



COME ON A LITERARY SAFARI!

Have book, will travel...

Join us on a literary safari of KwaZulu-Natal, home to Alan Paton, author of the world-renowned novel, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. KwaZulu-Natal, the Kingdom of the Zulu, is also home to many other writers – come and meet them on our safari:

- ❖ stroll through Grey Street, Durban's old Indian quarter, featured in the writings of apartheid struggle stalwarts Fatima Meer, Phyllis Naidoo and Dr Goonam;
- ❖ take a tour through Cato Manor, a Durban township rich in culture and conflict, inspiration to Lewis Nkosi, Ronnie Govender and the worker poet Mi Hlatswayo;
- ❖ drive through Alan Paton's Pietermaritzburg and visit his birthplace, his school and the Alan Paton Centre on the university campus;
- ❖ pop in to Michaelhouse school – where Wilbur Smith and John van de Ruit started out as schoolboys
- ❖ be moved at the Anglo-Zulu Battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift which Rider Haggard, author of *King Solomon's Mines* and *She*, visited and described.
- ❖ Experience 'Haggard's Zululand' at Ghost Mountain, Mkuze, setting for *Nada the Lily*
- ❖ Walk in Gandhi's footsteps at the Phoenix settlement where he established his printing press

Be prepared to hear stories from KwaZulu-Natal's writers, both past and present, and watch places rise up from the pages. See South African history come to life before your eyes.

Reading has never been this alive!

Day 1:

Arrival Durban International Airport, meeting and assistance on arrival. Transfer to Umhlanga, check in at hotel. Balance of day at leisure.

Overnight: City Lodge Umhlanga.



Day 2:

Full-day sightseeing with private car and guide: we start out on our literary tour in Grey Street, Durban's old Indian business and residential area and the cultural heart of KwaZulu-Natal's Indian community. Following in the footsteps of famous political figures such as Dr Goonam, Fatima Meer, Phyllis Naidoo and Mahatma Gandhi, we experience the places that inspired literary works by Imraan Coovadia, Aziz Hassim, Ravi Govender and Mariam Akabor.

Stops include:

- ❖ **Madressa Arcade** which was built in 1927. The arcade is lined with fifty or so little shops with stairs leading to flats above. This arcade conjures up images of the Grey Street of old. Ravi Govender writes that taken out of its geographical context, one could easily transport it to the populous Marrakech of Cairo with its shops “selling anything you would ever need ... wares spilling out of doors.”
- ❖ **The Emmanuel Cathedral** which is situated at the heart of Grey Street. The building is a landmark in Durban and was once a centre of intense political activity in the mid-1980's. The late archbishop Denis Hurley, served at the Cathedral for 60 years. He was a champion of human rights, known especially for his contribution to the struggle against apartheid.
- ❖ **The markets of Grey Street** which are central to the lives of the surrounding community and feature prominently in texts about the area. Victoria Street Market was built during the late 1980's and is a recreation of the original Victoria Street Market. It contains a wide variety of small shops selling clothes, curios, bags, spices and trinkets from Africa and the East. Across the road is the fish market and just outside its doors is a small multi-market selling skulls, skins and other parts of animals. Dara's store in *The Lotus People* “sold just about anything portable, from cosmetics to cutlery, knives to nails, garden shears and stationery, axes, aromatic oils, potions and patent medicines.” It was also a tobacconist, newsagent, barbershop and unofficial meeting place of the local residents.
- ❖ **The Juma Mosque** is a prominent feature of Grey Street. Situated at the corner of Grey and Queen Street, it is the largest mosque in the Southern Hemisphere, with a floor area of 975 square metres and the capacity to take an assembly of 4500 worshippers. Aziz Hassim describes it in *The Lotus People* as “the magnificent and architecturally famous Jumma Mosque, with its minarets and many domes ... it was a natural landmark for both the local residents and the out of town visitors.”
- ❖ At the end of the trail, we stop at **Little Gujarat restaurant** for a traditional Indian snack and drink



