



Tourism

South Africa is a tourist paradise – offering scenic beauty, diverse wildlife, a kaleidoscope of cultures and heritages, and endless opportunities to explore the outdoors through sport and adventure activities.

South Africa is a popular tourism destination, with arrivals growing from 640 000 in 1994 to more than 6,5 million in 2003.

Tourism is South Africa's fastest-growing industry and contributes about 7,1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Tourism employs an estimated 3% of South Africa's workforce, and is regarded as potentially the largest provider of jobs and earner of foreign exchange. It is projected that in 2010 the South

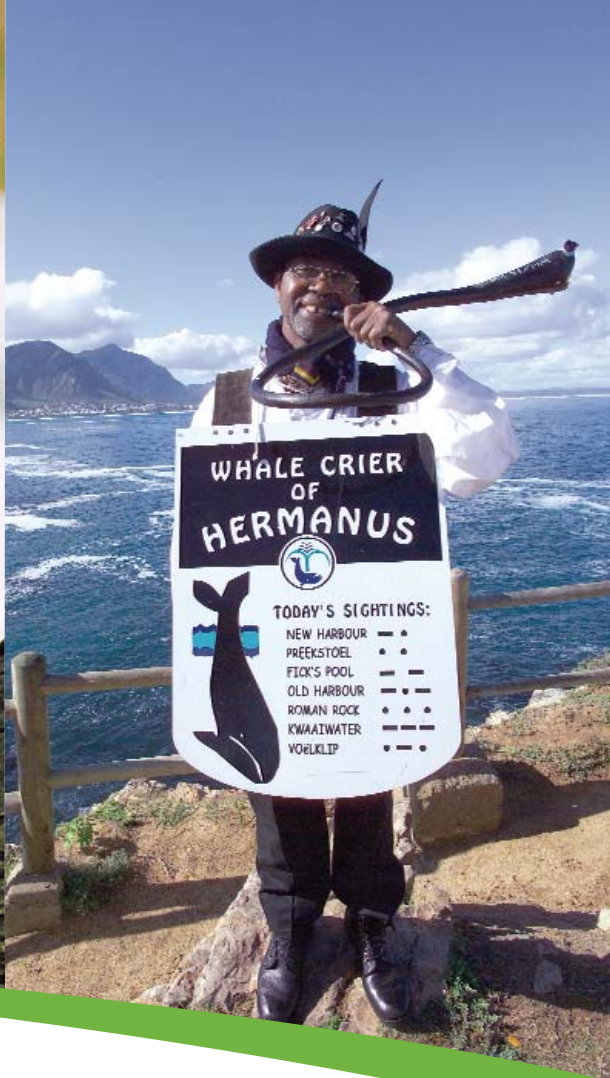
African tourism economy will employ more than 1,2 million people (directly and indirectly).

Tourism in South Africa supports more than 6 500 accommodation establishments.

The fastest-growing segment of tourism in South Africa is ecological tourism (ecotourism), which includes nature photography, birdwatching, botanical studies, snorkelling, hiking and mountaineering.

Community tourism is becoming increasingly popular, with tourists wanting to experience South Africa in the many rural villages and townships across the country. (See chapter 5: *Arts and culture*.)

According to South African Tourism, business tourism, which includes conference tourism, is the



key to further growth in the sector. It injects some R20 billion annually into South Africa's economy.

Business tourism also sustains almost 260 000 jobs in the country, and pays out an estimated R6 billion in salaries and R4 billion in taxes every year.

Tourism policy

At national level, the Tourism Branch in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism leads and directs tourism-policy formulation and implementation towards national tourism growth. It works in partnership with South African Tourism, the provincial tourism authorities, the tourism industry

and other relevant stakeholders. It aims to ensure and accelerate the practical delivery of tourism benefits to the broad spectrum of South Africans, while maintaining sustainability and quality of life.

The *White Paper on Tourism* provides a policy framework for tourism development, and entails, among others:

- empowerment for capacity-building
- a tourism-infrastructure investigations programme
- aggressively marketing South Africa as a tourism destination in international markets
- a domestic tourism and travel campaign.

The Tourism Forum was established in December 1998 as an advisory body to the Minister of

Environmental Affairs and Tourism. It aims to ensure growth and development of the tourism sector.

Raising general awareness about the opportunities for domestic travel continues to be a priority. The aim is to encourage South Africans to travel within their country, make tourism products accessible to all, and facilitate the development of a culture of tourism, encouraging South Africans to create a safe and welcoming environment for visitors.

With this as its main theme, the second Annual National Tourism Conference was held in December 2003. Over 250 delegates, representing a wide spectrum of tourism stakeholders, attended the Conference, which culminated in the signing of the Thaba Nchu Declaration. This is a collective statement from delegates, illustrating their commitment to make tourism work for a prosperous South Africa.

Transformation of ownership patterns in the tourism industry remains a key challenge.

Poverty-relief funding

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's poverty-relief projects promote the development of community-owned tourism products and the establishment of tourism infrastructure, including roads, information centres and tourism signage.

These poverty-relief projects are categorised into product development, infrastructure development, capacity-building and training, the establishment of small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs), and business-development projects.

Marketing

Welcome Campaign

The *Welcome Campaign* encourages all South Africans to embrace tourism and share South Africa's rich natural and cultural heritage. The Campaign is run as a national general-awareness campaign,



South African Tourism spent R468 million in 2004 to market the country as the most preferred destination in the world, to retain existing markets, and to grow the country's share of the global tourism market to 2%.

through roadshows and community-outreach programmes.

Another facet of the Campaign is Tourism Month. This annual promotion, held in September, aims to promote a culture of tourism among all South Africans.

SA Host

SA Host, a national customer-service training programme, was introduced in December 2001. The programme aims to develop and promote a culture of customer service in South Africa by creating awareness of the importance of the individual's role in delivering superior customer service in their place of work and their community.

The programme was originally developed in Canada and has been successfully run in 14 countries.

Successful workshop participants become South African hosts and are awarded a certificate and a lapel pin identifying them as people who are committed to excellent service and are ambassadors for their community and South Africa.

The objectives of SA Host programmes are to:

- improve service-delivery standards through training
- change attitudes towards visitors by creating an awareness of the value of the visitor industry to the country and the role played by every resident
- elevate national pride.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has provided funding to develop seven regional trainers. These trainers will represent SA Host in the regions where it has no representation.

International tourism

The Cabinet approved the International Tourism Growth Strategy in June 2003. The Strategy includes an analysis of core markets and their segments and also focuses on a marketing strategy, visa arrangements, security and local transport infrastructure.

Priority markets have been identified in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The Strategy is not only about increasing arrivals, but is also underpinned by other core principles, such as:

- increasing the length of time tourists spend in South Africa
- increasing the spending of tourists
- ensuring that tourists travel throughout the country, and not just in a few provinces
- facilitating transformation and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) in the local tourism industry.

South Africa has also made its mark as a world Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) destination.

South African Tourism has leveraged the opportunities afforded by a number of high-profile events, including the International Cricket Council World Cup in 2003.

South African Tourism's e-business platform was launched in 2002, with the number of website hits increasing from 12 000 at first, to more than two million per day. The programme has been expanded to include the development of a national database of over 30 000 products, indicative of the growth of this industry.

South African Tourism launched the *Woza 2004* Campaign in February 2004. This deal-driven consumer Campaign is aimed at encouraging German travellers to visit South Africa in large groups, particularly during the low tourist season. It also aims to increase awareness about South Africa and entrenches the country as an affordable, year-round, preferred tourist destination.

The *Woza* Campaign offered two value-for-money packages that included return flights to South Africa, airport taxes, world-class accommodation at some of the country's leading quality-graded establishments, and hotel and airport transfers.

The *Woza* Bus, a customised branded bus designed by South African Tourism to promote South Africa as a preferred travel destination in Germany, set off from Berlin on a national six-city tour on 22 October 2004.

The Bus – key to promoting the *Woza 2005* Campaign – travelled through Berlin, Hamburg, Oberhausen, Wertheim, Frankfurt and Munich.

An online campaign, launched on 21 October 2004, had a micro site dedicated to the *Woza* Campaign. The 'Tell A Friend' initiative supported by

banner advertising on some of Germany's most popular websites also formed an integral part of the online activity.

South African Tourism launched the *My South African Story* Campaign in the United States of America (USA) in February 2004 with attractive price-driven packages to further encourage travel.

The *Sunsation* Campaign also continued in 2004. A joint promotion with South African Airways (SAA), the Campaign offered two value-for-money packages aimed at clearly defined British market segments. The Campaign ran from April to September 2004.

South African Tourism launched its first-ever French deal-driven consumer campaign in March 2004.

The *Call of South Africa* Campaign was aimed at senior explorers and international travellers. It featured two packages for travel during August 2004.

Another initiative of South African Tourism to market the country as an international destination, is a three-dimensional Imax film.

The film will be shown as part of a R460-million marketing effort in some 20 countries that have been identified as target markets.

The campaign will include touch screens in airports worldwide, as well as in the offices of travel agents and tour operators. These will show information aimed specifically at target markets in each country. DVDs will also be handed out to airline passengers.

Domestic tourism growth

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in conjunction with South African Tourism, launched the Domestic Tourism Growth Strategy at the Tourism *Indaba* in Durban in May 2004.

The domestic tourism market in South Africa was valued at R47 billion in 2002/03.

The total number of trips undertaken in the domestic market in 2002/03 was 49,3 million.

The objectives of the Strategy are to contribute to and increase GDP growth, create jobs and transform the tourism industry through:

- increasing expenditure (more trips, longer stay, higher average trip expenditure)
- reducing seasonality (encouraging year-round travel)
- improving the geographic spread of tourism (more destinations and activities)
- increasing volumes (convert, grow and develop).

A study conducted by South African Tourism and the Department, as part of developing the Strategy, found that nearly two-thirds of trips were conducted to visit friends and relatives. Although holiday travel accounts for only 16% of trips, it accounts for 44% of all expenditure. Therefore, by focusing on holiday travel, the overall value of the domestic tourism market will be increased.

Some 64% of local people who travel reside in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape. These three provinces similarly receive 60% of the domestic tourist trade.

Some 60% of domestic travel is undertaken in the province in which people live (intra-provincial travel), while only 40% of trips taken are to another province (interprovincial travel).

To support the growth of the domestic industry, the following will be implemented from a national government perspective:

- greater promotion of the Domestic Tourism Brand
- promotion of a set of experiences that relate to South African consumers
- distribution of appropriate information in specific places
- facilitation of the development of co-operative product packages
- development of marketing and distribution channels
- promotion of repeat visitation.

Tourism Enterprise Programme (TEP)

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Business Trust and Ebony Consulting International launched the R129-million TEP in 2000 to promote growth in the tourism industry.

The primary objective of the Programme is to develop skills capacity and the participation of 75% of historically disadvantaged enterprises within the tourism economy.

The TEP aims to encourage and facilitate the growth and expansion of small and medium enterprises within the tourism economy, resulting in job creation and income-generating opportunities.

By February 2004, a public-private partnership with the TEP had created more than 10 000 jobs and provided assistance to a total of 1 731 tourism enterprises, of which about 1 200 were BEE companies.

The increase in turnover of enterprises assisted by the TEP since its inception exceeded R585 million.

Amounts of R10 million, R12 million and R15 million have been allocated to the TEP over the medium term.

Human resource development (HRD)

Tourism HRD is considered one of the pillars of the development of a new responsible tourism culture in South Africa.

The Department has supported the full introduction of Travel and Tourism and Hospitality studies as a subject in schools. Travel and Tourism was introduced in 2000 in all schools wanting to offer the subject from Grades 10 to 12.

Tourism and Hospitality Education and Training Authority (THETA)

The THETA comprises the following chambers:

- Hospitality
- Conservation and Tourist Guiding
- Sport, Recreation and Fitness
- Tourism and Travel Services
- Gaming and Lotteries.



South Africa hosted the 2004 Hotel and Tourism World Africa Conference in Sandton, Johannesburg, in June 2004.

The Conference focused on a global and regional overview of development in the hotel and tourism industry, the involvement and responsibility of government regarding the industry, as well as the importance of a good transport infrastructure.

Every chamber has its own committee that helps the THETA to identify industry needs. The Tourism Learnership Project (TLP) is a multimillion Rand partnership between the Business Trust, THETA and the Department of Labour.

The TLP aims to raise the standards of South Africa's tourism industry by ensuring the development of useful, transferable and accredited skills for use in the sector. The TLP's three core objectives are to:

- accelerate the development of national qualifications for all primary subsectors of the tourism sector
- ensure the availability of national qualifications, which will trigger increased investment in training by employers
- develop systems and support the training of unemployed people through learnerships that provide them with the necessary skills to find jobs.

By March 2004, the TLP had achieved the following:

- 29 tourism national qualifications had been registered on the National Qualifications Framework
- 975 facilitators, mentors and coaches had been trained
- 975 assessors and 73 moderators had been trained
- 6 995 employees had undergone 12 268 tourism-sector skills training programmes
- 3 029 employees and 6 113 unemployed learners had been registered for learnerships
- 12 546 participants had undergone the SA Host training programme.

South African Tourism Institute (SATI)

The SATI was established with the assistance of the Spanish Government, which provided some R13 million for the project.

The SATI has initiated a number of projects that create a supportive learning environment for teachers, high-school learners and employees in the tourism industry.

The SATI focuses on teacher-development programmes aimed at enhancing the delivery quality of the Travel and Tourism and Hospitality subjects.

