# Worldwide Gathering 2026

# Information Pack

DURBAN

Mothers' UNION

DURBAN

# Introduction

Mothers' Union are so excited to be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding with a Worldwide Gathering in Durban, South Africa. We are looking forward to this event which will bring together around 2,500 members, clergy, partners, and guests from around the world. The Worldwide Gathering will be a space for worship, sharing, learning, and of course celebration!

This pack has been put together to give you comprehensive information about the event, share details about what to expect, give you preferential rates for some of our partner hotels and provide you details about others, and to suggest ways in which you may want to enjoy your time – whether you are coming for the event only or making a holiday of it!

Once you have decided to join us and have purchased your ticket, we will be keeping you up to date with regular communications, speaker announcements, special offers for local attractions and much more. We will also be doing some online sessions and videos for briefings and further information.

We want this event to be special, safe and spiritual, and we do hope you will be able to join us.

# Welcome message from the Steering Committee

Dear fellow members,

We are delighted to provide you with the pre-event information pack for the Mothers' Union Worldwide Gathering in Durban, South Africa, to celebrate our 150th anniversary.

This pack has been created to provide you with all the key details you need to plan your participation. Inside, you will find essential information about the programme, venues, travel, accommodation, and how to book your tickets and register for the event.

The Worldwide Gathering is a special opportunity for us to come together as sisters and brothers in Christ from across the globe. It will be a time of fellowship, inspiration, and shared purpose, a chance to listen to inspiring speakers, join in worship, and connect with members from many diferent cultures and communities.

Durban is a vibrant and welcoming city, and we hope you will be able to join us to experience its warmth, beauty, and hospitality. We pray that this gathering will renew your faith, strengthen your fellowship, and encourage you as we continue our mission together.

We encourage you to read through this information pack carefully, make your plans, and book your place. We look forward to meeting you in Durban.

With every blessing,

The Steering Committee

The pack should contain all the information that you need, but if you have any questions or queries, please email communications@mothersunion.org

# Welcome to Durban

Durban, also known as the Miami of South Africa, is a vibrant coastal city known for its rich cultural heritage, stunning beaches, and as the busiest port in Africa.

Durban is in the province of KwaZuluNatal, the third largest city in South Africa after Johannesburg and Cape Town. It lies along the eastern coast on the Indian Ocean, specifically on Natal Bay. The city experiences a humid subtropical climate with hot, wet summers and mild, dry winters. As of 2022, the Durban metropolitan area had an estimated population of 4.2 million, making it one of the largest urban regions in Africa.

The area now known as Durban has a long and rich history, beginning with its early inhabitants, including the Nguni people. The city was oficially founded in 1835 and named after Sir Benjamin D'Urban, then governor of the Cape Colony. European settlement began earlier, in 1824, when English traders established a trading post at Port Natal. Over time, Durban evolved from a small trading settlement into a thriving metropolis shaped by diverse cultural influences, most notably from the Zulu and Indian communities.

Durban is home to Africa's busiest port, one of the largest and most important ports in the world. This port serves as a major gateway for trade, supporting the export of minerals, coal, sugar, and grain. The city is also a critical hub for manufacturing and tourism, drawing millions of visitors each year with its beaches, cultural attractions, and major sporting venues. Among these is the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium, which hosted matches during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and remains a significant landmark in the city.

Durban is a major tourism destination thanks to its coastal setting, subtropical climate, and range of natural attractions. The city is famed for the Golden Mile, a stretch of beachfront lined with hotels, restaurants, promenades, and surf spots. Nearby ecological treasures include the Valley of a Thousand Hills, uMngeni River estuary, and numerous nature reserves that showcase KwaZulu-Natal's biodiversity. The city is also a gateway to the Drakensberg Mountains and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These attractions support a robust tourism industry, which plays a key role in the city's economy.