Afternoon visit to uShaka Marine World (ticket for Marine World, not for waterslides). uShaka Marine World is the world's 5th largest Marine aquarium, and offers the world's biggest collection of marine life from the Indian Ocean. A bonus is the unique design – you cannot help being enthralled!
Overnight: City Lodge Umhlanga. (B)

Day 3:

Full-day sightseeing with private car and guide: We visit the historic and cultural township of Cato Manor - situated about ten kilometers from the centre of Durban - following in the footsteps of literary luminaries such as Lewis Nkosi and Ronnie Govender. Other writers featured on the trail include Gladman Ngubo, Mi Hlatshwayo, Kenneth Bhengu, Kessie Govender and Lauretta Ngcobo.

Stops include:

- ❖ The **Cato Manor Heritage Centre** which is focused on the turbulent history of Cato Manor, using photographic prints of dissent and defiance to illustrate this. Exhibits in the form of news clippings and letters document the evictions and riots that marred the area for decades. The exhibition is offset by artwork produced by local artist, Joseph Manana, and oral histories read by, amongst others, president of the ANC Jacob Zuma.

- ❖ **Hindu temples** are scattered throughout Cato Manor and most of them are still in operation today. In *Song of the Atman* Ronnie Govender describes a festival occurring at the main temple:

"Everyone of the children had to observe the Kavadi festival, a punishing ritual of penance undertaken more to propitiate the Gods than to achieve its original aim which way to induce a sense of spirituality in order to achieve liberation from the cycle of birth and death. After the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Cato Manor Temple, the weeks of fasting before the festival were strictly observed. During the festival, hungry and tired in the heat, devotees carried wooden, flower and lime-bedecked Kavadis on their shoulders. The heavier the Kavadis, the more devout you were".

- ❖ **Shebeens** and **spaza-shops** are part of the Cato Manor landscape. Mostly run by women, these have regulars who, "evening after evening, as soon as they left work, flocked to their favourite shebeens" (Nkosi, *Mating Birds*). These informal establishments are slowly being developed into more conventional bars and shops. We will make a scheduled stop at a spaza-shop to buy refreshments



In the afternoon, we will make a visit to the Killie Campbell Museum (not open week-ends), still furnished in period, and offering a unique collection of Africana, traditional beadwork and research centre. Killie Campbell, whose house this was, was the aunt of Roy Campbell, the well known South African poet – an exhibit relating to Roy Campbell's life is on display at the museum, a Herbert Baker building perched high on the Durban Berea with views of the city.

Overnight: City Lodge Umhlanga. (B)

Day 4:

With private car and guide: In the morning, we visit Alan Paton's Pietermaritzburg. He was born



and educated in Pietermaritzburg, and he retained ties with it throughout his life, calling it "the lovely city" in his autobiography. Apart from *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Paton also wrote two other novels, poetry, short stories, biographies, autobiographies and political articles. Paton was an author and a politician, but was also celebrated as a humanitarian, educationalist and as a fierce opponent of apartheid.

Stops include:

- ❖ **19 Pine Street :** This was Alan Paton's childhood home. Alan Paton writes about his home life in his

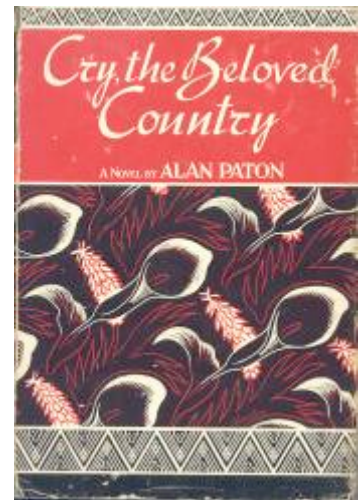
autobiography, *Towards the Mountain* and Peter Alexander writes about how his early upbringing influenced his character in *Alan Paton: A Biography*. A bronze plaque on the front verandah of this house, commemorates Paton's link to the house.



