



The Durban Ramadaan Experience 1439-2018

Revised May 2018

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THE DURBAN RAMADAAN EXPERIENCE - 1439/2018

As the Mu'azzin's call draws Muslims to one of more than 70 Mosques across Durban, the spirit of Ramadaan (and the scent of haleem) are in the air. As the sun sets, Muslims gather in their homes, and in Mosques, to break their fast with a simple date or sumptuous serving of the spiced barley broth. The auspicious month – in which the revelation of the Qur'an began, sees Muslims across the world fast from sunrise to sunset, exercising a spiritual giving and receiving like no other. The removal of worldly temptations makes way for prayer, supplication, and the giving of charity. Many Mosques, on selected Sundays, exercise the free distribution of haleem to whoever comes with their containers.

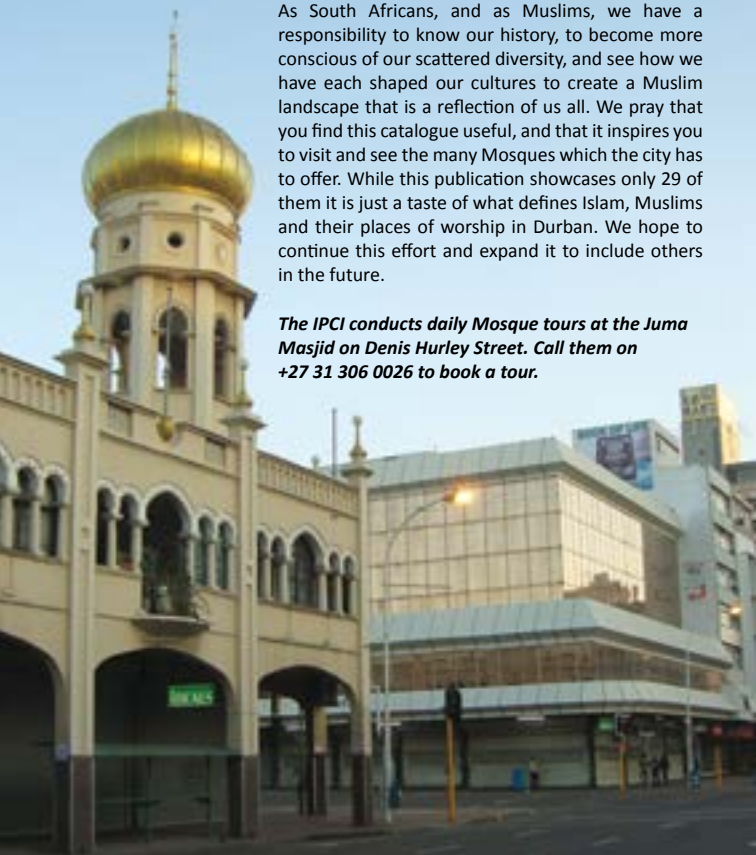
Due to the winter season, this Ramadaan in Durban sees some of the shortest hours for fasting. Although, with the resultant longer nights, comes an opportunity to offer reflection and supplementary prayers to the Almighty. The Ramadaan night prayer, Taraweeh, is held, and with it the melodious recitation of the Qur'an echoes through Mosques, community halls, and private homes. Over time, we have seen the evolution of the space in which the Taraweeh is held, and the completion of the recitation of the Qur'an in the first 27 days of the month, by many Huffaaz all over the city. Having so many Huffaaz, offers an opportunity to hear a range of recitations styles.

As the completion of the recitation of the Qur'an, and the month, draws to a close, there is an increase in the anticipation of the joyous occasion of Eid. The Eid prayer opens the day in which Muslims celebrate with loved ones, marking the end of Ramadaan much as it arrived – with the giving (of charity) and receiving (of delicious meals) with loved ones.

"We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other - not that ye may despise (each other)." Qur'an 49:13

As South Africans, and as Muslims, we have a responsibility to know our history, to become more conscious of our scattered diversity, and see how we have each shaped our cultures to create a Muslim landscape that is a reflection of us all. We pray that you find this catalogue useful, and that it inspires you to visit and see the many Mosques which the city has to offer. While this publication showcases only 29 of them it is just a taste of what defines Islam, Muslims and their places of worship in Durban. We hope to continue this effort and expand it to include others in the future.

The IPCI conducts daily Mosque tours at the Juma Masjid on Denis Hurley Street. Call them on +27 31 306 0026 to book a tour.



RAMADAAN 1439

MAY 2018

R	D/D	Sehri	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	AsrS	AsrH	Iftar	Isha
1	T 17	5:07	5:12	6:35	11:57	14:50	15:33	17:13	18:33
2	F 18	5:07	5:12	6:35	11:57	14:49	15:33	17:12	18:33
3	S 19	5:08	5:13	6:36	11:57	14:49	15:32	17:12	8:32
4	S 20	5:08	5:13	6:37	11:57	14:48	15:32	17:11	18:32
5	M 21	5:09	5:14	6:37	11:58	14:48	15:31	17:11	18:31
6	T 22	5:09	5:14	6:38	11:58	14:48	15:31	17:11	8:31
7	W 23	5:10	5:15	6:38	11:58	14:47	15:30	17:10	18:31
8	T 24	5:10	5:15	6:39	11:58	14:47	15:30	17:10	18:30
9	F 25	5:11	5:16	6:39	11:58	14:47	15:30	17:09	18:30
10	S 26	5:11	5:16	6:40	11:58	14:46	15:29	17:09	18:30
11	S 27	5:12	5:17	6:41	11:58	14:46	5:29	17:09	18:30
12	M 28	5:12	5:17	6:41	11:58	14:46	15:28	17:08	18:29
13	T 29	5:12	5:17	6:42	11:58	14:46	15:28	17:08	18:29
14	W 30	5:13	5:18	6:42	11:58	14:45	15:28	17:08	18:29
15	T 31	5:13	5:18	6:43	11:59	14:45	15:28	17:07	18:29

