

## EXPLORE DURBAN

### Durban's claims to fame

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#### **Rickshas (Rickshaw)**

This used to be a very unique mode of transport in the city that was introduced Sir Marshall Campbell (the sugar magnate) in the 1893.

- He brought a few of these open two-wheeled carriage from Japan and converted them.
- The Zulu were instructed as to how to pull them, and also encouraged to decorate it and dress up.
- Within time, they became a major tourist attraction in the town with their extravagant outfits and the flamboyant way in which the tasks were conducted.
- The best dressed ricksha and puller was chosen at annual competitions.
- Before the war, there were approximately 1000 of these carriages in the streets of Durban, where after the pullers sought employment elsewhere.
- Rickshas production eventually ceased and by the mid 1970s there were only a few left.
- Only a few can be found on the beachfront during the holiday season.

*(Tourists have to pay for taking pictures of them.)*

- **The Golden Mile**
- **uShaka-Marine World**
- The city has more people of Indian origin than any other city in the country.

#### **Winner of various awards**

- The Vuna Awards for being the best performing Metro in the country.
- Govan Mbeki Housing Award for housing delivery.
- Diamond Arrow Award for being KZN's most outstanding city
- Award for excellence in Engineering for the Quality Street Bridge Project.
- Overall winners of the 2006 Kwanaloga games.
- International awards for the ICC and uShaka Marine World.

## TOUR OF DURBAN

The Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in Aliwal Street</li> <li>• The old Victoria railway workshop was converted into a shopping mall.</li> </ul>
Tourist Junction Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corner Commercial and Pine Street</li> <li>• Hosted in the Old Station Building</li> <li>• <b>A statue</b> of Mahatma Gandhi greets the visitor at the entrance.</li> </ul> <p><b>A most interesting roof</b> The roof of the railway station can carry a weight of 5m (16ft) of snow. It was accidentally switched with the one that was intended for the Toronto station. The London firm of architects was responsible for the catastrophe when Toronto station's roof caved in with the first heavy snowfall.</p>

Walk across the Flea Market.

St.Paul's Anglican Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of Durban's Catholic churches are located away from the city centre, probably due to underlying prejudice against the Catholics in the past.</li> <li>• The church has lovely stained-glass windows and Durban's history is recorded on memorial tablets.</li> <li>• <b>Large, old fig trees</b> are also located at the original site of the Church.</li> </ul>
The Post Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durban's first town hall and built in 1885.</li> <li>• It was on these steps that Winston Churchill, a war correspondent at the time, made his speech after his escape from the Staats Model School in Pretoria (23 December 1899). A pylon and plaque marks the spot.</li> </ul>

### Francis Farewell Square / Luthuli Square

- It was initially known as Market Square, but changed to Francis Farewell square with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Durban's first settlers.
- Today, it is known as **Luthuli Square** in honour of South Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- The indigenous trees make it a perfect spot for the a lunch break for the break for the office workers.
- The first courthouse (now the Local History Museum), the City Hall, West Street Post Office and the Royal Hotel were all built around Market Square.

The City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated on the eastern side of the square.</li> <li>• It resembles the city hall of Belfast in Northern Ireland and was opened in 1910.</li> <li>• The central dome is <b>48m (156ft) high</b>.</li> <li>• It can seat 1700 people.</li> <li>• It comprises of four separate buildings and houses the Council's Chambers and Town's Clerk's offices, the Durban Art Gallery (upstairs), the Natural History Museum (ground floor) and the General Library.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Durban Art Gallery</b> was the first in the country to start collecting black South African Art work in the 1970s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The façade is Edwardian, neo-baroque, completed by sculptures depicting the arts, music, literature, commerce and industry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stories about these sculptures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allegedly, one of the contractors, Jack Hollis, used his small sons as models for the cherubs. George Hollis, one of the sons, later became the mayor of the city in 1976, most probably the only mayor in history to 'display his nudity'.</li> <li>• The first black man to be depicted on a public building in South Africa, can be seen crouching with a shield (in the right hand corner of the frieze at the Church Street entrance).</li> <li>• It is also said that an Indian woman also appears in the same frieze (but she seems to be 'hidden'). The building of the City hall coincided with the debate whether indentured Indians should remain in Natal or be shipped back home.</li> </ul>
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When entering from the corner of West and Church Street