The project started with 14 schools and 800 learners in 1996. By 2004, more than 600 schools and 94 000 learners had participated in the project.

There is also emphasis on capacity-building of Department of Education officials and educators.

A loan and bursary scheme established for higher education had benefited 150 students by mid-2004, with almost 90% of awards going to the historically disadvantaged. This scheme is operated by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

In 2004, the SATI launched an informative pack on tourism and hospitality careers. Available to schools and the tourism industry, it contains videos, presentations, leaflets and notes on these careers.

An SATI resource centre has been established, containing electronic and physical resources on many aspects of tourism and its related industries. The centre is open to the public. Other developmental projects are also underway that include working with tourism role-players to develop levels of customer service and staff training.

Black Economic Empowerment

The Department has embarked on a legislative reform process to reflect the guidelines set out in the *White Paper on Tourism*.

The Tourism Transformation Strategy was approved by the Cabinet in November 2001. More emphasis is being placed on developing Black-owned businesses within the tourism industry, by raising the proportion of government expenditure going to these businesses from 30% in 2001/02 to 50% in 2004/05.

A database of Black-owned tourism enterprises was compiled to assist government departments with meeting affirmative-procurement targets.

A public-private tourism transformation forum to promote BEE was established with representatives from the departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, of Trade and Industry and of Labour, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Industrial Development Corporation.

In July 2004, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk,

announced the start of a process to develop a BEE scorecard for tourism.

The process is a joint effort between the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the TBCSA. A study commissioned by the Department in 2003 found that an estimated 6% of tourism entities listed on the JSE Securities Exchange had BEE ownership.

The management and control of these companies was, on average, 81% White male, 15% Black male, and only 2% Black women. Once developed, the scorecard will comprise a clear set of targets for transformation in the tourism industry. Targets will be set for ownership, management and control, employment equity, skills development, affirmative procurement, enterprise development and social development.

Hints for the tourist

Every traveller to South Africa must be in possession of a valid passport and, where necessary, a visa.

The Immigration Act, 2002 (Act 13 of 2002), stipulates that all visitors to South Africa are required to have a minimum of one blank page (both back and front) in their passport to enable the entry visa to be issued.

If there is insufficient space in the passport, entry will be denied.

Enquiries can be directed to South African diplomatic representatives abroad or to the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria. Visas are issued free of charge. Visitors who intend travelling to South Africa's neighbouring countries and back into South Africa are advised to apply for multiple-entry visas. Passport-holders of certain countries are exempt from visa requirements. Tourists must satisfy immigration officers that they have the means to support themselves during their stay and that they are in possession of return or onward tickets. They must also have valid international health certificates.

Visitors from the yellow-fever belt in Africa and the USA as well as those who travel through or disembark in these areas, have to be inoculated against the disease.

Malaria is endemic to parts of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. It is essential to take precautions when visiting these areas.

Foreign tourists visiting South Africa can have their Value-Added Tax (VAT) refunded, provided the value of the items purchased exceeds R20.

VAT is refunded on departure at the point of exit.

South Africa's transport infrastructure – airlines, railroads, roads, luxury touring buses (coaches) and motor cars – is such that tourists can travel comfortably and quickly from their port of entry to any part of the country. A number of international airlines, including SAA, operate regular scheduled flights to and from South Africa. Several domestic airlines operate in the country. There are also mainline trains to all parts of the country. (See chapter 22: *Transport*)

A brochure entitled *Helpful Hints to Make Your Stay Enjoyable and Safe* is distributed to tourists at international airports.

South African Tourism's state-of-the-art global call centre in Johannesburg offers information on travelling to South Africa.

Operated 24 hours a day, the centre offers information in Dutch, English, French, German and Italian. Mandarin was expected to be added in November 2004, and there are plans to include Spanish and Portuguese in the near future.



South Africa scooped several awards in the 2004 World's Best Awards Survey conducted by the international travel magazine *Travel & Leisure*.

It had five of the 10 highest-rated properties in the world in the World Best Hotels Category.

It took the top three tour operator and safari outfitter spots, and weighed in with the fifth highest-rated city in the world.

Cape Town was voted the Best City in Africa and the Middle East, and the fifth-Best City overall, for the second year running.

The Singita Private Game Reserve in Sabi Sands on the edge of the Kruger National Park was voted the Best Hotel in the World – the second time a South African property had won this honour.

The other four hotels in *Travel & Leisure's* Top 10 are Londolozi Private Game Reserve in Mpumalanga (fourth), Bushman's Kloof Wilderness Reserve in the Western Cape (fifth), Mala Mala Game Reserve in Mpumalanga (seventh), and Phinda Private Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal (eighth).

The centre is expected to process at least 5 000 telephonic enquiries per month, as well as respond to e-mail and fax enquiries.

Accommodation

The tourist accommodation industry in South Africa provides a wide spectrum of accommodation, from formal hotels to informal holiday flats and cottages, game lodges and reserves, guest-houses, youth hostels and bed-and-breakfast establishments.

A variety of promotional material on South Africa is available. Comprehensive guides and maps cover all the regions and aspects of interest to tourists, including accommodation. Various useful tourism websites can be found on the Internet.

The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) inspects the standards in the hospitality and accommodation industry.

This voluntary grading system, which was launched in 2001, uses internationally recognised star insignia to rate accommodation establishments initially, and will be extended to include relevant businesses in classified sectors of the tourism industry. Once graded, establishments will be encouraged to utilise the star system for marketing and advertising purposes.

Since its inception in 2001, the TGCSA has been directly responsible for an additional R76,5 million being invested in hotels, lodges, guest-houses, and bed-and-breakfast and self-catering establishments.

Grading assessors undergo training to receive the National Certificate in Tourism Grading. The awarding of such a qualification is a world-first. Assessors are then accredited with the THETA and registered with the TGCSA before being recommended to the industry. Larger group hotels with their own internal assessors will also be accredited with the THETA. Independent auditors conduct random audits. These auditors also assist in ensuring that the assessors adhere to a Code of Conduct.

Star grading is the only system recognised by government and the TBCSA.

National grading criteria are expected to be introduced for the MICE, caravan and camping, and food and beverage sectors.

South Africa will be one of the first countries in the world to have national grading criteria for the MICE venues sector.

According to Backpacker Tourism of South Africa, South Africa is the second most popular destination among international backpackers, after Australia.

Tourist safety

South African Tourism has launched several initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of travellers to the country.

These include a partnership initiative with the oil company Engen and the Tourism Information and Safety Call Line, 083 123 2345, which provides tourists with information on what to do in an emergency and where to locate services.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has established the National Tourism Safety Network, a multistakeholder forum comprising provincial representatives, the South African Police Service, metro police, organised local government, community policing structures, South African Tourism and other key stakeholders.

The forum has developed the Tourism Safety Communications Strategy and redrafted the National Tourism Safety Tips.

Tourism in the provinces

Western Cape

The Western Cape lies at the southern tip of the African continent. Considered one of the most beau-



The Tourist Guide of the Year and Emerging Tourist Guide of the Year Awards recognise and encourage tour-guiding excellence.

Among the criteria for selection is the ability to speak at least three South African languages, active tourist guiding in less visited areas like townships, and formal registration of the guide. In 2004, the winner of the Emerging Tourist Guide Award was Mr Jimmy Selane from the Eastern Cape, while the winner of the Tourist Guide of the Year Award was Mr Faizal Ganga from Western Cape. The two winners were expected to attend the World Federation of Tourist Guides Convention in January 2005 in Australia.

tiful regions in Africa, it is also the place where two oceans meet and the home of the famous *fynbos* vegetation.

The paternal presence of Table Mountain, the pristine coastline with its white sandy beaches, the magnificent countryside with its bountiful rivers, vleis and dams, fauna and flora, together with the warm summer climate and friendly community, makes the Western Cape perfect for any vacation.

Cape Metropole

Tourist life in the city of **Cape Town** centres around the Victoria & Alfred (V&A) Waterfront, a working harbour offering everything from upmarket shopping malls, arts and craft markets, theatres and live music, to museums.

Other major attractions in the city include the Bo-Kaap Museum, the Castle of Good Hope, the Company's Garden, the District Six Museum, flea markets, the Grand Parade, the Houses of Parliament, the South African Cultural History Museum and the South African National Gallery. Also worth a visit are historical buildings in the Bo-Kaap and District Six.

The Gold of Africa Museum established by Anglo Gold is home to a celebrated collection of more than 350 gold artefacts.



The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) and Tourism Enterprise Programme (TEP) have teamed up to train 100 additional star-grading assessors in preparation for the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

By October 2004, the TGCSA had 43 accredited star-grading assessors throughout the country.

The need to train additional assessors was necessitated by a steady growth in the number of accommodation establishments joining the National Star-Grading Scheme and plans to extend grading to other tourism sectors such as conference venues and restaurants ahead of the 2010 World Cup.

By September 2004, 2 409 accommodation establishments had been voluntarily graded, representing 55% of all hotel rooms and 66% of all bed-and-breakfast and guest-house establishments.

During the same period, 85% of backpacker and youth hostels, and 16% of game reserves and lodges, had been graded.

Air flips and trips are available, as well as many boat and yacht trips from Table Bay Harbour, including trips to Robben Island (proclaimed a World Heritage Site and also the place where former President Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for a number of years).

The Nelson Mandela Gateway to Robben Island is situated in the Clock Tower Precinct at the V&A Waterfront. The Gateway houses interactive multimedia exhibitions, an auditorium, boardrooms, the Robben Island Museum and a restaurant.

Jazz is big in Cape Town. From traditional blues through progressive jazz to African-influenced jazz, every taste is catered for at a number of restaurants, jazz cafés, cigar bars, pubs and at some of the wine farms. The top jazz event in the Western Cape is the annual North Sea Jazz Festival.

Table Mountain is a popular site for visitors and provides the majestic backdrop to the vibrant and friendly Mother City. It can be reached by an ultra-modern cableway. The Mountain forms part of the Table Mountain National Park.

Newlands is home to the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. In summer, various open-air concerts are held here.

The South African Rugby Museum reflects the history of the sport back to 1891.

The Rhodes Memorial is situated at **Rondebosch** on the slopes of Table Mountain. It was built of granite from the Mountain as a tribute to the memory of Cecil John Rhodes, Prime Minister of the Cape from 1890 to 1896.

The University of Cape Town is worth a visit for its historic Middle Campus and many buildings designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

At **Cape Point**, part of the Table Mountain National Park, there are many drives, walks, picnic spots and a licensed restaurant. Care has been taken to protect the environmental integrity of this 22 100-hectare (ha) reserve of indigenous flora and fauna.

Simon's Town's naval atmosphere and Historic Mile are major attractions in the area. A statue of the famous dog and sailor's friend, Able Seaman Just Nuisance, stands at Jubilee Square.

Other attractions include the South African Naval Museum and the Warrior Toy Museum. One of only

two mainland African-penguin breeding colonies in the world can be found at Boulders Beach.

Hout Bay is well-known for its colourful working harbour. Seafood outlets, round-the-bay trips to the nearby seal colony, shell and gift shops, and a famous harbourfront emporium attract many visitors. Duiker Island, opposite The Sentinel, is a seal and sea-bird sanctuary. The World of Birds Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the largest bird parks in the world and provides a home for some 3 000 birds.

In **Oostenberg**, visitors can enjoy some fine wine and flower farms, such as Zevenwacht Wine Estate with its graceful Cape Dutch homestead. Tygerberg Zoo boasts a collection of exotic animals. Endless stretches of quiet beaches provide popular surfing and windsurfing spots. Big Bay in **Bloubergstrand** is a surfer's paradise and host to an international windsurfing event. Rietvlei Nature Reserve is a unique wetland area, boasting over 110 bird species, including pelicans and flamingos.

Canal Walk Century City is the largest shopping centre in Africa, with close to 400 shops and home to the largest movie complex in South Africa.

Tygerberg is a vibrant and fast-growing area with a well-developed business centre, numerous sports fields, an international indoor cycle track, well-kept golf courses and a racecourse.

New Year in Cape Town is a festive affair, as the Cape minstrels take to the streets with their upbeat music and fancy costumes.

Garden Route

This area features the pont at **Malgas**, which is the only remaining pont in the country, ferrying vehicles and livestock across the Breede River. Whale-watching attracts tourists at **Witsand** and **Port Beaufort** from June to November.

The Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve outside **Heidelberg** comprises the popular Bushbuck Trail, a wilderness trail and two mountain-bike trails.

Riversdale is one of South Africa's most important *fynbos*-export areas. Other attractions include the Julius Gordon Africana Museum.

At the historical Strandveld Architectural Heritage Site at **Still Bay**, visitors can watch tame eels being

fed. Ancient fish-traps can be seen at Morris Point and the harbour.

At the aloe factories at **Albertinia**, aloe juices are extracted for medicine and high-quality skin-care products.

Nearby, bungee-jumping on the Gourits River Gorge, hiking, mountain-biking and angling are popular pastimes.

At **Mossel Bay**, the Point, a well-liked area for surfers, also features a natural pool formed by rock – a popular swimming place at low tide. The St Blaize trail starts here and it is the ideal spot to watch the whales and dolphins at play in season.

The harbour at Mossel Bay is one of the most modern commercial and recreational harbours on the southern Cape coastline. The Information Centre at PetroSA informs visitors about the production of synthetic fuels from Mossel Bay's offshore gas fields. Other attractions include the Atteguas Kloof Pass, Anglo-Boer/South African War blockhouses and the Bartolomeu Dias complex.