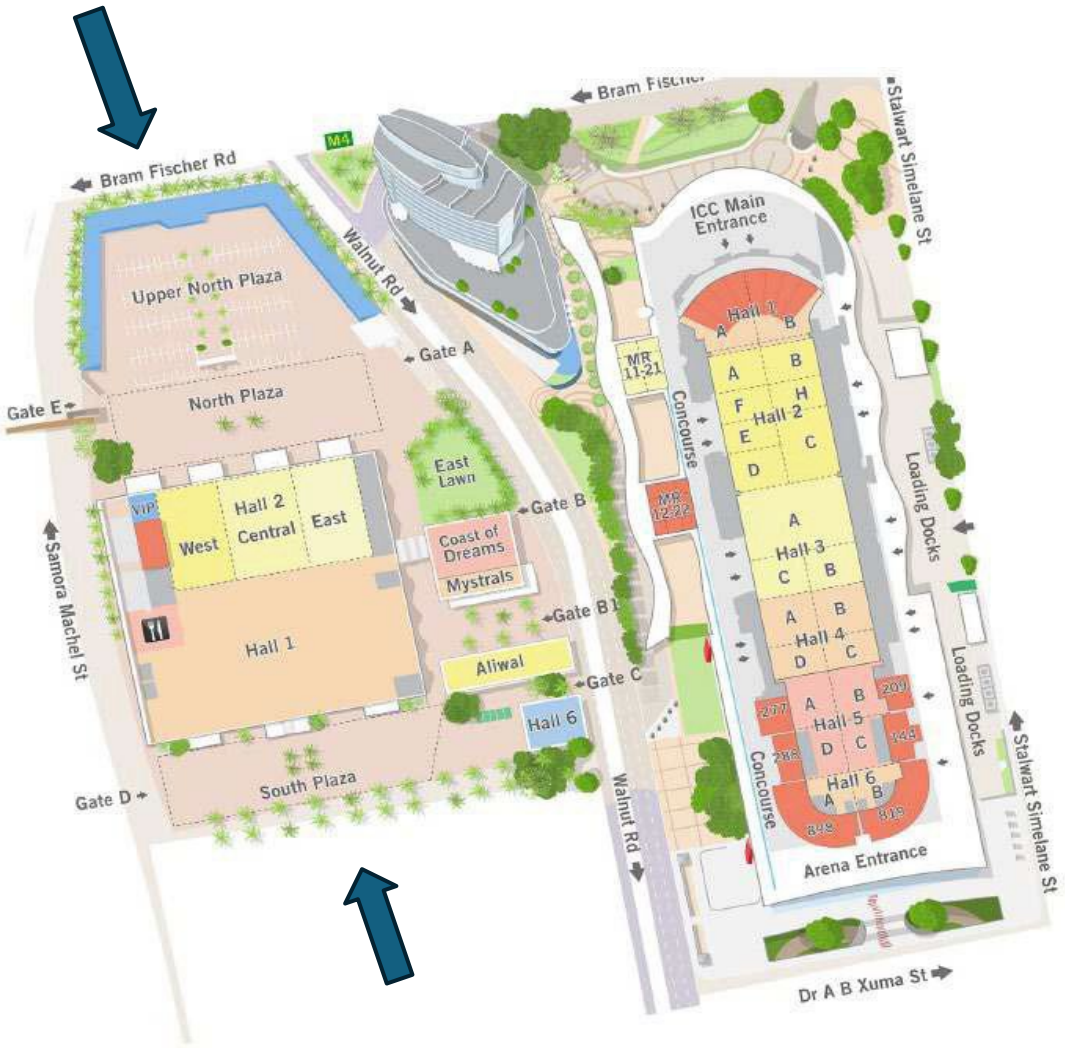
# Venue for the event

**Location**: ICC Durban, South Africa (Exhibition Centre)

**Address:** 45 Bram Fischer Road, Durban

We are delighted that the Worldwide Gathering will be taking place at The Durban Exhibition Centre, which is part of the ICC and located adjacent to it. This space has been chosen for its flexibility, so we can worship alongside the conference aspects of the event. The ICC Durban itself is in a great location, just 35 minutes from King Shaka International Airport and within walking / quick car journey distance of many of Durban's premier hotels and its iconic beachfront. It is recognised as Africa's Leading Conference Centre; the ICC has hosted numerous major international events, including the United Nations Climate Change Convention, and we are thrilled that we will be holding our first-ever international event of this scale at this venue.