Statue of a youthful Queen Victoria	Erected in 1887 to celebrate the Queens golden jubilee. The inscription reads "Victoria began to reign 20 <sup>th</sup> of June 1837 – VIVAT REGINA" An iron-cast fountain known as the "Victoria jubilee fountain" also stood in the gardens, but was removed to the beachfront in 1907 where it rusted away. Today, only a plaque remains.
Sir John Robinson	The first prime minister of Natal (1893-97), erected by his fellow colonists
The Volunteer Monument	An angel surmounted on a pedestal with two bronze lions beneath two bronze lions It commemorates the men from Durban who lost their lives in the Anglo-Boer War and the panels depict scenes from the battles fought for the relief of Ladysmith. Sculptured by Sir W Hamo Thornycrot.

Harry Escombe	Prime minister of Natal (1897).
General Jan Smuts	In field marshal's uniform . Plaques around the statue depict important events in his life such as him addressing the British Parliament and King George VI bestowing the "order of merit".
General Louis Botha	By sculptor Anton van Wouw

### Entrance to Luthuli Square from Church Street

Bronze lions	Two bronze lions, one with the date of the first World War, the other that of the Second World War.
The Cenotaph	At 11m high, the cenotaph is the highest in the country. A soldier is lying at the foot of the cenotaph with an inscription reading " <i>Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone. But if it die it bringeth forth much fruit</i> ". The cenotaph depicts a soldier's spirit departing from his body supported by two angels. The sculpture was Phoebe Stabler.

Natal Playhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in Smith street, opposite the City Hall. It was renovated in 1986 and presents a variety of productions every year.</li> </ul>
The Local History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted in the Old Court House <b>behind the city hall</b>.</li> <li>• Exhibits include models of wattle-and-daub cottage built by the early settlers, Mgungundlovu (Dingane's capital), Farewell's camp, early stores and costumes.</li> </ul> <p><b>The KwaMuhle Museum</b> is an annex of the Local History Museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located on <b>Ordnance Road</b>, it is an annex to the Local History Museum.</li> <li>• It presents South African history from the African perspective.</li> </ul>
The Old Fort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1842, it was the scene of the battle of Congella between Boer and Briton.</li> <li>• Later it was occupied by detachments of the British Army until 1897.</li> <li>• After 1908, it was occupied by the Durban Light Infantry.</li> <li>• In 1935, taken over by the Historical Monuments Commission (the National Heritage Resources Agency) who passed it to the Durban City Council in 1939.</li> <li>• Apart from the building, the main features are:</li> </ul>

- A garden with a cycad collection
- A small interdenominational chapel in what was previously the ammunition magazine
- A small military museum in the ornamental Warrior's Gate, modeled on a Norman gatehouse and built by the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) after the First World War.

#### Jumma Musjid Mosque

- Corner of Grey and Queen Streets
- It is reputedly the largest mosque in the Southern hemisphere.
- Guided tours are possible.

#### Emmanuel Cathedral

- Located opposite the Victoria Market.
- Used to be the heart of the Catholic community

Victoria Street Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1973, it was built after the old Indian market burned down.</li> <li>• It offers a wonderful shopping experience to the foreign tourist, from curios, local delicacies to traditional medicine (muti).</li> </ul>
The Botanical Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the foot of Berea Hill, next to the Greyville race course.</li> <li>• 20 ha</li> <li>• In 1848, it was laid out on land first occupied by the ivory hunter John Cane.</li> <li>• The gardens contain a great variety of trees and shrubs from all over the world, as well as a rare collection of cycads and an orchid house with thousands of specimens.</li> <li>• It also boasts the oldest Jacaranda tree in South Africa, as well as the place where as the place where the first experimental tea (1850) was grown in South Africa.</li> </ul>

Traveling from the Bluff, along the Durban Sea front.

