



T H E
S O U T H A F R I C A
A N G L O - Z U L U W A R
T O U R

MARCH 9 - 20 2027

12 Days / 11 Nights

Start: Johannesburg, South Africa

End: Johannesburg, South Africa

JOHANNESBURG - DURBAN - ESHOWE - ULUNDI-
HLUHLUWE - VRYHEID - ISANDLWANA

You keep the history that comes with
this monumental journey alive.



The Battlefield Tours is Canada's first and official leading tour operator for Canadian battlefields and the country's longest-running, all-Canadian specialist in battlefield travel. For more than 30 years, we have proudly escorted Canadian veterans and their families, honouring their service, preserving their stories, and connecting generations to the places where history was made.

thebattlefieldtours.ca

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

info@thebattlefieldtours.com

South Africa Anglo-Zulu War Tour

Step back in time on this immersive journey through the heart of KwaZulu-Natal as we trace the dramatic events of the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879.

From the windswept bluffs of Fort Pearson to the haunting fields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, this expertly guided tour explores the key battlefields, heroic stories, and historical context of Britain's colonial campaign against the Zulu Kingdom.

Along the way, you'll walk in the footsteps of warriors and soldiers, visit the grave of King Cetshwayo, see royal kraals and military cemeteries, and reflect at solemn memorials—including the site of the Prince Imperial's death.

This 12-day experience includes a game drive in Hluhluwe Reserve and optional hikes at Hlobane and the Fugitives' Trail, offering a rare mix of history, culture, and natural beauty. Perfect for military history enthusiasts and culturally curious travelers alike, this is a powerful and unforgettable encounter with South Africa's past.

THIS TOUR SPANS:

South Africa:

Top Locations: Johannesburg, Durban, Eshowe, Ulundi, Hluhluwe, Vryheid, Isandlwana

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit to **Fort Pearson** and the site of the **Ultimatum Tree**.
- Guided exploration of **Gingindlovu** and **Nyezane** battlefields.
- Visit to **King Cetshwayo's Grave** and sites of the 1906 Zulu Rebellion.
- Tour of **Ulundi Battlefield** and **King Cetshwayo's Royal Homestead**.
- **Hluhluwe Game Reserve Safari** for Big Five wildlife spotting.
- Hike to **Hlobane Mountain** battlefield (weather/fitness permitting).
- Battlefield tour of **Ntombe Spruit**.
- Visits to **Khambula**, **Blood River**, and **Prince Imperial Memorial**.
- Two full days exploring the iconic **Battle of Isandlwana**.
- Walk along the **Fugitives' Trail** to the graves of Melvill and Coghill.
- Immersive day at **Rorke's Drift**, site of **11 Victoria Crosses**.
- Expert commentary and storytelling by a specialist battlefield guide



Itinerary

Day 1: Tuesday March 9th

Durban

After arriving in **Johannesburg**, we transfer to our internal flight to **Durban**. Today provides a gentle introduction to the Anglo-Zulu War, focusing on the coastal theatre of operations. We visit **Fort Pearson**, a key British stronghold overlooking the **Tugela River** crossing—an essential strategic point during the 1879 campaign. From this elevated position, you'll take in sweeping views of the surrounding countryside, which was also the backdrop for earlier Zulu conflicts.

Nearby stands the symbolic site of the '**Ultimatum Tree**', where British officials issued the demands that led to the outbreak of war. We conclude the day with an overnight stay at Prince's Grant on the scenic Indian Ocean coast, offering a chance to reflect on the arrival of the first British settlers to this region in 1824.

Overnight: Durban

Meals Included: Lunch & Dinner



Day 2: Wednesday March 10th

The Battlefields of Gingindlovu and Nyezane

Today we trace the movements of Colonel Pearson's Right Flank column during the early stages of the Anglo-Zulu War. Following the path of his advance toward the mission station at Eshowe, we'll explore the key battles of **Nyezane** and **Gingindlovu**, which shaped the course of his campaign.