**Durban Exhibition Centre Surface Parking**: Accessible via **Walnut Road** and **Aliwal Street**




DURBAN

BEACH HOTELS
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
KINGSMEAD CRICKET STADIUM
HILTON HOTEL
DURBAN EXHIBITION CENTRE
CITY HALL
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
ROYAL HOTEL
YACHT MOLE

ICC DURBAN
EXHIBITION
CENTRE

DURBAN

# Tickets

We are currently working with an external platform, handling all the ticket sales from across the globe in the most efficient way possible, and the registration desks for the event. There will also be an app available for the duration of the event, this will also provide us with an app for the duration of the event, which you will be able to download before the event and access lots of exciting information.

Tickets will go on sale on 27 February at 9:00am (GMT) and will be available by clicking on this link and following instructions: Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary Worldwide Gathering 2026 - Mothers' Union

**Tickets will cost £130.00 + VAT / ZAR 2900 + VAT** – this will include a simple lunch (wrap/roll, carton of juice and a sweet treat) on the 1 and 2 October. Water and Rooibos tea will also be included in the ticket price as well as a conference pack /goodie bag.

**Please note**

- **Lunch will not be included on 30 September or 3 October. You are welcome to bring snacks with you to the conference centre and there will also be vendors to purchase additional food, coffee and drinks from – all at an additional cost.**
- **There are no cash machines on site so you will need to bring cash or contactless payment with you.**
- **All tickets must be purchased before the event – you will not be able to attend the event without a valid ticket, and there will be NO admissions on the door.**

# Programme

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **DAY 1**<br>**30th September 2026**<br>**(No lunch provided)** | **REGISTRATION** | **12:00PM – 2:00PM** |
| | **WELCOME SESSION & OPENING EUCHARIST** | **2:00PM – 5:00PM** |
| **DAY 2**<br>**1st October 2026**<br>**(lunch provided)** | **MORNING SESSION** | **9:00AM – 12:30PM** |
| | **LUNCH** | **12:30PM – 2:00PM** |
| | **AFTERNOON SESSION** | **2:00PM – 5:00PM** |
| **DAY 3**<br>**2nd October 2026**<br>**(lunch provided)** | **MORNING SESSION** | **9:00AM – 12:30PM** |
| | **LUNCH** | **12:30PM – 2:00PM** |
| | **AFTERNOON SESSION** | **2:00PM – 5:00PM** |
| | **CELEBRATORY MUSIC CONCERT**<br>**(optional but no extra cost)** | **5:30PM – 6:30PM** |
| **DAY 4**<br>**3rd October 2026**<br>**(no lunch provided)** | **CLOSING SPEECHES & CLOSING EUCHARIST** | **9:30AM – 12:30PM** |

## Lunch & refreshments

On day 2 & 3 (1–2 October) there will be a lunch break during the Conference from **12:30 – 2:00pm**. You will be provided with a simple packed lunch (roll/wrap, carton of juice and sweet snack) as part of the cost of your ticket. The venue will have refreshment stations selling snack options, coffee and drinks. Complimentary Rooibos tea and water will be available. You are welcome to bring your own snacks into the venue to supplement your lunch.

# Travelling to Durban

**Major Airports**

King Shaka International Airport (DUR) is Durban's primary international gateway.

- Located approximately 35 km north of Durban city centre
- Opened in 2010 and handles both international and domestic flights, serving the region's major routes ("Golden Triangle": Durban–Johannesburg–Cape Town).

**Transport Options from the Airport to Hotels**

Delegates are responsible for arranging and covering all airport transfers.

