

Durban, completely

A what-to-do-where guide with UrbanPLACES head Cara Reilly

On my radar right now are street artist Shaun Oakley (below, with model Anisha; facebook.com/DamnVandal/) – his installations do more than ‘pretty up spaces’; they create landmarks and talking points and give our city texture. And Jacqui Meyer’s Bukamina woman’s clothing brand. It makes a 40-something working mum feel a little closer to fashion than she really is. facebook.com/bukamina/

I know it’s a cliché, but nothing says ‘Durban’ better than a bunny chow and a beer on the Durban beachfront.

The best night out is spent bar hopping in uMhlanga Village (umhlangauiip.co.za) or on Florida Road (floridaroaduiip.co.za), or visiting The Chairman on Mahatma Gandhi Street (old Point Road) for the real mix of people in a space that always surprises. And the good food and music. thechairmanlive.com

The eNanda Rasta Caves are a hidden



treasure; you can tour them and Umzinyathi Falls with a Durban Green Corridor local tour guide. durbangreencorridor.co.za

My top Durban tip is the beachfront and sports precinct. It’s got everything – book a hair-raising walk up the 106m arch over Moses Mabhida Stadium (mmstadium.com) – The Bike and Bean (bikebeandurban.com) for coffee and bikes to rent on the north of the promenade, and down south go shark cave diving at uShaka Marine World (ushakamarineworld.co.za). Of course, no trip to Durban is complete without a cocktail at The Oyster Box. Order an Umhlanga Schling, a Durbanised version of the Singapore Sling. oysterboxhotel.com

An unexpected favourite is Station Drive’s local array of shops and manufacturers or dinner at Roma Revolving Restaurant – still turning after 30 years with the best view of Durban (never mind the good old dessert trolley). roma.co.za

After the rush, the vistas around Kloof and Hillcrest, to the Valley of a Thousand Hills give you some breathing space. And a walk in the uMhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve brings you back to nature. The entrance gates are beyond the Breakers Hotel on Lagoon Drive. ukuhlola.co.za/umhlanga-lagoon-nature-reserve



Cara’s Quick Quick

Tastiest curry?

De’Ma in Gateway for hands-down the most consistent spice excellence. dema.co.za

Weekend haunt?

The kid-free Dropkick Murphy’s for its proper pub grub, authenticity and non-stop vibe. There’s Guinness on tap too. dropkickmurphys.co.za

Artsy lunch?

Parc. cafe (parc-cafe.co.za) in Glenwood or Antique Cafe in Morningside – both affordable, tasty and unique, with vibey crowds. antiquecafe.co.za

Gallery hopping?

The Phansi Museum on Esther Roberts Road in Glenwood for its expansive collection of beadwork and historical dress. phansi.com

A culture shock?

First Thursdays in Station Drive – art and culture on the street remind us what it’s like to occupy public open space. facebook.com/firstthursdaysdbn

What colour is Durban?

Shweshwe – a little bit of something for everyone.



HOURS IN DURBAN

For the city vibe, you should:

1

Visit Markets of Warwick for the street shopping and multi sellers marketsofwarwick.co.za

2

Have a gin tasting at Distillery 031 distillery031.com

3

Walk along the uMhlanga Promenade with a takeaway coffee from Rox Coffee Company at the uMhlanga Rocks Surf Lifesavers’ Club. facebook.com/ROXlifesavingclub/

AFRICA’S TRAVEL INDABA TAKES PLACE AT THE DURBAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, 8-10 MAY; INDABA-SOUTHAFRICA.CO.ZA