



FOUR NIGHT ITINERARY

A four-night stay is perfectly suited to those who would like to see a little more than Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, or for those who are keen to spend a day relaxing and enjoying everything the lodge and guest house have to offer.

DAY ONE

On your afternoon of arrival, you will be personally greeted by our staff and shown around the Lodge or Guest House.

Guests staying at the Lodge will make their way up to either the dining room or the Harford Library for lunch, which is served from 1pm – 2pm. The Harford Library has stunning views over the Buffalo River and Isandlwana. At the Guest House - weather permitting - lunch is served on the veranda, with sweeping views towards Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift.

After lunch, spend an hour having a look around the Fugitives' Drift Museum, or relaxing in the Lodge or Guest House gardens or by one of our swimming pools.

After a relaxing afternoon, join us for drinks and canapes around the fire, followed by a four-course dinner in the dining room which is hosted by one of our staff members.

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements as dinner is a set menu.

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DAY TWO

You will be woken up with your choice of tea or coffee delivered to your room. Breakfast is served in the dining room from 6:50am.

The Isandlwana tour departs at 7.30am. On the way to the battlefield, you will listen to another audio narration by David Rattray, describing the background to the events of the morning of 23rd January 1879.

There will be a stop at 9am to visit the Isandlwana museum, after which you will be taken onto the battlefield where the lecture will begin. At about 11:30am we will serve tea and coffee, after which you will have the opportunity to visit the various grave sites at Isandlwana. Another audio, this time describing the story of the survivors and the significant events of the battle of Isandlwana, is played during your return to Fugitives' Drift.

After lunch, spend an hour having a look around the Fugitives' Drift Museum, or relaxing in the Lodge or Guest House gardens or by one of our swimming pools.

Afternoon tea and homemade cake of the day are available from 3:30pm on the lodge veranda. From 4pm, you will have the opportunity to join one of our guided walks through the reserve to see the graves of Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill.

These legendary soldiers were the first ever posthumous recipients of the Victoria Cross; awarded for their gallantry in attempting to save the regimental Queen's Colours following the disaster at Isandlwana. We are fortunate to have their last resting place here at Fugitives' Drift, buried where they fell.

The graves walk takes approximately one hour and includes 3km of stunning views across the Buffalo River. It is a relatively easy walk but does involve a short climb.

Pre-dinner drinks and canapes are served around the fire at 7pm, followed by a four-course dinner in the dining room which is hosted by a member of our staff.

DAY THREE

You will be woken up with your choice of tea or coffee delivered to your room. Breakfast is served in the dining room from 6:50am until 9am.

Spend the morning sleeping in or enjoy one of our guided or unguided nature walks around our 5000-acre game reserve. These marked walks follow trails around our beautiful reserve, giving you the opportunity to see zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, and antelope. Bird-lovers may be interested to spot any of the 300 species of bird that we have on the reserve.

For the more adventurous, the Fugitives' Trail is an excellent option. This hike covers the route from Isandlwana back to Fugitives' Drift, following the path the Fugitives took fleeing Isandlwana on the 23rd January 1879. The trail is roughly 10km and is dependent on the height of the Buffalo River (which needs to be crossed at the end of the walk – so swimming may be involved!). The walk traverses some rough terrain, so should only be undertaken if you have a reasonable level of fitness and appropriate footwear.

Lunch is served between 1pm – 2pm.

The Rorke's Drift tour departs at 3pm. On the way to Rorke's Drift, you will listen to an audio narration by David Rattray, describing the background to the events of the afternoon of 23rd January 1879.

Upon arrival at the battlefield, there is an opportunity to look around the museum before the lecture begins. There is very little walking involved with this tour. The lecture concludes around 5:30pm; you will then have the opportunity to look around the various memorials and graves before we return you to the Lodge and Guest House.

Pre-dinner drinks and canapes are served around the fire at 7pm, followed by a four-course dinner in the dining room which is hosted by a member of our staff.



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DAY FOUR

As you will have a good understanding of the events at Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift, and Fugitives' Drift, you can now spend a day either relaxing and making the most of our superb accommodation, library, museum, and grounds – or book an additional tour to a battlefield a little further afield.

The sites of Blood River, Hlobane, or Kambula are excellent choices for those with a keen interest in history looking for something more. More information about these tours is below.

Please remember these additional tours do need to be booked in advance to ensure the availability of one of our experienced and world-famous guides.

BLOOD RIVER (Morning excursion)

The suggested departure time for this excursion is between 7:30am and 8am. The site at Blood River is where the Boers and the Zulus fought on the 16th December 1838 (now a public holiday in South Africa). This trip is well worth the drive: 64 life-sized solid bronze wagons now mark the site of the battle, and are quite remarkable.

Another place which brings the course of the bitter Zulu War of 1879 to mind is the site where Eugène Napoleon Bonaparte, the Prince Imperial of France and last remaining Bonaparte, was killed by the Zulus on 1st June 1879. A monument now marks the site amongst the hills above the course of the Itshotshozi River. This trip is best added onto the Blood River excursion.



HLOBANE OR KAMBULA (Full day excursions)

The battle of Hlobane is recognized in British history as one of the earliest battles where the British force was entirely mounted. The ill-fated expedition was intended to drive the AbaQulusi of the Zulus from their magnificent mountain stronghold. The ensuing action left at least 200 British soldiers dead, while the number of Zulus who lost their lives will sadly never be known.

The Hlobane excursion includes a drive through some of the most beautiful and spectacular views of Zululand.

The Battle of Kambula was fought on 29th March 1879. A 20,000-strong force of Zulu warriors attacked a fortified British army of 2,000 men. The battle lasted for three desperate hours and saw the Zulus breaching the British laager, causing some anxious moments for the hard-pressed defenders.

The British finally prevailed, which turned the tide of the Zulu war when more than 2,000 Zulu warriors lost their lives. In the aftermath of Kambula, one Victoria Cross and two Distinguished Conduct Medals were awarded.

Although we recommend taking these excursions on separate days, to really do the battlefields justice, they may be combined over a single day.

Pre-dinner drinks and canapes are served around the fire at 7pm, followed by a four-course dinner in the dining room which is hosted by a member of our staff.

DAY OF DEPARTURE

After a leisurely wake up, enjoy some breakfast – served up until 9am - on the lodge veranda.

Check-out time is 10am.



• Douglas Rattray / Battlefield Tours



• The "Graves Walk" (Melvill & Coghill at Fugitives' Drift)



• Fugitives' Drift

Share your #Fugitivesdrift experience with us



@Fugitives' Drift Lodge and Guesthouse



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