JUNE 2018

16	F 1	5:14	5:19	6:43	11:59	14:45	15:27	17:07	18:29
17	S 2	5:14	5:19	6:44	11:59	14:45	15:27	17:07	18:29
18	S 3	5:15	5:20	6:44	11:59	14:45	15:27	17:07	18:28
19	M 4	5:15	5:20	6:45	11:59	14:45	15:27	17:07	18:28
20	T 5	5:16	5:21	6:45	11:59	14:45	15:27	17:06	18:28
21	W 6	5:16	5:21	6:46	12:00	14:45	15:27	17:06	18:28
22	T 7	5:16	5:21	6:46	12:00	14:45	15:26	17:06	18:28
23	F 8	5:17	5:22	6:47	12:00	14:44	15:26	17:06	18:28
24	S 9	5:17	5:22	6:47	12:00	14:44	5:26	17:06	18:28
25	S 10	5:17	5:22	6:48	12:00	14:44	15:26	17:06	18:28
26	M 11	5:18	5:23	6:48	12:01	14:44	15:26	17:06	18:28
27	T 12	5:18	5:23	6:48	12:01	14:45	15:26	17:06	18:28
28	W 13	5:18	5:23	6:49	12:01	14:45	15:26	17:06	18:28
29	T 14	5:19	5:24	6:49	12:01	14:45	15:26	17:06	18:29
30	F 15	5:19	5:24	6:49	12:01	14:45	15:26	17:06	18:29



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THE JUMA MASJID, GREY STREET

The land for the first Masjid, in the then Province of Natal, was acquired in August 1881 at the corner of Grey and Queen Streets in the City of Durban. Aboobaker Amod Jhaveri, who arrived in Durban in 1853, and a business associate, Hajee Mahomed Dada, bought the property at the corner of Grey and Queen Streets for 115 Pounds British sterling from one Mr. K Moodley. The then erected modest brick building, which accommodated no more than 50 worshippers, was extended to accommodate 200 within three years. In 1887 development plans slowed down when Mr Jhaveri contacted cholera and passed on whilst on a trip to India. However, two years later Hajee Mahomed Dada bought adjoining properties for the extension of the Masjid. The next major development came in 1904 when the first of two minarets were built; a year later the other was erected. At that time the structures were Durban's tallest man-made structures and dominated the City skyline. Since then, in 1927, the Masjid was rebuilt and in 1943 further extensions transformed into a House of Worship which could accommodate 6,000 people. Provisions for women to pray in a separate section were built and opened in 1957. Since those early years, five daily prayers have been performed, as well as the Jumu'ah Salaah, Taraweeh during Ramadaan and prayers during festivals. It very quickly became the religious heart of the then fledgling community, and has boomed into a mighty multi-cultural mass of humanity today. Its unique quality lies in its immersion in the urban surrounding. Through the years, land adjoining the Masjid was acquired and was slowly developed into an economic hub, which now has more than 80 shops built around it; businesses, a school and a community centre make it one of the most vibrant multi-purpose complexes in the City. The Masjid welcomes all members of the community, with its neighbouring IPCI ever-willing to shed light on the premises, its practice, and Islam in Durban. ***The Grey Street Masjid can be found on Dr Yusuf Dadoo Street, Durban CBD.***



Esale Sawaab for **Late Ahmed Deedat, Goolam Hoosen Vanker & Kassim Ntombela**

2

THE ANJUMAN ISLAMIC JUMA MASJID, WEST STREET

The Anjuman Islamic Juma Masjid was built in West Street, Durban in 1885 under the trusteeship of Ahmed Mohamed Tilly and Hoosen Meeran. It was the only place of worship for Muslims in what was the preserve of the White community, first under British rule, and then the Union of South Africa. Despite the threats imposed on others, neither succeeded with its demise, and it was not until 1970, that the Apartheid Government assured Muslims that they would always have access to the Masjid. Despite the threat to the future of what very quickly became a landmark in the Central Business District, the community developed the Masjid. Seven new members were chosen to an enlarged board of trustees which included Mohamed Cassim Angalia, Suliman Ahmed Paruk, Amod Jeewa, Mohamed Cassim, Mohamed Essack and Dawd Hassan to boost the administration. In 1900, Ismail Mahomed Paruk took over as chairman and for 42 years provided sterling leadership. Some of the leadership at the Masjid were leading members of the Natal Indian Congress, extending the presence of the Muslim community in Durban into its socio-political realm. The Masjid was served by some of the most distinguished theologians, amongst them Moulana Sanjalvi, Hafiz Ebrahim Haffejee, Moulana Narul Haq, Sayed Sarfuddin Vaizie and Moulana Abdur Rahman Ansari who took office in 1955, retiring in 1986. It was during his time, that the basement of the Masjid was renovated and was made available for women worshippers. During Ramadaan, Iftaar gatherings were hosted, especially for workers who would not have got home from the waterfront and Point areas in time to break their fasts. Visiting merchant seamen whose ships were docked at Durban harbour also visited the Masjid and apart from partaking in a meal, would also attend Taraweeh prayers. ***The Anjuman Islamic Juma Masjid can be found on Pixley KaSeme Street, Durban CBD.***



MAY STREET JAAME MASJID

This is the only Masjid in the Durban central district to be built by indentured labourers and their descendants. It was built at the turn of the 20th century when residents from Mitchell Road, First Avenue and May Street met and launched the Anjuman Esha-atul-Islam to provide Islamic education for their children. It was decided to acquire land at the corner of May and Fynn Streets in the Greyville area which became known as Block AK. The Masjid values its history, as well as the efforts of its founders, each of whom have a rich individual history overcoming racial discrimination, and as descendants of indentured labourers, who, despite their valued contribution to the community by means of the Masjid, struggled under the Apartheid regime. The first four trustees were: Mr. Deen Mahomed Fakir, a court interpreter whose parents were indentured labourers, Syed Abdollah, and Mariam Bee; Mr. Mehendeally (Mahomed Ally) Tajmoon, born of indentured parents, who was also a founding member of the Greyville Sporting Club, a trustee of Anjuman school, a founder member of the Muslim Burial Society in 1910, and a trustee of the Colonial Born and Indian Settlers Association; Noor Mahomed, who was also born of indentured parents, Chamroo Chand Khan and Alharia Bachun; and Shaik Emamally, indentured number 27890, who arrived in 1882, aged 4, with his parents Chamroo Roheeman and Nasiban Saira Alli. Since its inception, the Masjid commands a "full house" even though it is 50 years since the Apartheid Government forcefully removed the residents from the area, many return to perform their prayers at this Masjid. During Ramadaan, meals are provided for breaking of the fast each day, and Huffaaz jointly perform the night prayer, Taraweeh. While there are no facilities for women here, the Mosque holds a crucial place in the history of Durban's Muslim community. **No facilities for women. The Masjid is located on May Street, Greyville.**

