks shooting paintballs at zombies in a timed obstacle course! This tricky treasure trove of thrills is a must! Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Bookings essential.



Bali & Eva Midlands

425

E: busi@busana.co.za | T: +27 82 563 2582 | W: www.baliandeva.co.za

5 luxury villas, fully serviced. Each villa has 2 to 3 ensuite bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, 6 to 10-seater dining areas, a lounge area with a fireplace, air-conditioning throughout each villa, a patio with a BBQ/braai, outdoor lounge & dining area, all overlooking the beautiful natural surroundings. Large entertainment and lounge hall, with multiple seating areas, each with a smart TV for guest enjoyment, fireplaces and air-conditioners throughout the hall, all leading to an equally grand outside patio with comfortable lounge furniture. The surround sound music speakers are both inside the entertainment hall and on the patio. The motorised laser projector and screen make the hall an ideal place for functions, events and conferences. On-site fine dining chef.



Glensheiling Caravan Park

426

A piece of paradise. Set in the heart of midlands. We offer a beautiful bass dam, with boats and raft, a boma with a pool table, table tennis and darts. Jungle gym, trampoline, and zip line for kids. Beautiful walks through natural forest and more. Call Julie.

E: glensheiling@nitrosoft.co.za
T: +27 82 374 1270
W: www.glensheiling.co.za



Indigo Fields Farmhouse & Spa

427

Indigo Fields Farmhouse and Spa is an award-winning, family-owned farmhouse and spa nestled in the heart of Nottingham Road. Whether you're seeking relaxation, fine dining or a touch of magic, Indigo Fields Farmhouse and Spa invites you to unwind, savour, and simply be.

E: bookings@indigofields.co.za
T: +27 33 266 6101
W: www.indigofields.co.za



Redline Footwear

428

E: redlinefootwear@gmail.com | T: +27 33 266 7011 | W: www.redlinefootwear.co.za

Redline Footwear is a family owned business. Our products are made for any and every occasion and are specially designed to fit your active lifestyle. All the products are hand made on the premises with genuine leather sourced locally from the best quality cow hides. We believe in good quality, long lasting footwear and to insure that each pair goes through a thorough quality control process to ensure your pair of Redlines live up to their reputation. Redline Footwear is on the R103 Nottingham road. 8km from Michaelhouse heading towards Nottingham Road.

Trading Hours: 9am – 3:30pm | 7 days a week.
Closed: Christmas & New Year's day.



Brookdale Health Hydro

429

Brookdale Health Hydro is a dedicated wellness destination providing an escape from the stresses of everyday life. Take in the breathtaking landscapes and indulgent treatments. Brookdale offers fully inclusive accommodation packages, a day spa and a health and beauty shop.

E: info@brookdale.co.za
T: +27 33 266 6208 | +27 82 906 0842
W: www.brookdale.co.za



Nottingham Road Brewery

431

E: brewery@rawdons.co.za | T: +27 33 266 6728 | W: www.nottsbrewery.co.za

Notties Brewery –

The oldest craft brewery in KZN, a must visit Midlands Meander hotspot. Enjoy fine craft beers, gin and snacks on the deck, nestled in the beautiful grounds of the Rawdons Hotel. Visit our shop, book a tour & tasting or join us for an interactive gin making experience. Sample our beers and G&Ts with our famous tasting paddles.



Bierfassl Restaurant & Pub

433

E: info@bierfassl.co.za | T: +27 74 377 7597 | W: www.bierfassl.co.za

The 'Fassl' isn't just a pub - it's a place to indulge, let loose, and carouse with your favourite people. Right in the heart of Nottingham Road, we're serving up crispy eisbein, frosty draughts, and a proper taste of Austrian-inspired Midlands charm. The vibe? Fun. The portions? Generous. The drinks list? Unmissable. Beer and gin lovers, we've got tastings for you - including our curated beer & chocolate pairing. With a playground and pet-friendly vibe - bring the whole crew for this uniquely Midlands experience! This is how we Meander.

Trading Hours: 7 days a week. 11:00am til late



The Nottingham Road Hotel

435

E: reservations@nottieshotel.co.za | T: +27 33 266 6151 | +27 66 075 9808
W: www.nottieshotel.co.za

Located in the heart of Nottingham Road, the historic Notties Hotel, offers a warm welcome with its iconic Notties Pub, a proud Guinness ambassador. Enjoy three Padel courts, a coffee shop with free Wi-Fi, a safe kids' play area, and a restaurant open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The hotel features 24 en-suite rooms (14 in the main building, 10 garden suites) and a versatile function room for events. Experience the Midlands' charm - book your stay today.



