

INTRODUCTION

THE SUGAR COAST

The name was derived from the vast expanse of sugar cane fields, the so-called 'Green gold' of KwaZulu-Natal, and the main agricultural contributor to the economy of the province.

The Sugar Industry

The Milner brothers imported sugarcane from Mauritius and Reunion in 1847. Although the consignment comprised of the inferior red cane, it was neither the less auctioned and several farmers started growing it on small plots.

It was only a year later that the industry was really established by Edmond Morewood. He arrived in the Cape in 1833 from London, later moved to Natal and served as the Durban Harbour Master during the Voortrekker Republic of Natalia. After the British annexation of Natal, he acted as Manager for a Cotton Estate on the Umdloti River. On his behest, Ephraim Rathbone arrived from Mauritius to assist him with his experiments with the cotton. The two planted some cane cuttings that Rathbone had collected along the Umgeni River on his way. Morewood later acquired his own farm north of the Tonyati River and started growing cotton. He erected the first crude sugar mill on his farm in 1850, and a year later, sugarcane was crushed and sugar produced.

His success attracted many other farmers who started settling along the North Coast. The red cultivar was later replaced by a more superior quality. Due to the boom in the industry, Indians had to be imported to supply in the demand for labour (*See Module 3, Historical Overview I*).

In the late 1850s, a man arrived that was to build a 'sugar empire' and whose name is still associated with the most well-known sugar brand in South Africa.

James Liege Hulett, almost nineteen years old at the time, left England in 1857 with only five pounds sterling. The balance of the twenty five pounds sterling he had borrowed from his uncle, was paid for the steerage class passage to Natal. He arrived at Durban almost four months later. In those days, passengers were transported from the vessel to the harbour by means of small rowing boats, men then plunging (wading) their way to the shore, while the women were being carried sedan-chair fashion by Zulus. The young Liege decided on the last option.

With no capital available, he leased some 160 acres of land and started growing various crops. In 1864, he leased 600 acres at Kearsney near Stanger. His crops included maize, sweet potatoes, chillies, arrow-root and later coffee. The latter proved to be a great success until the crops were destroyed by a bore and rust disease.

By now he had acquired some wealth and built a beautiful colonial house on the land. The homestead included a chapel and the community used to gather here for social and religious events.

In 1979, he started experimenting with tea, which turned out to be a great success in Natal for many years. Encouraged by the economic growth of the sugar industry, he consolidated his interests into the company *JL Hulett & Sons* in 1892, with a capital of 50, 000 Pounds Sterling and Kearsney as the Headquarters.

In 1907, the Amatikulu Sugar Mill, followed by the Felix Sugar Mill (Mhlatuze River) was erected. Hulett also had a central Refinery in Durban built to process raw sugar, not only from Hulett mills, but also of those from all mills in the industry.

When he retired to Manor House in Durban, his eldest son, ASL Hulett succeeded him as managing Director.

Currently, the sugar mills located on the North Coast, experience a shortage of cane supply. Adverse weather conditions and the uncertainty surrounding land ownership are some of the main contributors to the problem.

Other applications of sugarcane

- 60% of the pulp utilised by the Sappi Stanger mill is 'bagasse', a by product of sugar production.
- The Voermol® brand provides a range of supplementary feeds for livestock that are also derived from bagasses and molasses.
- There is also the possibility of producing ethanol (biofuel) from the excess sugar and molasses at the Amatikulu sugar mill, while the Felixton mill could be utilized as a large-scale cogeneration due to its current boiler capacity. A tender has been submitted to ESKOM for the provision of 17MW (out of season) and 38MW (in season) to the national grid.

The Greater Sugar Cane Rat

These rodents have a rounded nose and spiny fur on the back and are more closely related to the porcupine than to true rats and can grow up to 720mm.

They thrive along river banks and in marshes where cane-like grass grows, occurring in the central grasslands of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng and in KwaZulu-Natal, often becoming a pest in crop in the sugar cane plantations.

A tooth-chattering sound is produced by individuals as they systematically cut grass with the upper teeth that grows continuously

The cane rat is hunted for its meat, apparently superior to that of rabbit.

SUGAR COAST

UMHLANGA	Population:	Altitude: 90m / 295ft	Sugar Region	Coast
		Rainfall:		

On route N2 approximately 18km north east of Durban and 220km south west from Empangeni and 250km south west from Richardsbay.