Great Brak River offers a historic village with many opportunities for whale and dolphin watching along the extensive coast.

George is at the heart of the Garden Route and the mecca of golf in the southern Cape, as it is home to the renowned Fancourt Country Club and Golf Estate and various other acclaimed golf courses. Board the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe on its daily trip along the coastline between George and Knysna (except Sundays) at the Outeniqua Transport Museum.

Visitors can also board the Power Van here, and enjoy a glimpse of the Garden Route Botanical Garden.

The George Museum, with its theme of timber history, offers ongoing exhibitions. The Montagu and Voortrekker passes are national monuments, providing spectacular views of the Outeniqua Nature Reserve, which offers several hiking trails.

The George Airport, the Outeniqua Pass, the railway line and the N2 offer excellent access and make George the ideal hub from which to explore the Garden Route and Little Karoo.

Victoria Bay and **Wilderness** are popular for their unspoilt beaches. Wilderness is the western gateway to the southern Cape lakes area. It's a

nature lover's paradise, best known for its beaches, lakes, placid lagoon and lush indigenous forests. Birdwatchers flock to the Langvelei and Rondevlei bird sanctuaries in the Wilderness National Park, which host over 230 different bird species.

Sedgefield borders Swartvlei Lagoon, the largest natural inland saltwater lake in South Africa. Activities include beach horse-riding, hiking, angling and birdwatching.

Knysna nestles on the banks of an estuary, guarded by The Heads (two huge sandstone cliffs) surrounded by indigenous forests, tranquil lakes and golden beaches.

This natural wonderland is home to the largest and smallest of creatures, from the Knysna sea-horse to the Knysna elephants, rare delicate butterflies and the endemic Knysna loerie, a colourful forest bird. Over 200 species can be found in the abundant *fynbos* and forest settings.

Knysna is also famous for its delectable home-grown oysters, enjoyed with locally brewed beer in quaint pubs and restaurants. An eclectic mix of art galleries showcases the diversity of talent in the area. The area also offers lagoon cruises, forest hikes, golf and adventure sports.

Plettenberg Bay is adventure country, offering boat-based whale watching, black-water tubing, hiking, and forest and cycling trails.

The Keurbooms River Nature Reserve at Plettenberg Bay offers a canoeing trail, while the Robberg Nature Reserve is a treasure trove of land, marine, geological and archaeological wealth.

The highest commercial bungee jump in the world of 21,6 m can be found at the Bloukrans River Bridge.

Little Karoo

The Little Karoo has a spectacular landscape fashioned almost entirely by water, with vegetation ranging from lush greenery in the fertile river valleys to short, rugged Karoo plants in the veld. Gorges follow rivers that cut through towering mountains, while breathtakingly steep passes cross imposing terrain. The region is also home to the largest bird in the world – the ostrich. The Little Karoo is rich in culture and history.

Excellent wines and port are produced in the **Calitzdorp** and **De Rust** areas.

Oudtshoorn, the world's ostrich-feather capital, is the region's main town. The Swartberg Nature Reserve and Pass with its gravel roads, are also worth a visit. The *Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees* is held in the town annually. Some 29 km from Oudtshoorn lie the remarkable Cango Caves, a series of spectacular subterranean limestone caverns. Bearing evidence of early San habitation, the 30-Cave wonderland boasts magnificent dripstone formations.

Amalienstein and **Zoar** are historic mission stations midway between Ladismith and Calitzdorp. Visitors can go on donkey-cart and hiking trails through orchards and vineyards, while the Seweweekspoort is ideal for mountain-biking, hiking, and protea and *fynbos* admirers.

Calitzdorp boasts four wine estates, three of which are open to the public. The spring water of the Calitzdorp Spa is rich in minerals and is reputed to have medicinal properties. The Gamka Mountain Reserve is home to the rare and endangered Cape mountain zebra.

De Rust lies at the southern entrance to Meiringspoort. The Meiringspoort Gorge extends 20 km through the Swartberg Mountain Range. Halfway through, a beautiful 69 m-high waterfall can be seen. Wine farms in the area are open to the public.

Ladismith is home to the Towerkop Cheese Factory. There are various hiking, mountain-biking and 4x4 trails in the area. The Anysberg, Klein Karoo and Towerkop nature reserves can also be visited.

Uniondale, on the main route between George and Graaff-Reinet, features the largest water-wheel in the country, the Old Watermill. Uniondale Poort is a scenic drive linking Uniondale with Avontuur in the Langkloof Valley.

At **Vanwyksdorp**, visitors can see how *fynbos* is dried and packed for the export market. Donkey-cart rides take visitors to Anglo-Boer/South African War grave sites.

Central Karoo

The Central Karoo, a fascinating semi-desert area,

lies in the heart of one the world's most unique and interesting arid zones.

This ancient, fossil-rich land, which is five times the size of Great Britain, is also home to the richest desert flora in the world.

In the Central Karoo, visitors will also find the largest variety of succulents found anywhere on Earth.

Beaufort West, the oldest town in the Central Karoo, is often referred to as the 'Oasis of the Karoo'.

Awards presented to heart-transplant pioneer, the late Prof. Chris Barnard, a son of this town, are on display in the local museum.

A township route introduces visitors to the Xhosa culture in the area, and at the Karoo National Park on the doorstep of the town, visitors can get closer to the flora and game of the Karoo. A challenging 4x4 route takes visitors to the escarpment and new areas of ecological discovery. The Park is also home to a huge range of game as well as the highly endangered riverine rabbit.

Matjiesfontein, a national monument, offers tourists a peek into yesteryear and the opportunity to overnight in Victorian splendour. The village houses a small railway museum, a private motor museum and the largest privately owned museum in South Africa.

Experience the vastness of the Great Karoo in **Murraysburg**, an ecotourist and hunter's paradise.

Laingsburg, a tiny village almost totally wiped out by floods a century after it was established, is the best place to study the geology of the region.

Prince Albert is a well-preserved town which nestles at the foot of the Swartberg mountains. It is the ideal place to sample the great variety of Karoo cuisine, see examples of local architecture dating back to the early 1800s and enjoy several scenic drives. The Fransie Pienaar Museum introduces visitors to the cultural history of the area. It has a fossil room and an exhibit covering the old gold rush to this area in the 19th century. The Museum has a licence to distil and sell *witblits* (white lightening). Prince Albert is the closest town by road to Gamkaskloof.

The Hell, a little valley in the heart of the Swartberg mountains, was the home of one of the

world's most isolated communities for almost 150 years. Today, Gamkaskloof is a nature reserve and national monument managed by Cape Nature Conservation. It has overnight facilities and can be accessed by a 57-km long (but two-hour drive), winding road which starts at the peak of the Swartberg Pass.

Cape Winelands

The Cape Winelands, including the former Breede River Valley, are situated in close proximity to Cape Town.

The Cape Winelands are a rural enchantment of dramatic mountains, rolling farmlands and peaceful vineyards.

The Cape Winelands are home to Route 62, the world's longest wine route.

Stellenbosch, the oldest town in South Africa, is also known as the *Eikestad* (city of oaks). Various historical walks delight visitors. The town is a gracious blend of old Cape Dutch, Georgian and Victorian architecture. Dorp Street consists of one of the longest rows of old buildings in the country. The Stellenbosch Village Museum consists of four homesteads and gardens ranging from the late 17th to the middle 19th centuries.

The Spier Summer Arts Festival also livens up sultry summer nights from November to March at the Spier Wine Estate near Stellenbosch. The Stellenbosch Wine Route comprises over 100 wine estates most of which offer cellar tours.

The Freedom Monument at Pniel, which was built in 1992, commemorates the freed slaves who were the first settlers at the mission station, which was established in 1843.

Franschhoek has become known as the gourmet capital of the Cape. Originally known as Oliphants-hoek, it was named after the arrival of



South Africa's Blue Train is one of the world's most luxurious railway services. The Train runs between Cape Town and Pretoria, to Hoedspruit in Mpumalanga, and along a section of the Garden Route between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. A trip to the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is also offered.

Huguenots who were predominantly French. The Huguenot Monument was built in 1944 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of their arrival in 1688.

Visitors can also enjoy various hiking trails and historical walks, as well as the *Vignerons de Franschhoek* wine route.

Paarl lies between the second-largest granite rock in the world and the Du Toit's Kloof mountains, and is famous for its architectural treasures found along a 1-km stretch of the Main Street featuring, among others, Cape Dutch and Victorian architecture.

The area's *fynbos* vegetation supports a number of South Western Cape endemics, such as the Cape sugarbird and the orange-breasted sunbird.

The *Afrikaanse Taalmonument* is situated on the slopes of the Paarl Mountain, while the *Afrikaanse Taalmuseum* is in the centre of the town.

The town of **Wellington** lies in a picturesque valley, with the majestic Hawequa mountains on its eastern boarder. Apart from three renowned co-operative wineries, one can visit a number of prestigious wine cellars situated on historic Huguenot farms with Cape Dutch homesteads.

Flower lovers will enjoy the chrysanthemum show in May, the longest running such show in South Africa. More than 90% of South Africa's vine-cutting nurseries are found in Wellington. The town is also the home of South Africa's dried-fruit industry.

Experience life as the pioneers lived in years gone by at the Kleinplasia Living Open Air Museum. The KWW Brandy Cellar, the largest of its kind in the world, offers cellar tours and brandy tasting.

Tulbagh is famous for its heritage, historical homesteads and magnificent country living. Church Street, home to 32 national monuments, constitutes the largest concentration of national monuments in one street in South Africa.

Ceres, named after the Roman goddess of fruitfulness, is the largest deciduous fruit-producing region in South Africa. Tours are offered at various fruit farms. The area also boasts several 4x4 trails, horse-riding, mountain-biking and abseiling.

The **Hex River Valley** is the largest producer of table grapes in Africa. Visitors can pick their own grapes at harvest time and can sample the variety

of export-quality produce. The well-known Hex River 4x4 trail and the Ochre San rock art trails are a must for nature lovers.

De Doorns is situated in the heart of the Hex River Valley, the largest producer of table grapes in southern Africa.

Situated on the Breede River, **Bonnievale** features several cheese factories. For the adventurous outdoor enthusiast there are canoe trips, birdwatching and riverboating.

Known as The Valley of Wine and Roses, **Robertson** is one of the most beautiful areas in South Africa. Surrounded by vineyards, orchards, delectable fruit and radiant roses, Robertson produces connoisseur-quality wines and is also known for its thoroughbred horses.

Renowned for its muscadel wines, **Montagu** is the gateway to the Klein Karoo and is set in a fertile valley. Relax in the healing waters of the Avalon Springs or visit the waterfowl breeding camp, the largest of its kind in the Western Cape.

The area also offers several hiking trails, game-viewing drives, guided cultural tours and excellent rock climbs.

The picturesque village of **Gouda** is renowned for the Parrots Den Pub, a living museum in the Gouda Hotel.

McGregor has a wealth of fascinating white-washed, thatched cottages and well-preserved Victorian houses, making it one of the best-preserved examples of mid-19th century architecture in the Western Cape.

Prince Alfred Hamlet is the gateway to the Gydo Pass, known for its scenic views. This quaint village lies in an important deciduous-fruit farming area.

Hidden amidst vineyards and wine estates lies the picturesque town of **Rawsonville**, renowned for its array of award-winning wines. Tourists can enjoy an afternoon drive along the awe-inspiring Slanghoek Valley, with its lush vineyards and breathtaking views, or relax in the warm-water mineral springs at Goudini Spa.

West Coast

The West Coast is a region of extreme beauty and contrast. The solitary coast's scenic beauty is chal-

lenged only by rich culinary experiences of mussels, oysters, calamari, crayfish and abalone in season or linefish pulled from the Benguela Current's cold waters. The area is a birdwatcher's paradise. In addition, every year migrating whales visit the coastal waters from July.

Within the first two months of the first good winter rains, wild flowers on the West Coast explode in a brilliant array of colour.

The Swartland region is known for its undulating wheat fields, vineyards, wineries and outdoor activities. Further north, visitors encounter the fertile Olifants River Valley and the vast plains of the Knersvlakte with its wealth of indigenous succulent plants.

The town of **Darling** draws visitors to its country museum and art gallery, annual wild flower and orchid shows, basket factory and wine cellars. The entertainment venue *Evita se Perron* is situated at the old Darling Railway Station and offers top entertainment from local entertainers.

Malmesbury is the biggest town in the Swartland. Major attractions include Bokomo Mills, the Malmesbury Museum, the Sugarbird glazed fruit factory and the historical walk-about.

The Riebeeek Valley is known for its scenic beauty. The area has become a popular haven for well-known artists of various disciplines. Wines and olives can be tasted at various cellars.

Elands Bay is a popular holiday resort and surfer's paradise. Khoi and San rock art can be viewed at Elands Bay Caves.

Moorreesburg and **Koringberg** are major wheat-distributing towns. Tourists can visit the Wheat Industry Museum, one of only three in the world. Birdwatching, hiking, 4x4 routes, clay-pigeon shooting, mountain-bike trails, canoeing and water-skiing at Misverstand are popular activities.

Zerfontein is famous for its unspoilt beaches, *fynbos*, beautiful views and whale watching. Another major attraction is the historical lime furnaces.

Langebaan is a popular holiday destination. The West Coast National Park, an internationally renowned wetland which houses about 60 000 waterbirds and waders, attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Park is also the site where the

oldest anatomically modern fossilised human footprints were discovered.

