



DISCOVERING THE MARKETS OF WARWICK

TOUR INFO

Tours run on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9.30am to 12pm and 1pm to 3.30pm.

Cost is: R50 a person

To book contact: 031 309 3880

e-mail mowtours@aet.org.za

or visit the website

www.marketsofwarwick.co.za.

Booking at least 24 hours in advance is essential.

Wear comfy shoes and appropriate clothing.
Take cash as opposed to debit or credit cards.

Get It embarked on an adventure of discovery recently when we accepted an invitation from Asiye eTafuleni, a non-government organisation, to meet and greet local traders on a **Markets of Warwick** Tour. What a blast, and what an eye-opener it was to explore this vibrant, unique and thriving area.

It is essentially an interactive and cultural walking tour initiated by local traders to showcase their merchandise and the endemic and vibrant energy of their markets that are so much a part of Durban. The tour demonstrate how local informal traders can be successfully incorporated into urban spaces, benefiting not only the traders and their livelihood, but the local tourism industry as well. Admittedly, taking a walk through the nine markets on this specially

choreographed tour seemed pretty dubious at first, with Warwick Junction lying on the edge of Durban's inner-city as the primary public transport interchange. On an average day, the area accommodates 460 000 commuters and at least 6000 street vendors. Given the mix of rail, taxi and bus transport, this area has always been a natural market for street vendors. But, experiencing it first hand gave us a huge reality check and opened our eyes to a whole new and memorable cultural experience

right on our doorstep. Currently the only informally structured market in a public space of this magnitude, *the Markets of Warwick* has established itself as the single most authentic African market South Africa has to offer. Locals and tourists can browse streets lined with products varying from beadwork, traditional arts and crafts, traditional cuisine, fresh produce, music and entertainment merchandise, clothing, accessories and traditional medicine.