On route M4, approximately 16 km east of Durban and on route R102 approximately 10 km south of Phoenix)

Origin

- Since 1920, farmers started leasing stands on the ocean front for the building holiday cottages.
- In 1920, a hotel was built near the Mhlanga River. This was built by Virginia (daughter of the sugar magnate, Marshall Campbell) and her husband.
- This boosted the development of the resort.
- In 1970, it gained municipality status and two years later it was incorporated into La Lucia.

Name

- Meaning "*The River of Reeds*" in Zulu.

Claims to fame

Headquarters of the Natal Sharks Board

- In 1926, the first shark net on the Natal coast was implemented at this beach.
- Today, more than 400 various kinds of nets are located at 46 beaches, covering a distance of approximately 350km.
- Tours are available to learn more about sharks.

Historical sites and monuments

Lighthouse An automatic lighthouse, built in 1953.

Attractions and Activities

Gateway Theatre of Shopping	Marketed as a " <i>Theatre of Shopping</i> " and offers much more than the average shopping centre. Activities for adrenaline junkies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best skate park in South Africa, designed by nine times world skateboarding champ, Tony Hawk. • The biggest double stationary wave in the world (The Wave House). • A 22.5m (8-story) climbing wall and allegedly the highest free-standing one in the world. The Rock's 300 Square meters offers 25 routes from dead easy to virtually impossible.
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Sugar Coast Arts and Crafts Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held at the Umhlanga Festival Grounds every Sunday.
O'Connor Promenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,7-km paved shoreline promenade. • Named after a hotel owner and one-time mayor, the late Councilor Ken O'Connor.
Virginia airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located halfway between Durban and Umhlanga. • Named for the daughter of Sir Marshall Campbell, owner of the original sugar plantation before the development of the town.
Sugar Mill Casino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of Durban Metro's first casinos. • Can be viewed from the N2 north
Hawaan Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique indigenous woodland area with rare trees. • Home to Marine birds, bush pig, red, blue and grey duiker, banded and slender mongoose and vervet monkeys. • A word of caution, both mambas, as well as pythons occur here.
Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve (26ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal forest, offering excellent birding and nature opportunities. • Remains of a seashell refuse, located at the mouth of the lagoon are of great importance as it dates from the Stone Age.
Umhlanga Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal venue for bird watching.
Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve (76ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located on the banks of the Mgeni River • Established in 1977 and currently being used as an environmental education centre.

UMDLOTI	Population:	Altitude: 11m / 36ft Rainfall:	Sugar Region	Coast
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On route N2, approximately 30km north east from Durban and 12km north east of Umhlanga.

On route N2, approximately 208km south west from Empangeni and 238km south west from Richardsbay

Origin

- The coastal road close to the N2, approximately 5km north of the Mhalanga River has become known as Shaka's Way.
- In 1828, Shaka traveled south with his Impis to raid Pondoland and Transkei, using the route.
- At the junction of Shaka's way and the N2, the road south leads to the mouth of the Mdloti River, Umdloti and Selection Beach and the one north to the Desainagar Township and Resort

Name

- Derived from the Zulu term for a specific species of wild tobacco that once grew in this area.
- The Mhalanga River is also known as *Ohlange / Ohlanga* or *uMhlanga River* by the local people.
- Desainagar is derived from the Indian word, "*the town of Desai*" and refers to the first Indian man who became a millionaire in South Africa.

THE DOLPHIN COAST

The coast stretches north of Durban, from Port Zimbali to the Thukela (Tugela) River.

The area is not all about sunbathing but offers other interesting attractions such as Crocodile Creek, a crocodile farm and the opportunity to watch sugar being produced (July to the end of December) at Maidstone/Tongaat.

It was here that the handmaidens of King Shaka collected salt and that the production of the first sugar in South Africa took place. The Morewood Memorial in honour of the sugar pioneer, displays, among others, a curved piece of steel believed to be part of his original boiler.

The coast owes its name to the Bottlenose dolphins that frequent this coastline.

It appears that there are a migratory population following the sardine run into KwaZulu-Natal, and a residential population. Shark nets, placed along the coast of KwaZulu-Natal for protection against shark attacks, result in incidental by-catch of bottlenose dolphins.

Scientific name	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>
Diet	Squid, fish and crustaceans
Length	2-3.8m (6½-12½ ft)
Weight	150-650kg (330-1,430 lbs)
Social	Inshore they are found in groups from 2-15, offshore 20 plus can be expected.
Protection	Dolphin calves often falls prey to sharks. In a combined effort of head butting, adult females would sometimes fend for their young.
Aggression	Although friendly creatures, following boats, surfacing and playing alongside humans, they can sometimes act aggressively towards themselves and other cetaceans. There might be 'screaming' or clicks of other sounds, jaw-snapping (open and closing jaws rapidly); chasing, biting, ramming, tail-slapping and blowing bubbles.