The Langebaan Lagoon forms part of the Park and is zoned for specific activities. The Postberg section of the Park, across the Lagoon, is famous for its wild flowers, blooming mainly during August and September.

Cape Columbine at **Paternoster** is the last manned lighthouse built on the South African coast. The Columbine Nature Reserve is home to many seabird species.

Saldanha is a watersport enthusiast's paradise. Other attractions include Doc's Cave, a landmark on the scenic breakwater drive, and the Hoedjieskoppie Nature Reserve. There are various hiking trails in the SAS Saldanha Nature Reserve.

St Helena Bay is best known for the Vasco Da Gama Monument and Museum. Fishing (snoek in season), hiking, bird and whale-watching opportunities also draw many visitors.

Vredenburg, the business centre of the area, offers, among others, shopping opportunities, cine-



Southern Africa has become one of the most popular big-game hunting regions in the world. It offers a great variety to trophy hunters, including the Big Five, namely elephant, white rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo, as well as 26 species of antelope.

The hunting proclamations of the various provinces differ and are promulgated annually. The hunting season is normally during the winter months, from May to the end of July.

Most species may be hunted legally by non-landowners during the hunting season, provided they have the written consent of the landowner and a valid hunting permit issued by the appropriate conservation authority.

Trophy hunting by overseas clients is subject to uniform legislation throughout South Africa, and all hunters are required to be accompanied by registered professional hunters and have their hunts arranged by approved hunting outfitters.

All nine provinces provide schedules of ordinary, protected and specially protected game. Ordinary game may be hunted under licence during an open season. Protected game may be hunted only under permit and licence, the fee depending on the species. Specially protected game, which includes grysbok, klipspringer, red hartebeest, giraffe, black rhinoceros, pangolin and antbear, may not be hunted at all.

mas and a golf course with a bird hide where various species can be viewed.

Lambert's Bay is a traditional fishing village with Bird Island as a tourist attraction. It is a breeding ground for African penguins, Cape cormorants and other sea birds. Visitors can also watch southern right whales from July to November.

Piketberg offers arts and crafts, fauna and flora, wine culture and recreation. The Goedverwacht and Wittewater Moravian mission stations are situated close to Piketberg.

Porterville is famous for its Disa Route (best in January and February). The Groot Winterhoek Mountain Peak in the Groot Winterhoek Wilderness Area is the second-highest in the Western Cape. The Dasklip Pass is popular with hang-gliders.

At **Velddrif/Laaiplek**, visitors can indulge in some *bokkorn* (a West Coast salted-fish delicacy) at factories along the Berg River. Tourists can also visit the salt-processing factory or the West Coast Art Gallery in town.

The citrus area in the Olifants River Valley is the third-largest in South Africa. The wine route from Citrusdal to Lutzville boasts a selection of internationally acclaimed wines. The world-renowned *rooibos* tea is also produced here.

Citrusdal is famous for its citrus products and wines. The Citrusdal Museum depicts the pioneering days of the early colonists.

The Goede Hoop Citrus Co-op is the largest single packing facility in South Africa.

The annual Citrusdal Outdoor Calabash features, among others, 4x4 outings, lectures and visits to rock-art sites, and an arts and crafts market.

The Sandveldhuisie is a recently built example of a typical Sandveld dwelling. There are several recognised mountain-biking, walking, hiking and canoeing trails and a sky-diving club. The Cederberg Wilderness Area features the elephant's foot plant, the rare snow protea, and the best examples of San rock art in the Western Cape.

Visitors to **Clanwilliam** can visit the *rooibos* and *velskoen* factories and the grave of the well-known South African poet Louis Leipoldt. Various historical buildings can also be viewed. The Clanwilliam and

Bulshoek dams are popular among watersport enthusiasts.

At **Wupperthal**, at the foot of the Cederberg mountains, is the oldest Rhenish Mission Station. Proceeds from 4x4 trails in the area go to community coffers for new hiking trails and building more overnight huts and guest-houses.

Vredendal is the centre of the Lower Olifants River Valley. Major attractions include marble-processing and manufacturing, industrial mines (dolomite and limestone), the KWV Grape Juice Concentrate Plant and Distillery, and the South African Dried Fruit Co-op. The town is also home to the Vredendal Wine Cellar, the largest co-operative wine cellar under one roof in the southern hemisphere.

The picturesque town of **Doringbaai** with its attractive lighthouse is popular for its seafood.

Strandfontein, situated about 8 km north of Doring Bay, is essentially a holiday and retirement resort. It offers a breathtaking view of the ocean.

Klawer was named after the wild clover growing in the area. During the flower season, the area is a kaleidoscope of colour. There are hiking trails and river-rafting along the Doring River.

Lutzville and **Koekenaap** are synonymous with wine and flowers in season.

Visitors can also view the Sishen-Saldanha Railway Bridge. Where the railway line spans the Olifants River, it is divided into 23 sections, each 45 m long. The 14 100-ton deck was pushed into position over teflon sheets with hydraulic jacks from the bridgehead. It is the longest bridge in the world built using this method.

Vanrhynsdorp houses the largest succulent nursery in South Africa. The Latsky Radio Museum houses a collection of old valve radios, some dating back to 1924. Birdwatching, mountain-biking, day walks, and hiking and 4x4 trails abound. The Troe-Troe and Rietpoort mission stations are a must-see for historians.

Overberg

In the most southernly region of Africa, only one hour east of Cape Town, lies a fertile area surrounded by mountains and sea, called the Overberg.

The **Hangklip-Kleinmond** area comprises **Kleinmond, Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay** and **Rooiels**. It is a popular holiday region, ideal for whale watching, and includes the Kleinmond Coastal Nature Reserve and the Harold Porter Botanical Garden.

The Penguin Reserve at Stoney Point, **Betty's Bay**, is one of two breeding colonies of the jackass penguin on the African continent.

South Africa's first international biosphere reserve, the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 1999. It runs along the coast from Gordon's Bay to the Bot River Vlei, stretching 2 km out to sea, and inland to the Groenlandberg, the mountains near Grabouw.

Hermanus is a popular holiday resort, famous for the best land-based whale watching in the world.

Stanford is one of the few villages in South Africa where the market square has been retained. The central core of the village has been proclaimed a national conservation area.

Gansbaai is known for its excellent rock and boat angling, diving, shark-cage diving and whale watching. The Danger Point Lighthouse, named as such because of the ships that have been wrecked and lives that have been lost on this dangerous coast, is open to the public.

De Kelders is the only freshwater cave on the African coast. Spectacular views of southern right whales can be enjoyed from the cliffs at De Kelders and along the coast to Pearly Beach. Also popular are white-shark tours, diving safaris and fishing trips.

Elim was founded by German missionaries in 1824, with its only inhabitants being members of the Moravian Church. Visitors are welcome to attend services. The Old Watermill (1833) has been restored and declared a national monument.

Popular sites in **Napier** include the Militaria Museum and Rose Boats and Toy Museum. The Shipwreck Museum in **Bredasdorp**, founded in 1975, specialises in shipwrecks found along the South African coastline.

De Mond Nature Reserve boasts rare bird species including the Damara tern and giant tern.

The Geelkop Nature Reserve derives its name from the mass of yellow flowering plants, particu-

larly leucadendrons, which cover the hill during spring.

The lighthouse at **L'Agulhas**, which forms part of the Agulhas National Park, is the country's second-oldest working lighthouse. It celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1999.

The Agulhas National Park is home to a rich and diverse plant population, which includes more than 110 *Red Data Book* species, including the endangered Cape platanna and microfrog, and rare coastal birds such as the African oystercatcher. The Darmara fern finds the area ideal for breeding.

At **Cape Agulhas**, the southernmost tip of the continent, the waters are cleaved into the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

Struisbaai has the longest white coastline in the southern hemisphere.

Arniston was named Waenhuiskrans by the local fishers in honour of the huge sea cave capable of housing several ox-wagons. For outsiders it was named after the Arniston, a ship wrecked here in 1815. The Waenhuiskrans Cave can be explored at low tide.

The De Hoop Nature Reserve on the way to Swellendam includes an internationally renowned wetland and bird sanctuary. It is a winter retreat for the southern right whale and the Western Cape's only Cape griffen vulture colony.

The red Bredasdorp lily and many species of protea and erica are found in the Heuningberg Nature Reserve.

Swellendam is well-known for its youngberries and eclectic architecture. The Drostdy Museum consists of a group of buildings containing a huge selection of period furniture. The Bontebok National Park, about 7 km from Swellendam, provides sanctuary to, among others, the threatened bontebok.

Known for its world-class wine, **Barrydale** offers the visitor fruit and fresh air in abundance.

Situated on the N2, about 160 km from Cape Town, **Riviersonderend** offers beautiful mountain and river scenery, a nine-hole golf course and sightings of the blue crane.

Caledon is famous for its natural mineral waters, hot springs and wild-flower shows. Southern Associated Maltsters is the only malt producer for

the South African lager beer industry and the largest in the southern hemisphere.

Genadendal is the oldest Moravian village in Africa, with church buildings and a school dating back to 1738. The Genadendal Mission and Museum Complex documents the first mission station in South Africa.

The Theewaterskloof Dam outside **Villiersdorp** is the seventh-largest dam in the country. The Villiersdorp Wild Flower Garden and Nature Reserve boasts an indigenous herb garden and a reference library.

The **Grabouw/Elgin** district produces about 60% of South Africa's total apple exports. The Valley is also renowned for cultivating fresh chrysanthemums, roses and proteas. The Elgin Apple Museum is one of only two in the world. Sir Lowry's Pass offers spectacular views of False Bay from Gordon's Bay to Cape Point.

Northern Cape

Characterised by its vast expanses of space and silence, blazing summer sunshine and interesting and friendly people, the Northern Cape is a province rich with culture.

Diamond fields

The Big Hole in **Kimberley** is the largest hand-dug excavation in the world. The Kimberley Tram Service dates from the beginning of the century and still transports passengers from the City Hall to the Mine Museum.

Underground mine tours are a big attraction, as are the famous ghost tours, during which many historical buildings are seen from a different perspective. Hand and mechanical diamond-digging by private diggers can be viewed by appointment.

The McGregor Museum houses invaluable collections of the archaeological finds in the area, as well as San art works. The house where Sol Plaatje (African National Congress founding member and human-rights activist) lived in Kimberley, boasts a library of Plaatje's and other Black South African writers' works and several displays, including a portrayal of Black involvement in the Anglo-Boer/South African War.

A township tour to **Galeshewe** provides a fresh perspective on South Africa's socio-historical realities. Pan African Congress founder Robert Sobukwe's house is worth a visit.

The Magersfontein Battlefield outside Kimberley with its original trenches and other defences intact, is the site of the Boers' crushing defeat of the English during the siege of Kimberley.

A cultural centre at Wildebeestkuil outside Kimberley features !Xun and Khwe artwork for sale and a tour of rock engravings by these indigenous people.

A short distance from Kimberley is the mining town **Barkley West**, which, due to its proximity to the Vaal River, is a favourite spot for many water-sport enthusiasts and anglers.

Tucked along the Vaal River near Barkley West lies the Vaalbos National Park. The Park is not only home to large raptors, but is also a breeding centre for endangered African herbivores such as rhino, roan, sable and disease-free buffalo.

Kalahari

At **Black Rock**, visitors are afforded the opportunity to view a worked-out manganese mine.

Danielskuil lies at the foot of the Kuruman hills. The Tswana people occupied it before it became home to the Griquas. The Boesmansgat on the farm Mount Carmel outside Danielskuil is a unique natural sinkhole – the second-deepest and largest of its kind in the world.

Known as the 'Oasis of the Kalahari', **Kuruman** is blessed with a permanent and abundant source of water. Its water flows from Gasegonyana (Tswana for 'the little water calabash') – commonly called the 'Eye of Kuruman'.

Moffat's Mission in Kuruman is a tranquil place featuring the house of missionary Robert Moffat, the church he built, and several other buildings. Moffat translated the Bible into Setswana – the first African language in which the Bible was made accessible.

The printing press on which he printed the first 2 000 copies can still be viewed. The church seats 800 people and is still in use. David Livingstone married Moffat's daughter and started many famous travels from this mission station.

The Wonderwerk Cave at Kuruman features extensive San paintings that may be viewed by appointment.

The Kalahari Raptor Centre cares for injured birds and many of these majestic birds can be seen at close quarters. Another marvel is the Witsand Nature Reserve situated about 80 km south-west of **Postmasburg**, which features a 100-m high dune of brilliant white sand. It stretches for about 9 km and is about 2 km wide.

Green Kalahari

The roaring sands on the farm Doornaar near Groblershoop is an interesting site. These white dunes, surrounded by typically red Kalahari dunes, are said to 'roar' when the wind blows.

Eleven water wheels are still used today along the hand-built irrigation canals at **Kakamas**. The Orange River Wine Cellar Co-op Rockery Route runs between Keimoes and Kakamas.

Kanoneiland is a settlement on the biggest island in the Orange River.

At **Keimoes**, the Orange River flows at its widest. The Tierberg Nature Reserve offers spectacular views of the Keimoes Valley and the many islands in the Orange River. The original irrigation canal system is still in use. The Orange River Wine Cellar Co-op's largest cellar is situated here.

Kenhardt is the oldest town in the Lower Orange River area. The Quiver Tree Forest and Kokerboom Hiking Trail, consisting of between 4 000 and 5 000 quiver trees, is within easy driving distance of the town.