At **Eshowe**, we'll visit the haunting remains of the mission station where Pearson's forces endured a three-month siege in 1879. Nearby lies a cemetery that tells its own quiet story of hardship and loss. After lunch in Eshowe, we tour the **Fort Nongqayi Museum Complex**, offering deeper insight into colonial life and the military history of the region. We check in this evening at our lodge in Eshowe, where we'll stay for two nights.

Overnight: Eshowe

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 3: Thursday March 11th

Cetshwayo

We journey deep into the remote areas of Zulu country to visit the grave of **King Cetshwayo**, who was deposed during the British invasion. Here, we also explore the story of the 1906 Rebellion, the last major Zulu uprising, much of which took place near his resting place.

Overnight: Eshowe

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 4: Friday March 12th

Ulundi: The Final Battle of the Zulu War

Leaving the Eshowe area, we journey to **Ulundi**, the historic heartland of the Zulu kingdom. Here, we explore the museum and the partially reconstructed royal homestead of King Cetshwayo at **oNdini**, followed by a visit to the Ulundi battlefield, where the war's final battle was fought. After a picnic lunch, we continue on to **Hluhluwe Game Reserve**, our base for the next two nights.

Overnight: Hluhluwe Game Reserve

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 5: Saturday March 13th

Hluhluwe Game Drive

Experience a thrilling yet leisurely day as we team up with **Hluhluwe Park** Game Rangers in open safari vehicles to track the legendary 'Big Five': lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and buffalo. With luck, we may also spot elusive cheetahs and wild dogs along the way.

Overnight: Hluhluwe Game Reserve

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: Sunday March 14th

Hlobane Mountain

If you're fit and the weather is favourable, we'll hike up the slopes of **Hlobane Mountain** (please note: this can be a challenging walk, and the trails are in poor condition) to learn about the British mounted foray that was repelled with heavy losses. We'll visit the graves of Captain Campbell and Civilian Interpreter Lloyd, two of Wood's aides who fell in the battle and rest high on the hillside. Afterwards, we'll check in to our lodge in **Vryheid** for a two-night stay.

Overnight: Vryheid

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 7: Monday March 15th

Ntombe Spruit

We travel to the lesser-known battlefield of **Ntombe**, where in March 1879, a convoy of the 80th Regiment was ambushed and overrun. Weather and river conditions permitting, we'll wade across the stream to explore both banks of this historic site.

Overnight: Vryheid

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 8: Tuesday March 16th

Khambula, Blood River & Prince Imperial

This morning, we explore the **Khambula** battlefield, the decisive turning point of the war. Here, the same Zulu regiments that had earlier triumphed at **Isandlwana**—and were emboldened by their success at Hlobane the previous day—attacked Colonel Wood's fortified camp. From there, we visit the **Voortrekker Blood River** battlefield, where the Boers defeated the Zulus in 1838 and where a striking monument stands in remembrance. We also stop at the solitary memorial marking the spot where Prince Louis Napoleon, the Prince Imperial of France and last legitimate Bonaparte heir, was killed in a skirmish. Finally, we check in to **Isandlwana Lodge** for a four-night stay.

Overnight: Isandlwana Lodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 9: Wednesday March 17th

Battle of Isandlwana

The first of two days exploring the dramatic **Isandlwana** campaign in detail. We will drive out to the **Ngwebeni Valley**, where the Zulu army bivouacked before the battle, and where they were discovered by a British patrol. We will then consider the battle from the commanding knoll where the Zulu generals directed their forces. From there we will go to the battlefield itself. We will explore the monuments and hear the story of the fighting from the British perspective - we will then walk out to the British firing lines, and down to the donga defended by Col. Durnford.

Overnight: Isandlwana Lodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 10: Thursday March 18th

Battle of Isandlwana

This morning, those who are fit and willing can walk as much of the '**Fugitives' Trail**' as possible, exploring the many British graves scattered behind Isandlwana along the road to **Rorke's Drift**. Alternatively, you may choose to spend the morning relaxing at the lodge. After lunch, we'll cross to the Natal side of the river to visit the graves of Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill, who lost their lives attempting to save the Queen's Colour of the 24th Regiment. We will then drive to the nearby hills where Lord Chelmsford spent the day of the battle away from the camp and learn the story of his return.