BALLITO	Population:	Altitude: 63m/207ft Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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On route N2 /R102, approximately 53km north east of Durban and 28km south of Stanger)

Origin

- In 1953, a group of investors began looking into the development of land in the Compensation beach area as a township and a year later it was proclaimed.
- Today it is at prime tourist destination and renowned for its outstanding beaches

Name

- The name was derived from a Magazine advertisement meaning 'little ball'.
- The town is also known as 'the Pearl' of the Dolphin Coast.

Attractions and activities

- Willard Beach is the main beach an obtained 'Blue Flag' status in 2002/2003. It offers safe swimming, life guards and shark nets and are popular for body boarding and surfing.

'Blue Flag' status

This indicates that facilities, cleanliness and environmental education meet the world standards and that the beach complied with the international lifeguard services, other safety standards and water quality.

Other beaches south of Ballito includes, Clarke bay, the Ballito Tidal Pool, Salmon Bay (for surfers and jet-skis and home to the inflatable boat club) an Port Zimbali. The latter is an awe inspiring stretch of beach with indigenous bush bordering the sand dunes.

SHAKA'S ROCK	Population:	Altitude: 95m/312ft Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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On route N2/R102 approximately 2km south of Salt Rock and 26km south of KwaDukuza

Origin

- The rock refers to a high cliff that Shaka used as a lookout and from which he is alleged to have thrown his enemies.
- Men that was suspected to be cowards, was required to proof their courage by jumping from this cliff into the sea.

SHAKA'S KRAAL	Population:	Altitude:32m/105ft Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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(On route R102 approximately 9km north east of Salt Rock and 21km south of Kwadukuza-Stanger.)

Origin

A one-street-town situated near the site of **KwaHlomendlini**, the quarters of King Shaka's Royal Home Guard Regiment.

SALT ROCK	Population:	Altitude: Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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(On route N2/R102 approximately 24km southwest of Kwadukuza-Stanger and 13km north of Ballito.)

Origin

- Originates from the days of King Shaka.
- King Shaka's handmaidens used to gather dried salt here off the rocks at low tide.
- The salt was used for trading with passing settlers.

Attractions

- **Flag Farm Animal Farm** for a farmyard experience.

KWADUKUZA-STANGER	Population:	Altitude: 39m/128ft Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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On route N2/R102 approximately 81km east of Durban and 43km south of Gingindlovu.

Origin

- Founded in 1873.
- Lay out by William Stanger.
- Built on the site of Shaka's last capital, KwaDukuza ("the place of the persecuted. His other royal kraal being **KwaBulawayo** (*the place of the persecuted one*)).

Shaka

- Features strongly in the history and traditions of the Zulu people, for it is here that Shaka, the great Zulu warrior king and founder of the nation, was killed and buried.
- On the afternoon, September 24, 1828, Shaka was sitting in the shade of his indaba ('meeting') tree, a Natal mahogany. (The latter still stands in front of the municipal offices).
- He was waiting for a group of BaTswana chiefs who were on their way to pay him homage.
- However, Shaka's two half-brothers, Mhlangana and Dingane, approached him instead, stabbed him and he died within minutes.
- The following day the body was wrapped in an ox hide and buried in an empty grain storage pit, together with some personal possessions.
- In 1932, memorial was built to Shaka in Couper Street, the approximate site of his grave. Grave.
- The inscription reads: *'In memory of Tshaka ka Senzangakona, the founder, king and ruler of the Zulu nation. Born about 1788. Died on 24 September 1828. Erected by his descendants and heir Solomon ka Dinuzulu and the Zulu nation. A.D 1932'*.
- Every year, Shaka's day (24 September) is celebrated by the Zulu nation and it is also one of the national holidays, known as "*heritage day*".

Name

- Originally named for William Stanger, first surveyor-general of Natal.
- Recently, changed in honour of Shaka and his royal kraal, KwaDukuza (*"place of he who was lost"*).

Mining and industries

SAPPI
Paper
Mill

- Produces paper from sugar-cane pulp.
- Offers guided tours through the mill.

ZINKWAZI	Population:	Altitude: Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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On route N2/R102 approximately 18km north of KwaDukuza-Stanger.

- Located at the mouth of the Zinkwazi river and sub tropical beach.