Upington is the commercial, educational and social centre of the Green Kalahari, owing its prosperity to agriculture and its irrigated lands along the Orange River. A camel-and-rider statue in front of the town's police station pays tribute to the 'mounties', who patrolled the harsh desert territory on camels.

The South African Dried Fruit Co-operative is the second-largest and one of the most modern of its kind in the world. Tours of the plant are offered and freshly packed dried fruit is sold.

The Orange River displays its impressive power at the Augrabies Falls, also known as the Place of

Great Noise. Visitors can hire canoes to ensure closer contact with the natural heritage surrounding the world's sixth-largest waterfall.

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park comprises half-a-million hectares of sparsely vegetated, red sand dunes and dry riverbeds within South Africa's borders. Straddling the Green Kalahari and Botswana, the Park is a two million ha sanctuary for antelope, gemsbok, springbok, blue wildebeest, red hartebeest, eland, the Kalahari lion, leopard, cheetah and smaller game, including mongoose, porcupine and honey badger.

Fifty-eight mammal, 55 reptile, countless insect and a host of plant species share the desert and dry savannah, while 260 species of bird, including at least 20 species of raptor, share the endless skies.

Namaqualand

The indigenous people of the Namaqualand are the Namas. They speak their own language and can still be found in the Richtersveld. Their traditional Nama reed huts still abound in **Leliefontein**, **Nourivier** and **Steinkopf**.

The Namaqualand annually puts on a spectacular show in spring. A floral splendour covers vast tracts of desert. The flowers sprout and survive for a brief period before they wilt and disappear just as suddenly in the face of blistering heat and dry conditions.

The small town of **Garies** is the centre for those setting out to enjoy spring's show of exuberance in the Kamiesberg.

After diamonds were discovered along the West Coast in 1925, **Alexander Bay** was known for its mining activities. The town is no longer a high-security area and no permits are needed to enter. The Alluvial Diamond Mine paints a picture of the history of the area. The town also features the world's largest desert lichenfield with some 26 species.

At **Hondeklip Bay**, visitors can dive for crayfish and watch the local fishermen conduct their trade.

Established as a small-vessel harbour and railway junction in 1954 for the copper-mining industry, **Port Nolloth** is a centre for the small-scale diamond recovery and crayfish industries. It is the only holiday resort on the Diamond Coast. Fish and crayfish can be bought from the local factory when in season.

Set in a narrow valley bisecting the granite domes of the Klein Koperberge lies **Springbok**.

South of Springbok, near Kamieskroon, lies the Skilpad Wild Flower Reserve, which captures the full grandeur of the flower season. The 1 000 ha Reserve operates only during the flower season.

The Goegap Nature Reserve comprises 15 004 ha of typically granite, rocky hills and sandy flats. The Reserve also offers a 4x4, and several hiking and mountain-biking trails.

The Namaqualand is also home to the world's largest mountain desert park, the Richtersveld National Park.

Upper (Bo-Karoo)

One of the Northern Cape's most beautiful towns, Colesberg, is flanked by the Towerberg.

The town features one of the country's last working horse mills. An Anglo-Boer/South African War Tour is also on offer. A weekend tour includes a visit to the Norvalspont prisoner-of-war camp and cemetery. Colesberg has bred many of the country's top merino sheep. It is also renowned for producing high-quality racehorses.

De Aar is the most important railway junction in South Africa. The author Olive Schreiner lived in the town for many years. Visitors can dine in her house, which has since been converted into a restaurant.

Hanover is known for its handmade shoes and articles, made mostly from sheepskin and leather.

The diamond, the Star of South Africa, was discovered at **Hopetown**. The town, which is steeped in history, also features an Old Toll House and Block House dating from the Anglo-Boer/South African War.

At **Wonderdraai** near **Prieska**, visitors can visit the horseshoe-shaped island formed by the flow of the Orange River. It seems as if the River turns to flow uphill.

Vanderkloof was built to house people building the Vanderkloof Dam. Today, it is a flourishing holiday resort. Visitors can enjoy waterskiing, boardsailing, boating and swimming, or visit the Eskom Hydroelectric Power Station situated within the Dam's wall.

Victoria West is home to the Apollo Theatre, South Africa's last operational art deco movie theatre from

the 1950s. The Theatre comes alive each September with the Apollo Film Festival.

The Victoria West Nature Reserve is the habitat of the rare riverine rabbit.

Hantam Karoo

Near the small town of **Brandvlei** lies Verneukpan, where Sir Malcolm Campbell unsuccessfully attempted to break the world land-speed record in 1929.

Carnarvon is well-known for its corbelled domed-roofed houses built of flat stones because of the lack of wood. The floors of these interesting houses were smeared and coloured with a rich red mixture of fat and oxblood, polished with smooth stone.

The mountain tortoises at the Carnarvon Nature Reserve each respond to their name and fetch a titbit from visitors when called.

A few kilometres outside **Fraserburg** lies the Gansfontein Palaeosurface. Discovered in 1968, it comprises several trackways of large, four-footed, five-toed mammalian reptiles. The prints are estimated to be some 190 million years old.

Sutherland, birthplace of well-known Afrikaans author and poet N.P. van Wyk Louw is known for its brilliant night skies and cold, biting winters.

The *sterboom* (star tree), which blossoms in September, is found only in Sutherland.

The Southern African Large Telescope at Sutherland will boast a science-education centre based in Sutherland and a visitor's centre adjacent to the Telescope sites on the mountainside. Observation telescopes will be availed to the public on open nights.

Free State

The Free State lies in the heart of South Africa with the Kingdom of **Lesotho** nestling in the hollow of its bean-like shape. 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. This central region is characterised by endless rolling prairies of wheat, sunflower and maize fields, and forms the principle bread basket of South Africa.

Motheo

The *Eerste Raadsaal* (First Parliament Building) was built in 1849 as a school. It is **Bloemfontein's** oldest surviving building still in its original condition and is still in use as the seat of the Provincial Legislature.

The National Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre has a repository of works by prominent Afrikaans authors. Exhibits in the Afrikaans Music Museum and the Theatre Museum (part of the Centre) include old musical instruments, sheet music, costumes, photographs and furniture.

The National Museum is notable for its wide collection of fossils, cultural-historical exhibits and archaeological displays, including the Florisbad skull, which was discovered in the 1930s at the Florisbad spring, about 50 km north of Bloemfontein.

The National Women's Memorial is a sandstone obelisk, 36,5 m high, which commemorates the women and children who died in concentration camps during the Anglo-Boer/South African War from 1899 to 1902. Visitors are afforded a glimpse into life in the concentration and prisoner-of-war camps. The research library contains an extensive collection of Africana.

The Old Presidency dates back to 1885 and was the official residence of three Presidents of the former Republic of the Orange Free State. It houses a museum depicting their respective terms of office, and a cultural centre for art exhibitions, theatrical productions and musical events.

With its King's Park Rose Garden containing more than 4 000 rose bushes, Bloemfontein has rightfully earned the nickname 'City of Roses'. Bloemfontein hosts an annual rose festival.

The Observatory Theatre in Bloemfontein's game reserve is a unique attraction.

Bloemfontein has a busy cultural and social events calendar. One of the annual events not to be missed is the Manguang African Cultural Festival, popularly known as the Macufe Arts Festival, in September.

The Sand du Plessis Theatre and Art Gallery at Oliewenhuis are also worth visiting.

Botshabelo (Place of Refuge) is 45 km from Bloemfontein on the N8 road to Lesotho, and is

believed to be the largest township settlement in the Free State – and the second-largest in South Africa after Soweto.

Nearby, the town of Thaba Nchu is the site for luxury hotels and a casino, with the Maria Moroka Nature Reserve surrounding Thaba Nchu Sun and the Setlogelo Dam.

Xhariep

Bethulie used to be a London Missionary Society station. The original mission buildings still stand.

The Pellissier House Museum depicts the history of events in the area.

The Gariiep Dam, more than 100 km long and 15 km wide, is part of the Orange River Water Scheme, the largest inland expanse of water in South Africa.

Situated between the Dam and Bethulie lies the Gariiep Dam Nature Reserve. On the southern side of the Dam lies the Oviston Nature Reserve.

Philippolis, the oldest town in the Free State, was founded as a London Missionary Society station in 1824 and was the first mission station in the province.

Trompsburg is the hub of the Free State Merino sheep-farming industry.

The Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve reputedly supports more game than any other sanctuary in the Free State. It is reserved for hunters in autumn and winter.

A fountain near **Koffiefontein** was a favourite outspan for transport riders in the 19th century. In June 1870, one of these transport riders picked up a diamond near the fountain. This prompted the usual diamond rush and by 1882 Koffiefontein was a booming town with four mining companies.

Thabo Mofutsanyana

With its beautiful snow-capped mountains providing a backdrop to numerous romantic hide-aways, this untouched, pristine area with its breathtaking scenery possesses a grandeur of majestic proportion.

The Basotho Cultural Village in the QwaQwa National Park is a living museum where visitors can witness the Sotho traditions and lifestyle in the chief's kraal.

Clocolan is known for its cherry trees, with its blossoms providing a spectacular sight in spring. San rock paintings and engravings are found in the area.

Clarens is often described as The Jewel of the Free State, owing to the spectacular scenery. San paintings are found on farms in the area. Close by, the Highlands Route meanders along the foothills of the Maluti mountains. One can also explore the magnificent mountain scenery by bike.

Ficksburg is known for its cherry and asparagus farms. A cherry festival is held annually in November. The town is a gateway to the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

The Golden Gate Highlands National Park is known for its beautiful scenery and is a very popular holiday destination. A vulture restaurant enables visitors to observe these scavengers closely. San paintings can also be viewed.

The Highlands Route follows the Lesotho border via **Ladybrand** and ends at **Zastron** in the south. San caves and rock art are some of the main features of the Route.

The birdwatching mecca of Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve near **Memel** constitutes a wetland with Ramsar status, and is surrounded with private game and holiday farms.

Lejweleputswa region

Bethlehem lies on the banks of the Jordaan River and was founded by the Voortrekkers during the 1840s. The museum in Miller Street depicts the history of the area. The banks of the Jordaan River form part of the Pretoriuskloof Nature Reserve – a sanctuary for birds and small game.

Van Reenen's Pass winds through the Drakensberg, and was originally used by migrating herds of zebra, hartebeest, blesbok and wildebeest. The Llandaff Oratory in the nearby village of **Van Reenen** is believed to be the smallest Roman Catholic Church in the world.

At **Harrismith**, there are various memorials in honour of those who fought in the Anglo-Boer/South African War and World War I. Of particular interest is a memorial for the Scots Guards and Grenadier Guards. Platberg, the 2 394 m 'flat mountain', is the

town's landmark. A well-known race, claimed by some to be the toughest in the country, is run annually up, along and back down the mountain. Sterkfontein Dam is ideal for water sports and fishing.

The Riemland Museum in **Heilbron** depicts the heritage and agricultural activities of the region.

The QwaQwa district is a traditional home to the Basotho people. Karakul carpets, mohair, wall hangings, copper, glassware and brass are made and sold at **Phuthaditjhaba**. The Metsi Matsho and Fika Patso dams are renowned for trout fishing.

Welkom is known for its gold mines. It is also the only city in the country that makes use of traffic circles instead of traffic lights.

The world's deepest wine cellar is at the St Helena Mine which is 857 m below the Earth's surface.

Bothaville is regarded as the centre of the Free State Maize Route. The NAMPO Harvest Farm and Festival attracts more than 20 000 visitors each year and is the second-largest private agricultural show centre in the world. Bothaville is also the host of the annual Food and *Witblits* Festival, drawing visitors from all over South Africa.

Winburg is the oldest town and first capital of the former Republic of the Orange Free State. The Voortrekker Museum, using life-size models, depicts the daily routine of the *trekkers*. A concentration camp cemetery is situated close by.

Sasolburg originated in 1954 with the establishment of Sasol, the synthetic fuel producer.

Parys is a popular holiday destination.

Eastern Cape

The main feature of the Eastern Cape is its astonishing coastline. With its wide open sandy beaches, secluded lagoons and towering cliffs, the Indian Ocean coastline provides the province with a rich natural tourist attraction, which is also a paradise for watersports enthusiasts.

Added to the diverse coastal experiences are more than 60 State-owned game reserves and more than 30 private game farms, which collectively cover an area greater than the Kruger National Park.

Amatole Mountain region

The Amatola mountains are famous for their scenery and history, and stretch from **Adelaide** in the east to **Stutterheim** in the west. With its lush forests and ancient battlefields, it is an area steeped in Xhosa culture and early settler history.

The thick forests of the Amatolas are a haven for the endangered Cape parrot, and the first dinosaur to be identified in South Africa, 'The Blinkwater Monster' was discovered near **Fort Beaufort**.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy **Cathcart**, where trout-fishing, hiking, riding and birdwatching are among the attractions.

The Amatole Hiking Trail is a well-known scenic but strenuous trail.

The coastal city of **Port Elizabeth**, which has earned the name of 'Friendly City', is a superb holiday destination, offering a diverse mix of eco-attractions. The Isuzu National Sailing Week is held annually in April in the waters of Algoa Bay.

There are various scuba-diving sites. Visitors can visit Bay World with its oceanarium and snake park, and many splendid museums. Other attractions include national parks and game reserves; the traditional healing village, Kaya Lendaba; birdwatching; air tours; canoeing; various mountain-bike and horse-riding trails; and organised outdoor excursions.