ESHA 18:32

IFTAR 17:12

ASR 15:32



ZUHR 11:57

SUNRISE 6:36



SEHRI 5:08

S 19-May

4

HAZRATH SOOFIE SAHEB MASJID, RIVERSIDE

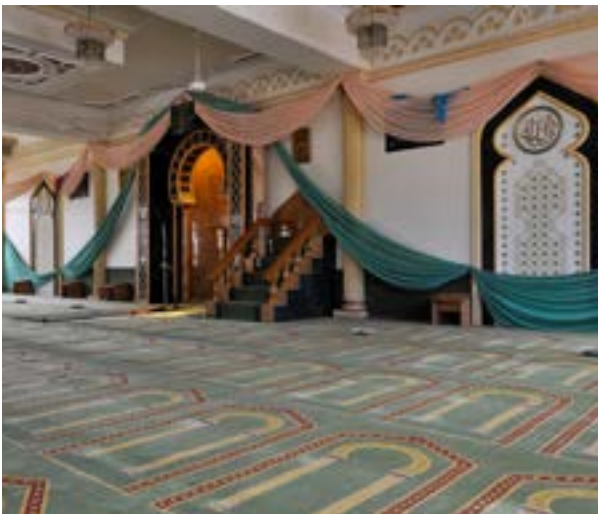
This national monument is an Islamic establishment like no other. The visionary, Hazrath Soofie Saheb RA, created not only a place of worship, but a Darbar (complex) to meet the needs of the community of Muslims in Durban in the late 1800s. After his death in 1911, the work was continued by his successors, Hazrath Shah Mohamed Ebrahim Soofie, RA (1911-1954). Hazrath Shah Abdul Aziz Soofie, RA (1911-1947), and Hazrath Shah Goolam Mohamed Soofie Sani, RA, (also known as Hazrath Bhaimia Soofie, son of Hazrath Shah Aziz Soofie, RA) (1947-1978), followed him. Despite being a Muslim place of worship, the Darbar at Riverside extended it's services to one and all, and for this very reason the Apartheid government, in 1968, sent in bulldozers that tore down part of the complex, leaving only the Masjid, darga, and cemetery behind. What was left became a rallying point for people of Durban who nurtured the legacy and ensured that it was developed once again to enjoy a vibrant, all-encompassing lifestyle where leadership continued to emerge. With the advent of Democracy, people are returning to the neighbourhood and the Masjid is a hive of activity for the entire family. Today, in addition to the regular prayers being performed, cultural events and religious festivals are hosted regularly. The Friday Jumu'ah Prayers are attended by vast crowds, many of whom stay for the lunch served. Thousands of people visit the darga, which is now a famous landmark in the city, each month. The month of Ramadaan at Riverside is exceptional, with hundreds of people turning up for the start of the daily fast before sun up, who then return in the evening to break their fast and perform the night prayers. ***Hazrath Soofie Saheb Riverside Masjid is located at 50 Soofie Saheb Drive, Riverside. Facilities for women***



SOOFIE MASJID 45th CUTTING, SHERWOOD

5

It was in 1905, that Hazrath Soofie Saheb, RA, bought a piece of land adjacent to the Jan Smuts Highway. From a wood and iron Jamaat Khana to the community complex that it is today, the Darbar continues to grow in its 123 years of existence with the intention of benefitting the community at its core. Apart from a number of essential services, Imaam Ahmed Zakir Soofie and his brother, Shakeel Ahmed, who are both fourth generation leaders of this Darbar, have plans to build an old age home and frail care centre in the Candella/Bonella area of Durban. This facility would further extend the community work that the Darbar engages in regularly – including the provision of school uniforms and books, meals, blanket collection campaign, and the payment of utility bills of those in need. The emphasis on community is richly entrenched here and exercised even more so during the month of Ramadaan. The auspicious month sees an expansion in the offerings of the Darbar, in the provision of meals, essential services, and special programmes throughout. The Darbar now comprises a Masjid, Madressah, cemetery, the Mazaar and two function halls with facilities for all members of the community. ***The 45th Cutting Masjid is at 20 West Riding Row, Sherwood.***



RAMADAAN

ESHA 18:31

IFTAR 17:11

ASR 15:31

ZUHR 11:58

SUNRISE 6:37

SEHRI 5:09

M 21-May



6 HABIBIYA SOOFIE DARBAR, SPRINGFIELD

Hazrath Sha Habeen Soofie started this Darbar as a humble wood and tin building that could accommodate no more than 15 people. It has, over the years, been transformed into an ultra-modern complex which can accommodate approximately 1,500 in prayer. His guidance in developing a community with strong moral values has enabled the neighbourhood to develop over the years. He was succeeded by Hazrath Sha Noor Muhummad who was able to take the Darbar forward, implementing new projects which saw a steady growth in the premises and its community. Apart from the spiritual needs of the people, the leadership at this institution have played a leading role in promoting education, health services and adequate housing. The Darbar has become a nerve centre for the people living in one of the most disenfranchised communities in Durban. The humanitarian work is legendary among the indigent, some of whom travel long distances for sustenance. The hungry school children from extremely poor backgrounds are fed daily; medical care and essential services have been part of the "Culture of the Darbar" since 1906. Ramadaan is always a very busy time at the Darbar, with the provision of meals as an essential part of the services provided every day and on special religious observances during this Holy Month. When former president Nelson Mandela was released from prison, he visited the Darbar, giving hope and the promise of an equal future as he sported his ANC approved yellow, green and black knitted fez. More than 5,000 people turned up to welcome him on April 12, 1992. ***The Springfield Darbar is on 327 Quarry Road, Springfield.***



HABIBIYA SOOFIE MASJID, OVERPORT

This is another of the institutions founded by Hazrath Soofie Saheb, RA, and was established at the turn of the century. His vision of Islam serving the community saw him acquiring land and starting centres which would not only provide spiritual leadership and guidance, but also serve the indigent communities of the city. Much as the previous soofie Darbars, the Overport Masjid is no different, with its efforts to display the balance of giving and receiving that is inherent of Islam. Founded in 1901 by Hazrath Soofie Saheb, RA, the Masjid also has a pre-school and Madressah. Both facilities are strongly patronized by the community and have high enrolments. Management of the Masjid has been handed down from one generation to another, in keeping with teachings, traditions and principles which date back to 1895. A major hamper and bread distribution project will once again be part of the Ramadaan activities at the Habibiya Soofie Masjid. Trustee Oewais Soofie will preside over the activities, which attract large numbers of people. Being in one of the most densely populated areas of Durban, the Masjid attracts many who have since moved out of the area, but maintain their links with this established house of worship. This Masjid accommodates the whole family. ***The Overport Soofie Masjid can be found at 64 Glenearn Road, Overport.***



