



# MATATIELE

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AWAIT

ALFRED NZO DISTRICT • NORTHERN-EASTERN CAPE







# Majestic Matatiele



*Matatiele is rugged, rural and wild where you want it to be and cosy, pampering and relaxing where you need it to be – a perfect destination for those who enjoy the adventurous side of life without forsaking home comforts.*



As the gateway to unforgettable adventure, Matatiele's reputation as the perfect home base for unparalleled outdoor exploration and action is well earned. Whether on foot, horseback, mountain bike, four-wheeler, motorcycle or 4x4, the numerous adventure trails pass through parts of the country and scenery that few are lucky enough to see. With a backdrop of the Southern Drakensberg, Matatiele is the perfect adventure playground. What are you waiting for – come experience outdoor adventure country at its best.



Find us on the map

*Matatiele is situated in the beautiful Northern-Eastern Cape.*



Lesotho





# Route 56 Matatiele

*Route 56 is the shortest and most scenic route between the Cape and KwaZulu-Natal*



## Route 56

Matatiele sits conveniently centrally on the R56 Route between Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal and Middelburg in the Eastern Cape. Knowledgeable travellers will know that this stretch of road is a viable and scenic alternative to the busy N2 between Durban and the Eastern Cape. There is much to be discovered in this neck of the woods, where travellers can take in spectacular mountainous foothills, rural villages, sparkling streams, indigenous forests and top-of-the-world views.

The Matatiele area is just a few hours' drive from Durban or Mthatha, making it a superb weekend destination.





*The area surrounding Matatiele offers unmatched views from on top of the world. There are guided walking or horse riding tours to local rock art treasures, bird-watching escapes or one could enjoy the clean, crisp air on a stroll through the mountains.*



## Mehloding Hiking Trail

The Mehloding Adventure Trail, located in the relatively unexplored southern Drakensberg, takes you on a path of a rich, diverse, cultural heritage. It is here where southern Lesotho, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal collide, and the area is rich in heritage and breathtaking landscapes. The route traverses spectacular mountainous foothills and rural villages, taking in visits to ancient rock-art sites, sparkling streams, indigenous trees, medicinal plants, craft projects and top-of-the-world views – all through some of the cleanest air on the planet.



Visitors have two options to choose from – they can either explore the Mehloding Adventure Trail on the own, or take part in a four-day tour. The latter is highly recommended and the most popular option as the local guides are not only familiar with just about every nook and cranny in the area, but also provide a wealth of interesting information. Along the way, traditional chalets – built by local communities – are available for overnight stays, and each has its own atmosphere and charm. Expect hot showers, stunning views and a friendly host to provide delicious traditional home-cooked meals as you put your feet up and rest in preparation for the following day's hike. Self ca-

tering chalets are also available.

Along the way, hikers can indulge in a spot of moderate rock climbing, swimming in the cool streams and wildlife spotting along the footpaths.

The Mehloding Adventure Trail brings visitors closer to nature and teaches about the fascinating rural villages, indigenous trees, medicinal plants, rock art, ferns, forests, wildlife and local history. Guests are also able to explore the mountainous foothills of the Maluti Drakensberg on a fully supported, guided mountain bike and house back trail.

Contact Mehloding Adventure Trail on 0397373289 or visit [www.mehloding.co.za](http://www.mehloding.co.za)



## Birding

The name Matatiele originates from the Sotho words 'matata', meaning wild ducks, and 'ile', meaning gone. Birders, however, need not fear, as there are still some 40 to 60 bird species in the area, many of which can be found on the slopes or rocky outcrops of the nearby mountains.





