



Provinces

PROVINCES

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South Africa is a country where various cultures merge to form a unique nation, proud of its heritage. The country boasts some of the world's most breathtaking scenery and features an amazing display of bird and wildlife species, which include the well-known Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino).

The country has common boundaries with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, while Mozambique and Swaziland lie to the north-east. Completely enclosed by South African territory in the south-east is the mountain kingdom of Lesotho.

South Africa's biggest asset is its people; a rainbow nation with rich and diverse cultures.

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own legislature, premier and executive councils. They are the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape, lying on the south-eastern South African coast, is a region of great natural beauty, particularly the rugged cliffs, rough seas and dense green bush of the stretch known as the Wild Coast. In the Eastern Cape, various floral habitats meet. Along the coast, the northern tropical forests intermingle with the more temperate woods of the south.

The province is serviced by airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London, Mthatha and Bhisho. The two Industrial Development Zones (IDZs) have delivered much-needed investment, with the East London IDZ securing private

Capital: Bhisho

Eastern Cape

Principal languages:

isiXhosa	78,8%
Afrikaans	10,5%
English	5,6%



Population: 6 562 053

Percentage share of the total population: 12,67%

Area: 168 966 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

Free State

Capital: Bloemfontein

Principal languages:

Sesotho	64,2%
Afrikaans	12,2%
isiXhosa	7,5%



Population: 2 745 590

Percentage share of the total population: 5,3%

Area: 129 825 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

investors to the amount of R4,063 billion in the automotive, aquaculture, agro-processing, renewable energy and business process outsourcing sectors.

The Coega IDZ now has 21 operating investors, which represents R1,24 billion in private sector investments. This has created 3 645 construction jobs, and 2 985 direct jobs. Another R7,6 billion projects are being implemented.

Free State

The Free State, a province of wide horizons and blue skies, farmland, mountains, goldfields and widely dispersed towns, lies in the heart of South Africa. Between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south, this immense rolling prairie stretches as far as the eye can see. Mining, particularly gold, is the biggest employer, followed by manufacturing.

The capital, Bloemfontein, houses the Supreme Court of Appeal, a leading university and some top schools. Important towns include Welkom, Sasolburg, Odendaalsrus, Kroonstad, Parys, Phuthaditjhaba, Bethlehem and the charming village of Clarens situated in the rolling foothills of the Maluti Mountains.

Some of South Africa's most valued San rock art can be found in the Free State. Other key tourist attractions in the province include the majestic Golden Gate National Park, the annual air show in Bethlehem, the Cherry Festival in Ficksburg, and the Fauresmith International Endurance Ride equestrian event. The annual Mangaung African Cultural Festival, known as Macufe, is hosted in partnership with the

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Tourism Authority and the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State. The Vredefort Dome, 10 km in diameter, about 100 km south-west of Johannesburg, is on the United Nations' World Heritage Site List.

Gauteng

Gauteng is the economic hub of South Africa and the continent, responsible for over 34,8% of the country's total gross domestic product (GDP), although it is the smallest of South Africa's nine provinces.

The province is also the financial-services capital of Africa, as more than 70 foreign banks have their head offices in the province, as do at least the same number of South African banks, stockbrokers and insurance giants. Financial and business services, logistics, manufacturing, property, telecommunications and trade are some of the most important economic sectors. Johannesburg, nicknamed "Egoli" (Place of Gold), is the capital of the province and a city of contrasts. South of Johannesburg is Soweto.

There are 159 mines in Gauteng – 44 of them gold mines – that together account for a quarter of South Africa's total mineral production. Most of the mining is for gold – 80% of Gauteng's output.

Most overseas visitors enter South Africa via OR Tambo International Airport. Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa and home to the Union Buildings.

Gauteng

Capital: Johannesburg

Principal languages:

Isizulu	19,79%
Afrikaans	12,4%
Sesotho	11,5%
English	13,27%

Population: 12 272 263

Percentage share of the total population: 23,7%

Area: 18 178 km²



Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

The province's Gautrain, which started operating in 2010, is Africa's first world-class, modern rapid rail and bus service. From July 2011, the Gautrain carried more than 40 000 passengers hourly between Johannesburg, Pretoria and the OR Tambo International Airport.

Gauteng houses a large diversity of bird species, as it straddles the transition between several different biomes. About 350 species are regularly present, and many more have been recorded.

KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal is one of the country's most popular holiday destinations. This verdant region includes South Africa's lush subtropical east coast. Washed by the warm Indian Ocean, it stretches from Port Edward in the south, and northwards to the Mozambique boundary.

In addition to the magnificent coastline, the province also boasts sweeping savanna in the east, and the majestic Drakensberg mountain range in the west.

Visitors can enter the province through the King Shaka International Airport at La Mercy, north of Durban or use the extensive national road network.

There are also two major harbours – the port of Durban, which is one the busiest in Africa, and Richards Bay, which is an important coal-export harbour.