- ❖ **Maritzburg College:** In 1914 the Patons moved house and Alan Paton won a bursary to Maritzburg College. He was only eleven years old when he started there, and he stayed there through the war years, matriculating with distinction in 1918. He returned to Maritzburg College as a teacher from 1928-1935. He took great pride in his old school, and came back at times over the years to present prizes and make the end-of-year speech.

In *Towards the Mountain* we can read anecdotes about Paton's years as a College pupil, including Mr 'Fluff' Abbit's fire drill on his return from a bout of drinking at the Victoria Club, to which he had travelled in a ricksha.

- ❖ **Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives:** After matriculating at Maritzburg College, Alan Paton went on to become a student at the age of 16, at Natal University College, from 1919 - 1924. He enjoyed his years at university, made some good friends and studied science and mathematics. Paton was to remain involved with the university for the rest of his days, as President of Convocation and as Honorary President of NUSAS. When Paton died, his widow Anne donated the contents of his study to the Archives of the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg and the Alan Paton Centre was developed. A replica of Paton's study in his final home at Botha's Hill has been created, arranged in the same way as it was then. Many additional archival donations have been received since the Centre opened in 1989, including the archives of the Liberal Party of which Paton was once President. Other donations from organizations which opposed apartheid, such as the Black Sash and Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA), now form the Struggle Archives.



In the afternoon we drive into the Midlands region and make a short stop at Michaelhouse School, where international best selling author, Wilbur Smith, and John van de Ruit, author of the popular *Spud* series, completed their schooling. Van de Ruit's books about 'Spud' recall his school years here. We continue into the Drakensberg Mountains: this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with mountains towering in excess of 3000 m above sea level.

Dinner and overnight: Champagne Castle Hotel. (B,D)



Day 5:

At leisure in the Drakensberg. There are opportunities for hiking in beautiful mountain scenery along well-marked paths. In this area you will find hikes both for the experienced hikers and also for more recreational hiking. Other shorter walks take you to Duiker Dam, Mikes Path, Sunken Forest, Fern Forest, Robin Hood's Grove, Crystal Falls, the Sphinx, Bushmen Paintings and the Sunset Trail. These guided walks leave reception at 9.15 every morning and are free of charge. Maps are available for unaccompanied walks.



fishing and horse-riding are further options.

Other hotel facilities include: Large pool, bowls, volleyball, tennis, badminton, croquet, rounders, outdoor chess, trampoline, putting green. Trout

Alternatively, enjoy the hotel Spa which offers an array of individualised and specialised treatments including facial treatments, spa body treatments, massage and grooming treatments.

Lunch, Dinner and overnight: Champagne Castle Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 6:

We drive to Newcastle, where we check into Hilldrop House B&B, once home to Rider Haggard, author of *King Solomon's Mines* and *She*.

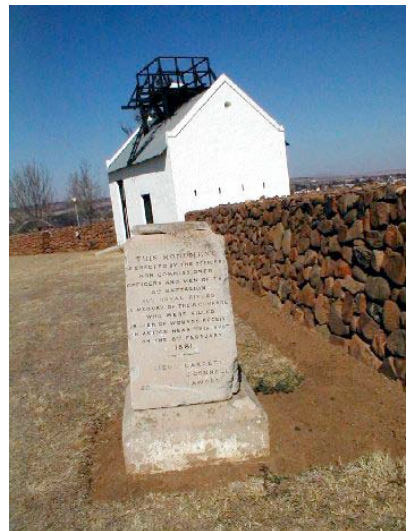
- ❖ **Hilldrop House, Newcastle:** Rider Haggard lived here during 1881 on the farm Rooi Point. It was here that his only son, Jock, was born. The farmhouse, Hilldrop, is now a national monument with the main house kept delightfully in period. There are a number of chalets in the beautiful grounds surrounding the house. Re-named Mooifontein, it is described in *Jess*:

"It was a delightful spot. At the back of the stead was the steep boulder-strewn face of the flat-topped hill that curved round on each side, embosoming a great slope of green, in the lap of which the house was placed. It was very solidly built of brown stone, and ... was covered with rich brown thatch. All along its front ran a wide verandah, up the trellis-work of which green vines and blooming



creepers trailed pleasantly, and beyond was the broad-carriage-drive of red soil, bordered with bushy orange trees laden with odorous flowers and green and golden fruit."

