

In Transit

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Tips and information to help with your travel planning

Steamy South Coast travel

A NEW tourist train is due to start operating between Germiston in Gauteng and Port Shepstone on the South Coast.

The Hibiscus Express, which will be operated by Germiston-based steam locomotive operator Reefsteamers Association, will run overnight to Port Shepstone.

One of the main attractions is the 120km beach-hugging track between Durban and Port Shepstone.

Three classes of accommodation will be offered - gold, silver and economy. All coaches have hot and cold running water and multiple-course buffet breakfasts and dinners will be served on board. The train also has a licensed bar and lounge coach.

Passengers sleep on the train when it is stationed at Port Shepstone. In a pleasant twist, the train will be parked so that passengers have a full view of the sea.

Day trips to local attractions such as Oribi Gorge, the Wild Coast Sun, Lake Eland Game Reserve and Beaver Creek Coffee Farm will be on offer.

The train will also bring visitors to the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast for events such as an "New Year's Eve" special, the annual Africa Bike Week and the Sardine Marathon.

Reefsteamers is a non-profit, Section 21 Company affiliated to the Transnet Heritage Foundation (Railway Museum).

- For more information on the Hibiscus Express and other steam train trips, visit <http://www.reefsteamers.com/>.