Tourists can also go on the Donkin Heritage Trail, take a ride on the famous Apple Express and go hiking along the site of ancient shipwrecks along the Sacramento Trail.

Wild Coast

Since Portuguese mariners first pioneered the sea route around the Cape to India, this notorious coast has claimed countless ships.

Southern right and humpback whales and their calves are regularly spotted from the high dunes, usually between May and November, while common and bottlenose dolphins are often seen close to shore.

The whole region, once known as the Transkei homeland, is the home of a major section of the Xhosa-speaking southern Nguni (or Pondo) tribes. Brightly coloured examples of their beadwork, together with traditional pottery and basketry can be

bought from roadside vendors and at some trading posts.

Visitors to the rural village of Qunu can see the childhood home of former President Mandela, while in the city of Umtata, the Nelson Mandela Museum tells the story of this great figure.

Coffee Bay is popular among surfers, anglers and shell collectors. The new alignment of the N2 national route along the Wild Coast, and the establishment of the Pondoland National Park will open up investment opportunities.

Near **Coffee Bay** to the south, is the prominent rock formation, called the Hole in the Wall.

The local Xhosa call this place *Izi Khaleni*, which means 'Place of The Thunder'. During high tide, the waves move through the hole in such a way that the concussion can be heard throughout the valley.

Karoo

The vast plains of the Karoo have an air of grandeur and its many picturesque towns are steeped in history.

The Owl House in **Nieu-Bethesda** displays the creative talent of the late Helen Martins. Statues of mermaids, wise men, camels and churches create a wonderland in the garden. Everything in it was built with broken bottles, bits of mirror and cement.

More than 200 houses in **Graaff-Reinet** have been restored to their original Victorian appearance, and proclaimed national monuments. The Old Library Museum houses the Lex Bremner Fossil Collection of Karoo reptile fossils and a collection of Khoi and San art reproductions. Urquhart House has a popular genealogical research centre.

Some 30 km south-west of Graaff-Reinet is the Kalkkop Crater, a gigantic circular impact. Kalkkop is of major scientific importance and is the third crater to be recognised in southern Africa.

To the north-west of Graaff-Reinet lies the Valley of Desolation. A steep and narrow road leads into the mountains that surround the Valley.

The Valley of Desolation is a national monument within the Karoo Nature Reserve, and was formed millions of years ago by weathering erosion.

The first evidence of the presence of dinosaurs in South African can be viewed at **Maclear**.

The Mountain Zebra National Park is a haven for the Cape mountain zebra species which at one time inhabited most of the Cape.

The Park saved these animals from extinction and today their population stands at about 350.

Other species found in the Park include antelope, eland, African wildcat, bat eared wolf, and more than 200 bird species such as the pale-winged starling, booted eagle and the blue crane.

The N6 Route

The Route runs from Bloemfontein to East London. Popular attractions include the slopes of the Tiffindell Ski Resort and the streams filled with trout, as well as the many caves adorned with ancient rock art.

Several historic towns can be found in the region, including **Barkly East, Rhodes, Lady Grey, Elliot, Aliwal North, Burgersdorp** and **Queenstown**.

Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast comprises miles of unspoilt sun-drenched beaches.

Port Alfred lies at the mouth of the Kowie River. Coastal hills are home to the Oribi – a small territorial buck that was recently near extinction.

Inland, **Grahamstown** is sometimes referred to as the City of Saints, because of the more than 40 churches found in the town. The National Arts Festival is held annually. Every year during this time, Grahamstown is transformed into a dedicated arts venue where performers, visual artists, audiences, writers and craftspeople fuse in a celebration of creative energy.

Other attractions include various museums and historical buildings, the oldest post-box in South Africa, botanical gardens, the cathedrals of St Michael and St George, nature reserves and hiking trails.

Situated north-east of Grahamstown, the Great Fish River Reserve consists primarily of valley bushveld habitat and is surrounded by both tribal land and commercial game reserves and farms.

The Reserve boasts abundant wildlife such as white rhino, giraffe, waterbuck, Cape buffalo, hippo, kudu, springbok and eland.

There are several historic forts and remains from the legendary frontier wars located in the area.

East London, South Africa's only river port city, was originally established as a supply port to serve the military headquarters at King William's Town. The city's own waterfront development, Latimer's Landing, is situated on the banks of the Buffalo River. The East London Aquarium houses approximately 400 different species of marine and fresh-water animals.

The East London Museum depicts the natural environment and rich heritage of the region. Best known for the prehistoric coelacanth, the Museum also displays reconstructions of the extinct dodo of Mauritius, along with the only extant dodo egg in the world.

The Greater Addo Elephant National Park nurtures some 400 elephants; one of the largest concentrations of elephant to be found in the world. Plans are underway to expand the Park to incorporate a marine reserve from the Sunday River Mouth to Cape Pardone, including off-shore islands. It will feature the Big Five as well as southern right whales and great white sharks.

The Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area is the largest of the inland protected areas and provides opportunities to visit spectacular *fynbos*-covered mountains on foot or in off-road vehicles.

Tsitsikamma

This region, stretching from **Plettenberg Bay** to **Jeffreys Bay**, is renowned for its dense forests, majestic mountains and deep river gorges. It forms the eastern end of the Garden Route.

The word *tsitsikamma* is derived from the Hottentot words *tse-tsesa* meaning clear and *gami* meaning water.

South Africa's first marine park, the Tsitsikamma National Park, extends along a rocky coastline of 50 km, and 3 km out to sea.

Inland, adventure seekers will find deep gorges and temperate evergreen forests criss-crossed by six hiking trails, including the five-day Otter Trail. The varied wildlife includes dolphins and whales, caracal, genet, chacma baboon, dassie and mon-goose.

Another popular adventure is a black-water tubing experience on the Storms River.

Prominent bird species in the area are the African black oystercatcher, the orange-breasted sunbird, the Nerina trogon and the colourful Knysna loerie. A lucky few may catch a glimpse of the rare Cape clawless otter, after which the Otter Trail is named.

Limpopo

The Limpopo is a land of dramatic contrasts characterised by hot savanna plains and mist-clad mountains, age-old indigenous forests and cycads alongside latter-day plantations, ancient mountain fortresses and the luxury of contemporary infrastructure and modern-day facilities.

Steeped in history, the Limpopo celebrates a rich cultural heritage and at many archaeological sites the mysteries of the past and ancient peoples are still being unearthed. The present tranquillity of the province belies a turbulent past, to which many monuments and museums attest.

Much of the land, particularly in the Kruger National Park and other game and nature reserves is unspoilt, providing sanctuary to large numbers of game.

Waterberg

The Nylsvley Nature Reserve boasts one of the greatest concentrations of waterfowl and bushveld birds in South Africa. More than 400 species frequent the area.

The **Mokopane** vicinity has several nature reserves. The Arend Dieperink Museum has a fine cultural-historical collection and the Makapan Caves are notable for their fossils. The Caves are being developed into an archaeological site.

The Makapansgat Caves and limeworks near Mokopane represent an archeological site of global importance.

The **Thabazimbi** district has a large concentration of private game reserves and is one of the fastest-growing ecotourism areas in the country. The Marakele National Park is home to some rare yellowwood and cedar trees and the world's largest colony of Cape vultures. It is a leader in the conservation of the black rhino outside of the Kruger

National Park and the KwaZulu-Natal parks.

Bela-Bela is known for its hot springs. There are a number of game reserves and leisure resorts in the area.

The Waterberg Range is rich in indigenous trees, streams, springs, wetlands and bird life. Cliffs known as the Palace of the Vultures harbour a large breeding colony of Cape vultures. **Modimolle** is the main town in this region.

Capricorn district

The Bakone Malapa Open-Air Museum outside **Polokwane** is a traditional Northern Sotho kraal. Men and women practise traditional skills such as making baskets, clay pots, furniture and utensils, and preparing hides.

Zion City at Moria near Polokwane is the headquarters of the Zion Christian Church, which attracts more than a million pilgrims every Easter.

Polokwane itself hosts a great variety of museums and art galleries.

Vhembe district

The Mapungubwe Archaeological Site, situated 80 km west of **Musina**, lies within the boundaries of the Mapungubwe National Park, (formerly known as Vhembe/Dongola National Park). It is one of the richest of its kind in Africa and is a World Heritage Site. Excavations in the 1930s uncovered a royal graveyard, which included a number of golden artefacts.

The Schoemansdal Voortrekker Town and Museum, west of **Makhado** (formerly known as Louis Trichardt), is built on the site of an original *Voortrekker* village and depicts their lifestyle between 1848 and 1852.

Also worth visiting is the Big Tree in the Mutale Municipality, which is the largest known baobab in southern Africa; the Tshatshingo potholes; the mystical lake of Dzivhafundudzi; and the holy forest and waterfalls at Phiphidi.

Mopani district

The Modjadji Nature Reserve, north of **Tzaneen**, is named after the legendary Rain Queen, Modjadji, who is believed to have settled in the area early in the 16th century. The Reserve encompasses the

world's largest concentration of the cycad species *Encephalartos transvenosus*, also known as the Modjadji palm.

The Hans Merensky Nature Reserve and Mineral Spa on the southern banks of the Great Letaba River supports a large variety of game.

At the Tsonga Kraal Open-Air Museum, arts, crafts and traditional huts reflect the Tsonga lifestyle of 100 years ago.

The Kruger National Park (northern section) is one of South Africa's biggest tourist attractions. The Park is home to a huge number and wide variety of amphibians, reptiles and birds, and 147 mammal species, including the Big Five.

Thulamela, in the northern part of the Kruger National Park, was opened to guided groups in June 1997. This followed seven years of archaeological excavations, which brought to light the skeletons of two ancient royals and a multitude of artefacts, including gold bangles, beads and a double gong.

Bohlabela district

On the way to the Kruger National Park, visitors can enjoy the wildlife experiences at **Manyeleti**, the home of the Big Five. Adventurers can try out mountain-climbing at the Mangwazi Nature Reserve and enjoy the hiking trail at the Mapulaneng Trail at Zoeknag.

The Inyaka Dam at **Bushbuckridge** is also worth a visit.

North West

The North West is blessed with several cultural villages that entertain and enrich.

A number of excellent game reserves have been established including the Pilanesberg National Park, known as the Jewel of the North West. It is set in a crater on an extinct volcano and is home to the Big Five.

Central district

The Historic Route of **Mafikeng** includes an Anglo-Boer/South African War siege site, the Molema House where Sol Plaatje lived while writing his *Mafikeng Diary*, and the Mafikeng Museum.

The Lichtenburg Game Breeding Centre and the Botsalano Game Reserve are well worth a visit.

The Groot Marico region is known as *mampoer* country and visitors can embark on a *mampoer* and tobacco route. The Kortkloof Cultural Village is dedicated to the Tswana people.

Other attractions include the Wondergat, the Bosbult Monument which commemorates a battle during the Anglo-Boer/South African War, the Kaditshwene Iron Age Village Ruins, and various hiking trails.

Eastern district

The Hartbeespoort Dam is a popular spot for weekend outings, breakfast runs and yachting. The Hartbeespoort Reptile and Animal Park is situated on the banks of the Dam.

Cultural experiences in the area include the popular Mapoch and Gaabo Motho cultural villages as well as the Ring Wagon Inn.

The De Wildt Cheetah Breeding and Research Centre specialises in the breeding of cheetah and other endangered wildlife species. Other places of interests include the Borakalalo Game Reserve, the Margaret Roberts Herb Farm and the Phaladingwe Nature Trail.

The Vredefort Dome is a crater, 40 km across, caused by the collision of a meteorite with the Earth many years ago. It features unique fauna and flora. A variety of hiking and mountain-bike trails are on offer.

Bophirima district

The Taung Skull Site and the Blue Pools are renowned for the Taung skull found in the Buxton quarries. This region is popular with adventure-seekers – especially the 4x4 routes and hunting farms.

Rustenburg district

The Pilanesberg National Park supports more than 7 000 head of game, and 350 bird species.

The Madikwe Game Reserve is home to a big game-relocation programme. Over 10 000 animals of 27 major species have been reintroduced under Operation Phoenix. A hot-air balloon ride, day and night game drives, and bushwalks are available. Sun City and the Palace of the Lost City are very

popular tourist attractions offering gambling, golf, extravaganza shows, watersport and an artificial sea.

There are various hiking trails in the region. The Heritage Route starts at the Sterkfontein Caves World Heritage Site and ends at Pilanesberg.

Southern district

The OPM Prozesky Bird Sanctuary in **Potchefstroom** has over 200 bird species and is situated adjacent to the Mooi River. The Oudorp Hiking Trail takes visitors through the old part of **Klerksdorp** where 12 *Voortrekker* families settled.

Other attractions in the region include the Potchefstroom Lakeside Resort, the Faan Meintjies Nature Reserve in Klerksdorp, mine tours at **Orkney**, the Diggers Route at **Wolmaransstad** and the Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve.

Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga – ‘The Place Where The Sun Rises’ – epitomises every traveller’s dream of the true African experience. Located in the north-eastern part of South Africa, the province is bordered by Mozambique to the east and the Kingdom of Swaziland to the south and east.

The climate and topography vary from cool highland grasslands at 1 600 m above sea level, through the middleveld and Escarpment, to the subtropical Lowveld towards the Kruger National Park and many private game reserves. Scenic beauty, climate and wildlife, voted the most attractive features of South Africa, are found in abundance in the province.