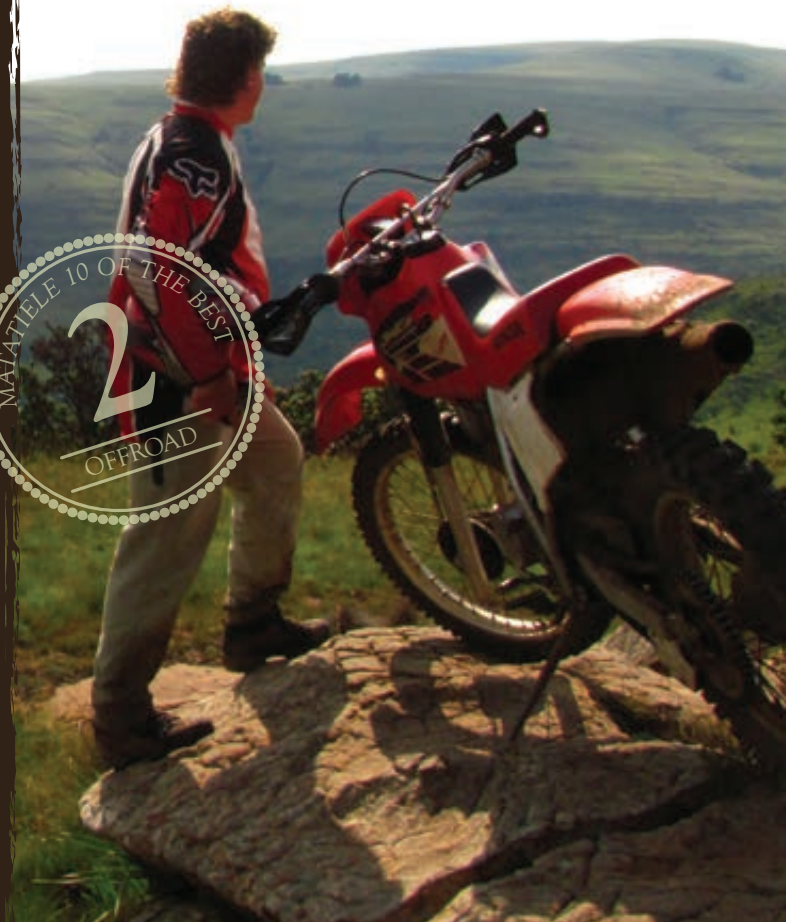
*Matatiele is home to some of the very best adventure biking terrain in the world and it is not uncommon to see whole families enjoying some time riding their bikes out in the open.*



## Off-road motorbiking

Matatiele is developing a healthy reputation as the heart of the country's off-road motorcycling. Route 56 Matatiele Bike Adventures offers guided bike tours to Ongeluk's Nek, Rhodes, the Transkei Wild Coast and Lesotho. The rides cover all terrain and can be customised to suit the client's needs and experience. To find out more about this exciting activity, call them on 039 737 4486.

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## Mountain biking

Mountain biking is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country and it is hard to imagine a more suitable area to take your bicycle off road than here at Matatiele. Whether on pre-determined mountain-biking trails or out for a casual ride, the area is home to an infinite number of rides for all levels of skill.



## 4x4

Matatiele is conveniently situated at the southern border of Lesotho, making it the perfect base from which to explore this mountain kingdom and the Southern Drakensburg. Considered by locals to the 'last outpost', Matatiele offers three border posts into Lesotho, of which two are 4x4 passes. Other interesting 4x4 routes include the Ongeluk's Nek Nature Reserve and 4x4 Pass, Mariazell Mission and the Three-Sisters 4x4 Route.







*If you enjoy the peace and quiet of fly-fishing, you've come to the right place.*