Rawdons Hotel, Brewery & Country Estate

430

E: hotel@rawdons.co.za | T: +27 33 266 6044 | +27 83 406 4968
W: www.rawdons.co.za

A welcome haven for tourists, businesses and weekenders. The recently refurbished rooms are decorated with a combination of prized antiques and modern comforts. The home of Notties Brewery - Try their famous beers at our Boars Head Pub, arguably one of the best pubs in South Africa. Enjoy lawn tennis, bowls, and leisurely strolls. Ask about our Mid-week specials.



Gowrie Farm Lodge & Golf Course

432

Nestled in the heart of the Midlands, Gowrie Farm offers a tranquil retreat in the simplicity of the countryside. Warm hospitality, good food and a classically designed 18 hole golf course.

Trading Hours: 7am - 7pm.

E: info@gowriefarm.co.za
T: +27 33 266 6294 | +27 81 033 1558
W: www.gowriefarm.co.za



Bellwood Stud, Cottages & Wedding Venue

434

E: info@bellwood.co.za | T: +27 82 495 5033 | W: www.bellwood.co.za

Set amid the picturesque landscape of the KZN Midlands on a working Braford Cattle farm. Eight self-catering cottages, sleeping up to 82 pax. Enjoy bountiful birdlife, stocked trout dams, Midlands meandering and so much more. Exceptional country weddings featuring our restored 1899 Old Barn Chapel, enchanting outdoor forest chapel and water's edge reception facility. Viewing by Appointment.



Shuttleworth Weaving

436

Uplifting people and spaces with handcrafted, soulful luxury. Helen and Andy Shuttleworth were founder members of the Meander. Rob, Julia, and their team of skilled craftspeople, create handspun, hand-dyed, handwoven rugs and throws. Ukuphakamisa abantu nezikhala ngezandla ezenziwe ngezandla, ukunethezekela komphumulo. Trading Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 4:30pm

E: woven@shuttleworthweaving.com
T: +27 76 709 3049
W: www.shuttleworthweaving.com



download our *app*
Your on-the-go guide
to the Midlands

Chocolate Heaven

437

E: info@chocolateheaven.co.za | T: +27 74 828 0132
W: www.chocolateheaven.co.za

Home of the Chocolate Dipping Experience. Hand made Truffles, Bon Bons & Slabs, Chocolate Shooters, Milkshakes, Soft Serve, Hot Chocolate, Fudge and more.

Trading Hours: 9am to 4:30pm



Fordoun Hotel & Spa

438

E: info@fordoun.com | T: +27 33 266 6217 | W: www.fordoun.com

Fordoun boasts an oasis of relaxation and sensory bliss. This conveniently located boutique hotel, award winning spa and fine dining a la carte restaurant is open 7 days a week. The Farm Village has panoramic views of the Drakensberg which provides the backdrop for a beautiful wedding and functions venue. The 11 self-catering chalets are nestled around our cricket field.



Netherwood Farms

439

E: blueberry@netherwood.co.za | T: +27 83 592 9120 | W: www.netherwoodfarm.com

Netherwood Farm is a slice of country paradise in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, where every visit is touched by nature, community, and charm. At the heart of it all is a working farm — alive with the rhythms of the land and surrounded by panoramic views of the Drakensberg. From slow mornings at the Café with legendary coffee and mountain mist, to afternoons at the Blueberry Brewery with live music and local craft brews, there's always something to savour. The Farmyard delights little adventurers with animals, tractors and space to roam, while Netherwood Stay offers cosy, stylish accommodation nestled in nature. Our wedding venue is iconic - where timeless moments meet a spectacular setting. Whether you're here to celebrate, explore, unwind, or connect, Netherwood invites you to slow down and stay a little longer. It's a place made for gathering, grounded in beauty, and proudly grown from the soil it stands on. Trading Hours: 8:30am - 4pm



conservancies & protected areas

TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLORE

In the Midlands, we are all about protecting our natural areas and supporting our conservancies and have become renowned for our commitment to the stewardship of natural resources.

