Remote, mountainous and untouched by commercial ventures, this region offers a unique window into rural lifestyles and truly South African adventures.

Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve

Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve is located on the Drakensberg Mountains, which have globally significant plant and animal biodiversity, with unique habitats and high levels of endemism.

Ongeluksnek offers fantastic hiking for all fitness levels. There are several marked trails from 1km to 12km, as well as longer mapped but unmarked trails for the more adventurous - ideal for horses or mountain bikes.
Visitors are spoilt for choice when it comes to participating in their favourite outdoor pastimes. In and around the Matatiele region one can experience guided walking or horse riding tours to local rock art treasures. Enjoy bird-watching escapes or the clean, crisp air on a stroll through the mountains. The high altitude makes the area prone to very cold winters that usually bring with them snow, offering an exciting tourism experience that delivers an untouched wilderness, beckoning for exploration.

If you enjoy fishing, you’ve come to the right place. Many rivers offer wild trout fishing and some dams in the area are stocked with both rainbow and brown trout.
Matatiele Nature Reserve covers 8000 hectares of protected area and has been declared a natural heritage site. This nature reserve boasts the Mountain Lake which lies at 2000m above sea level and offers excellent fishing, bird-watching and botanical diversity. A number of animal species can be found here, including zebra and wildebeest. After taking in the flora and fauna, rest your head in the cosy self-catering accommodation.

For more information contact the Matatiele Local Municipality on 039 737 3135.
Pondo-Villager Hiking Trail

Traversing some of the most rugged and pristine terrain of the Wild Coast, this hike provides an eclectic route for the interested traveller. The scenery is picturesque, wild and undulating; and settling into homestays for two nights among the local people offers a unique and enlightening experience. Rounded off with stunning, isolated bush camps and an optional lick of luxury on the last night, trailists are sure to leave refreshed and revitalised. Visitors can choose either the three-day trail or the five-day hike, both led by a passionate local guide. A highlight is the Mkambati Nature Reserve, where deep pools and cascading waterfalls invite you to take a plunge.

Amadiba Horse and Hiking Trails

Amadiba offers a variety of guided horse and hiking trails, from one-day strolls through to epic six-day trails that take you through the Wild Coast, along beaches and grasslands, across rivers, past shipwrecks, through Nature Reserves and to stunning waterfalls. All overnight camps are serviced with hot bucket showers and eco toilets. Trails can be enjoyed on foot or on horseback, with a new 4x4 option for the less energetic. Day tours and Village Trails are also available. For more information, call Mzamo: 072 194 0949 or Nonhle: 076 35 92 982.
As part of the fresh air experience, the Northern-Eastern Cape plays host to an abundance of unspoilt trails and scenery, truly making it a ‘hidden gem’. For the outdoor adventurer, this is close to heaven.

The Mehloding Adventure Trail

Located in Matatiele, the Mehloding Adventure Trail route traverses spectacular mountainous foothills and rural villages, taking in visits to ancient rock-art sites, sparkling streams, indigenous trees, medicinal plants, craft projects and top-of-the-world views – all through some of the cleanest air on the planet.

Visitors can either explore the Mehloding Adventure Trail on their own or take part in a four-day tour. The latter is highly recommended and the most popular option as the local guides are not only familiar with just about every nook and cranny in the area, but also provide a wealth of interesting information. Along the way, traditional chalets – built by local communities – are available for overnight stays, and each has its own atmosphere and charm. Expect hot showers, stunning views and a friendly host to provide delicious traditional home-cooked meals as you put your feet up and rest in preparation for the following day’s hike. Self-catering chalets are also available.
A rich heritage

To experience the hospitality and way of life first hand, a visit to the Cultural Villages located outside Mount Frere and Mount Ayliff is a must. They promise a true African experience, where visitors can spend the day with the local people, enjoying their traditional storytelling, visiting healers and development projects and enjoying some of the local food and drink.