In the afternoon we visit Fort Amiel (open Monday - Friday only), just outside Newcastle. Fort Amiel was built in 1876 by Major Charles Frederick Amiel and some 200 men of the 80th Staffordshire Volunteers in the prelude to the annexation of the Transvaal and the Zulu War. The Fort was to serve as a commissariat depot, transit camp, and hospital during the Zulu War and the Transvaal War of Independence.



- ❖ **Fort Amiel Museum:** A short way from Hilldrop House is Fort Amiel, a British fort during the Anglo-Boer Wars. Among other displays is a 'Haggard' room which includes the axe that belonged to M'hlopekazi, Haggard's character, Umslopogaas in *Allan Quatermain*.

Overnight: Hilldrop House, Newcastle. (B) (Dinner for own account)

Day 7:

We start with a visit to Talana Museum, Dundee. The Zulu name "Talana" meaning "the shelf where precious items are stored" is a most appropriate name for this large and varied museum. The museum comprises 17 buildings, dedicated to subjects as diverse as war and agriculture, mining, industry and domestic life. We continue to Isandlwana, site of the British defeat by the proud Zulu army at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879.

The Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 features several times in Haggard's works.

- ❖ **Isandlwana** features in *The Witch's Head* (1884), *Black Heart and White Heart* (1896) and *Finished* (1917), the final volume of Haggard's trilogy dealing with the history of the Zulus in the nineteenth century. Here Haggard was awed by the "strange, abrupt, lion-like mount of Isandlwana" and he walked the battlefield as the sun was setting: "It was sad for me to stand by the piles of stones which cover all that is left of so many whom I once knew ..."



Haggard visited Zululand for the first time in 1914 and his tour included visits to the battlefields of Gingindhlovu, Ulundi and Isandlwana, as well as the graves of Piet Retief and his followers at Umgundhlovu - now Emakhosini, the Valley of Kings.

Dinner and overnight: Battlefields Country Lodge. (B,D)



Day 8:

We drive to Rorke's Drift: During the Anglo-Zulu War, the defence of Rorke's Drift (22 - 23 January 1879) immediately followed the British Army's defeat at the Battle of Isandlwana

earlier in the day. One hundred and thirty-nine British soldiers successfully defended their garrison against an intense assault by four to five thousand Zulu warriors. The overwhelming Zulu attack on Rorke's Drift came a hair's breadth away from defeating the tiny British garrison. The successful defence of the outpost is held as one of history's finest defences.

We continue east and arrive at our hotel – Ghost Mountain Inn at Mkuze.



- ❖ **Ghost Mountain, Mkuze:** This is the setting for Rider Haggard's *Nada the Lily* which chronicles the adventures of the fierce warrior, Umslopogaas, and his friend, Galazi, and their love for the heroine of the title. This novel inspired Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*

"We had journeyed seven days, for the way was long, and on the night of the seventh day we came to a mountainous country in which there were few kraals, for Chaka had eaten them all up years before. In it is a great and strange mountain. It is haunted also, and named the Ghost Mountain, and on the top of it is a grey peak rudely shaped like the head of an aged woman. Here in this wild place we must sleep, for darkness drew on. Now we soon learned that there were many lions in the rocks around, for we heard their roaring and were much afraid, all except Umslopogaas, who feared nothing." - *Nada the Lily*

Dinner and overnight: Ghost Mountain Inn, Mkuze. (B,D)

Day 9:

A full-day safari in Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi National Park. This is the oldest of the National Parks in South Africa, and is famous for being the park where the "Save the White Rhino from Extinction" programme was carried out. The abundance of white rhino, not only in this park but elsewhere in southern Africa, bears testimony to the success of this project. Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi Park is the oldest game reserve in Africa proclaimed in 1895. The park covers some 96 000 ha and an immense diversity of fauna and flora occurs in



this region. Larger mammals to be seen include buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, elephant, and large numbers of impala, waterbuck, common and mountain reedbuck, nyala, kudu, bushbuck, steenbuck, duiker, warthog, black rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal. In excess of 300 species of birds have been recorded. We stop for a picnic lunch inside the park. (We use a regular tourist car for our safari. For safari in open 4x4 vehicles, see supplement cost below. This must be pre-booked!)

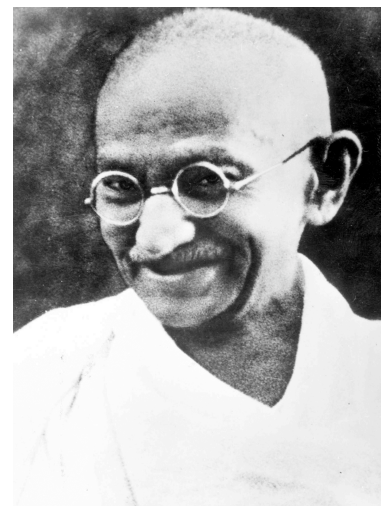
Dinner and overnight: Mpila Camp, Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi National Park. (B,L,D)



Day 10:

We have another game drive in the early morning, before heading south towards Durban. Time permitting (this will depend on flight departure times), we stop at Phoenix Settlement:

- ❖ **Phoenix Settlement:** Stop for a moment at the site of Mahatma Gandhi's home on the outskirts of Durban where he set up a printing press and a community of like-minded people. Influenced by the teachings of Ruskin, Gandhi purchased a farm at Phoenix, near Mount Edgecombe in 1904 in order to establish a communal settlement. The settlement was based on the ideals of communal living whereby all persons irrespective of their social standing and occupation would receive an equal wage. They were to contribute to the common good and welfare of the settlement. The residents saw to the needs of the printing press during their spare time. The settlement comprised of Gandhi's house, the settlers homes and a printing press.



Finally, we drive to Durban's International Airport where you check in for your flight. (B)

DID YOU SPOT THE BIG 5 (WRITERS THAT IS)?

Tour costs:

4 or 5 passengers travelling together:

1 October - 11 December 2008*:

Cost per person sharing twin room:

ZAR 16860.- p.p.

Cost per person in single room:

ZAR 19230.- p.p.

11 January - 2 April & 12 April - 31 July 2009*:

Cost per person sharing twin room:

ZAR 17120.- p.p.

Cost per person in single room:

ZAR 19580.- p.p.

6 or 7 passengers travelling together:

1 October - 11 December 2008*:

Cost per person sharing twin room:

ZAR 13530.- p.p.

Cost per person in single room:

ZAR 15900.- p.p.

11 January - 2 April & 12 April - 31 July 2009*:

Cost per person sharing twin room:

ZAR 13710.- p.p.

Cost per person in single room:

ZAR 16160.- p.p.

8 or 9 passengers travelling together:

1 October - 11 December 2008*:

Cost per person sharing twin room:

ZAR 12210.- p.p.

Cost per person in single room: **ZAR 14580.-** p.p.

11 January – 2 April & 12 April – 31 July 2009*:

Cost per person sharing twin room: **ZAR 12390.-** p.p.

Cost per person in single room: **ZAR 14840.-** p.p.

**For travel during period 11 – 31 December 2008; 1 – 10 January and 3 – 11 April, a supplement will apply. Details on request.*

E-Mail: info@itt.co.za

Website: www.itt.co.za

Tel: +27 31 3037810