CONSERVANCIES & PROTECTED AREAS:

Lion's Bush	+27 82 487 0922
Balgowan	+27 82 940 9039
Beacon Hill	+27 72 692 1566
Curry's Post	+27 82 772 4894
Karkloof	+27 76 147 6686
Dargle	+27 82 460 1815

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Beacon Hill	+27 72 692 1566
Bill Barnes Nature Reserve	+27 84 779 5375
Karkloof Conservation Centre	+27 76 147 6686
Lion's Bush Conservancy	+27 82 487 0922
uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve	+27 33 330 3931

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

(activities & accomodation may still be available)

Blue Crane Nature Reserve	+27 33 266 6217
Hilton College Nature Reserve	+27 33 383 0100
Michaelhouse Nature Reserve	+27 33 234 1000

NATURAL AREAS

Karkloof Falls	+27 76 147 6686
uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve	+27 33 330 3931

tying THE KNOT

FIND YOUR PERFECT WEDDING VENUE

ROUTE 1

105	ANEW Hotel Hilton	+27 33 343 3311
102	Jackie Cameron School of Food & Wine	+27 76 505 7538
113	Little Fields Country House & Cottages	+27 83 407 3310
111	The Hilton Bush Lodge	+27 33 004 0033

ROUTE 2

204	Bosch Hoek Lodge & Golf Course	+27 60 974 9961
212	Brahman Hills Gardens, Spa, Hotel & Villas	+27 33 266 6965
207	The Gallery Wedding Venue	+27 83 391 5505
210	Infinity @ Enfin Art Estate	+27 74 123 7856

ROUTE 3

307	Dargle Forest Lodge & Wedding Venue	+27 83 234 0436
301	Hebron Haven Hotel	+27 33 812 2704
306	Mount Park Guest Farm & Wedding Venue	+27 33 234 4601
308	Otters Den Self-Catering Cottages	+27 82 972 5537
300	Taste Buds Farm Stall	+27 61 231 5124

ROUTE 4

424	Bali & Eva Midlands	+27 82 563 2582
433	Bellwood Stud, Cottages & Wedding Venue	+27 82 495 5033
437	Fordoun Hotel & Spa	+27 33 266 6217
412	Glen Eden Lodge	+27 33 001 1527
410	Highgate Wine Estate	+27 66 449 2620
419	La Clef Boutique Hotel	+27 77 368 1360
415	Lythwood Lodge	+27 82 681 3934
420	Michaelhouse	+27 33 234 1000
418	Midlands Forest Lodge	+27 78 986 0241
438	Netherwood Farm	+27 83 529 9120
429	Rawdons Hotel, Brewery & Country Estate	+27 33 266 6044
411	St Ives Lodge & Venue	+27 33 234 4490
434	The Nottingham Road Hotel	+27 33 266 6151

ROUTE 5

504	Hartford House	+27 33 263 1081
503	Invermooi Estate	+27 64 870 2457
506	Midlands Saddle & Trout	+27 33 263 2758



Birding in the Midlands

By Adam Riley

The Natal Midlands is one of South Africa's, indeed Africa's, richest birding regions, offering a treasure trove of both sought-after rare birds and more abundant, yet no less spectacular species. Over 500 bird species have been recorded in our region stretching from Hilton, through Howick, the Dargle, and Karkloof to Nottingham Road.

This scenic landscape encompasses several key habitats each supporting its own distinctive birdlife.

Grasslands - mistbelt and drier grasslands once dominated much of our landscape, although sadly much of this underappreciated habitat has been destroyed. As a result notable species, such as Blue Swallow, have been extirpated from our region (tiny remnant populations still breed nearby in the Richmond and Impendle areas.) Key grassland species that can still be found in the midlands include all three South African crane species; Wattled, Grey Crowned and our national bird, Blue; Denham's Bustard, Secretarybird, Black-rumped Buttonquail, Southern Bald Ibis, Short-tailed and Yellow-breasted Pipit, Pale-crowned Cisticola and Fan-tailed Grassbird. The Dargle and Nottingham Road areas offer notable grassland birding opportunities.