Local craft traditions of the area include beadwork, sewing, pottery and weaving. Hand-woven materials comprise generally functional items such as sleeping mats, baskets and strainers, while Xhosa ceremonial clothing is often elaborately decorated with fine embroidery work.
The Umzimvubu region comprises a rich cultural tapestry. Be invited into the lives of the people who call this ‘Little Gem’ their home.
Go back in time

The relatively new Matatiele Museum houses exhibitions of the local pre-history, history and cultures of the town and district from the Stone Age to present day. The museum building was originally a Dutch Reformed Church that is made of sandstone and is now a National Monument, with the exhibits having been kindly donated by the local historical society, which collected artefacts of historical interest.

The Matatiele Heroes Acre was built in memory of the many fallen heroes who passed away during the struggle era. Many of the victims’ bodies were exhumed from countries like Lesotho and Botswana and buried in South Africa.
Visit the Matatiele Museum, Mariazell Mission and Matatiele Heroes Acre to step back in time to learn more about the pioneers of this region.

Mariazell Mission was built in 1904 and contains a self-sufficient hydro electrical system. A Catholic mission, Mariazell is regarded as one of the best High Schools in the area because of its high pass rate and highly acclaimed politicians such as Patrick Lekota and Albertina Sisulu are alma maters. The institution is like a mecca for many Catholic brothers and priests from around the world.

Contact the Matatiele Municipality for information on 039 737 3135.
The rarest natural spoils

The Mzamba coast is blessed with supreme natural beauty, unspoiled sandy beaches and is an International Biodiversity Hotspot – in other words one of the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on the planet. Here you will find a wide variety of landscapes, including deep gorges, forested ravines, estuaries and rivers, along with sheltered beaches and lagoons.

Look out for the numerous waterfalls, estuaries, caves with San rock art, sandy, unspoilt beaches (Mnyameni, Mzamba, Mtentu, Mpahlana), red sand dunes, and an abundance of wildlife, including over 200 species of mammal, including the red bush squirrel, the four-toed elephant shrew and the giant golden mole, which are endemic to the area.
The Lalashe area features stunning natural fauna and flora as well as beautiful cliffs towering over the mighty Umzimvubu River.

The Lalashe Horseshoe is a magnificent bend (horseshoe) in the mighty Umzimvubu River, which cuts through the natural landscape adjacent to the Lalashe Village. As a well-marketed tourist destination, Lalashe has huge potential as a nature conservation area, with a campsite, hiking trails and the possibility of further activities being developed - such as 4x4 trails, adventure sports, rafting and fishing.
The famous Wild Coast

Mbizana’s coastline is part of the famous Wild Coast and Pondoland centre of endemism that boasts unique flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world. Much of the coastline offers impressive fishing and diving opportunities. The extremely narrow continental shelf off Pondoland marks the start of the annual sardine run, which National Geographic has rated as the most exciting diving opportunity in the world.

The stretch of coastline between the Wild Coast Sun resort and the Mzamba River to the south is known as the Petrified Forest and is a set of famous marine fossil beds, in a 10 metre-high cliff. Officially known as the Mzamba Cretaceous Deposits, these date back some 80 million years.
The Wild Coast Sun is set on one of the most unspoiled beaches in southern Africa. The resort attracts visitors for its natural beauty and variety of activities and attractions.

Wild Coast Sun Resort

The resort is situated just within the Eastern Cape, one kilometre over the border from KwaZulu-Natal. The resort is set on 750 hectares of natural bush between the Umtamvuna and Mzamba rivers overlooking the Indian Ocean.

For more information, visit www.suninternational.com
## Stay in Matatiele and Maluti