Attractions range from game viewing and bird watching to scenic drives across the valleys and peaks of the vast Drakensberg Escarpment, and include agritourism, industrial and adventure tourism and cultural experiences. Historical sites and villages, old wagon routes and monuments mark events and characters who passed this way in search of adventure and wealth.

The cultural heritage of the province is varied and exciting. The Ndebele beadwork and house-painting in the north-west, the arts and crafts of the Lowveld and the different traditional villages all over the province offer a unique insight into the history of the people.

Nelspruit

Nelspruit is the capital of Mpumalanga and the commercial and administrative hub of the Lowveld. The Nelspruit Historical Trail is an hour-long route stretching from the Promenade Centre to the Civic Centre.

The Blue Train runs between Pretoria and Nelspruit from May to September on a trip called the Lowveld Experience. Rovos Rail’s trains also visit Nelspruit.

The Green Heritage Hiking Trail in the Nelspruit Nature Reserve is one of several walks in the Reserve and one of many in the region.

Not to be missed is the Lowveld Botanical Garden, as well as the Reptile Park, the Sudwala Caves, PR Owen Dinosaur Park, and the artists’ village of **White River**.

Panorama

Barberton features many reminders of the early gold-rush era. Museums include Belhaven, Fernlea House and Stopforth House. The only known verdite deposits in the world are found in the rocks of the Barberton district. An annual Diggers Festival is held in September.

The Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve near **Graskop** is characterised by striking rock formations and a rich diversity of plants. Within the Reserve, the Bourke’s Luck Potholes were formed by river erosion and the action of flood water.

The spectacular Blyde River Canyon is a 26 km-long gorge carved out of the face of the Escarpment, and is one of the natural wonders of Africa. The Canyon is the third-largest in the world but the only green canyon, and hosts three rivers which feed the Blydepoort Dam at **Swadini**. God’s Window provides a magnificent view of miles of thickly forested mountains, the green Lowveld and the Canyon. The Blyderivierspoort Hiking Trail is one of the most popular in the country. A number of other hiking trails are also available.

The southern section of the Kruger National Park, which is a major tourist attraction, falls within this region.

Kaapsehoop is a quaint historical village known for the wild horses that frequent the district. Blue

swallows are regular visitors from September to April.

The **Lydenburg** Museum is situated in the Gustav Klingbiel Reserve, which is the site of archaeological ruins from the Later Iron Age. The Lydenburg Heads were discovered in this area.

Sabie is the centre of the largest man-made forest in South Africa.

The Cultural Historical Forestry Museum depicts various aspects of the country's forestry industry. The Bridal Veil, Horseshoe and Lone Creek waterfalls just outside **Sabie** are worth a visit.

The Mac Mac Pools and Falls outside Sabie are also worth a visit. The 69 km Prospector's Trail starts at the Mac Mac Forest Station and leads to Bourke's Luck Potholes.

At the Montrose Falls in **Schoemansklouf**, the Crocodile River cascades 12 m into a series of rock pools. It is also the starting point of the annual Lowveld Crocodile Canoe Marathon, held in February.

Pilgrim's Rest is a living museum and a replica of the early gold-mining town. The Alanglade House Museum offers guided tours of the former mine-manager's house, while the Diggings Museum just outside the town arranges guided tours of gold-panning activities. This area was the setting for *Jack of the Bushveld*, the novel by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick about the experiences of a man and his dog as they share adventures in the world of African gold-mining. The Dredzen Shop Museum consists of a store stocked with a range of items in use nearly a century ago. The Pilgrim's Rest Festival is held annually in December.

Mount Sheba Nature Reserve, south of Pilgrim's Rest, is best known for its indigenous forest – one of few left in the region.

Highlands Meander

The Highlands Meander is a mecca for fly-fishers. It is in the placid and pristine waters of this region that one can find various stocks of fish, with trout as the major drawcard. The Meander offers a myriad of activities.

At the Verloren Vlei and Steenkampsberg nature reserves (**Dullstroom**), one can get a rare glimpse

of the three endangered crane species (the blue, wattled and crowned cranes).

The Loskop Dam Nature Reserve offers game watching, boating and fishing.

A large number of hiking trails are available, such as the Elandskrans Trail, which includes a 30-minute train ride between **Waterval-Boven** and **Waterval-Onder**.

Cultural Heartland

It is in this Cultural Heartland that one can immerse oneself in the true cultural heritage of Mpumalanga. Here, one can learn about the proud and welcoming amaNdebele people, revered for the striking geometric patterns on their houses and clothing.

This region also has illuminating historical sites like Botshabelo Historical Village.

Cosmos Country

Cosmos Country covers parts of what is known as the energy belt of Mpumalanga, which is home to a number of power stations. This region also boasts the world's largest underground coal-mining complex and the Sasol plant renowned for its technology of extracting oil from coal.

The carpet of cosmos flowers that blossoms in late summer lures visitors to this region.

Wild Frontier

Various archaeological discoveries dating back almost three billion years ago were made in the imposing mountains of this region.

Visitors to this region have a rare glimpse of the inimitable San paintings embossed in some rocks.

The region also holds rich historical sentiments centered around the monument of Samora Machel constructed in the village of **Mbuzini**. Due to the location of this region, visitors have the opportunity to visit Swaziland and Mozambique in a short space of time.

Grass and Wetlands

Grass and Wetlands is indeed a paradise, with a variety of bird species to see. This region stretches across the deep valleys and mountains of the east where thermal springs bubble to the surface.

There are 270 pans and lakes within a 20 km radius of Lake Chrissie. In this region, visitors can take part in the unusual 'frogging expedition' or simply gaze at the stars during 'star-gazing weekends'.

Gauteng

Gauteng, the 'Place of Gold', is the economic powerhouse of South Africa. It is characterised by a cosmopolitan, multicultural mix of people from all walks of life. The province's unique cultural and social legacy is evident by the many excellent museums, theatres, cultural precincts and craft markets.

The Vaal Dam, which supplies water to most of Gauteng's residents, covers some 300 km² and is a popular venue for watersport. Numerous resorts line the shore. The Dam also attracts a great diversity of birds.

Vanderbijlpark was built during the late 1940s by the Iron and Steel Corporation to accommodate its employees.

The Sterkfontein Caves near **Krugersdorp** are the site of the discovery of the skull of the famous Mrs Ples (now believed to be Mr Ples), an estimated 2,5 million-year-old hominid fossil, and Little Foot, an almost complete hominid skeleton some 3,3 million years old.

The Caves comprise a series of caverns with many stalactites and stalagmites and a huge underground lake. Guided tours are available. The Wonder Cave, about two billion years old, is one of South Africa's most impressive natural assets. In 1999, Sterkfontein and its environs were declared a World Heritage Site.

The Krugersdorp Game Reserve provides sanctuary for several game species, including four of the Big Five. The African Fauna and Bird Park houses various species of wildlife and birds.

The South African National Railway and Steam Museum at Randfontein Estates Gold Mine outside Krugersdorp houses some of the country's old steam locomotives, a diesel-electric locomotive, and more than 50 vintage passenger coaches. Train rides are offered once a month.

A team of Lippizaner stallions performs every Sunday at the South African National Horsemanship Centre, in **Kyalami**, near Johannesburg.

Visitors to **Roodepoort** can go on walks and trails through the Kloofendal Nature Reserve, or enjoy a picnic or show at the popular Kloofendal Amphi-theatre. The Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden (formerly known as the Witwatersrand National Botanical Garden) boasts a 70 m-high waterfall.

Forty kilometres north of Pretoria lies a ring of hills a kilometre in diameter and 100 m high. These hills are the walls of an impact crater left by an asteroid that hit there some 200 000 years ago. The Tswaing Meteorite Crater is similar in size to the well-known Barringer meteor crater in Arizona, USA. The Crater walls at Tswaing were originally about twice as high as they are today.

There is a museum adjacent to the Crater. A path leads from the museum to the Crater, along the rim, and down to the central lake. The Crater is covered with indigenous trees and bushes and attracts a variety of bird life.

The old mining town of **Cullinan** developed around the Premier Diamond Mine and many turn-of-the-century houses still stand. The Mine has produced some of the world's most famous diamonds, including the Cullinan, the world's largest at 3 106 carats.

Johannesburg

The Adler Museum of the History of Medicine depicts the history of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy in South Africa. The Pharmacy Museum in Melrose houses a large variety of medicines, including more than 670 traditional medicines that have been collected throughout southern Africa.

There is also a display of old prescription books and dictionaries used by pharmacists.

The Nelson Mandela Bridge is a landmark gateway into Newtown, also known as the arts precinct of Johannesburg. The 295 m-long, cable-stayed bridge can accommodate over 3 000 vehicles per hour.

Museum Africa in Newtown tells the story of life in South Africa from the Stone Age to the Nuclear Age and beyond. The Museum is located in the old fruit-and-vegetable building next to the Market Theatre.

The Market Theatre Complex comprises three theatres, an art gallery, restaurants and pubs.

A bronze statue of the resistance activist, Mahatma Gandhi, can be seen in the city centre.

Lesedi Cultural Village in the Swartkops Hills north of Johannesburg gives visitors the opportunity to meet families of different tribes. Visitors can spend the night with a family of their choice.

The Phumanegna Zulu Kraal is home to traditional Zulu people living and working there.

The Melville Koppies in Johannesburg was once the site of a Stone Age African village and iron-smelting works. Flora includes 80% of the species recorded on the Witwatersrand. It is open to the public from September to April.

Gold Reef City is a reconstruction of Johannesburg during the gold-rush era.

The Apartheid Museum near Gold Reef City tells the story of the legacy of Apartheid through exhibitions consisting of film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts.

Constitution Hill opened to the public in March 2004. It features the impressive building housing South Africa's Constitutional Court, and offers visitors the chance to view the Fort, the so-called Native Gaol, the Women's Gaol and the Awaiting Trial Block. Inmates imprisoned at these facilities included Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Luthuli, as well as the only woman to be executed in South Africa's history, Daisy de Melker.

At Santarama Miniland and Entertainment World visitors can explore models of South Africa's most popular beacons, such as Robben Island, Johannesburg International Airport, East London Harbour, the

Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town, and the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

The South African Museum of Military History houses an impressive collection of weaponry and uniforms from the two world wars. The South African Transport Museum (**Heidelberg**) relates to all aspects of South Africa's transport services.

A large, well-established park surrounds Zoo Lake, which is frequented by breeding bird colonies. Other attractions include jazz concerts, rowing boats for hire, a tea garden and a restaurant.

Soweto is a popular tourist destination. It is estimated that some 1 000 foreign tourists visit Soweto every day.

The two-bedroom house where former President Mandela lived before his incarceration has been declared a national monument and converted into a museum.

The Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown (Soweto) is the place where the Freedom Charter was signed.

No tour of Soweto would be complete without a visit to the Hector Petersen Museum, which commemorates the people who died following the student uprising of 16 June 1976. The Museum was named after the young boy, who was the first person to be shot dead by police on that day.

Guest-houses and bed-and-breakfast establishments are a fast-growing phenomenon in Soweto.

Ms Neo Mamashela and Ms Ellen Mabiletsa are two Soweto residents who are reaping the rewards and gaining recognition for successfully converting their living space into guest-houses.

They were announced the winners of the 2004 Automobile Association Travel Guide Awards for Best Traditional Township Accommodation and Best Modern Township Accommodation respectively.

Pretoria

Many historical buildings can be seen in the city, which is known for its jacaranda trees.

Church Square is centred around a statue of Paul Kruger, President of the former *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek*, and includes buildings such as the *Old Raadsaal* and the Palace of Justice.

The Kruger House Museum contains the personal belongings of President Kruger. Melrose House is a



The Gauteng Tourism Authority launched the first-ever guide for mobility-impaired travellers in April 2004.

It is published by the Automobile Association Travel Guides in conjunction with Bophelo Tours and Safaris.

The full-colour, 40-page *Gauteng Access Guide* lists 96 accommodation establishments in Gauteng that cater for wheelchair travellers.

The Guide uses a standard set of symbols indicating which facilities are available at every establishment.

beautiful example of Victorian architecture. The Peace Treaty of Vereeniging, which ended the Anglo-Boer/South African War, was signed here in 1902.

Demonstrations at the Pioneer Open-Air Museum include milking cows, making butter and candles, baking bread and grinding coffee beans.

Other museums include the Police Museum, the Science and Technology Museum, the Coert Steynberg Museum and the Transvaal Museum of Natural History.

The Voortrekker Monument also houses a museum and commemorates the Great Trek. Some 260 steps lead to the dome, where spectacular views of the city can be enjoyed.

Fort Schanskop has been refurbished and boasts a 375-seat amphitheatre.

The Union Buildings were designed by Sir Herbert Baker and completed in 1913. They were the setting for the presidential inauguration of Nelson Mandela in 1994, and those of Thabo Mbeki on 16 June 1999 and 27 April 2004.

The Sammy Marks Museum just outside Pretoria dates from 1885. Rooms in the house are filled with Victorian paintings, furniture, silver and porcelain. There is a tea garden and restaurant on the premises.

The General Smuts House Museum in Irene, south-east of Pretoria, contains the original furnishings of the Smuts family. A popular arts and craft market is held here on certain Saturdays.

The Rietvlei Nature Reserve is notable for its 73 grass types, 147 different herbs, a large number of game and over 140 bird species.

The Mapoch Ndebele Village, north of Pretoria, is being restored by its residents and the National Cultural History Museum. To develop the project into a viable, living tourist village, the 50 families staying there have undergone tourist-guide and business training. It is the first living cultural village in South Africa owned and managed by its residents.