8

THE KENVILLE DARBAR

When Apartheid's Group Areas Act was implemented in 1968, resulting in the demolition of the Riverside complex, Hazrath Shah Goolam Mohamed Soofie Sani, RA, led the move to transform plans to reality and have a new Masjid, Madressah, orphanage and residential quarters built in Kenville. Failing to dismiss the Soofie Saheb vision spearheaded by his sons, the Kenville darbar was an incredible community build. While equipped with meagre resources, the communities of Kenville and Sea Cow Lake provided the labour needed to build the complex. Hundreds of men and children teamed up, carrying bricks, stones, bags of cement, sand and whatever else was required, from the road below, up the steep slopes to the construction site where trucks simply could not reach. The Kenville Darbar is indicative of a piecemeal effort on the part of the community, expanding as it could to suit the needs of it's community. In 1982 the Islamic Nursery School was built, and the renovations to the Masjid and a new Hall was completed later, in 1993. None expected any monetary gain, but were happy to be part of a project which has benefitted many people. The following, among others, have served as Imam and Ustaad - Imam Abdus-Samad Kazi, Kazeer Saheb, Gesu Khan, Goolam Hoosain Moola and Goolam Mohamed Moola. The following have served as Ustaad - Habibullah, Hoosain Miajee, Ajam Moola, Elyaas and Zaihoon (Naani). When Hazrath Shah Goolam Mohamed Soofie Sani, RA, passed away in 1978, his elder son, Hazrath Shah Mohamed Saeid Soofie, was elected trustee and his younger son, Hazrath Shah Abdul Aziz Soofie, deputy. Much as its predecessor, the Kenville Darbar is a family friendly complex, offering a range of facilities to the community. The annual Meelad-ul-Nabi, initiated by Hazrath Soofie Saheb, RA, at the inception of the Kenville Darbar, continues to this day, bringing joyous occasion to the complex. ***The Kenville Darbar can be found at 131 Kenville Road, Kenville.***



SOOFIE MASJID AND DARBAR, WESTVILLE

9

RAMADAAN

Founded in 1904, this is one of the most significant Masaajid in the country and gained even more prominence when the current Imaam, Hazrath Moulana Shah Abdur Raof Habibi, took over in 1982. Moulana Habibi has taught at Anjuman Islam School (Leopold Street), Orient School and Merebank Madressah, where he was the Imaam for a number of years. He rose to become one of South Africa's most respected religious leaders across all faiths - particularly for his contribution to the peace efforts in KwaZulu-Natal during the violent run-up to Democratic Elections in 1994. Moulana Habibi hosted President Nelson Mandela in Durban and was hailed for his service to the greater South African community. He has since fallen ill and his only son, Hafez Shah Mohamed Fuzail has stepped in to ensure that the worshippers' needs are taken care of during these difficult times. Ramadaan has always been a busy, and exciting time in the Darbar. It attracts leading reciters of the Qur'an, as well as influential scholars and academics who have found the atmosphere to be conducive to spiritual and intellectual development. It is expected to be no different this year, especially with various projects to bring comfort to the indigent which range from feeding schemes, to clothing and blanket distribution. Facilities are available for the entire family. *The Westville Soofie Masjid and Darbar is located at 119 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville.*

ESHA 18:30

IFTAR 17:09

ASR 15:30

ZUHR 11:58

SUNRISE 6:39

SEHRI 5:11

F 25-May



10 QUEENSBRIDGE MOSQUE

The Queensbridge Mosque is one of the oldest places of worship in Durban at just under hundred years old. It is situated on the bank of the Umgeni River at the entrance of the Old North Coast Road. The Mosque is now a heritage building with prominent minarets and its Mogul era inspired architecture. Dr Mahomed Khan who is chairman of the trust board and has been since 1975 oversaw extensive renovations to the building in the eighties. For many years the Masjid has served a vibrant community from Sea Cow Lake, Briardene, Riverside, Newlands, Avoca and Springfield. The surrounding communities were forcibly evicted by the Apartheid government, yet the Mosque continued to draw the Musallees who used to frequent it. Hafez Ismail Khatib, grandson of Maulana Khatib holds regular Dhikr sessions at the Masjid, and it was renowned for the Huffaaz who were brought in from Cape Town in the sixties through to the eighties to perform Taraweeh during Ramadaan. This changed when local Huffaaz took their place. It is one of the few open Mosques which allows speakers from all schools of thought. Dr Rashied Omar, now at the Claremont Road Masjid in Cape Town served for many years as the resident Imaam whilst he was the president of the Muslim Youth Movement. The adjacent property was acquired for commercial purposes and the Mosque was expanded to cater for an ever growing number of Musallees. The annual Mouloud is celebrated in the adjacent basement hall and has become an important event in the calendar. The building stands prominently on a busy arterial and is testament to the communities which surrounded it. ***It has facilities for women. The Masjid is situated at 19 North Coast Road.***



Esale Sawaab for **Imams Essa Al Seppie, Hassan Solomons & Omar Noordien**

MOHAMMEDEYA MASJID, SPARKS ROAD

A Tamil land owner sold this prime site for one thousand pounds British sterling to the Muslim community on condition that it is not used for any business purpose, according to chairman of the trust board, Mr. Nouman Khan. That was in 1949 and leading businessman of that era, Mr. EG Paruk paid the price in cash and then invited the community to build a Masjid. A year later, the Mohammedeya Masjid was erected, with a 200 strong congregation to assist in developing the vibrant force that it is today. Steeped in community history, the Masjid owes its existence to community stalwarts, like Mr. Abdullah Khan who worked very hard to develop the Masjid; it was he who convinced Mr. Abba Moosa, a good businessman of his time to help pay to extend the building into a double storey. The Masjid has seen two long serving Imaams, Moulana Abdul Kader and Moulana Turab Ali, both of whom each served the community for more than 20 years. This Ramadaan is going to be extra special for the Masjid, as Hafiz Yusuf Vahid will be leading the Taraweeh Salaah for a record unbroken 38 years. Hafiz Vahid joined the Masjid at the age of 13, and has remained a dedicated member, and assisted in the development of its congregation since. To date, the Masjid sees 1800 worshippers pass through its doors to share in prayer, reflection, and community. ***The Masjid accommodates the entire family. The Masjid is found at 276 Moses Kotane Road, Overport.***