Mistbelt forests - our Afromontane forests offer exceptional birding, especially during the Spring and early Summer when they resonate with bird calls. Highlights of these forests include Crowned Eagle, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Narina Trogon, Knysna Turaco, Orange Ground Thrush, White-starred Robin, Bush Blackcap and Sweet Waxbill. Sadly only a single Cape Parrot of the Karkloof population currently survives, but larger numbers still visit the Dargle forests. The Karkloof also supports a unique and isolated population of very secretive, forest dwelling Crested Guineafowl.

Wetlands - our marshes and wetlands are another underappreciated habitat that richly reward patient birders. Sought-after species include the secretive flufftails, some of which are only now revealing their secrets, local species include Red-chested, Striped and the endangered and enigmatic White-winged. Other species to look out for include Great and Little Bittern, African Grass Owl, African Rail, Baillon's Crake, African Marsh Harrier and Half-collared Kingfisher.

Mountains and rocky areas - these regions host their own unique fauna and flora. Birds to be watched for in these zones include the threatened Bearded Vulture (formerly known as Lammergeier), which is regularly seen around the Inhlozane Mountain in the Dargle, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Eagle Owl, Gurney's Sugarbird (especially around proteas, although they are found more widely in winter), Sentinel Rock Thrush and Buff-streaked Chat.

Getting involved

If you would like to learn more about the amazing birds of the Natal Midlands, and also contribute to their conservation, please consider joining BirdLife South Africa, and in particular their local branch, the BirdLife KZN Midlands Club, who host regular outings and indoor activities.

Please email membership@birdlife.org.za for further information on connecting with the local birding community.