Available transport options include:

- Taxi or e-hailing (Uber/Bolt)
  – Widely used and considered the most convenient for visitors.
  – Typical travel time to central Durban: 35–70 minutes depending on traffic.
- Airport Shuttle Buses
  – Shuttle vans ("Air Bus") and similar services operate from the airport to major hotels and Durban Beachfront.
  – Some services run every 45 minutes from the airport's Public Transport Parking area.
- Private Transfers
  – Pre-bookable shuttle and private driver services are available for seamless hotel drop-of. If preferred, please arrange directly in advance.
- Car Rental
  – Major global and local rental companies operate directly at the airport terminal.
- **You may want to contact your chosen hotel, as most hotels offer complimentary or paid airport shuttle transfers.**

**Arriving by Sea – Durban Port**

For guests arriving via cruise or marine transport:

- Durban's main passenger facility is N-Shed Cruise Terminal, located a short distance (approx. 5–10 minutes) from the city centre.
- A range of private taxis, shuttles, and pre-booked transfer services operate from the port to city hotels and airport destinations.
- Cruise travellers are advised to avoid unlicensed taxis and use recognised shuttle/taxi services only.

All port-to-hotel transfers remain the responsibility of the delegates.

**Arriving by Road**

Durban is well connected by major national highways, including:

- **N3** – linking Durban to Johannesburg (approx. 6 hrs by road).
- **N2** – serving the North and South Coast and connecting KwaZulu-Natal's major towns.

Delegates arriving by road are responsible for planning safe travel, ensuring vehicle readiness, and arranging parking where necessary.

## Travel & Medical Information

All delegates must have valid travel insurance that covers:

- Emergency medical care
- Hospitalisation
- Repatriation if required

**Medical services in South Africa are generally of a high standard; however, they can be costly for visitors without adequate insurance. Mothers' Union will not be responsible for any medical expenses or related costs.**

Delegates are fully responsible for:

- Carrying all personal medication needed for the duration of the trip
- Ensuring medication is legally permitted to be carried into South Africa
- Managing and paying for any medical treatment required during their stay

**There will be a first aid team on site for the duration of the conference; however, their support is limited to immediate, non-clinical care. Please note that first aiders are not permitted to dispense any medication.**

**Vaccination & Entry Requirements**

Please ensure that you have checked your country's requirements and that you are fully vaccinated in accordance with South Africa's travel regulations.

The South African border authorities reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone who does not comply with their travel and health requirements.

**Local Hospitals in Durban**

Durban has several reputable hospitals, both private and public. Please ensure that your health insurance provides adequate cover for treatment at these facilities. For your convenience, below is a selection of centrally located hospitals for emergency reference:

- Netcare Parklands Hospital, Overport, Durban
- Netcare St Augustine's Hospital, Berea, Durban
- Addington Hospital, South Beach, Durban
- Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital (specialist tertiary care), Cato Manor, Durban
- Netcare Umhlanga Hospital, Umhlanga (close to many hotel districts)

**Accessibility & Mobility**

- Durban's main airport and cruise terminals provide wheelchair access, elevators, and mobility-friendly infrastructure.
- Attendees who require mobility aids, medical devices, or special assistance are kindly asked to arrange these independently prior to travel.
- When booking your conference ticket, please advise us of any accessibility requirements so that we can provide appropriate support during the event.

## Getting around Durban

Durban is an easy city to navigate. Like any city we recommend you stay safe – don't travel alone at night and it may be simpler to take transport than walk. If you are walking, please make sure you are in a pair or group and that you know where you are going!

**Buses:** Afordable and useful for major routes; includes the tourist friendly Durban People Mover.

**Minibus Taxis:** Widely used but require some local know-how for routes and hand signals.

**RideHailing (Uber/Bolt/InDriver):** Easily available; safer when booked through the app. We recommend you download the app before travel and then it will be easy to use as soon as you arrive in Durban.

**Metered Taxis:** Reliable but must be phoned – hotel reception desks can arrange them.

**Car Rental:** Good roads and easy navigation if you have GPS.

**Airport Transport:** Airport bus or car rental from King Shaka International Airport.

**Downloadable Map:** For an easy-to-use map please click the following link

https://www.orangesmile.com/travelguide/durban/high-resolution-maps.htm

## Transport to the event

We will be offering the option of paid shuttle transportation for travel to and from the ICC and designated pickup points for the duration of the conference. If you choose this option, nearer the time of the event we will request your accommodation information so we can arrange transport and pickup points.

Transportation tickets can be accessed through the same link used for the conference ticket bookings.

