



CARIBBEAN OF THE NORTH COAST

Ballito is a popular holiday destination not only for South Africans but tourists from all over the world. Situated 40km north of Durban, it is also fondly known as the Dolphin Coast due to regular sightings of bottlenose dolphins which frequently frolic in the waves all along its coastline.

By Liz Cox

BALLITO WAS FIRST PROCLAIMED A TOWNSHIP IN 1954 WITH POTENTIAL INVESTORS BEING INVITED TO PURCHASE LAND FROM JUST R790. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE BALLITO STARTED TO GROW AND BY 1964 BALLITOVILLE'S RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, CARAVAN PARK, AND HOTELS HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE TOWN PLAN.

Over the years its grown from a sleepy holiday town to a thriving community of permanent residents who now call it home. The small town village atmosphere hasn't dissappeared though, and Ballito still offers a welcome haven from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Where else...

Where else can you pick mussels straight off the rocks at low tide or catch crayfish in the morning and enjoy a beautiful fish braai in the afternoon... Licences are available from the Natal Sharks Board.

Where else can you spend hours exploring 100's of kilometres of MTB trails which meander through rolling sugar cane fields and offer breathtaking scenery.. all this just ten minutes out of town.

Where else can you have endless hours of fun exploring secluded rocky coves, fishing in shallow rock pools, relax on long stretches of white sandy beaches or swim in both natural and man made tidal pools.

Where else can you enjoy all types mouthwatering cuisine from fresh seafood to spicy Indian curries, picnics on the beach or picnics in litchi orchards, fine dining or holiday take-aways. The choices are endless.

Boredom – no such word

Favorite activities attracting visitors include micro-light

trips along the coastline which not only provide you with the opportunity to spot dolphins, rays and turtles from the air but an opportunity to see Ballito from a unique perspective.

Country style cafés provide the perfect environment for the kids to explore farmyards and spend hours playing in the park-like surrounds under the watchful eye of staff. Moms and dads have the opportunity to relax over a cup of tea and enjoy a delicious piece of cake or shop for unique hand-made, one-of-a-kind, locally produced clothing, gifts, accessories or décor.

A trampoline park, kiddies cycling tracks, kiddies play zones, a winery, country markets, a brewery, farm yards, crocodile farms and a reptile park all ensure that a stay in this north coast town will be anything but boring.

Camping or Comfort

What's your idea of the perfect holiday accommodation? Does it involve setting up camp on a caravan and camping site, under a shady tree with nothing between you and the Indian ocean except a vast expanse of sandy beach or would you prefer to check in to a luxuriously appointed holiday flat, bed and breakfast or hotel? Whatever your choice, Ballito has a variety of different accommodation options with prices that cater for everyone.





Sugar Bay Camp for kids

Sugar Bay Camp is situated approximately half an hour north of Ballito in the small, seaside village of Zinkwazi. Sugar Bay is the only camp of its kind in South Africa and after visiting it recently, I came away wishing I were a kid again.

Kids from all across the country return time and time again to enjoy a week or more in this idyllic environment. They have the time of their lives taking part in age-appropriate activities under the watchful eye of experienced camp counsellors and within a safe and structured environment.

The camp caters for children from the age of 7 to 18 and accommodates up to 200 children in wooden cabins. Each cabin sleeps a maximum of 12 kids with counsellors assigned to each of the cabins. The ratio of children to counsellors is on average 3:1 and strict rules are enforced with regards your children's safety at all time.

The 17 - 18 year olds are encouraged to take part in the C.I.T (Counsellors in Training) course which teaches them leaderships skills, raises awareness around social issues such a bullying and behavioural problems and teaches them how to deal with it in a loving and caring manner. Under the supervision of professionally trained staff, they can become certified counsellors after completing the two week course.

All children are encouraged to plan their own daily schedules with regards to which activities they would like to participate in. There are over 100 activities to choose from ensuring there will be something of interest no matter what type of personality your child has.

Sugar Bay Camp was born out of Camp director, Zoe Ellender's passion for children, the outdoors, sport and holidays. Her ultimate wish for the kids who come and spend

time with them at Sugar Bay is that they leave camp feeling more self confident, are more emotionally mature, more independent and richer in spirit for having made new friends, experienced new things and with memories that last a lifetime.

So instead of wondering what to do with the kids in the next school holiday give Zoe and her team at Sugar Bay a call. **W**

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Kids deserve a great holiday too. This is the idea behind Sugar Bay - to create the best and safest holiday destination for children. As the first American-style summer camp in South Africa, Sugar Bay is open every school holiday to kids between 7-17 years old. Airport transfers from King Shaka International Airport allow children from all over the world to enjoy a tropical beach holiday without their parents. This children's paradise is situated in Zinkwazi Beach, just 30km north of Ballito. The secure resort boasts facilities like a soccer field, 25-metre pool with three waterslides, paintball arena, indoor sports hall, theatre, obstacle course and a waterfront with access to the lagoon and beach. Kids are free to choose from over 100 activities, some favourites including; paintball, surfing, bungee trampoline, skateboarding, kayaking, rock wall climbing, BMX, zip lining and dance lessons. Nestled among trees and surrounded by sugar cane fields, the children sleep in spacious wooden cabins with en-suite bathrooms which are allocated according to age and gender. The cost of a typical 7-day camp includes accommodation, activities, three meals per day and 24-hour supervision.

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