NAMBITI HILLS

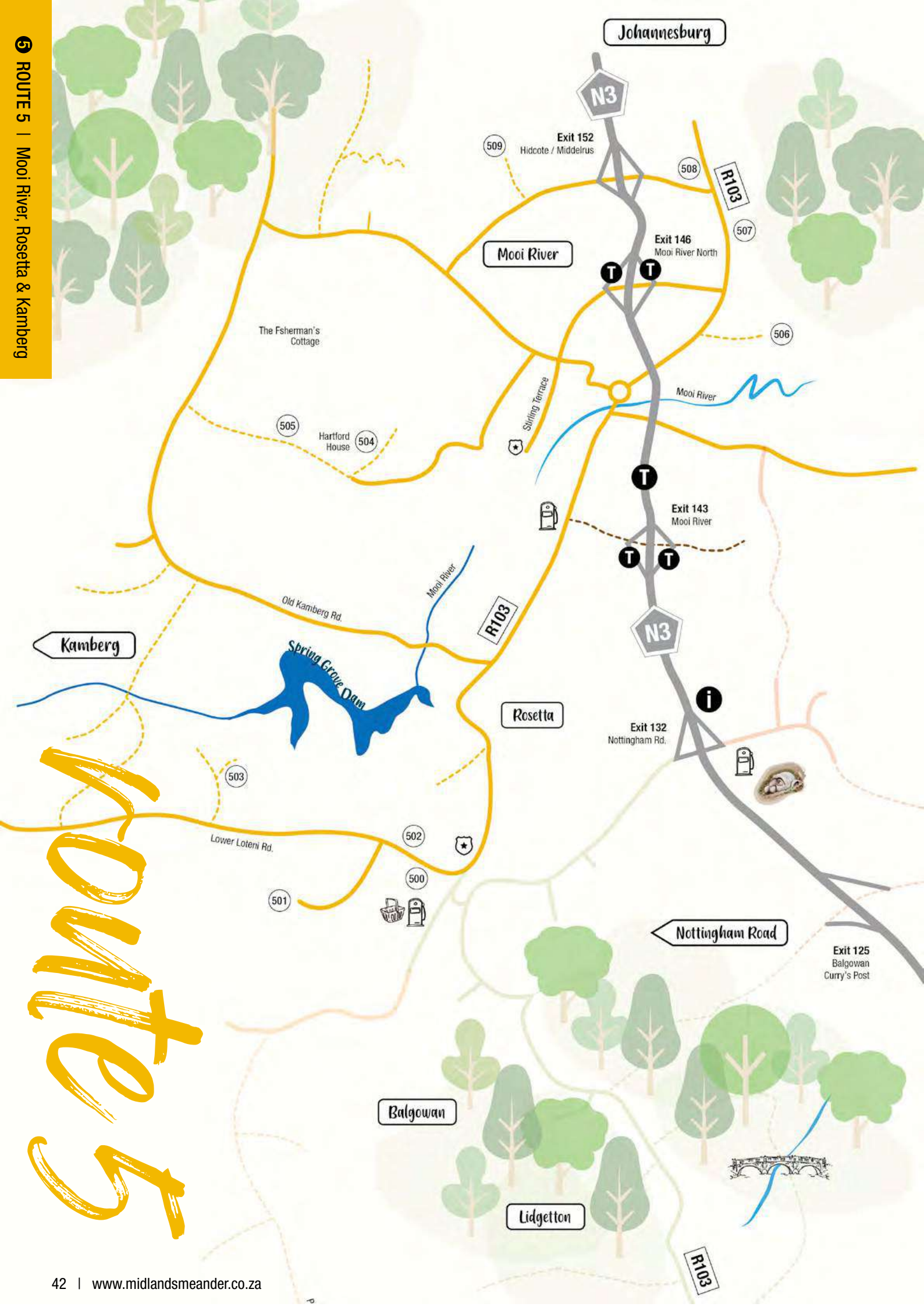
YOUR BIG FIVE SAFARI
JUST 3 HOURS FROM DURBAN &
4 HOURS FROM JOHANNESBURG

Luxury Safari | Weddings | Events

www.nambitihills.com

reservations@nambitihills.com





Route 5

ROUTE 5

MOOI RIVER | ROSETTA | KAMBERG

Route 5 explores all the country roads from Nottingham Road to Mooi River and out along the scenic Loteni and Kamberg roads.

This route is all about nature, country feels and offering views of the majestic Drakensberg. Visit and stay at one of our premier trout fly fishing venues in the KZN Midlands which is open to the public or stay at one of our more unique, eccentric, and artistically designed accommodations - Sycamore Treehouses!

DRIVE THROUGH ROUTE 5!

500	Schappe - Youens + LOVELORI Studios	+27 60 313 0254
501	Clifton Preparatory School, Nottingham Road	+27 33 266 8200
502	Carlyle College	+27 83 635 3432
503	Invermooi Estate	+27 64 870 2457
504	Hartford House	+27 33 263 1081
505	The Fisherman's Cottage	+27 72 749 4491
506	Mooi River Country Club	+27 33 940 2041
507	Treverton Preparatory School & College	+27 33 263 1251
508	Sycamore Avenue Treehouses	+27 33 263 5009
509	Midlands Saddle and Trout	+27 33 263 2758

Schappe - Youens + LOVELORI Studios 500

The New Schappe – Youens Art Studios are home to LOVELORI jewellery and Lori's beautiful painting studios. The light and contemporary space welcomes you to browse. Appointment only. 430 Windspur Estate, Nottingham Rd.

E: Lschappyouens@gmail.com
T: +27 60 313 0254
W: www.schappe-youens.com



Clifton Preparatory School - Nottingham Road 501

Clifton Prep is home to boys and girls from around South Africa and neighboring countries. With over 80 years of experience in providing traditional, values-based education and boarding, Clifton's academic, sporting and cultural facilities offer a first-class holistic education in an idyllic country setting from Grade 4 to Grade 7.

E: marketing@cliftonprep.org.za
T: +27 33 266 8200 | W: www.cliftonnotties.org.za



Carlyle College 502

Carlyle College is an independent, co-ed, Pre-Prep, Preparatory and High School, located on an established 7 hectare campus, in the beautiful village of Nottingham Road in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

E: admissions@carlylecollege.com
T: +27 83 635 3432
W: www.carlylecollege.com



Invermooi Estate 503

Offering self-catering lodges with panoramic views, Invermooi is a premier trout fishing destination with numerous dams and Mooi River frontage. A great place to enjoy the countryside. There is also a wedding venue and a restaurant/pub available for private functions.

E: lodges@invermooi.co.za
T: +27 82 391 4213 | +27 64 870 2457
W: www.invermooi.co.za



Hartford House 504

E: reservations@hartford.co.za | T: +27 33 263 1081
W: www.hartford.co.za

Steeped in history, situated on the renowned Summerhill Equestrian Estate, Hartford House is the only world-class hotel on a world-class stud farm in the world. Our restaurant is ranked in the top 5 in South Africa. Winner of numerous awards. Function, wedding & conference packages are available.