In September 2000, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, together with the Mamelodi Heritage Forum, launched the Mamelodi Heritage Route.

The Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum outside Pretoria centres around a farmstead dating from

1880. Traditional farming activities are demonstrated, and annual events include a prickly-pear festival, a *mampoer* festival and the Agricultural Museum Show.

KwaZulu-Natal

Also known as the Zulu Kingdom, KwaZulu-Natal is a many-splendoured interaction of natural wonders, ultra-modern facilities, fascinating cultural imprints and reminders of a dynamic history in a breathtakingly beautiful and varied setting.

Durban and surroundings

Tourist Junction, in Durban's historical station building, provides access to tourist information and accommodation bookings for Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife and South African National Parks.

The Golden Mile skirts the main beaches of the Indian Ocean. Attractions include an amusement centre, paddling pools, paved walkways and fountains.

The uShaka Island marine theme park, oceanarium, dolphinarium and oceanographic research institute on Durban's Point opened in May 2004. This is the new home of a wide variety of sea life, including sharks, dolphins and seals.

There is a snorkelling trail and a tubing river around the park.

At the wide Umgeni River mouth, Blue Lagoon Beach is Durban's most popular fishing spot while beyond the River, the La Lucia and Beachwood Mangroves nature reserves offer long, tranquil walks along empty sands.

The Durban area has more than 50 reserves, developed parks and specialised gardens, the most renowned being the Municipal Botanical Garden.

The Fitzsimons Snake Park offers lectures and venom-milking demonstrations.

MiniTown is a model city depicting Durban's best-known buildings.

Museums include the Natural History Museum, the Natural Science Museum, the Old House Museum and the Old Fort.

The Shree Ambalavaanar Alayam Temple (The Second River Temple) in **Cato Manor** was the first Hindu temple on the African continent. It is a national monument.

The Juma Masjid Mosque is the largest mosque in the southern hemisphere. Daily tours are available.

Annual events in and around the city include the popular Comrades Marathon between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, an international surfing competition, the Duzi canoe marathon, the Midmar Mile swimming event, and the July Handicap horse-race.

Umhlanga Rocks, just north of Durban, is notable for its ski-boating facilities. The annual Ski Boat Festival takes place in April. The Natal Sharks Board offers shark dissections and interesting displays. Guided tours of the Hawaan Forest are on offer. Hawaan is the last relic of coastal forest in the region and contains rare indigenous trees.

The Umgeni River Bird Park overlooks the Umgeni River and ranks among the world's best. Many varieties of birds, indigenous and exotic, inhabit walk-in aviaries.

The Millennium Town at the end of the Bluff houses the maritime offices which control the entry of ships into and out of the busiest port in Africa.

East Griqualand

East Griqualand is an area filled with astounding beauty and colourful, living history. The capital of East Griqualand, **Kokstad**, lies in the Umzimhlava River basin between Mount Currie and the Ngele mountains.

The original Town Hall – built in 1910 – is a national monument, now serving as the local library. The former library – built in 1907 – is also a national monument, and houses the Kokstad Museum.

The Weza State Forest runs through indigenous forests and commercial plantations. There are several antelope species and a huge variety of birds in the forest.

East Griqualand is home to the southern-most portion of the Drakensberg World Heritage Site, plus the impressive Swartberg, Bokkiesberg, Cedarberg and Ngele mountain ranges.

The Mountain Lake Nature Reserve is a National Heritage Site comprising rolling grasslands and pristine wetlands. When full, the lake boasts 30 ha of deep, trout-filled splendour with 80 bird species and panoramic views of the Drakensberg mountain range.

Between **Kokstad** and **Matatiele**, the hamlet of **Cedarville** provides tranquil canoe-borne excursions on its surrounding, water-filled hollows. Also nearby, the carp-abundant Umzimvubu River is an ever-popular recreation ground for locals and visitors alike.

Steam-train journeys can be undertaken between **Swartberg** and **Creighton**.

The steam train also operates more frequently and will soon offer trips to **Ixopo** and beyond.

Dolphin Coast (North Coast)

The coastline between the Umdloti and the Tugela rivers is aptly called the Dolphin Coast, as Indian Ocean bottlenose dolphins can be seen here all year round. The larger humpback dolphins are also found here, but are rarely seen.

Many of the first Indian immigrants settled here, and the area's markets, mosques and temples bring an authentic eastern flavour to the region.

Tongaat is an area where sugar was first planted in 1854. The town's Indian ambience is accentuated by two prominent Hindu temples – the Juggernath Puri and Vishwaroop temples.

Other coastal towns on the Dolphin Coast include **Shaka's Rock**, **Salt Rock**, **Ballito**, **Verulam**, **Stanger**, **Darnall** and **Umdloti**.



South Africa's Premier Travel Tourism Trade Show, the Tourism *Indaba*, took place from 8 – 11 May 2004 at the International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The theme was *South Africa: A 10/10 Destination*. The *Indaba* has grown in status, quality and diversity to become one of the continent's most valuable icons as well as one of the world's top three 'must-visit' travel and trade shows.

Special features of the 2004 Tourism *Indaba* included a specially designed Global Brand Village and the launch of the Domestic Tourism Growth Strategy.

The Masakala Traditional Guest-House in Matatiele scooped the Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa Award during the *Indaba*.

The Award is awarded to community projects that contribute to making South Africa a number-one tourist destination. The Masakala Guest-House was set up as one of the Alfred Nzo Municipality's poverty-alleviation programmes.

Zululand and the Elephant Coast

Cultural tourism is inextricably linked to economic upliftment in Zululand, and historically disadvantaged communities are applying their traditional skills to meet visitors' interests.

Zululand's north-east quadrant – between Mozambique, Swaziland and the warm Indian Ocean – has its own unique tale to tell. This is the Elephant Coast or Maputaland, named after the mid-17th century king who established dominion here some 200 years before Shaka consolidated his Zulu empire to the south. The Tembe Elephant Park in the far north is home to herds of the massive African elephant.

The Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park is one of the largest game parks in South Africa and hosts the Big Five as well as the elusive cheetah and wild dog.

The eMakhosini Valley, birthplace of King Shaka, is the venue for a new tourism- and economic-development project. Known as eMakhosini, 'The Valley of Zulu Kings', the joint public-private sector project aims to preserve the culture and history of the Zulu people.

The eMakhosini Memorial Site, where seven Zulu kings are buried, was unveiled in May 2003.

Ulundi lies at the hub of the old Zulu Kingdom. The KwaZulu Cultural Museum houses interesting displays relating to Zulu history and archaeology. The beehive huts and the layout of the original Zulu village have been reproduced.

Umgungundlovu used to be the royal capital of King Dinga and is being reconstructed. A tour provides the opportunity to observe Zulu building techniques and experience the social life of the Zulu people.

Authentic Zulu villages such as Shakaland, Kwabhekithunga Kraal, Damazulu and Stewart's Farm offer accommodation and the opportunity to experience traditional Zulu culture.

The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, the province's second World Heritage Site, has some of the highest forested dunes in the world. **St Lucia** and its surroundings comprise a wetland of global importance and boast five separate ecosystems. It is a fishing and birdwatching paradise, and boat trips on the lake offer opportunities for crocodile and hippo sightings.

Kosi Bay, in the far north, is a system of four lakes ranging from freshwater to saline that feed into the ocean.

The Kosi Bay Nature Reserve is part of the Coastal Forest Reserve between Mozambique and **Sodwana Bay**. The adjacent Indian Ocean provides exciting snorkelling and fishing opportunities. On offer is a four-day guided walking trail around the estuarine system.

Mkuze is a small trade and transport centre. The Mkuze River cuts through the Ubombo mountains before serving as a boundary for Zululand's popular Mkuzi Game Reserve.

Lake Sibaya is South Africa's largest natural freshwater lake, covering some 77 km². Birdwatching and walks through the coastal forest are popular pastimes.

Sibaya Lake Lodge, the first South African eco-tourism development jointly owned by private enterprise and the local community, was officially launched in September 1999.

The coral reef in the Sodwana Bay National Park attracts hundreds of scuba-divers throughout the year, and in summer, power-boaters arrive for some of the best marlin-fishing in the world.

South Coast

The Banana Express is a narrow-gauge steam train running between **Port Shepstone** and **Paddock** and back (39 km) twice a week. A shorter route is also available.

Amanzimtoti is popular for its safe swimming beaches and various other activities and attractions.

The Hibiscus Coast stretches between Umko-maas and the Wild Coast. **Margate** is the largest resort town along this Coast, and is very popular during the holidays. The Hibiscus Festival is held in July.

The Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve encompasses forest, rivers, rapids and ravines. Prolific bird life, including five kingfisher species and seven eagle species, inhabits the Reserve, along with a variety of mammals. There is also a 140 m abseil and gorge swing for adrenalin junkies.

Port Edward is known for its safe swimming and good fishing opportunities. Nearby, the Umthamvuna

Nature Reserve is noted for its beautiful scenery, bird life and many rare plant species.

The Shell Museum at **Shelly Beach** is well worth a visit.

Other popular coastal towns include **Port Shepstone, Ramsgate, St Michael's-on-Sea, Uvongo** and **Scottburgh**.

Sardine fever strikes the South Coast around the end of June every year, with people flocking to the beaches and anglers waiting for the game fish to arrive.

Pietermaritzburg and the Midlands

Pietermaritzburg boasts various museums, including the Voortrekker Museum, the Natal Museum and the Natal Steam Railway Museum, which offers steam-train rides on the second Sunday of every month. The Tatham Art Gallery is also extremely popular.

The Albert Falls Public Resort Nature Reserve and the Albert Falls Dam provide opportunities for sailing, canoeing and fishing.

Birdwatching, horse-riding and hiking are also popular pastimes.

The Howick Falls are situated in the Valley Nature Reserve, where the river tumbles down 100 m in a single fall. Several climbing routes have recently been completed.

The Midlands Meander is a scenic drive between **Hilton** and **Mooi River** with about 70 ports of call *en route*, ranging from art studios, potters and painters, to herb gardens and cheese-makers.

Midmar Dam is zoned for yachting and power-boating. The 1 000 ha Midmar Game Park is inhabited by rhino, zebra, a wide variety of antelope species, and waterfowl. The popular Midmar Mile swim attracts thousands of swimmers every year.

Drakensberg

The Drakensberg mountain range forms the north-western border of KwaZulu-Natal. The whole area is a bird sanctuary, and the endangered lammergeier (or bearded vulture) can be spotted. The highest concentration of walks and trails in South Africa is found here.

The Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg Park was declared a World Heritage Site in 2001 and consists of almost the entire range of the Drakensberg mountain range from Bushman's Neck in the south to the Royal Natal National Park in the north. Peaks soar to over 3 000 m and are often snow-covered in winter. The Park is administered by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife. Their trout hatcheries are located in the Kamberg Reserve area.

The Lotheni Nature Reserve is notable for its trout-fishing facilities (angling permits are required). Relics of the area's history have been preserved in the Settler Museum.

The Himeville Nature Reserve has two lakes stocked with trout. The Swamp Nature Reserve close by attracts a variety of waterfowl, including the rare wattled crane.

The **Ndedema Gorge** is located in the Mdedelelo Wilderness Area near **Cathedral Peak** and contains examples of Khoi and San art.

Sani Pass is the only road across the high escarpment between KwaZulu-Natal and the Kingdom of Lesotho. The Giant's Cup Hiking Trail, starting at the foot of the Pass, is described as one of South Africa's finest. Giant's Castle Game Reserve is especially known for its more than 5 000 San paintings. The Bushman Site Museum is well worth a visit.

The Royal Natal National Park offers many scenic highlights, including the Amphitheatre, Mont-aux-Sources and the Tugela Falls.

Battlefields

The KwaZulu-Natal Battlefields Route has the highest concentration of battlefields and related military sites in South Africa. The Battlefields Route starts at Estcourt and winds north through Colenso and Ladysmith to Newcastle and Volksrust, and eastwards to Utrecht, Glencoe, Dundee, Nqutu, Paulpietersburg, Vryheid, Babanango and Ulundi.

All the towns along the Route have their unique charm and range of attractions: arts and crafts, scenic hiking trails, farm resorts, Zulu culture and roadside stalls. Game viewing, natural hot springs, horse trails and watersport can also be enjoyed.

The Chelmsford Nature Reserve near **Newcastle** is a birdwatcher's paradise.

Powerboating and carp-fishing are added attractions. Game includes springbok, zebra, rhino and blesbok. Other interesting places to visit are Majuba Hill and O'Neill's Cottage.

The Ladysmith Siege Museum provides insight into the battles of Colenso, Spioenkop, Vaalkrans and Tugela Heights. Guided tours to nearby battlefields such as Wagon Hill are arranged by museum staff. Other attractions in **Ladysmith** include the Statue of Gandhi, the All Saints Church, the Soofi

Mosque and the Spioenkop Dam and Nature Reserve.

Near **Dundee**, tourists can visit various battlefields, including Blood River, Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift and Talana. The Talana Museum depicts various facets of the coal industry, as well as local Zulu, Boer and British history.

Rorke's Drift was the setting for one of the most famous battles of the War. The main attraction is the Rorke's Drift Battle Museum.

Acknowledgements

BuaNews

Business Day

Business Report

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

South African National Parks

South African Tourism

South African Tourism Institute

Western Cape Provincial Government

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