

## Sarah's DIARY:

**Day 1** Wonderful welcome with refreshing Campaign Tea; [spectacular huge main building on Natal bank of Buffalo River](#) and lovely room with mountain view. Stroll to river bank with dogs as guide; sundowner on the deck busy watching river flow over [James Rorke's](#) original Drift. Max found the library and nearly missed supper. [Got to meet other guests who seem to hail from all over the place.](#) Very sociable triangular tables (why not, in a round building?) Stars all upside down. Great scenery to get here.

**Day 2** [What a location!](#) Guide [could give](#) briefing on geog & hist [from dining balcony.](#) Cross the Buffalo R to Isandlwana; museum, viewpoint, battlefield. What a story; drama, heroism and sacrifice in spades. Very emotional. Off with picnic to Mangeni Falls. Wonderful sight. [Much hilarity around hotel bar as guests exchanged stories.](#)

**Day 3** Down to the River [walked](#) along the bank to the Drift; [then](#) across bridge to Cemetery with its 12 soldiers and also Colonists. Back via Fort Melvill and the pontoon site. V interesting and could not drag Max away. Lunch overlooking pool which was tested afterwards. to RD battlefield. More heroism & carnage. Great story, museum and all the story laid out. Zulu memorial very poignant. Laid poppy on mass grave. p.n. Zulu dancing before supper – terrific action from the kids.

**Day 4** To [site of](#) death of Prince Imperial to see end of the dynasty; on to Blood River [gargantuan](#) ring of wagons; and memorial on both sides of river. Vortrekker lunch and movie. [Glimpse of Afrikaans psyche; great day.](#) How did those 19c soldiers do it on their feet? [Great hike to tTo deep river pool under high](#) Cliffs [to see Bald Ibis nesting! Wild flowers galore.](#) swam in river and revived with sundowner [that arrived with](#) hotel bakkie. What a place. [great Tasty](#) supper of something wild.

**Day 5** [Hiked the](#) Bridle trail [from Isandlwana to Rorkes D](#) in cool of morning and found old wagon road; wade across the Drift. Dry socks and great lunch. Visit to craft workshops at [Rorkes](#) Mission. Bought carpet against Max's wish, but he has his battles.

**Day 6** Max off on expedition to Hlobane and Khambula.. Returned mesmerised; VC's well earned. Had wonderful day by pool and visited the orphanage with food parcel; [climbed to top of Shiyane Mountain; what a view! Exciting](#) birding and flora on the ledges; reading in the library.

**Day 7** Dundee for fags; Talana battle [and excellent museum.](#) [Visited Fort Pine, perched above Buffalo valley.](#) afternoon Game Drive in most beautiful ranch [only 15 minutes away.](#) (Giraffe, [Eland, Zebra, Kudu](#) Ostrich, [Mountain Reebuck,](#) Red Hartebeeste hidden for next trip). [Couldn't believe how much we saw in short time.](#)

**Day 8** Time to go! Staff sang us away; Hamba Gaschle. Big lump. [Felt that we really connected to Africa.](#) Have to return to do Fugitiv's Drift, Elandskraal and drink those views again.

**Sarah & Max visited us from UK in 2012 and stayed a full week. Cost of their seven night stay was R10,120 plus excursions.**