The Fisherman's Cottage 505

E: admin@powerbrahman.co.za | T: +27 63 918 1602
W: www.shareourafrika.co.za/the-fishermans-cottage

Nestled in the heart of Mooi River, The Fisherman's Cottage is a peaceful lakeside retreat designed for relaxation, adventure, and reconnecting with nature. Wake up to breathtaking views, spend your days fly fishing for trout in the private dam, exploring the property, or cooling off in the nearby rock pool. Evenings are best enjoyed watching the sunset over the water, gathering around the fire, or simply soaking up the tranquility of the countryside. Whether you're an avid angler, a nature lover, or simply looking to escape the pace of everyday life, The Fisherman's Cottage offers the perfect getaway.

Trading Hours: Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm
Saturday to Sunday: 8am - 3pm



Mooi River Country Club 506

A hidden gem in mooi river. Sporting a clubhouse, bowls and golf. Join us for regular competitions on our breath taking course, great food and company. Our course is rated 25th best 9 hole in all of SA.

E: info@mooicountryclub.co.za
T: +27 82 609 0860
Social media: @MooiRiverCountryClub



Sycamore Avenue Treehouses 508

E: reservations@treehouse-acc.co.za | T: +27 33 263 5009
W: www.treehouse-acc.co.za

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Treverton Preparatory School & College 507

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213	Linga Lapa	+27 33 266 7001
438	Netherwood Farm	+27 83 592 9120
215	Nguni & Aloe	+27 72 851 9284
500	Schappe - Youens + LOVELORI Studios	+27 60 313 0254
129	Stockowners Outdoor Park	+27 76 315 7699
407	The DinoZone	+27 82 926 0626
414	Tsonga Footwear	+27 87 379 6904
405	The Platform Gallery	+27 84 999 2223

Culinary Havens & Market Gems

432	Bierfassl Restaurant & Pub	+27 74 377 7597
120	Bite Society	+27 73 382 1765
124	BlueBird Coffee Roastery	hello@bluebirdroastery.co.za
413	Caversham Mill Restaurant	+27 33 234 4633
103	Crossways Hilton	+27 33 343 3267
214	Elula Coffee & Café	+27 61 898 4939
116	Forty One Restaurant & Bar	+27 82 040 7246
410	Highgate Wine Estate	+27 66 449 2620
400	Horse Shoe Bend	+27 71 229 8107
117	Karkloof Farmers Market	+27 72 902 4196
121	Midlands Books PTY Ltd	+27 82 328 2755
119	Margaret Anne Handcrafted Candles	+27 73 476 1056
406	Piggly Wiggly Country Village	+27 82 511 2769
300	Taste Buds Farm Stall	+27 61 231 5124
126	Terbodore Coffee Roasters	+27 33 330 2380
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Pet-Friendly Stays

304	Beverley Country Cottages	+27 82 895 4002
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417	Millgate Midlands Retreat	+27 82 688 0270
306	Mount Park Guest Farm & Wedding Venue	+27 33 234 4601
438	Netherwood Farm	+27 83 592 9120
208	Oakridge Farm Cottage	+27 82 880 2184
110	The Aloes Farm - The Studio & The Gallery	+27 84 506 7879
434	The Nottingham Road Hotel	+27 33 266 6151
118	The Old Mushroom Farm	+27 60 470 1218

Pawprints ON THE MEANDER

Discover the Midlands Meander with your furry friend by your side. From cosy stays and culinary havens to market gems and curated finds, this pet-friendly guide highlights spots where pets are not just welcome - they're part of the experience.

Photography: Ker Stanley



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Groundcover

THE MCCARTHY FAMILY

EST 1990

It was winter in London when Daniel McCarthy returned from a visit home and announced to his wife, Angela, that they needed to return to Curry's Post to help run the family business, Groundcover Leather Company.

Angela was unimpressed at having to leave one winter for another, so delayed her departure until spring. Little did she know that Midlands' spring is the coldest, wettest season and she and her two boys would be constantly covered in mud!

"I wanted to live in London, but I must admit that the Midlands lifestyle has captivated me. It is certainly the best place for my children to grow up." Angela echoes the sentiments of her mum-in-law, Amanda, about the reasons that she and her husband, Justin, choose to live off the beaten track, to do meaningful work and create community. "We made good choices for the wrong reasons, which turned out to be good reasons," says Amanda.