**Transport ticket will cost £40 + VAT / ZAR 880 + VAT.**

## Registration

Registration will take place on the first day of the conference. During this process, each delegate will receive their lanyards and conference kits.

## VISA letters

Delegates who require a visa letter for this conference may request one using the link provided below. Please check your local government website for advice on travelling to Durban and Visa requirements – Mothers' Union will not be able to support with individual requests.

**Please note: The visa letter is issued solely for the purpose of attending the conference, and it is expected that all delegates return to their home country once the event concludes.**

**Link: https://forms.ofice.com/e/ydY35BdYsz?origin=lprLink**

Any queries about tickets for the conference should be sent by email to communications@mothersunion.org

# Preferential Rate Accommodation

Mothers' Union has curated a list of hotels offering affordable rates for conference delegates. Full details and booking instructions are available through the links provided.

**Delegates are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and meals. Please ensure you have sufficient funds to cover these costs before booking your tickets.**

**BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS: Instructions apply to the first four hotels (breakfast included)**

**The rates:**

- Excludes a 1% tourism levy
- All Guests must be booked and confirmed by 27 August 2026
- 50 % Payment required at the time of Reserving, balance 30 days prior to arrival

**Dedicated point of contact:**

- Please contact **Sereena Kuppusamy** with relevant booking reference
- Tel: 031 362 1487 Sereena.kuppusamy@southernsun.com
- Website: https://hotelreservations.southernsun.com/?chain=24151&arrive=2026-09-27&Dest=MOTU2026&rate=MUC150&themecode=sshi&configcode=grp&locale=en-gb&clearcache=all

**Hotel 1: The Edward Hotel**

149 OR Tambo Parade, Durban 4001.

Distance to Airport: 31km

Proximity to ICC: 1.6km

**Booking Reference: 1955296**

**STANDARD ROOM (**Bed & Breakfast)

Single/Double - **R1595.00** per room per night

**Hotel 2: Garden Court South Beach**

73 OR Tambo Parade, South Beach, Durban.

Distance to Airport: 32km

Proximity to ICC: 1.9km

**Booking Reference: 1955295**

**STANDARD ROOM (**Bed & Breakfast)

Single/Double - **R1395.00** per room per night

Twin - **R1645.00** per room per night

**Hotel 3: Garden Court Marine Parade**

167 OR Tambo Parade, Marine Parade, Durban.

Distance to Airport: 31km

Proximity to ICC: 1.6km

**Booking Reference: 1955297**

**STANDARD ROOM (**Bed & Breakfast)

Single/Double - **R1495.00** per room per night

Twin - **R1745.00** per room per night

**Hotel 4: SunSquare Suncoast and Suncoast Towers**

Proximity to ICC: 2.8 km

Room only rates per night: **R1464.50 - R1888.70**

Rates including breakfast per night: **R2123.70 - R2628.70**

Address: 20 Battery Beach Rd, Stamford Hill, Durban

Phone: 031 314 7878

Website: www.tsogosunhotels.com

# Budget friendly accommodations

**Tre Fontane Guesthouse**

Address: 1 Abbot Francis Road, Mariannhill, Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Website: Welcome To Tre Fontane Guesthouse

**Single Rooms**
Supper, Bed and Breakfast: R620.00
Bed and Breakfast: R520.00
Accommodation only: R450.00

**Double Rooms**
Supper, Bed and Breakfast: R1 050.00
Bed and Breakfast: R1 000.00
Accommodation only: R900.00

**Triple Rooms**
Supper, Bed and Breakfast: R1 550.00
Bed and Breakfast: R1 450.00
Accommodation only: R1 350.00

**Concord Christian Guesthouse**

Address: 95 Lilian Ngoyi Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001, South Africa

Website: Concord Christian Guesthouse - Guest Reservations

Prices vary based on dates and availability.

Located in Durban, within 1.4 miles of Durban Beach and 1.3 miles of Moses Mabhida Stadium, Concord Christian Guesthouse has accommodations with a garden and free Wi-Fi throughout the property as well as free private parking for guests who drive. The property is around 1.8 miles from ICC Durban. The hotel has family rooms.

