

World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council

"LIBRARIES FOR THE FUTURE: PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS"

19-23 August 2007, Durban, South Africa



The count down to the IFLA/WLIC 2007 Congress in Durban has started and it is time to start highlighting the interesting sights and things to do in Durban as well as some helpful tips for your travel and stay.

Durban, originally Port Natal, is regarded as the Leisure Capital of South Africa. With a subtropical climate and year-round holiday weather, Durban is situated in Africa's Eastern Seaboard on the Indian Ocean. Many unique experiences are at your finger tips from the world class beaches, scenic mountains and subtropical forests to the game reserves teeming with wildlife. Durban is only a one/two hour flight to Johannesburg and Cape Town opening up endless opportunities to broaden your South African experience.

Durban's hospitality is world renowned and indeed recent quotes from an article published in "The Cape Argus", June 2006 which followed the publication of the results from a Hospitality survey carried out by Readers Digest on "the top six SA cities" stated that the research team:

"found Durban is the friendliest City"

"Had Durban been chosen as the SA representative city, the KwaZulu-Natal metropole might well have ended among the top 10 friendliest cities of the world"

Durban's population is made up of a diverse culture of African, Indian and European influences. The dining out opportunities are, in turn heavily influenced by these cultures and offer everything for the sophisticated to alfresco diner where you can enjoy Durban's specialities and delights throughout.

Durban is the host to many prestigious events including the A1 GP, Durban Beach Africa, The Comrades Marathon, Clipper Round the World Yacht Race and the SAA South African Open to name but a few.

For more information on Durban please visit the Durban Convention Bureau website on the following link:

http://www.durban.gov.za/durban/Tourism_and_Leisure/intro_durban

Cost Savings

We are aware that for many delegates Durban may appear costly, perhaps due to the distance to fly. However, there are a number of cost saving recommendations for your attendance at this year's conference in Durban:

Accommodation

The Conference Secretariat are holding housing blocks at a varying range of hotels and lodges. However, should you not wish to stay in any of the hotels listed on the registration form, accommodation such as bed and breakfast is a good alternative. Some suggestions have been listed below.

Durban Municipality have a list of pre-screened assured bed and breakfast accommodation where delegates can make their own reservations outside the official congress accommodation allotments directly with the property owners. Details can be found on the following website

<http://www.durban-north.co.za/accommodation.html>

The Automobile Association accredited Bed and Breakfast site provides links to good B&B accommodation. The following link is to Durban Central Accommodation which is situated within easy travelling distance to the ICC where the conference is being held.
http://www.aatravel.co.za/staticnew/accommodation/durban_central_bed_&_breakfast.html





Another accredited accommodation provider of smaller properties is KwaBaba (KZN B & B Accommodation Association). Their website is currently under construction but the contact person is Heather Hunter Email: info@naa.co.za and she should be able to direct you to a list of member properties.



Also try <http://www.safarimpw.com/destinations/durban/hub.aspx> for a variety of accommodation types including guesthouses and self catering. However, please ask before you make a booking what is the distance from the accommodation to the conference venue and if transport is easily available? Central Durban suburbs such as Berea, Glenwood, Morningside and Musgrave are within easy reach of the ICC.



The Conference Secretariat, IFLA and the National Committee have not reviewed these properties so delegates are responsible for any reservations made and at their own risk.

Travel

Many international air carriers offer discounted air tickets to Johannesburg and Cape Town, especially if include a weekend stay and booked in advance. Within South Africa there are a number of budget airline operators available for internal flights including 1 Time www.1time.co.za, Kulala www.kulula.com and Mango www.flymango.com which may offer you more cost effective travel options.



When in Durban

Eating out is very good value, there is a wide range, representing its wide cultural diversity. Whether your taste is for authentic African, Indian or Western cuisine, Durban has a wide range of dining options available and it is possible to enjoy a good meal for ZAR 50 – ZAR 80 per person. Some restaurant venue information can be found at www.durban.kzn.org.za/durban/about/104.xml



Safety and Security

Travel to South Africa is largely a safe and wonderful experience. We are aware that security and safety is a concern for IFLA Conference delegates but as with most countries and cities in the world, travellers are advised to take the necessary safety precautions you would normally observe when visiting a foreign country (refer to IFLA Express No. 1).

It is highly recommended that all delegates purchase an adequate travel and health insurance prior to their trip to Durban as this is not provided by IFLA/WLIC 2007 and / or its agents.

The Conference Secretariat and National Committee are working with the local and regional police authorities, government offices and the local convention bureau to ensure that IFLA delegates visit to Durban is both an enjoyable and safe one. This includes extra security and safe walking routes

Things to do and see

Durban has long been famous for its sandy beaches aptly named the The Golden Mile but Durban has so much more to offer. The city has a rich cultural history from its links with colonialism, King Shaka and the Zulu people as well as the heritage of the Indian community and the formative years of Mahatma Gandhi.

A small selection of interesting things to do whilst in Durban:

- 1000 Hills Experience – head west where the 1000 hills route offers stunning scenery as well as offering arts crafts, Zulu cultural villages and restaurants.
- Visit the African Arts Centre - the gallery is devoted to promoting the best and most authentic examples of indigenous African art including beadwork, sculptures, painted cloth work, basket weaving, fine art & artefacts.
- All that jazz..... – Durban's melting pot of cultures is mixed with a uniquely African spirit. There are some excellent music venues in Durban including the Playhouse's Zulu Jazz lounge and Zack's at Wilson's Wharf.
- Game Reserves – South Africa is renowned throughout the world for its game reserves and the KwaZulu-Natal region offers a wealth of opportunities for nature lovers. Add a few days onto your trip to explore some of the excellent lodges and experience the thrill of a game drive or if your time is more limited there are a number of nature reserves like the Burman Bush Nature Reserve located in the Durban suburbs



Did you know?

There are two world heritage sites in the region of KwaZulu-Natal; The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and The uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park. For further information: www.kzn.org.za/kzn/131.xml

We look forward to meeting you in Durban and if you need any assistance with your participation please do not hesitate in contacting us.



For more information on how to register for the conference, please visit: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>

or email

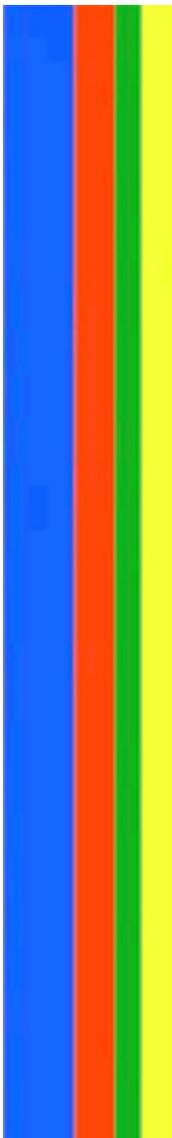
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