Esale Sawaab for **Late Ebrahim Osman, Dr A Rehman Ismail, Ike Idris Nxedlana**



RAMADAAN

ESHA 18:30

IFTAR 17:09

ASR 15:29

ZUHR 11:58

SUNRISE 6:41

SEHRI 5:12

S 27-May

12

MASJID AL-MUBIN, MOBENI HEIGHTS

Another tale of flourishing out of difficulty imposed by the Apartheid government, Mobeni Heights today is an upmarket suburb adjacent to the sprawling settlement township of Chatsworth. But, at its establishment, the authorities provided the essential infrastructure of roads, water, electricity, and sanitation, and would-be residents were required to purchase land and build their own homes. With Indians being forcibly removed from their homes in various parts of the City, there were many takers. The town planners in Pretoria felt that Indians who had the money would want to live in plush surroundings rather than in sub-economic homes in suburbs which were spartan to say the least. They were also expected to buy land and build their own places of worship. That is how Masjid al-Mubin became a reality and, according to one of the founding members, Dr Goolam Hoosen, once the land was secured, work started during the latter years of the 1960's. The erection of the Masjid is owed largely to the assistance of Dr Karrim of Clairwood, and Dr Mohamed Khan of Port Shepstone. Almost 40 years later, the Masjid today supports a thriving community, and boasts a young leadership of Asif Taylor and Imaam Shakir Luqmaan who serve to support the spiritual needs of their community. True to its community ethos, the Masjid accommodates the whole family. ***The Masjid is located on the corner of Tivoli Gardens and Oribi Circle.***



RAZA JUMA MASJID, PHOENIX

Philanthropist Hajee Ebrahim Tarmahomed built this Masjid which, when it opened its doors in 1994 was the second largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Not many people believed then, that what started out as a resettlement camp would actually grow into a “city within a city”. Detractors felt that it was too big and that it would be underutilized, but the vision of Hajee Ebrahim was to establish a vibrant facility. As it turned out, it provides a facility which easily caters for the 2,000 worshippers who turn up regularly. The Masjid’s architecture is beautiful, with an oriental design and lots of arches and domes. It is situated directly opposite the Phoenix Plaza, one of the busiest shopping complexes in the province. Thousands of people converge in the area, making it one of the most densely populated business districts. The Masjid, outside of daily prayers, offers Hifz and Madressah classes, engaging students, volunteers, and teachers as extensions of the community. Since the Masjid’s inception, Ramadaan has a full schedule of activities, with Taraweeh, Qur’an reading and a series of lectures, talks and workshops. Hamper distribution to the less fortunate is among the keenly supported projects by the community, and Iftaar is served daily. Social welfare services, healthcare initiatives and educational projects are hosted as the need arises. The Ameer of the Masjid is Moulana Rafiq Shah who is a leading public figure in the religious and political domains. He joined the Masjid while still being a fresh faced youngster and developed into a seasoned campaigner in what is one of the toughest neighbourhoods in the city. The Imaam is Qari Mohamed Riyaz who is actively involved in the daily activities, policy and decision making process. The Masjid has ample parking. Facilities for women are available. ***The address of the Masjid is 54 Pandora Street, Phoenix.***



14

JAAMIA MASJID, ISIPINGO BEACH

Muslims had to start from the beginning to develop an Islamic lifestyle in what was once a plush suburb reserved for the exclusive residence of Whites. But in a surprise move during the latter of the 1970's, the Government declared the area Indian and a number of Muslim families bought houses and moved into this seaside resort-like residential area. A need arose to build a Masjid to meet the requirements of the Muslims. In 1978, the Jaamia Masjid opened its doors to 800 worshippers and since then has been providing for the spiritual needs of its community. The exercise in building the Masjid was a community effort, and saw the people coming together, contributing in both cash and kind. They even hired a renowned architect to ensure that the Masjid would blend in with the environment. The Masjid today expresses this pivotal role, of balancing and enhancing an Islamic lifestyle within the area. Ramadaan has always and continues to be an integral part of vital practices, and this year is going to be no different, featuring a full line up of Huffaaz, some of whom have been performing their duties for many years. The now self-sustaining community of Isipingo Beach provides for both its own community and reaching out to those in need through the Masjid. The distribution of food hampers, and the provision of meals at Iftaar for around 250 people, as well as daily lectures are a part of the Ramadaan programme. ***The Masjid has no facilities for women. Located at 25 Amilcar Cabral, Street, Isipingo Beach.***



RESERVOIR HILLS MASJID

The Reservoir Hills Masjid is quite a rarity, it is unlike the traditional forms found in other Masjids around Durban, taking its cue from a square plan that is shifted towards Qibla. The Masjid takes advantage of its landscape, positioned on a steep slope, the accommodation is arranged vertically from its street entrance into the main prayer hall. An architectural treat, the building blends the modernist architecture of the time with the traditional symbol of the minaret for the community it intended to serve. Built in 1978 to serve the re-settled community, almost all of whom lost their homes under the Group Areas Act, it continues to serve what has become a bustling suburb with thousands of residents. Moulana Ismail Patel joined in 1989 and continues to be the Imaam in what is still the only Masjid in this sprawling suburb. One of the longest serving trustees, Mr. Dawood Simjee (80) continues to be active in the affairs of the Masjid. For Ramadaan, the Masjid expects a crowd of around 250 worshippers, and accommodates special night programmes after Taraweeh, as well as particular all-night sessions for the odd dates of the last ten days for the holy month. Despite its roots in a time where Reservoir Hills was deemed a rural area, the Masjid today sees a large group of the younger generation as attendees, offering comfort of a growing congregation. With the 50th anniversary of the Masjid looming, the community has been firmly established. There are at present no facilities for women. ***The address of the Masjid is 47 Mountbaten Road, Reservoir Hills.***



