



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

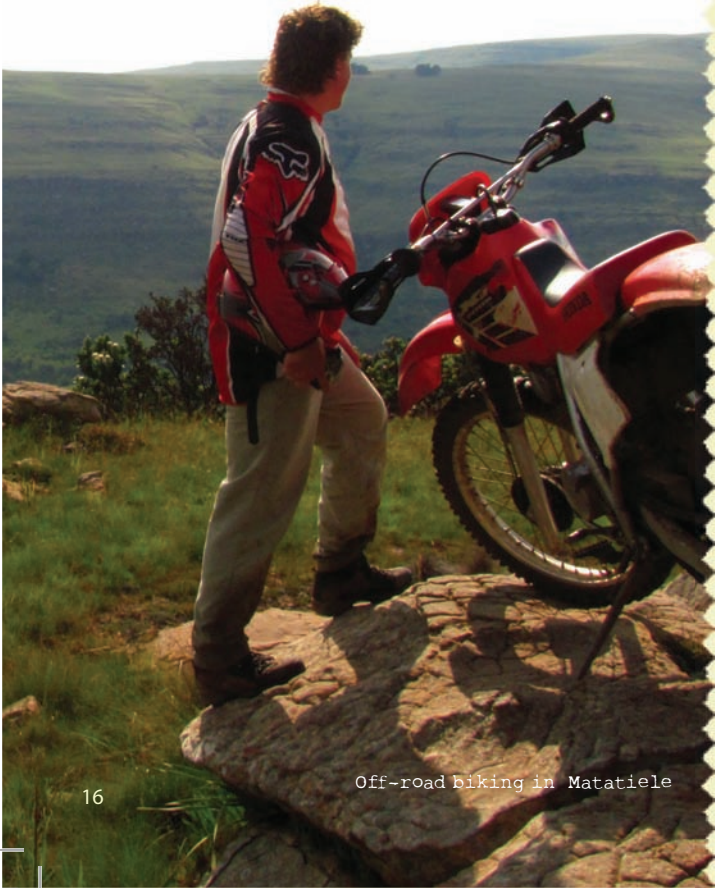
Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve
Tel: 039 256 4888, Email: reservations@ecpta.co.za, www.ongeluksnek.com

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.

Gateway to the outdoors



Off-road biking in Matatiele

Mountain Biking, Horse Riding, Bird-watching and Fishing

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.



Enjoy Bass or Trout fishing



Discover Ancient Rock Art



Enjoy fishing and bird-watching at the Matatiele Nature Reserve, where you'll find an abundance of flora and fauna.

Matatiele Nature Reserve

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.

Matatiele Nature Reserve
For more information contact the Matatiele Local Municipality on 039 737 3135.

Gateway to hiking


Magnificent outdoor experiences

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.



Pondo-Villager Hiking Trail, Mbizana region
www.active-escapes.co.za or call 084 2407277



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 Mehlosing Adventure Trail

Located in Matatiele, the Mehlosing 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 Mehlosing 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.

Mehlosing Adventure Trail, Matatiele Region
Telefax: 039 7373289, Email: Mehlosing@telkomsa.net, www.mehlosing.co.za

Gateway to traditional culture

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.

Meet the locals in Cultural Villages,
Mzimvubu region



Try on traditional clothing



Traditional arts & crafts



The Umzimvubu region comprises a rich cultural tapestry. Be invited into the lives of the people who call this 'Little Gem' their home.

Gateway to history

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.



Matatiele Museum, Matatiele



Mariazell Mission



The Matatiele Heroes Acre



Visit the Matatiele Museum, Marizell Mission and Matatiele Heroes Acre to step back in time to learn more about the pioneers of this region.

Marizell Mission

The Marizell Mission was built in 1904 and contains a self-sufficient hydro electrical system. A catholic mission, Marizell 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.

Marizell Mission
Contact the Matatiele Municipality for information on 039 737 3135

Gateway to natural beauty

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, unspoiled 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.



Pondo-Villager Hiking Trail



Breath-taking sunsets



The Lalashe area features stunning natural fauna and flora as well as beautiful cliffs towering over the mighty Umzimvubu River.

The Lalashe Horseshoe, Ntabankulu region

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.

Lalashe Horseshoe, Ntabankulu region

Gateway to coastal paradise

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.



Home to the Pondon nation



Amadiba Adventures

The Wild Coast, Mbizana region



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.

Wild Coast Sun Resort, Mbizana region
For more information, visit www.suninternational.com

Stay in Matatiele and Maluti

Rest Haven	Dinner, B&B	★★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 4067 or email: info@resthaven.co.za
Sara Lee	Dinner, B&B	★★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3432 or email: saralee@goggaconnect.co.za
Drifters	B&B	★★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3659 or email: wimconradie@vodamail.co.za
Cedarberg Guest Farm	Guest Farm	★★★	Before Matatiele	Call: 039 757 5535 or email: gerrie@futurenet.co.za
De Berg	Dinner, B&B	★★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3000 or email: deberg@telkomsa.net
Up Market Accommodation	Dinner, B&B	★★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 4074 or email: polliz@bergnet.co.za
Half Acre	Dinner, B&B	★★	Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3414 or email: halfacrebandb@webmail.co.za
Top House	Dinner, B&B	★★	Masakala Village	Call: 039 737 3852 or email: pmbrummer@gmail.com
Masakala Traditional Guest House	Guest House	★		Call: 039 737 3289 or email: masakala@telkomsa.net
Royal Court Yard	Hotel		Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3100 or email: royal@docbro.co.za
Addis Guest House	Dinner, B&B		Matatiele	Call: 039 737 3747
Ongeluksnek			Along Southern Berg	Call: 043 705 4400 or email: reservations@ecparks.co.za
Eden Dale			Along R56	Call: 039 737 3842 or email: harmonie@venturenet.co.za
Maluti Star Hotel	Hotel		Maluti	Call: 039 2560 133
Fulela B&B	B&B		Matatiele	Call: 082 684 3041
Mehlodong Chalets	Chalets		Along Southern Berg	Call: 039 737 3289 or email: mehlodong@telkomsa.net
Sempete Guesthouse	Guest House			Call: 072 123 6466
Laphola Guesthouse	Guest House			Call: 082 209 0645 / 039 737 4898
Casablanca Lodge	Lodge			Call: 083 344 9607
Ntabase	Dinner, B&B		Main Street Matatiele	Call: 039 737 4961 or email: nomaledimdingi@vodamail.co.za
Hlola le Rona Guesthouse	Guest House		Maluti	Call: 072 989 0249

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: 082 467 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



Mehloding Chalets, Matatiele region

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.

Enjoy your stay



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and Alfred Nzo Development Agency



Northern-Eastern Cape

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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