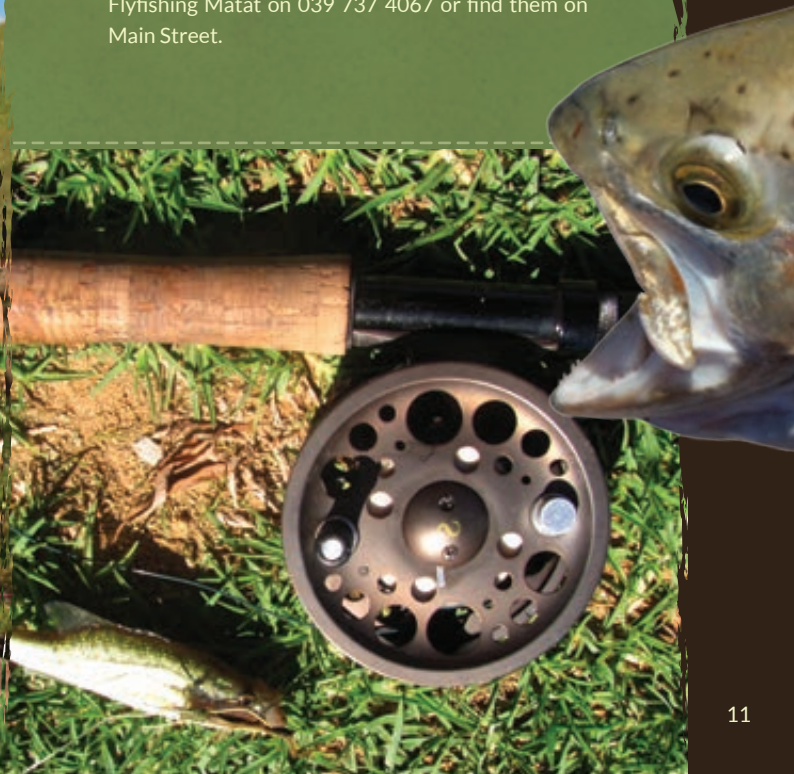
### Fly-fishing

If you enjoy the peace and quiet of fly-fishing, you've come to the right place. Matatiele is a popular trout fishing hotspot and offers a number of pristine destinations that are perfect for lovers of this cunning sport.

We are spoiled for choice when it comes to fishing in the area. With Matatiele being a water-rich area, one can enjoy fishing for rainbow and brown trout, bass and carp. There is a wide selection of fishing options available, with locations ranging from stocked farm dams and a lake to cold mountain streams and raging rivers.



Matatiele Mountain Lake is well stocked with rainbow trout and the odd brown trout, with plenty of trophy-sized fish lurking under the surface. The fishing is excellent and the beautiful peaceful surrounds compliment the healthy trout. There are also a number of private farm dams in our area that sustain healthy populations of large-mouth bass and carp. To find out more about fishing in the area, contact Flyfishing Matat on 039 737 4067 or find them on Main Street.







*Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve is located on the Drakensberg Mountains, which have globally significant plant and animal biodiversity, with unique habitats and high levels of endemism.*



## Ongeluks Nek Nature Reserve

Ongeluksnek offers fantastic hiking for all fitness levels. There are several marked trails from 1km to 12km, as well as longer mapped but unmarked trails for the more adventurous - ideal for horses or mountain bikes.



The Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve, situated an hour's drive from Matatiele, along the Southern Drakensberg in the Eastern Cape, opened in 2008 and forms part of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park, straddling South Africa and Lesotho's borders. To find out more about the reserve, call the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency on 043 701 9600.







*From Mountain Lake in Matatiele, nesting site of the rare Rudd's Lark, to Franklin Vlei, home of the White-winged Flufftail, this region offers the professional and amateur ornithologist a wide variety of species to identify.*



## Birding

Take a leisurely farm walk while identifying over 80 recorded bird species. Or stand motionless beside a wetland and view one of the largest remaining Wat-tled Crane populations in South Africa.



## Mountain Lake Nature Reserve

Located 12 km from town, on a plateau of rolling grasslands and wetlands. The reserve offers magnificent views of the Drakens-berg. The lake covers 30 ha when full and offers excellent trout fishing (rainbow trout). The reserve is home to more than 80 species, including the rare Rudd's Lark.



## Wilfred Bauer Nature Reserve

Situated 5 km west of town on the Lesotho road the reserve offers picnic facilities, fishing, walking and game view-ing. Come and visit the unique Zedonk (a cross between a donkey and zebra) which roams the park. Other species include various bird life, Wil-debeest and Zebra.





*A relatively new museum, the Matatiele Museum houses exhibitions of the local prehistory, history and cultures of the town and district from Stone Age to present day.*



## Matatiele Museum

The museum building was originally a Dutch Reformed Church that is made of sandstone and is a National Monument, with the exhibits having been kindly donated by the local historical society, which collected artefacts of historical interest.

