

## U3A Battlefields Tours 2017

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March till Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

Costs are shown at end of this document.

### ITINERARY

#### Saturday

Depart by air to Durban.



We stop on the Midlands Meander at Rawdon's Hotel for a sumptuous lunch in glorious surroundings. There will be an opportunity to sample their excellent home brew of four types of beers.

Late afternoon we arrive at the historic Royal Country Hotel in Dundee. This will be our home base for the rest of the tour.



Where we will have a welcome drink in the Royal Hotel Lounge while your luggage is taken to your room.

#### Sunday

After breakfast, we visit the Blood River Monument, commemorating the Battle of Blood River in 1838. The monument consists of 64 replica Voortrekker Wagons cast in bronze, depicting the battle between the Boers and the Zulus.

After lunch at Blood River we will stop over at the Talana Museum.

The Battle of Talana was fought during the Anglo Boer war between British and Boer Forces. This battle was the first major conflict where long range artillery was used.

The museum is a heritage site. The museum is spread over 20 acres, with 17 buildings containing relics of domestic life, agriculture, mining, glassware, industry and war.



songs and dances.

We then head back to Royal Hotel, in time for a late afternoon rest. Followed by a drink in the hotel bar.

Tonight, we will have a Zulu themed dinner preceded by a talk on Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift. We will also be entertained by the enthusiastic hotel staff with Zulu

## Monday



We travel through rural Zululand seeing the mixture of old and 21<sup>st</sup> century tribal life.

Your guide will recreate the 1879 Battle of Isandlwana. 24,000 Zulu impis took on the firepower of the British and colonial troops and conquered an entire regiment in less than an hour.

We will then drive to the picturesque Rourke's Drift Hotel for lunch. The Rourke's Drift Hotel is set on a hill with wonderful views of the Buffalo River.

After lunch, we will visit Rourke's Drift where a handful of British soldiers outnumbered by 4000 Zulus fought a battle for 12 hours before the Zulu withdrew. Their bravery was recognised by the award of 11 Victoria Cross's.

Before dinner your guide will discuss the Siege of Ladysmith and the various battles surrounding the siege.

## Tuesday



After a restful night in your old fashioned bedroom we will visit the Battle of Elandsplaagte, where the Boer forces under General De Kock, suffered their defeat by the British troops. The Boer Commando of 800 men, made up of the Krugersdorp Commando, Hollander Corps and a German

Brigade, suffered 350 casualties.

We will then make our way to Ladysmith. En route, we stop at the Siege Museum, housing the most comprehensive collection of artifacts of the Ladysmith Siege and of the Anglo Boer War. The museum has its origins as a vegetable market store created in 1884.

We stop at the Anglican Church in Ladysmith. The marble plaques on the walls commemorate the British and Colonial soldiers who died in the siege and relief of Ladysmith.

We will then make our way to Platrand Farm Lodge for a typical farm style lunch.

At Platrand we visit the Burgher Monument and en route, the remains of Manchester Fort, the Battles of Wagon Hill, Caesar's Camp and the site of the "Devon's Charge".

Back to the Royal Hotel for dinner and a briefing for the visit to the Battle of Spionkop the following day.

## **Wednesday**

At Spionkop battlefield overlooking the lovely Spioenkop Game Reserve and dam, we will view the tragic “acre of massacre”

Spioenkop is the most poignant of the battlefields despite it being considered ‘a gentlemen’s war’ at that time.

After lunch in Ladysmith, we visit the beautiful remote Monastery of Maria Ratschitz. The mission is nestled against hills surrounded by tranquil gardens. The church has a beautiful interior, painted in the Bavarian style.

A wonderful tranquil way to end of the tour.

Back to the Royal Hotel for the final gala dinner.

## **Thursday**

After breakfast we will drive back to Durban passing through the Midlands Meander where we will stop at the world famous Ardmere Pottery. We will picnic in the beautiful grounds on the side of the lake after being taken on a tour of South African treasure. If we have time we will stop at Piggie Wiggly for and if we have time we will visit briefly the Howick Falls.

Then make our way back to the new King Shaka Airport to catch the 1915pm flight back to Cape Town.

**For the first time in 3 years we have had to increase costs of this trip.**

**Flights, accommodation, entrance fees and all meals except on the flights are included.**

**On Suite Luxury Rooms** with TV both upstairs and downstairs, none road facing.

R 7920 pp if meeting us in Dundee

R 7995 pp excluding Flights if meeting tour in Durban

R 9995 pp including Flights from Cape Town

We cater for less mobile U3A members in ways such as folding chairs at Battlefields, delivery and collection of luggage to the rooms at the hotel.

Liquid refreshments are for your own account except where specified.

Single rate supplements are available.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the organisers such as weather conditions etc. the tour may have to be changed.

If you wish to book or need further information, contact Doug Gardner at [doug@ddinfo.co.za](mailto:doug@ddinfo.co.za) or on 084 419 0027.

**Please refer to the following website for more details which a kind friend has put up for this U3A tour.**

**<http://www.battlefieldstours.co.za/>**

**Please make sure you put a s after battlefield as there is a similarly named site by someone else.**