Lieutenant James King's House and Grave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together with Lieutenant Francis Farewell he led the first of the expeditions into Natal Bay in 1823.</li> <li>• He built his home on the Bluff, where he lived until his death in 1828, at the age of just 33.</li> <li>• A plaque marks his grave near his house.</li> </ul>
The Golden Mile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The city's seafront is known as the 'Golden Mile'.</li> <li>• It is actually about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) and offers the full range of holiday enjoyment: sun; sea; long stretches of white sand, promenades; gardens; playgrounds; shops; restaurants; nights life: entertainment centers and hotels.</li> </ul>

Miniature Railway/Durban City of Model Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibitions are held on the second Sunday of each month.</li> </ul>
Fitzimmons Snake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted snakes, crocodiles, lizards and tortoises.</li> <li>However, the park had to move elsewhere in May 2008, as the City Council had *another development in mind (*still unknown).</li> </ul>
Addington Hospital Museum	Display of nineteenth-century medical equipment.

### Traveling from the Point

The Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The northern buttress of the harbour, was originally named Point Fynn, after Henry Francis Fynn. He was one of the very first hunter-traders who settled in the bay.</li> <li>Fynn's name was later omitted.</li> </ul>
Bamboo Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the earthworks for the construction of uShaka Theme Park and the Point Development, the ruins of Bamboo square were uncovered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This used to be the site of a shanty town at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that was burned down.</li> <li>The outbreak of Bubonic plaque forced the authorities to burn it down.</li> <li>The plague brought to Durban by a passing ship and resulted in 124 deaths.</li> <li>Thereafter, the inhabitants were forcefully removed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The ruins will now be incorporated within the design of the new developments and the public will be able to view it.</li> </ul>
uShaka Marine World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at the southern end of the Golden Mile.</li> <li>It was formerly known as Sea World. and was moved</li> <li>It is marketed as 'Africa's largest marine park'.</li> <li>It comprises of an <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquarium, where many Indian Ocean species (including sharks) swim about in huge tanks;</li> <li>A dolphinarium with a 1200-seat stadium</li> <li>A recreated shipwreck</li> <li>Pools</li> <li>Water slides</li> <li>Beach World's smooth, white sands</li> <li>Shops and restaurants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Traveling west along the Victoria Embankment

Vasco da Gama Clock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donated by the Portuguese community to commemorate Vasco Da Gama passing the Natal Bay in 1497.</li> <li>• Built in late-Victorian style.</li> </ul>
An equestrian statue of Dick King	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located along the Victoria Embankment.</li> <li>• Designed by Wallace Paton.</li> <li>• Sculpted by H.H. Grellier.</li> <li>• Unveiled on 14 August 1915.</li> <li>• It was financed by public subscription on Ethel Campbell's request.</li> <li>• Campbell interviewed <b>Ndongeni</b> in 1911 and wrote a book about the ride.</li> </ul>

### Turn left towards the harbour

Vasco da Gama statue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Portuguese navigator who named Natal on Christmas Day 1497, stands on the Victoria Embankment.</li> <li>• <i>Pictures are not allowed without permission.</i></li> </ul>
The Port Natal Maritime Museum	Includes three floating exhibits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tugboats, Ulundi and JR More</li> <li>• The naval minesweeper SAS Durban</li> </ul>
The Bat Centre	BARTEL ARTS TRUST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art and music are offered.</li> <li>• A restaurant and pub overlook the harbour.</li> </ul>

### Other important sites in Durban

Voortrekker and Boer Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Voortrekker camp during the siege of Port Natal in 1842:</b> A 2-m cairn of dressed stone and masonry marks the spot.</li> <li>• A 5-m obelisk at <b>Congella station</b> commemorates the Voortrekkers who fell during the siege</li> <li>• A memorial in honour of the women and children who died in the British concentration camp at <b>Jacobs</b> during the Anglo-Boer War.</li> </ul>
Prior and Wyatt roads plaques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British soldiers who died during the siege of 1842 are commemorated here.</li> </ul>
The old wagon track	Made and used by the Voortrekkers on their journeys between Port Natal and Pietermaritzburg and beyond can still be clearly seen in places south of the uMlazi River.