The collections have been assembled and presented to tell the story and represent a moment in history, especially Matatiele and surrounding areas.

There is a good display on San people, missionaries and pioneers, with household objects and bric-a-brac and early attire worn by the settlers, fossils, Xhosa and Sotho artefacts, a small Zulu display, artefacts from a 19th Century Imperial army that was stationed here, post boxes and post carts from the Matatiele Mail that started in 1938.



## Local Crafts

For those interested in local crafts, the craftwork traditions of the area include beadwork, sewing, pottery and weaving. Hand woven materials comprise generally functional items such as sleeping mats, baskets, and strainers, while Xhosa ceremonial clothing is often elaborately decorated with fine embroidery work and intricate designs.

## Traditional Dancing

Matatiele's highly rated dancers put on a fine show, dancing to traditional Xhosa music in authentic local dress. To find out where they will next be performing or to book them, contact the Matatiele Municipality on (039) 737 3135.

## Heroes Acre

The Matatiele Heroes Acre was built in memory of the many fallen heroes who passed away during the struggle era. Many of the victims' bodies were exhumed from countries like Lesotho and Botswana and buried in South Africa.







*The Mariazell Mission is a beautiful place, steeped in history. For years it has served as a sanctuary for African orphans, providing food and education*



### Mariazell Mission

The Mariazell Mission was built in 1904 and contains a self-sufficient hydro electrical system. A catholic mission, Mariazell is regarded as one of the best High Schools in the area because of its high pass rate and highly acclaimed politicians such as Patrick Lekota and Albertina Sisulu are alma maters. The institution is like a mecca for many catholic brothers and priests from around the world.

With the beautifully ordained church is certainly worth a visit.



### Tholang High School

This previously disadvantaged school has kept a high pass rate for number of years.

### Mariazel High School

Mariazel High School is known for producing some of the country's finest.

### Mvenyane High School

Mvenyane High is one of the best schools in the rural community, and offers a hostel.

### St Monica's Diocesan School

Another school in Mataiele is St Monica's Diocesan School, an English medium, non-racial co-educational school that provides a solid foundation for life in a multi-cultural world.







*The annual Matat Fees is an outdoor-based family festival held at Matatiele Golf Club Club. For one weekend every year the spotlight is on Matatiele, as the town becomes a hive of activity and fun.*



### Matat Fees

The Fees is made up of flea markets, stalls, live music, activities, local crafts and outdoor sports – and this year will see Matatiele hosting a senior and junior National Enduro motorcycling race for the first time. The Enduro promises to firmly place Matatiele on the map as an adventure biking hotspot.

Look out for the Matat Fees from 18-20 October 2013. This is an event to be enjoyed by both young and old.



### The Mehloading Hiking Trail and Freedom Challenge Heritage event

This annual event that takes place in September and celebrates the people of Matatiele's culture and heritage through horse riding and traditional dance. The Freedom Challenge is a partner of the event which focuses on youth development, thus the event includes a cycle race.



### The Matatiele Music Festival

The Matatiele Music Festival is an annual event that takes place on the second Saturday of December at the Old Ruby Field (Aerodrome). The event includes performances by both national and local jazz artists.







*Matatiele falls into the Maloti Route, a tourism route that passes through the Eastern Cape, Lesotho, Eastern Free State and the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg*



## Maloti Route

The trip is best suited to 4x4 travel and takes visitors into some of the most charming towns in the mountain kingdom – offering untamed mountain vistas at every turn. With three border posts, Matatiele is the considered the Gateway to Lesotho.



The Maloti Route – a truly idyllic meander through awe inspiring natural beauty and picturesque mountains where you can visit friendly villages and towns, follow where dinosaurs prowled and left footprints, enjoy arts and crafts of the highest quality, fly fish, visit renowned rock art sites

or just soak up the breathtaking scenery. For the more adventurous there are ski slopes, horse trails, 4 x 4 and hiking trails. Accommodation along the route includes graded hotels, luxury lodges, self-catering cottages and homely B&B's.