Overnight: Isandlwana Lodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 11: Friday March 19th

Rorke's Drift

Spend a full day at the renowned battlefield of **Rorke's Drift**, where there is much to discover. We start at the **Umzinyathi** (Buffalo) River crossing, the point where the British invasion on this front began, before visiting the mission station for Ian's compelling keynote talk on the battle's story. Remarkably, no fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded during this engagement, which inspired the famous 1964 film *Zulu*. There will be ample opportunity to explore both the myths and realities surrounding the battle. After lunch, enjoy time to visit the on-site museum and to wander the battlefield at your own pace.

Overnight: Isandlwana Lodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 12: Saturday March 20th

Johannesburg

On our final day, we travel by coach back to **Johannesburg**, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. Those with onward travel plans will be dropped off at Johannesburg Airport.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Tour Pricing

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Questions? We are here to help:

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

info@thebattlefieldtours.com

Toronto | Saskatoon

INCLUSIONS

- An expert **South African historian** and a professional Canadian **tour director** will accompany the group for the full duration of the tour.
- **Transportation throughout** the tour is provided by a premium, air-conditioned motor coach featuring spacious reclining seating, facilities, and a washroom.
- **Accommodations** in Superior Tourist Class Hotels throughout (4-5*) 11 Nights.
- **All Entrances** as per your Itinerary
- **Meal Inclusions**
 - 11 Breakfasts
 - 12 Lunches
 - 11 Dinners
- A specially curated tour **resource package** is included, Custom Itinerary (PDF Printable), featuring detailed daily battlefield maps, period photographs, original archival audio recordings, and additional historical materials.
- **All service fees**, surcharges, fees, and departure taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- **International Airfare** from Canada
- **Lunches & extra meals** and drinks not specified on the itinerary
- **Gratuities** Gratuities for the coach driver and guides are not included in the tour cost and should not be assumed. We believe gratuities are a personal gesture, offered at the traveler's discretion and based on the level of service and experience received, rather than a fixed or automatic charge built into the program, as is often the case with other tour operators.

Not Included / Available Upon Request

- **Airfare:** We are happy to arrange flights from any Canadian gateway, customized to your preferred dates, routing, and class of service. Travellers may choose to depart earlier, extend their stay at the end of the tour, or continue onward to additional destinations-air arrangements can be tailored to suit your individual travel plans.
- **Pre- and Post-Tour Accommodation:** Optional hotel nights before or after the tour are available upon request.
- **Travel Insurance:** Comprehensive travel insurance is not included; no-obligation quotes are available through Manulife upon request.
- **Extra Meals:** Meals not specifically listed in the itinerary.
- **Optional Activities:** Any optional excursions or activities not explicitly outlined in the itinerary.
- **Personal Expenses:** Items of a personal nature, including laundry, beverages, and souvenirs.

PLEASE NOTE

- **Physical Activity Level:** As with all our tours, the focus is on experiencing the battlefields firsthand. While we do include select museum visits, much of our time is spent outdoors, often walking on sandy beaches, grassy fields, and cobblestone streets. Please be prepared for a moderate amount of walking throughout the tour.
- If you use a wheelchair or have mobility concerns, we kindly ask that you review our Wheelchair Policy in advance.
- Hotels have been pre-booked; however, should a change be required, accommodations will be of the same star rating or higher.
- A minimum of 8 passengers is required for the tour to operate.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$500 CAD per person is required at the time of booking.

2027 Pricing

\$ 8,812 CAD

Land Only, per person, based on **Double Occupancy** (two people sharing a room Double or Twin bed configuration available)

\$ 10,105 CAD

Land Only, **Solo Traveller**, the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)

\$500 Deposit (non-refundable)

per person upon booking
Payable by Credit Card, Interac e-Transfer, Cheque

All prices are in Canadian Dollars

Balance due 60 days prior to the
tour:
January 7th 2027