### Where to stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Rest Haven</td>
<td>Dinner, B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 4067 or email: <a href="mailto:info@resthaven.co.za">info@resthaven.co.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Lee</td>
<td>Dinner, B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3432 or email: <a href="mailto:saralee@goggaconnect.co.za">saralee@goggaconnect.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Drifters</td>
<td>B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3659 or email: <a href="mailto:wimconradie@vodamail.co.za">wimconradie@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Cedarberg Guest Farm</td>
<td>Guest Farm</td>
<td>Before Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 757 5535 or email: <a href="mailto:gerrie@futurenet.co.za">gerrie@futurenet.co.za</a></td>
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<td>De Berg</td>
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<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3000 or email: <a href="mailto:deberg@telkomsa.net">deberg@telkomsa.net</a></td>
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<td>Up Market Accommodation</td>
<td>Dinner, B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 4074 or email: <a href="mailto:polliz@bergnet.co.za">polliz@bergnet.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Half Acre</td>
<td>Dinner, B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3414 or email: <a href="mailto:halfacrebandb@webmail.co.za">halfacrebandb@webmail.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Top House</td>
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<td>Masakala Village</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3852 or email: <a href="mailto:pmbrummer@gmail.com">pmbrummer@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Masakala Traditional Guest House</td>
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<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3000 or email: <a href="mailto:masakala@telkomsa.net">masakala@telkomsa.net</a></td>
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<td>Royal Court Yard</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3100 or email: <a href="mailto:royal@docbro.co.za">royal@docbro.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Addis Guest House</td>
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<td>Ongeluknek</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Call: 043 705 4400 or email: <a href="mailto:reservations@ecparks.co.za">reservations@ecparks.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Eden Dale</td>
<td></td>
<td>Along R56</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3842 or email: <a href="mailto:harmonie@venturenet.co.za">harmonie@venturenet.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Maluti Star Hotel</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 2560 133</td>
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<td>Fulela B&amp;B</td>
<td>B&amp;B</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 082 684 3041</td>
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<td>Mehloding Chalets</td>
<td>Chalets</td>
<td>Along Southern Berg</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 3289 or email: <a href="mailto:mehloding@telkomsa.net">mehloding@telkomsa.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sempete Guesthouse</td>
<td>Guest House</td>
<td>Maluti</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 082 209 0645 / 039 737 4898</td>
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<td>Laphola Guesthouse</td>
<td>Guest House</td>
<td>Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 083 344 9607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casablanca Lodge</td>
<td>Lodge</td>
<td>Maluti</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 4961 or email: <a href="mailto:nomaledimdingi@vodamail.co.za">nomaledimdingi@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
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<td>Ntabase</td>
<td>Dinner, B&amp;B</td>
<td>Main Street Matatiele</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 072 989 0249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hlola le Rona Guesthouse</td>
<td>Guest House</td>
<td>Maluti</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>Call: 039 737 4961 or email: <a href="mailto:nomaledimdingi@vodamail.co.za">nomaledimdingi@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Stay in Mount Frere

BCN Makaula Hotel  Hotel ★★★  Call: 039 255 1081
Ilitha B&B  B&B ★★★  Call: 039 255 0105
N2 Imvelo B&B  B&B ★★★  Call: 083 754 6325
Afrizona  ★★★  Call: 039 255 0209
2nd World B&B  B&B ★★★  Call: 039 255 0055
Mafana Guesthouse  Guesthouse ★★  Call: 083 687 0761
Thatenda  Call: 039 255 1821
Sophia B&B  B&B  Call: 083 467 3862
Indwe B&B  B&B  Call: 083 747 5839
Tapi River Lodge  Lodge  Call: 071 596 4387

Stay in Mount Ayliff

Denipel Lodge  Lodge ★★★  Call: 082 306 7240
Eyethu B&B  B&B  Call: 082 228 5540
Mt Ayliff Hotel  Hotel  Call: 079 117 7892

Stay in Mbizana and Ntabankulu

Makwande Guest House  Guesthouse ★★★  Call: 082 222 6770
Daphs B&B  B&B ★★★  Call: 039 251 0022
Sinawe Guest House  Guesthouse ★★★  Call: 039 251 5999
Wild Coast Sun  Resort  Call: 039 305 9111
Nofy’s Bed & Breakfast  B&B  Call: 082 353 0514

For more accommodation information, contact the Umzimvubu Municipality on 039 255 0959 (Mount Frere) or 039 254 6000 (Mount Ayliff). Or during your visit to East Griqualand, contact the Matatiele Municipality on 039 737 3135.

Should you be venturing through the Mbizana region, call 039 251 0230 for accommodation information.
Northern-Eastern Cape Tourism

Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
Tel: 073 7436 725

Route 56 Matat
Tourism Office Tel: 039 737 4067

Matatiele Municipality
Tourism Officer Tel: 039 737 3135 (Matatiele)

Umzimvubu Municipality
Tourism Office Tel: 039 255 0959

Mbizana Municipality
Tourism Office Tel: 039 251 0230

Ntabankulu Municipality
Tourism Office Tel: 039 258 0056

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