

Publication: TravelWires.com

Online

Date: 26. 01. 2010

Monthly unique users; 177,800



London set to launch Shaka Zulu theme venue

[Translate]

Developers in London are seeking advice from Zulu [King Goodwill Zwelithini](#) on a stunning new £5.5 million restaurant/nightclub that will showcase South African goods and products. The venue which will open in May 2010 will be called [Shaka Zulu](#) after the revered Zulu King. And King Goodwill has been invited as Guest of Honour. The Shaka Zulu project is underway right in the heart of London at [Camden Market](#), a top tourist 'hot spot'.

Covering 26,000 ft it will be a huge venue with a capacity of 850 incorporating not only an upmarket restaurant and separate nightclub but also a VIP lounge, cocktail lounge and oyster bar and a space for 450 people to watch regular floorshows. The cuisine will be broadly South African prepared by top chefs. The developers fully expect the venue to be a regular haunt of the rich and famous. £2 million is being spent on huge hand carved wooden panels that will adorn most of the wall space throughout the venue. One panel depicting an elephant is 60ft high, 30ft wide and 6ft deep!

A 45ft bronze statue of King Shaka will stand at the entrance. The man behind the project is Roger Payne who has long been a mainstay of the London restaurant club scene. He admits to having been fascinated by King Shaka for most of his life. 'It started when I was very young in school when I became enthralled by the differences between Zulu and British culture around King Shaka's time and it has continued right up until the present day. King Shaka casts a long shadow. He is remembered and revered as a unifier of the Zulu nation.' Mr Payne and his team have spent long hours at the British Museum in London researching King Shaka. But they have been in contact with King Goodwill Zwelithini out of sheer respect for Zulus and to get more advice on culture and history.