The province has several nature reserves including the Royal Natal National Park, Giant's Castle and the Kamberg Nature Reserve. There are several tertiary institutions of

KwaZulu-Natal

Capital: Pietermaritzburg

Principal languages:

isiZulu	77,8%
English	13,1%
Afrikaans	1,5%



Population: 10 267 300

Percentage share of the total population: 19,8%

Area: 94 361 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

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Limpopo

Capital: Polokwane

Principal languages:

Sesotho sa Leboa	52,9%
Tshivenda	16,7%
Xitsonga	16,9%



Population: 5 404 868

Percentage share of the total population: 10,4%

Area: 125 754 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

learning, such as the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology.

KwaZulu-Natal is the only province with a monarchy specifically provided for in the Constitution.

Limpopo

Limpopo, South Africa's northernmost province, borders onto Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, making it the ideal entrance to Africa.

Named after the Limpopo River that flows along its northern border, the province is rich in wildlife, spectacular scenery and a wealth of historical and cultural treasures.

This province is in the Savanna Biome, an area of mixed grassland and trees, which is generally known as bushveld.

The province's natural resources include more than 50 provincial reserves, as well as several private game reserves. The largest section of the Kruger National Park is situated along the eastern boundary of Limpopo with Mozambique.

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga means *Place where the Sun Rises*. Due to the province's spectacular scenic beauty and abundance of wildlife, it is one of South Africa's major tourist destinations.

The area has a network of excellent roads and railway connections, making it highly accessible.

Because of its popularity as a tourist destination, Mpumalanga is also served by a number of small airports, such as the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport. Mbombela is the capital of the province and the administrative and business centre of

Mpumalanga

Capital: Nelspruit

Principal languages:

siSwati	27,67%
isiZulu	24,1%
isiNdebele	10%



Population: 4 039 939

Percentage share of the total population: 7,8%

Area: 76 495 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

the Lowveld. Other important towns are eMalahleni, Standerton, Piet Retief, Malelane, Ermelo, Barberton and Sabie.

Mpumalanga falls mainly within the Grassland Biome. The escarpment and the Lowveld form a transitional zone between this grassland area and the Savanna Biome.

Northern Cape

The Northern Cape is the largest province in South Africa, (slightly bigger than Germany) – taking up almost a third of the country's total land area.

The province is noted for its San rock art, diamond diggings, 4X4 safaris and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is a vast stretch of semi-desert land. The province is also known for its spectacular display of spring flowers, which, for a short period every year, attracts thousands of tourists.

Northern Cape

Capital: Kimberley

Principal languages:

Afrikaans	53,75%
Setswana	33,08%



Population: 1 145 861

(*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011*)

Percentage share of the total population: 2,2%

Area: 372 889 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

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In May 2012, the Northern Cape was chosen as one of two sites to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). Developed by scientists from 17 countries, it will be the largest and most advanced radio telescope in the world.

Among many other benefits, the province's tourism and hospitality industry is benefiting from the project, as scientists and other interested parties, are flooding into the town of Carnarvon.

North West

North West lies in the north of South Africa, on the Botswana border, fringed by the Kalahari desert in the west, Gauteng to the east, and the Free State to the south. It is known as the Platinum Province for the wealth of this metal it has underground.

The province boasts a variety of popular tourist attractions including Sun City, the Pilanesberg National Park, the Madikwe Game Reserve, the Cradle of Humankind Site, the Taung Heritage Site, the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust and the Lesedi Cultural Village.

North West is centrally located on the subcontinent with direct road and rail links to all southern African countries, and with its own airport near the capital city, Mahikeng.

Most economic activity is concentrated in the Southern Region (between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp), Rustenburg, and the Eastern Region, where more than 83,3% of GDP per region of the province is generated.

North West

Capital: Mahikeng

Principal languages:

Setswana	63,38%
Afrikaans	8,96%
isiXhosa	5,51%



Population: 3 509 953

Percentage share of the total population: 6,8%

Area: 140 882 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

Western Cape

Capital: Cape Town

Principal languages:

Afrikaans	49,6%
isiXhosa	24,7%
English	20,2%



Population: 5 822 734

Percentage share of the total population: 11,2%

Area: 129 462 km²

Source: Statistics South Africa (*Census 2011*)

Western Cape

Situated on the south-western tip of Africa, the Western Cape with its wide beaches and breathtaking scenery, complemented by a rich variety of cultures, historical landmarks, excellent restaurants and entertainment, is a world-famous tourist destination.

Table Mountain, which watches over the capital city, Cape Town, is the province's most prominent and famous landmark. With its state-of-the-art cableway, the majestic mountain attracts thousands of tourists annually.

Other popular tourist attractions include the Cape wine-lands, Robben Island, the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the V&A Waterfront and famous beaches such as Clifton and Camps Bay.

The Western Cape is also known for its floral diversity. The Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site comprising eight separate protected areas, covers an area of more than 553 000 ha stretching from the Cape Peninsula to the Eastern Cape. The Knysna-Tsitsikamma region has the country's biggest indigenous forests.