Since the 1990's they have built a reputation for exceptional quality, handcrafted footwear. Many of the original staff still work in the farm factory, with a second generation taking on roles that keep their culture of authenticity and care flourishing. "Amanda and Justin were ahead of their time," suggests Angela, "now everyone looks at the background of the businesses they support - at the social development, environmental awareness. These things are already embedded in the Groundcover culture."

While Daniel and Angela might not have imagined their futures were tied to the fortunes of Groundcover, after Justin died and Amanda was overwhelmed with running the business on her own, Dan decided it was time to step up. Naturally, the longstanding, traditionally inclined staff are delighted that 'the son' has come back home.

Amanda was immensely grateful, "I think Dan absorbed more about shoemaking than he realised. I stitched shoes with my pregnant tummy getting in the way and, when he was little, he played beneath the stitching machines," she recalls. Nowadays, there are still kids all over the place in the office or storeroom, having lunch, doing homework, or playing.

Daniel's background is economics, he is a risk-taker, good at crunching numbers, brave at decision making. This has taken Groundcover confidently into a new era, with a more focussed range, an excellent website, a Johannesburg outlet, a streamlined warehouse. "Online shopping was natural to us in London, so we introduced that and have an online shop in the UK now," says Dan. While the team may visit trade shows in Europe and Japan, they are determined not to grow too big. "We are the makers," says Dan emphatically, "we want to be clear that we do actually make each pair of shoes by hand and repair them as well."

Dan does not regret giving up 16 hour days. The delight of spending time with his children, making a real difference in people's lives, doing business the right way and enjoying grassland views from his desk are irreplaceable. Angela has got used to wearing strong boots and learned to embrace the mist and mud. Groundcover is here to stay.



"We are the makers"



www.groundcover.co.za

info@groundcover.co.za

(+27) 82 562 0874

Linga Lapa

THE MACKAY FAMILY

EST 1990

When Ian Mackay bought the property (a derelict cheese factory) where Linga Lapa is today, the area around the Mount West/Nottingham Road interchange on the N3 was unappealing. Undaunted, he realised that if he could entice a tiny percentage of motorists passing on the motorway to stop, it could be a viable business.

Over the last 24 years, Ian has grown Linga Lapa into a vibrant destination with a happy balance between passing traffic and locals. He always fancied running an old-fashioned trading store and started with a simple farmstall. Nowadays bustling Linga Lapa is a butchery, bakery and exceptional biltong maker, with lots of lovely local products to delight anyone who turns off the motorway. Ian loves spending his days interacting with customers - chatting to visitors who stop only once a year on the way to the beach, the farmer in need of some help or a mother grabbing a loaf of fresh bread after dropping kids at school. He is particularly thrilled that his whole family is involved in the business now too.

Son Matt remembers collecting the rocks and reeds that Ian used to build The Boma to earn some holiday money and arguing with his Dad about how things should be done. "I was a bit of a hooligan," he admits. Then after many years in the hospitality industry around South Africa, Matt decided in 2012 to come home and help run Linga Lapa. "I love food, simple flavoursome food, so we opened a café called Elula, which is the isiZulu word for simple."



Many of the staff who cut up the lamb carcasses or grill steaks to perfection have been working at Linga Lapa for decades adding to the family vibe. Matt believes this is very important. "In a world that is too fast and self-seeking, we want this place to be old school - authentic, awesome, full of love - happy customers, happy staff and, of course, our happy family." His sister Sarah concurs, "It is a privilege to live and work in the Midlands. Working together as a family can have its challenges but we have a solid trust and a shared vision for our business - our different strengths complement the whole." They all get together at the popular monthly Boma Braai, where fires, pap and salads are provided and neighbours natter while they cook their favourite cuts. This is local at its most lekker.

As Ian, aged 76, relinquishes some duties, the transition is going beautifully, Matt and Sarah feel blessed to live within a few kilometres and see their parents most days. They admire Ian's foresight and determination to stick with his dream even when only half a dozen cars stopped some days, and their mother, Lynne's ability to keep things running smoothly in the background. Matt laughs, "Dad's well-worn veldskoens are size 13, so they are certainly big shoes to fill!"

The Linga Lapa team epitomises the Meander ethos of market your neighbour as you would yourself. "We need to look at the bigger picture - we are all part of the pie - if the area does well, we all do well", concludes Ian.

"...we want this place to be old school"



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