Esale Sawaab for **Late Ismail Manjra, Suleman Lockhat, Mahmood & Yusuf Moosa**

15

RAMADAAN

ESHA 18:29

IFTAR 17:07

ASR 15:28

ZUHR 11:59

SUNRISE 6:43

SEHRI 5:13

T 31-May

16

FLOWER ROAD MASJID, CLAIRWOOD

Four generations of the Habibullah Ebrahim family, also known as the Falcon Khan dynasty has served this Masjid for 100 years. One of the founding members, Habibullah Ustad was chairman of the trust and he in turn was succeeded by his son, Habibullah, also known as Falcon Khan, one time Mayor of Isipingo. When he took leave of this world, his son, Nizam took over the reins and now his son, Kamil is heading the administration of one of the oldest Masjids in the south Durban basin. The notion of community service is a part of this family's tradition, including feeding the needy – particularly on the celebration of Eid. The Apartheid government had a damaging effect on the area, and while 80% of its residents were relocated to Chatsworth, the people resisted the destruction of the Masjid, as well as the cemetery. Presently, the area is facing yet another spatial makeover, as the main industrial dockland for Durban's port expansion. But despite this, the community of around 400 families have turned their attention to observing Ramadaan, and are very active in the area. The Masjid offers a line-up of Huffaaz for Taraweeh Salaah during Ramadaan, with Iftaar held daily. *The Masjid is at 349 Flower Road, Clairwood.*



MASJID-E-YUSUF PARLOCK

The Masjid-e-Yusuf was the first Masjid to be erected in 1982 in Parlock, the privately owned township developed by the Lockhat and Paruk families that sought to provide suitable housing to those uprooted from the city by the Group Areas Act. Mr Y A Lockhat initiated the move to have a place of worship in the midst of an Indian township, north of Durban and surrounded by low income earning communities. The Masjid would provide a necessary and uniting function in the area, providing spiritual relief from the hardship of life in the divided city. Through the funding and support of the Hajee Ahmed Mahomed Lockhat Wakuff, the Lockhat Charities Trust, the A M Lockhat and E M Paruk families, the Masjid was built. What was once a farm has over time transformed into a modern, thriving residential area, with Masjid-e-Yusuf at its very heart. Accommodating 450 people, the Masjid is actively lead by Sheikh Usman Bonomali, who will be supported by a number of young huffaaz throughout Ramadaan. A busy Ramadaan programme will see the Masjid engaged for daily Salaah, Iftaar for its congregation to break their fast, Taraweeh into the night, and additional readings. The Masjid will pay special attention to the last 10 nights of the holy month to reap the benefits of the sacred month. There is no accommodation for women at this Masjid at present. ***The Masjid-e-Yusuf can be found at 311 Amlock Drive, Parlock.***



18

LODGE GROVE MASJID

Lodge Grove Mosque was originally an old home which served as a Mosque and Madressah. It was demolished in 1985 to make way for the much-needed new building which was facilitated by Brother Yacoob Paruk and designed by Seedat and Seedat Architects. The architecture drew on Islamic elements and interpreted them in a contemporary style. The prominent curve of the exterior was to cater for the Qibla direction which is not parallel to the street. It features one of the tallest minarets in the area and is prominently visible. The old house built in 1910 served the working-class community well for more than 50 years, according to Mr Yunus Sultan who has been a regular musallee since 1968. Under the Group Areas Act, Overport grew into a dormitory suburb with medium rise flats springing up at a fast rate and housed the displaced communities who had lost their homes. This move led to the need for more Madressah classrooms, a larger Masjid facility and on-site parking. The Women's Cultural Group saw the need to provide a Ghusal Khana facility since it was difficult to give the deceased Ghusal at the flats. This facility is now efficiently run by the Overport Muslim Burial Society led by Br Ebrahim Randeree and his dedicated team of volunteers. The existing graveyard and Mosque serves Overport as well as the surrounding communities of Asherville, Cato Manor and Musgrave. Mr Sultan informs that, "All major events on the Islamic calendar are observed. Prayers are performed daily and like all the previous years, Ramadaan will once again be observed with nightly prayers together with the daily traditional Iftaar meal served for the breaking of the fast". There are no facilities for ladies. **Situated on the corner of Lodge Grove and Hill Street, Overport.**



MASJID-E-NOOR, ASHERVILLE

What started out as a Jamaat Khana and nursery, has blossomed into one of the most powerful seats of learning under the leadership of the now late Hazrath Moulana Yunus Patel. Built in the heart of one of the most affluent Indian suburbs in Durban, the Masjid has attracted scholars and students from various centres who came to sit at the feet of the Moulana whose humility and wisdom have opened up the highways for many to serve Islam. Moulana introduced a weekly Majlis on Monday nights which is a 45 minute lecture dealing with various subjects, the theme being Islaah (self reformation). On Thursdays, Moulana introduced a 45-minute Dhikr session with the theme of Taubah (sincere repentance). These have attracted a large following, with people travelling long distances to attend these gatherings. He also conducted most of the Jumu'ah programmes at Masjid-e-Noor which included a 20 minute lecture in English. He followed this up with dealing with the Khutbah in Arabic. The intention of not only connecting people with people, but people with the Almighty through these programmes is evident. The Masjid boasts a library and encourages discussion and research. Today, Moulana Naeem Motala continues this legacy, with Ramadaan specifically prepared to be a dynamic and busy series of events to bring about spiritual stability. The Masjid accommodates women for special functions. ***The Masjid is at 123 Mallinson Road, Asherville.***



20

TALEEMUDDEEN MASJID

A small site adjacent to an existing Madressah was offered to the Isipingo Beach community as an established place for the Madressah teachers and students to perform their Salaah. In 1982, The Taleemuddeen Masjid was erected, and despite its small site, the building comprised not only the Masjid, but additional classrooms, offices, and a library that overlooked the main prayer space below. It has a retractable roof which gives the space a courtyard like character when opened, and serves as a natural ventilator. The Masjid has an airy feeling and blends in well with the adjacent Dar-ul-Uloom. It is also accessible separately by the public who wish to perform their prayers with the students and teachers of the institute. The approximately 330 Madressah students are largely from underprivileged backgrounds, including students from South Africa as well as 100 foreign students from Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Somalia, the DRC, USA, Great Britain, Sweden, and Malaysia. Their tuition, board and lodging are sponsored in part, and in many cases completely, by the madressa. Over and above their daily events, the Masjid has a busy schedule planned for Ramadaan with the daily Salaah, Taraweeh, and three programmes running daily engaged by Mufti Ebrahim Salejee. ***There are no facilities for women. The Taleemuddeen Masjid is at 43rd Avenue, Isipingo Beach.***