# Other accommodations within proximity to the Durban ICC Exhibition Centre

**City Lodge Hotel Durban**

Proximity to ICC: 550 m

Average room rates per night: **R1348.33**

Address: Shepstone St, North Beach, Durban

Phone: 031 332 1447

Website: www.citylodge.co.za

**Road Lodge Durban**

Proximity to ICC: 1 km

Average room rates per night: **R930**

Address: 189 KE Masinga Rd, Durban Central, Durban

Phone: 031 304 8202

Website: www.citylodge.co.za

**The Palace Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 1.4 km

Average room rates per night: **R2838 - R2934**

Address: 211 Marine Parade, North Beach, Durban

Phone: 031 332 8351

Website: www.thepalace.co.za

**Protea Hotel Edward**

Proximity to ICC: 1.6 km

Average room rates per night: **R1916 - R3166**

Address: 149 Marine Parade, South Beach, Durban

Phone: 031 337 3681

Website: www.proteahotels.com

**Coastlands Durban Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 1.6 km

Average room rates per night: **R2800 - R3800**

Address: 45-47 Dr Pixley Kaseme Street, Durban Central

Phone: 031 335 5000

Website: www.coastlands.co.za

**Riverside Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 2 km

Average room rates per night: **R1687.91 – R2287.91**

Address: 10 Kenneth Kaunda Rd, Durban North

Phone: 031 563 0600

Website: www.riversidehotel.co.za

**Quarters Hotel Avondale Road**

Proximity to ICC: 2 km

Address: 101 Florida Rd, Morningside, Durban, 4001

Phone: 031 303 5246

Website: www.quarters.co.za

**Quarters Hotel Florida Road**

Proximity to ICC: 2 km

Address: 101 Florida Rd, Morningside, Durban, 4001

Phone: 031 303 5246

Website: www.quarters.co.za

**aha Avondale Boutique Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 3.2 km

Address: 335 Avondale Rd, Morningside, Durban

Phone: 031 942 0004

Website: www.aha.co.za

**Coastlands Musgrave Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 4.7 km

Average room rates per night: **R1360 – R2400**

Address: 315-319 Peter Mokaba Ridge, Musgrave

Phone: 031 271 8200

Website: www.coastlands.co.za

**Gooderson Tropicana Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 5 km

Average room rates per night: **R4378.50 – R4554**

Address: 85 Marine Parade, South Beach, Durban

Phone: 031 368 1511

Website: www.goodersonleisure.co.za

**Auberge Hollandaise Guest House**

Proximity to ICC: 8 km

Address: 106 Kenneth Kaunda Rd, Durban North

Phone: 031 940 7580

Website: www.aha.co.za

**The Oyster Box Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 14.8 km

Average room rates per night: **R8207 – R26067**

Address: 2 Lighthouse Rd, Umhlanga Rocks

Phone: 031 514 5000

Website: www.oysterboxhotel.com

**Holiday Inn Express Durban – Umhlanga**

Proximity to ICC: 15 km

Average room rates per night: **R1394 – R1673**

Address: 2 Ncondo Place Crn Ncondo Place & Ntusi Rd

Phone: 031 514 9000

Website: www.hiexhotels.co.za

**City Lodge Hotel Umhlanga Ridge**

Proximity to ICC: 16 km

Average room rates per night: **R1861.67 – R3695**

Address: Medigate Rd, Umhlanga Ridge, uMhlanga

Phone: 031 580 7000

Website: www.citylodge.co.za

**Road Lodge Umhlanga Ridge**

Proximity to ICC: 16 km

Average room rate per night: **R1030**

Address: Medigate Rd, Umhlanga Ridge, Durban

Phone: 031 580 7200

Website: www.citylodge.co.za

**Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 16.9 km

Average room rates per night: **R1906.7 – R3906.7**

Address: 329 uMhlanga Rocks Dr, Umhlanga Ridge

Phone: 031 514 6500

Website: www.coastlands.co.za

**aha Gateway Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 18 km

Average room rates per night: **R2496 – R3516**

Address: Cnr Centenary Blvd &, Twilight Dr, Umhlanga Ridge, uMhlanga, 4319

Phone: 031 536 9200

Website: www.aha.co.za

**Beverly Hills Hotel**

Proximity to ICC: 20 km

Average room rates per night: **R5346 – R12940**

Address: 1 Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga Rocks

Phone: 031 561 2211

Website: www.thebeverlyhillshotel.co.za

# Local Churches

**ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**Address:** 161 Monty Naicker Road, Durban, 4001
**Phone:** 031 305 4666
**Email:** ofice@stpaulsdurban.org.za
**Service Times:** Sundays 7:30am & 9:15am [stpaulsdurban.org.za]