Name

- Derived from the “**izinkwazi**” (fish eagles) that perch along the banks of the lagoon.

Claims to fame

Zinkwazi Lagoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Zinkwazi River forms a lagoon of 7 kilometers in length. - It is believed to be the longest lagoon in KwaZulu-Natal.
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A Birding paradise	More than 250 species were registered here including Kingfisher varieties, the Purple Crested Lourie and the Natal Robin, which is able to perfectly imitate the call of the African Fish Eagle.
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Historical sites and monuments

Fort Tenedos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located about 14km east of Zinkwazi Beach between the Tugela Mouth and the Zinkwazi Rivers. Fort Tenedos was built during the initial phases of the Anglo-Zulu war on the northern bank of the Thukela River, directly opposite the site of Fort Pearson on the southern bank, from where it is best viewed
Fort Pearson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was from here that the British marched into Zululand at the start of the Anglo-Zulu war in 1879. • Today, only the outer trenches remain along with a stone cairn, various plaques and some war graves. (Keys to be collected from the Harold Johnson Nature Reserve reception).
Ultimatum Tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located immediately below, on the southern bank of the Thukela River. • On this site King Cetshwayo was presented an ultimatum by Sir Bartle Frere. • One of the conditions was that he had demobilize his army. • Upon not complying with these demands, the British used it as an excuse to attack the Zulu. • A new tree has since been planted on the site.

Attractions and activities

Harold
Johnson
Nature
Reserve

- Located on the southern bank of the Thukela River comprising of 100 hectares.
- It is home to vervet monkeys, zebra, bushbuck, impala and blue, red and grey duikers.
- Almost 200 bird species were recorded here.
- Birdlife is abundant with almost 200 recorded species.
- One of the nature walks includes the "muthi" trail, providing insight into the uses of various plants in traditional Zulu medicine.



GROUTVILLE	Population:	Altitude: Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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R102 west from KwaDukuza

Origin

- The missionary, Rev. Aldin Grout, left his work near Durban and settled near the Umvoti River where he built a mission station.
- The site became to be known as Groutville or Umvoti Mission Reserve.
- The Reverend had a good rapport with the local Zulu, and they soon turned into a Christian community.
- The conversion of Africans to western Christianity meant an entirely new way of life, a new outlook, a new set of beliefs and the creation, almost, of a new kind of people. However, the Zulu converts became Christians without being "less African".
- Later, the Inkosi of the Groutville area, appointed Ntaba Luthuli, who was able to reconcile the contradictions between western Christianity and African culture and religion.
- Ntaba Luthuli and his wife, Titisi, were Grout's first two converts to Christianity and both zealous Christians.
- Ntaba Luthuli was known for his diplomacy. Once, at a time when there was war between the British and the Zulu, and he was asked to pray for the success of the British forces, he prayed as follows "*O God, protect the victims of whoever is the aggressor in this War.*"
- Four out of Groutville's seven Inkosi had been Luthulis, but Albert Luthuli's family never laid a claim to any hereditary right to chieftaincy.
- In 1935, Albert Luthuli became Groutville's Inkosi.

Name

- Named in honour of Aldin Grout.

Claims to fame

- This was the home of Luthuli and his forefathers.

Historical sites and monuments

- Grave of Albert Luthuli
- Albert Luthuli Museum
- King Shaka's Observation Rock

Albert John Luthuli (1898 - 1967)

Political leader and the first African to win the Nobel Peace Prize (1960).

He was born in Zimbabwe, and at the age of 10, he was sent by his mother to live with his uncle in Groutville. He later became the chief and participated in the Defiance campaign.

In 1967, he was killed by a train as he walked along the railroad bridge near his house.

MAPUMULO	Population:	Altitude: 610m/2001ft Rainfall:	North Coast (Dolphin Coast) Region
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(On route R74 approximately 38km southeast of Kranskop and 42km northwest of Kwadukuza-Stanger.)

- The Mvoti River and its many tributaries flow through the southern part of the district.

Origin

- Founded in 1850 by Bishop HP Schreuder of the Norwegian Missionary Society as the **Umpumulo station**.
- Established as a new magistracy in 1894.

Name

- Means "**haven of rest**".
- Refers to the people by the same name who settled here after being driven out of their original territory by Shaka.

Agriculture

- The vegetation of the wider area is largely grassveld and scrub.
- Cattle ranching.

Resources and further reading

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Visits and photos

Exploration-research Field Trips. Makiti Guides & Tours (Pty) Ltd. Annually : May & Sep 2007.

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