

# hot PROPERTY

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'Little house'

The name, in Zulu, means 'something like a little house'. The reality: anything but little. Isandlwana Lodge, carved into a rugged escarpment and opening onto the Isandlwana plain, is stuff to be blown away by. Vast stretches, immense courage, momentous losses, staggering history, and still, resounding beauty.

Base camp to those interested in learning about the Anglo-Zulu War, Isandlwana Lodge offers luxury accommodation overlooking the dramatic battlefields where 1 774 British troops faced close on 25 000 Zulus. It takes the lodge's resident historian, Rob Gerrard, just two sentences to have guests enthralled. And much, much more is in store. The Battle of Isandlwana and the Battle of Rorke's Drift nearby took place on 22 January 1879 and remain among the most talked-about battles of the Anglo-Zulu War, due to the tremendous losses and incredible bravery shown on both sides. Daily talks begin on the lodge's balcony, where listeners have a panoramic view of the landscape where the battles took place, and continue with an expedition to sites where the dramatic stories continue.

With 18 Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer battles to discuss (booking required) Rob isn't short of tales to weave. No dull history lesson this – his story-telling is compelling.

Back at the Lodge, which is carved into the iNyoni rock formation (on top of which the Zulu commander stood during battle) and furnished in a striking combination of the modern and the traditional, indigenous woods and rural touches, things aren't just about breathtaking dawns, setting suns and extraordinary beauty.

The lodge is also known for its gourmet kitchen, presided over for the last 12 years by a local chef, and Dalton's bar, where many a story has been shared. With a well-stocked library and historical gallery area, interest in the topic of the day continues long after Rob's talks have ended.

On a corporate level, conference facilities are also available, with special team building and business strategy talks delivered by Rob, who translates the positive and negative tactics and moves used by both sides during the battles into business lessons.

Talks aside, there is still much on the go at Isandlwana. Renowned for its environmentally sensitive architecture and commitment to the environment, and listed as a Biodiversity Friendly Establishment (300 species in the area) excursions and activities such as birding, cultural tours (local homesteads and a sangoma included), scenic walks (the highlight perhaps being the three- to four-hour Fugitive's Trail), horse riding and photographic trips (on request) are simultaneously inspirational and humbling. ☺

on a vast plain



## Contact

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