Lesotho is the ultimate secret tourism destination, a place to discover the wonderful mountain vistas and the culture of the Basotho people who inhabit the spectacular highlands. This is a land of contrasts with modern facilities and easy access in the main towns. But, if you venture further afield, you can find yourself in a pristine and rugged natural environment.







*Matatiele offers well-equipped conferencing facilities as well as quaint coffee shops, perfect for your business meeting and conferencing needs.*



#### **Come and stay**

Situated on the R56, Matatiele is the gateway to Southern Lesotho and the Maloti Route and is the scenic alternative route from Cape Town to Durban. The 'uncommercialised' vibe of Matatiele matches its laid back, friendly hospitality.



#### **Coffee Shops**

Enjoy a wide array of light lunches, muffins and cakes with tasty imported Italian Coffee. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in a beautiful garden setting equipped with playground to keep the kids busy.



#### **Conferencing**

Matatiele offers well-equipped conferencing facilities at Resthaven Guesthouse, Ntabase and the Royal Courtyard Hotel. Delight clients with warm hospitality and friendly service in Matatiele.

Pictures courtesy of Resthaven Guesthouse



*Matatiele is well known for its 100% organic red meat from the many surrounding local farms.*



## Organic Meat

Matatiele is well known for its 100% organic red meat. Whether you sample the delicious meat at a local restaurant or on your braai, you'll taste the difference.



## Traditional Food

What could be a better taste of your trip than to discover the favourite food of the locals. If you have an insatiable appetite for alimentary authenticity, Xhosa cuisine is for you. From rhabe wild spinach to amasi fermented milk, Xhosa cooking is deliciously diverse and tasty. Contact Ntabase B&B who can arrange traditional meals on request.







Addis Guest House  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 3747

Caravan Park  
Caravanning | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 3333

Cedarberg Guest Farm  
Guest Farm | Before Matatiele  
Call: 039 757 5535  
Email: gerrie@futurenet.co.za

Clainheim B&B  
B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 7373337

De Berg  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 3000  
Email: deberg@telkomsa.net

Dula Le Rona Guesthouse  
Guesthouse  
Call: 079 256 8024/073 396 3022

Edendale Guest Farm  
Along R56  
Call: 039 737 3842

Half Acre B&B  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 3414  
Email: halfacrebandb@webmail.co.za

Lala Lapha B&B  
B&B  
Call: 083 243 7376

Laphola Guesthouse  
Guest House  
Call: 039 737 4898

Maluti Star Hotel  
Hotel | Maluti  
Call: 039 256 0133

Masakala Traditional  
Guest House  
Guest House  
Call: 039 737 3289

Matatiele Nature Reserve  
Nature Reserve  
Call: 039 737 3565

Mehloding Chalets  
Chalets | Along Southern Berg  
Call: 039 7373289  
Email: mehloding@telkomsa.net

Ntabase  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 4997

Ongeluksnek  
Along Southern Berg  
Call: 039 2564888  
Email: reservations@ecparks.co.za

Resthaven Guesthouse  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 7374067  
Email: info@resthaven.co.za

Royal Courtyard Hotel  
Hotel | Matatiele  
Call: 039 7373100

Sara Lee  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 3432  
Email: saralee@goggaconnect.co.za

Semphethe B&B  
B&B  
Call: 039 7374546

Top House  
Dinner, B&B | Masakala Village  
Call: 039 737 3852  
Email: pmbrummer@gmail.com

Tevleigh  
Call: 039 7373330

Top House B&B  
B&B  
Call: 039 737 3852

Up Market Accommodation  
Dinner, B&B | Matatiele  
Call: 039 737 4074





# MATATIELE

**Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency**

Tel: 047 531 5290

**Route 56 Matat**

Tourism Office Tel: 039 737 4067

**Matatiele Municipality**

Tourism Officer Tel: 039 737 3135

Proudly sponsored by the Matatiele Local Municipality and Alfred Nzo Development Agency