MASJID AL-HILAL, OVERPORT

The Admiral Hotel was probably the first Indian owned Hotel in South Africa, visitors from all over South Africa visited this establishment, which was touted as the “home of fine and modern living”. Situated on Crescent Street, which links the city with the vast flatland of Overport, it was easily accessible. During its golden years, it was a money-spinner and people fought to get in. Then suddenly, it shut down and when the property came to life again, it was revived as Masjid al-Hilal. The transformation was dramatic. Each Ramadaan the Masjid attracts crowds of at times 2,000 worshippers. Today, the Masjid has two Imaams, Moulana Obaidullah Desai and Mufti Yusuf Desai, who have moulded into a powerful team dedicated to the service of the community. The Masjid is active in a range of ways daily, with a Madressah, that educates 200 children daily, and, in the evenings, offers guidance for revert Muslims who come to learn of their newfound faith. This Ramadaan, internationally renowned Moulana Ahmed Suleiman Khatani will be delivering motivational lectures and wisdom workshops. On the last 10 days of Ramadaan, the Masjid will be a hive of activity, with a host of sessions covering a vast range of subjects of immense benefit to those attending. Iftaar is attended daily by 1,000 people and nobody is turned away, even those of other faiths. The Masjid is also the Markaz for Jamaat Tabligh. It does not cater for women. **Masjid al-Hilal can be found at 139 Crescent Street, Overport.**



22

MASJID-US-SALEHEEN

In 1993, a group of community elders purchased a house on 92 Harris Crescent to establish a Maktab and Musallah. The facility, with some alteration would cater for 40 people, and a small gathering for Salaah, with the intention of a new building to be erected in the future. In 1994, the first Taraweeh was performed in the Musallah, and two years later, Hifz classes started with an enrolment of 15 learners, accommodating the increasing population of Muslims in the Sherwood area. In a short period of time, the congregation increased with more attendees for daily Salaah, the need for an established Madressah for girls grew, and all the while, the services of Islamic education at the humble building increased and was distributed across new steel containers and wendy houses that were converted into classrooms for Islahul-Muslimaat, the Maktab, as well as the Hifz classes. The increased congregation spread itself across these spaces for Taraweeh, even occupying the courtyard of the house itself. This arrangement continued until the need for new premises became urgent, due to its ever increasing congregation. After years of planning, Masjid-us-Saliheen opened its doors in July 2011, making manifest the elders' vision, and delighting the local community with a formalised Masjid and Madressah in response to their needs for such a facility. The Masjid accommodates all of its growing congregation indoors, while Islahul Muslimaat now accommodates about 350 girls in the morning, about 120 boys and girls in the afternoon Maktab and about 15 boys in the Hifz classes; playing a vital role in the community. ***The Masjid is located on Harris Crescent, Sherwood.***



JAAME MASJID, WESTVILLE

The Jaame Masjid is due to celebrate its 30th anniversary next year, and since 1989 has doubled its capacity to 1,000 worshippers. Built by the Mahomedy family at a time of great need for such an establishment by the local community, whose only access to a Masjid was some distance away in the then “white” area; the Masjid has remained a part of the family, with Moulana Ahmad Mahomedy at the helm. The Masjid, at the heart of its community pays tribute to pioneers Mr. Ismail Mahomedy, Dr. Yunus Omar and Professor Yacoob Dasoo, as well as Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee and Moulana Yunus Patel, who played important roles and served as trustees. The Masjid has confirmed a busy schedule for Ramadaan that will cater to the community’s spiritual needs, including a special programme after each Salaah, with Iftaar served to its congregation to break their fast. Visiting scholars and reciters of the Qur’an will make contributions to the essence of the month at the Masjid. There are no facilities for women. *The Masjid is located at 46 Meerut Road, Westville.*

ESHA 18:28

IFTAR 17:06

ASR 15:26

ZUHR 12:00

SUNRISE 6:47

SEHRI 5:17

F 08-Jun



24

MASJID-UT-TAQWA,
SEA COW LAKE

It's the 10th anniversary of what has become a powerful platform of unity for Muslims living in this northern enclave of Durban. Imaam Mufti Zubair Bayat has and continues to build bridges amongst Muslims of Sea Cow Lake, Bakerville, KwaMashu and Newlands to such an extent that the double storey Masjid is packed to capacity with 500 worshippers at any given major event. This Ramadaan sees a busy schedule, especially during the last 10 days, when the Masjid is transformed into a multi-national gathering of people seeking spiritual sustenance. Mufti Zubair will lead the congregation, providing meaningful, reflective, and enabling lectures to the Masjid community. Iftaar attracts hundreds of people from across racial and national lines in a mass showing of unity which has made the Masjid such a much sought after place of worship. The ethos of the Masjid, to embrace one and all as part of their community is reflected in the ever-expanding congregation. Sea Cow Lake is a working class suburb and the trustees wanted a Masjid which would provide a wide range of needs for the people, including the youth who do not have many recreational facilities. Over the years, it has gained the reputation of being a source of knowledge and promotion of enlightenment. The Masjid is self-sustaining and enjoys financial and other support from the community. Mufti Bayat also runs the Darul Ihsan Islamic Services Centre, a non-profit organization providing social welfare, educational and essential services. **Facilities for women are available. Located at 53 Joyce Road, Sea Cow Lake.**



UMHLANGA MASJID, SOMERSET PARK

25

RAMADAAN

Imaam Mohammed Vanker presides over a multi-cultural Ummah and some of his challenges are very much different to those which confront most leaders in Masaajid in traditional neighbourhoods. Daily he faces people from various racial groups, many of them have diverse cultures, and traditions, many of them professional people, who are united by their faith at the Masjid. The Masjid was built in 2003 to accommodate a new community, and was soon servicing a congregation of over 500 people. This is the 15th year that Ramadaan will be observed in this Masjid and there are now daily programmes, with intensive sessions after each of the five daily prayers. The Qur'an and Sunnah are taught skillfully and meaningfully to everyone and all are keen to learn more. The Masjid has a Madressah for children and the enrolment has grown to 100. Iftaar is part of the culture at the Masjid and it draws all people, no matter how different they might be, to share and give thanks. Moulana Vanker leads the proceedings throughout Ramadaan and is involved in every way to ensure that the benefits are accrued by everyone present. The Masjid has established a facility at the Gateway Shopping Mall in Palm Boulevard and Taraweeh will be performed there every night as well. The Masjid has a successful, and growing, outreach project with members reaching out to the poor in neighbouring townships. Feeding schemes are run to ensure that as many people get the benefits of a nourishing meal. **Facilities for women are available. The Umhlanga Masjid is at 2 Burton Close, Somerset Park.**