The Old House Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a restored house built by John Goodricke, a former mayor of Durban, in 1849</li> <li>• It typifies the homes of the early Durban settlers.</li> <li>• The dining room, bedroom and kitchen are furnished with authentic period pieces.</li> <li>• One of the prize exhibits is a French timepiece with a great many dials that indicate, apart from the date and time, the phases of the moon, air pressure and more.</li> </ul>
The Campbell Library and Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in <b>Muckleneuk (Berea)</b></li> <li>• Hosted in the Cape-Dutch style family home of the sugar magnate, Sir Marshall Campbell, who introduced rickshas to Durban.</li> <li>• Miss Killie, the eldest daughter of Sir Marshall, not only put together one of the best collections of Africana, but was also a gardener of note.</li> <li>• Her gardener, William Poulton, was trained at Kew Gardens in London and bred several new varieties of bougainvillea Library and Museum.</li> <li>• Other collections include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Furniture</li> <li>– the Mashu Museum (traditional African cultural artifacts).</li> <li>– Zulu arts and crafts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
St Thomas's church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erected on the site of the first mission that was founded on 20 March 1835 by Captain Allen Gardiner (he was instrumental in the establishment and naming of Durban).</li> <li>• He called Berea after a place mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles.</li> <li>• At the time, Berea was a dense forest where elephants roamed and hunted for their ivory.</li> </ul>

Berghteil Museum	Dedicated to the German settlers who came to the area in 1848.
Natal Railway Museum	Steam train memories.

### Other attractions and activities

<b>Sugar Mills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informative and entertaining Guided tours to the Durban sugar mills are available</li> </ul>
<b>Time Warp Museum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honouring the surfer tradition of Durban.</li> <li>• It houses a collection of surfboards dating from the 1930s to the present day, as well as other surfing memorabilia.</li> </ul>



<b>Tekweni Business Development Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in Alice Road.</li> <li>• Sells rural arts and crafts and supports underprivileged communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Durban Cultural and Documentation Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portrays the history of the city's Indian population i.e. the indentured labourers; their interaction with other culture groups and Mahatma Gandhi..</li> <li>• It also houses a beautiful collection of traditional jewellery, costumes and religious artifacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Township Tours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To areas such as Clermont and Lamontville available.</li> <li>• Many of the leaders of the Freedom Struggle were born and lived within the eThekweni metropolis and these areas were often the site of conflict.</li> </ul>

### Other markets in Durban

(\*Note that the operating times might have changed or that some of the markets have closed or new one emerged).

<b>Traditional Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in Dalton Road.</li> <li>• Supplies most of the traditional costumes, weapons and crafts in Durban.</li> <li>• A guide who speaks both Zulu and English is essential, as most of the traders are from rural backgrounds and speak very little English.</li> </ul>
<b>Muti Market ("Medicine")</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in the Warwick Street Triangle.</li> <li>• Is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.</li> <li>• It gives a glimpse of traditional African medicines and healing methods.</li> <li>• The traditional healers will tell your fortune by 'throwing the bones'.</li> </ul>
<b>The Indian traders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located on Victoria Street</li> <li>• This is a colourful, buzzing market with pleasant scents hanging in the air.</li> <li>• Bargaining is part of the fun.</li> </ul>
<b>Victoria Street Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has a distinctly Indian flavour.</li> <li>• African arts and crafts, clothing and traditional foods are available.</li> <li>• Open from Monday to Saturday from 06h00 to 18:00 and on Sunday from 10:00 to 16:00.</li> </ul>
<b>Bazaar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in Gillespie Street</li> <li>• Offers a wide range of products, as well as pubs and restaurants.</li> </ul>
<b>Essen wood Craft Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated on the corner of Essen wood and Sideman Roads (Berea)</li> <li>• Products, such as homemade candles, clothing, stained glass items and alfresco art, are available.</li> </ul>
<b>Fare park Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated between West and Pine Streets.</li> <li>• A wide range of collectables and crafts are offered.</li> </ul>