**Google Map:** https://maps.google.com/?q=St+Pauls+Anglican+Church+Durban

**ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**Address:** 115 Venice Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001
**Service Times:** Sunday 8:00am

**Google Map:** https://maps.google.com/?q=115+Venice+Road+Morningside+Durban

**ST THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**Address:** 190 Saint Thomaslaan, Musgrave, Durban, 4001
**Phone:** +27 31 201 2204
**Hours:** Open daily 7am–5pm

**Google Map:** https://maps.google.com/?q=190+Saint+Thomaslaan+Musgrave+Durban

# Things to see and do

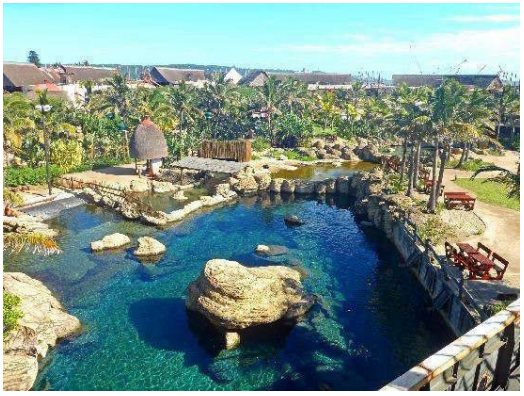
Durban blends beaches, culture, history, and family-friendly attractions. From marine adventures and scenic promenades to rich Zulu and Indian heritage sites, it's a warm, vibrant coastal city with something for every traveller.

The BEST Durban Tours and Things to Do in 2026 - FREE Cancellation | GetYourGuide

Below is more context for some of the top attractions to explore during your visit:

**uShaka Marine World**

One of Africa's premier marine parks, featuring an aquarium, dolphin shows, snorkelling, waterslides, and a family-friendly beachfront.



**The Golden Mile**

A bustling beachfront stretch lined with palm trees, hotels, restaurants, surf spots, and a lively promenade, a favourite for walkers, cyclists, and swimmers.

**Durban Botanic Gardens**

The oldest surviving botanic garden in Africa, known for its orchid house, rare cycads, and tranquil landscapes ideal for leisurely strolls.

**Moses Mabhida Stadium**

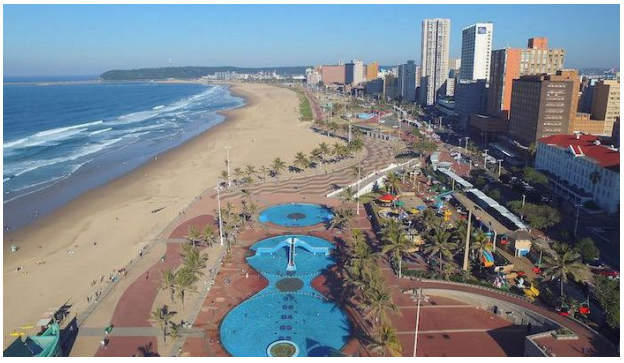
An iconic landmark ofering stadium tours, a Sky Car ride to the top for panoramic city views, and adventure activities like the Big Swing.

**Victoria Street Market**

A vibrant Indo-African marketplace filled with spices, fabrics, crafts, jewellery, and street food - reflecting Durban's multicultural identity.

**Durban Promenade**

A scenic coastal walkway stretching several kilometres along the beach, perfect for biking, jogging, or enjoying ocean views.



**Durban City Hall & Heritage Walk**

A historical architectural gem surrounded by key heritage sites, museums, and cultural landmarks that reveal Durban's rich past.