ESHA 18:28

IFTAR 17:06

ASR 15:26



ZUHR 12:00

SUNRISE 6:48



SEHRI 5:17

10-Jun

S

26

MASJIDUN NASR QUEENSBURGH

Masjidun Nasr was officially opened on Saturday 13 June 2015 after a struggle of 13 years, 11 of which was spent in trying to get the authorities to grant permission for it to be built in the Queensburgh area. There was considerable objection from some of the residents who campaigned relentlessly. However, all their efforts were in vain against a united and determined community. The membership of the Queensburgh Islamic Society were steadfast in their efforts which culminated in the Masjid officially opening on 29 June 2012. It has separate Wudhu and Salaah facilities for women. Other amenities on site include a kitchen, laundry, boardroom, an office, two flatlets and the Imaam's residence. Some of the activities provided at the Masjid are: daily Madressah classes, weekly Dhikr, commemoration of auspicious events in the Islamic calendar, annual Meelad un Nabi programme, separate Naath programmes for men and women. Among the regular events is the Annual Madressah Jalsa and Cuppa for Cansa, an annual initiative to raise funds for cancer patients. The Masjid also plays an integral part in the greater community by involving itself in various social outreach programmes that are initiated by the members. This includes feeding schemes and blanket distribution. Currently, students are studying Hifz and the Masjid has plans to start an academy in the near future. Various other programmes such as Hadith reading and talks by scholars of Islam are arranged regularly. This Ramadaan, Taraweeh will be performed for the fourth time in the Masjid and for the eighteenth consecutive year under the banner of the Queensburgh Islamic Society. *The Masjid is located at 7 Fairlight Road, Malvern.*



THE HERITAGE MASJID, SAMORA MACHEL STREET

27

RAMADAAN

The Heritage Masjid opened its doors at the beginning of Ramadaan 2017, transformed from what used to be the Congregational Church Building. While the exterior appears much the same as it did in 1903, inside, the walls have been renovated, the roof has been replaced, the stained glass windows, parts of the tiled floors and the woodwork revamped, and, most importantly, the axis has shifted, bringing the old place of worship to life once more as a Masjid. Calligraphy beautifully signifies this subtle shift in the building's occupation through the declaration of faith "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad SAW is his messenger". What stands as an intricately detailed building today has faced many obstacles in its history, disuse and demolition, to name but a few. Thanks to our municipality's value for heritage or listed buildings, the building remains unshaken as it approaches its 115th anniversary. Today, the building has returned to its glory, as the Moroccan style calligraphy and decoration dominates the interior of the Masjid. The intricate design on the walls has extended into the cushion like, red luxurious wall-to-wall carpet. The roof and pressed metal ceiling have been restored, while a public address system, air conditioning, controlled lighting, aluminum and glass doors added as part of the refurbishment. Only a portion of the original stained glass windows remain, and some of the old ceramic tiles have been uncovered, with the intention of celebrating the building's heritage and allowing its new use as a Masjid to restore its architectural and communal value. The Masjid is developing an ever-growing band of worshippers, and a busy schedule is being drawn up for the use of its adjoining multi-purpose hall – the former church hall will equip the Masjid to host a number of events. This surprisingly serene complex within the city centre is being described as "The Palace of Tranquility", and opens its doors for both men and women. *The Heritage Masjid's address is 50 Samora Machel Street, Durban.*

ESHA 18:28

IFTAR 17:06

ASR 15:26

ZUHR 12:01

SUNRISE 6:49

SEHRI 5:18

T 12-Jun



28

DURBAN WESTVILLE CAMPUS
MASJID

A high-powered delegation from Rabita donated funds for the building of a Masjid on the campus of the then University of Durban Westville during the 1980s. Leading members of the local community, including the now late Dr MGH Mayat undertook the role of facilitating and maintaining this Masjid. At a time of expressed need, the Masjid would become not only a place of worship for Muslims, but a gathering space for one and all, under the condition of it being used as a space to exercise diversity and dialogue. Designed by a local renowned architect, the space is an elegant, spiritual place. The Masjid had always accommodated its community and others during the month of Ramadaan, with meals and refreshments offered at Iftaar, and Taraweeh being performed, even during the university vacations. This practice has continued, with the doors of the Masjid open to one and all, dismissing any specific ideologies that would deter from its original intent. The immediate community of the Masjid, the students and lecturers of the now University of KwaZulu-Natal Westville campus have remained true to this intent, with their first Mu'adhin, Moosa, who hailed from Malawi, to the invited guests for Jumu'ah lectures. Maulana Abdul Kader Mohamedy who lectures in Economics at the university leads the Zuhr Salah and delivers most of the Jumu'ah lectures and khutbas. Brother Essa who is from Malawi is the full time Mu'adhin and Imam. ***The Masjid is located on the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Westville campus.***



UNIVERSITY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL JAMAAT KHANA

Universities are pivotal places of discourse and critical thinking, so when the time comes to support students and staff in a spiritual capacity, the process and places in which this is exercised is rich and unique. One such place is the Jamaat Khana at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, a seemingly hidden piece of architecture between the nature reserve and the Denis Shepstone Building on the Howard College Campus. To meet the needs of the growing Muslim community of students and staff at the campus, the University permitted a religious building that would allow for communal prayer and a place of belonging for the community parallel to their academic commitments. The building itself is at once immersed into its context, yet evokes elements of Islamic architecture through its use of approach, and its fantastic play on volume and light internally. What appears hidden on the outside is revealed internally, as the essence of the space, its detailing and delicate consideration of Islamic referencing in architecture contribute to a space that is inherently spiritual. The space plays a role in the daily balancing of academic and spiritual gain on campus through accommodating the daily Salaah, Jumu'ah and lectures thereafter, and hosts a number of events throughout the year, particularly during Ramadaan, encouraging the visibility of the practice of Islam in this otherwise modern and diverse environment. The Muslim Students Association and committed congregation of students keeps the Jamaat Khana alive, providing a place not only of gathering, but belonging. *The Jamaat Khana has facilities for women. The Jamaat Khana is located on Anniversary Road, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College Campus.*

ESHA 18:29

IFTAR 17:06

ASR 15:26

ZUHR 12:01

SUNRISE 6:49

SEHRI 5:19

T 14-Jun



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