<b>Moonlight Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated on Jack Jackson Drive.</li> <li>• It is housed in converted horse stables.</li> <li>• Pottery, art, clothing, books and antiques are for sale.</li> <li>• Open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 18:00 to 22:00 and on Sundays from 12:00 to 18:00.</li> </ul>
<b>Church Square Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in the town centre.</li> <li>• Open daily from 08:00 to 16:00.</li> </ul>
<b>The Amphimarket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated at North Beach.</li> <li>• Open on Sundays from 09:00 to 16:00.</li> </ul>
<b>The Bluff Flea market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open for business on the first and last Saturdays of the month.</li> </ul>
The follow are open on the first and last Saturdays of the month	
<b>The Ridley Park Flea market</b>	Situated in Malvern.
<b>Southway Flea market</b>	Situated at the Southway Mall in Rossburgh.
<b>The Pineville Junction Craft Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated on the corner of Stapleton and Old Main Roads (Pinetown).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>The Christian's Craft market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in Hillcrest Village Green (Hillcrest).</li> </ul>
<b>The Westville Craft Market</b>	Hosted on the premises of the Westville Civic Centre.
<b>Point Waterfront Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in Point Road (The Point).</li> <li>• Bargain shopping; pubs, restaurants and entertainment for children.</li> <li>• Open daily from 08h30 to 16h00.</li> </ul>
<b>South Plaza Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated in Aliwal Street, next to the Durban Exhibition Centre.</li> <li>• Approximately 250 indoor and outdoor stalls for crafts and bargains.</li> <li>• Open on Sundays from 09:00 to 16:00.</li> </ul>
<b>Watamu Craft Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situated at 37 Alamein Avenue (Kloof).</li> <li>• Good quality local art and craftwork on sale.</li> <li>• Open every Friday from 09:00 to 13:00 and on Saturday from 09:00 to 12:00.</li> </ul>

## Entertainment

- **Fun World**
  - Situated on the Marine Parade.
  - Offering fun for children and adults alike.
  - A cable car and carousel provides good views of the beachfront..
- **Waterworld**
  - Situated between Battery Beach and Snell Parade.
  - Offers swimming pools, waterslides and rides.
- **The Wheel**
  - The name of this shopping and entertainment centre is derived from the colossal Ferris wheel ringed by ornamental Indian howdah gondolas mounted on the building's façade.
  - This Oriental theme is continued throughout the interior, although for the most part, there is a nautical tone.

## Religion and festivals

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### Hindu Festivities

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- Most of the local Indian community is of the Hindu faith.
- **Sri Vaithianatha Easvarar Alayam** is the oldest and largest Hindu temple in the country is. It is situated in Umgeni Road.
- Another important shrine is the **Hare Krishna Temple of Understanding** in Chatsworth.
- **Deepavali** is the most important ceremony, heralding the new year of the Hindu calendar.
- **The festival of Kavady** is held in February and July.
  - Rituals involve the piercing of ears and body with needles, fish-hooks and daggers to show remorse for bad deeds and since.
  - They decorate themselves with garlands of marigolds.
  - They then proceed, pulling highly decorated chariots through the streets of the city, to the uMgeni River where the carts are thrown into the water as a sacrifice to the gods.
- Fire-walking rituals take place at the Umbilo temple at Easter.

### Muslim Festivals

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- **Juma Mosque in Grey Street** is reputedly the largest in the southern hemisphere.
- **Eid** is the most important Muslim festival is and it follows the month-long fast of **Ramadan**.
- On the tenth day of the first month of the Muslim calendar a procession of floats is arranged to remind all Muslims of the martyrdom of Mohammed.

### Other Events

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- Kingsmead Stadium in Durban often hosts international cricket events.
- Horse races weekly at the **Greyville** and **Clairwood** racecourses.
- **The “Durban Handicap July”** is the country’s premier horse-racing event and annually held in the beginning of July. **Greyville** then becomes the showcase for the extravagant fashions worn by the spectators.
- **Comrades Marathon**
- **Gunston 500**, also known as the Mr.Price Pro Surfing contest, also takes place in July.



## **Resources and further reading**

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*Ethekwini Municipality Medium Term Budget 2007/2008 to 2009/2010.*  
([www.info.gov.za/speeches](http://www.info.gov.za/speeches))

*Budget policy speech delivered by KwaZulu-Natal Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Michael Mabuyakhulu, MPP, 22 July 2004.*  
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## **Maps**

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<http://www.catholicshop.co.za> - Mariannahill

<http://www.dlg.gpg.gov.za> (Vuna Awards)

[www.ethekwini.gov.za](http://www.ethekwini.gov.za)

[www.indexmundi.com](http://www.indexmundi.com) (altitude)

<http://www.sarpn.org.za> (**KWANYUSWA: THE RURAL TIDE MEETS THE URBAN SHORE**)

[www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)

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## **Visits and photos**

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Compiled and researched by Maria Louise Kruger (2008)

