



# SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

## THE ANGLO - ZULU WAR

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## THE ANGLO - ZULU WAR OF 1879

In 1879, the British invaded Zululand. The central of the three major invading columns forded the Buffalo River at Rorke's Drift. Within days Lord Chelmsford's invasion was in jeopardy. Part of his central column had been almost annihilated at Isandlwana, in a battle rated as one of the greatest military disasters in British colonial history.

A few survivors struggled back into Natal, crossing the mighty Buffalo River at the Fugitives' Drift. Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill died in a gallant attempt to save the Queen's colours of their regiment, earning the first posthumous Victoria Crosses in history.

A great wing of the Zulu army went on to attack the British garrison at Rorke's Drift, and these warriors were beaten off in a battle that lasted all night; an action that saw the awarding of 11 VCs and 5 DCMs.

# KNOW MORE...

Hi There,

The Battle of Isandlwana, during the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, has been the subject of conjecture and controversy for 140 years. It is arguably the greatest defeat that the British Empire was ever to suffer in her entire colonial history; in two short hours a modern British army was destroyed.

But, was this truly a British defeat? Is it explained away by incompetence, failings in supply, or overconfidence? Or, was it due to the astounding leadership and motivation of the Zulu forces?

I recall sitting one early morning on the battle field of Isandlwana one chilly morning, in a camp chair, with a blanket, hot water bottle and a steaming cup of coffee, listening to the story recounted by a magnificent story-teller, who also happened to be the great great grandson, of a Zulu Impi who fought at Isandlwana. The sheer emotion and sadness is overwhelming.

Listening how this battle was won, gives insight to the brave warriors and Zulu chieftains who fought and died in defence of their King and country.

I go back to that moment and those stories many times, being haunted by the loss of life and the sheer determination of man ~ both British & Zulu. If you are a lover of history and vivid story-telling, this is something for the bucketlist.

Warm Regards

*Colleen*

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