



## TOURISM

South Africa has the world's richest floral kingdom and a vast variety of endemic and migratory birds. It is also home to one-sixth of the world's marine species and has more species of wild animals than North and South America or Europe and Asia together. Its diversity, sunny skies and breathtaking scenery make it a popular holiday destination. The 2010 World Cup affords South Africa a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase the best the country has to offer.

## **TOURISM**

In 2009, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism became the Department of Tourism, emphasising the importance of this sector.

Tourism has been identified as one of the key economic sectors with excellent potential for growth.

About 9,6 million foreign tourists visited South Africa in 2008, a 5,5% increase over the 9,1 million foreigners who visited the country in 2007.

The contribution of tourism to South Africa's gross domestic product is estimated to have increased from R162,9 billion in 2007 to R194,5 billion in 2008. The estimated number of jobs created directly and indirectly in the economy through tourism increased by 10% from 946 300 in 2007 to 1 041 700 in 2008.

Foreign visitors to South Africa increased by 5,1% to 8,6 million in the 11 months to November 2008.

### **Travel formalities**

- Foreign visitors should check before arriving whether a visa is required. Visas are free of charge.
- Visitors must have at least one blank page in their passports.
- Tourists must have return or onward tickets.
- Visitors from yellow-fever areas must have proof of inoculation.
- Foreign tourists may have their value-added tax refunded upon departure.
- For safety, emergency and other information, tourists can phone 083 123 2345 (24 hours a day) when they are in South Africa.

### **2010 FIFA World Cup™ host cities Bloemfontein**

Bloemfontein is the judicial capital of South Africa, the provincial capital of the Free State and the largest urban centre in the Mangaung Local Municipality. Bloemfontein is popularly known as "The City of Roses", owing to the abundance of the flowers and the annual rose festival held there.

### **Cape Town**

Cape Town is known for its beaches, sport, mountain walks, day-trips, wine-tasting, sunsets and fine dining. Cape Town is the

In 2008, Gauteng and the Western Cape were the most popular provinces visited (enjoying 32,3% and 26,9% of visitor nights, respectively). They also accounted for the bulk of expenditure on accommodation.

The third most popular province was KwaZulu-Natal with 10,7% of visitor nights.



provincial capital of the Western Cape and the legislative capital of South Africa. Cape Town is the economic hub of the Western Cape. It also has the primary harbour and airport in the Western Cape.

## Durban

Durban, South Africa's third-largest city in area, is an exciting hub around a busy harbour on the edge of the warm Indian Ocean. The city is well known for its pleasant climate and welcoming beaches. It also boasts top sporting facilities, world-class resorts and nature reserves. Its port is the busiest in South Africa, and the busiest container port in the southern hemisphere. To accommodate the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, most of Durban's iconic high-tourist season events have confirmed changed dates or venues, for example the Comrades Marathon will repeat the 2009 down run from Pietermaritzburg to Durban on 30 May 2010.

## Johannesburg

Johannesburg lies in Gauteng, the wealthiest province in South Africa. Locals have nicknamed the most populous city in South Africa "Joburg", "Jozi" and "eGoli". The City of Johannesburg is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, with a population of just over three million people.

## Nelspruit

Nelspruit, the capital city of Mpumalanga, is nestled on the Crocodile River, about 60 km west of Mozambique. Mpumalanga (which means "The Place of the Rising Sun") is the primary gateway to the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park, which stretches over three countries and encompasses global wilderness icons such as the more than 100-year-old Kruger National Park.

## **Polokwane**

Polokwane is the capital city of Limpopo. It is the largest city in the north and a major economic centre. Wide streets, jacaranda trees, colourful parks and sparkling fountains characterise the city.

Polokwane, which means “A Place of Safety”, is situated 60 km south of the Tropic of Capricorn and is home to just over 500 000 people. It encompasses the vibrant communities of Seshego, Mankweng and other surrounding townships.

## **Port Elizabeth**

Port Elizabeth is one of South Africa’s important sea ports. The city, the largest in the Eastern Cape, lies on the south-eastern coastline of South Africa. It is known for its sunshine, temperate climate, exhilarating sea breezes and magnificent golden beaches.

The city forms part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, which unites Uitenhage and Despatch and is named after South Africa’s former president, humanitarian and world icon, Nelson Mandela, who was born and spent his formative years in the Eastern Cape.

## **Pretoria**

Pretoria’s charm lies in its harmonious blend of African roots and European traditions. It is a city where history meets 21st century style and development, and where vibrant township scenes complement modern shopping centres. Pretoria is an important industrial centre, with heavy industries, including iron and steel casting as well as automobile, railroad and machinery manufacture.

The city has the second-largest number of embassies in the world after Washington, DC. It serves as the executive (administrative) capital of the country.

## **Rustenburg**

Rustenburg is a large town situated at the foot of the Magalies mountain range in the North West. Just outside the town are the largest platinum mines in the world and the largest platinum refinery, which processes about 70% of the world’s platinum. The town is surrounded by fertile farming land.

## Tourism in the provinces

### Western Cape

The Western Cape continues to be one of the destinations most favoured by foreigners. Everyone wants to see Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Some attractions in Cape Town are:

- the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront
- the Company's Gardens
- the District Six Museum
- the houses of Parliament and the South African National Gallery
- a boat trip to Robben Island, the place where former President Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years in jail.

Table Mountain is a popular site for visitors and provides a majestic backdrop to the vibrant and friendly "Mother City". The top of the mountain can be reached by an ultramodern cableway.

Cape Point, part of the Table Mountain National Park, offers many drives, walks, picnic spots and a licensed restaurant. The park has a marine protected area encompassing almost 1 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The wine routes outside Cape Town offer the chance to taste first-class wines in arguably the most beautiful winelands in the world. Superb accommodation is available in historic towns such as Paarl, Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, as well as on many estates and farms.

### Garden Route

The Garden Route has a well-developed tourist infrastructure, spectacular scenery and a temperate climate, making the region popular all year round.

### Not to be missed

- The city of George is at the heart of the Garden Route and the mecca of golf in the southern Cape. It is home to the renowned Fancourt Country Club and Golf Estate.

South Africa is home to the world's largest individually timed cycle race (the *Cape Argus* Cycle Race), the world's largest open-water swim (the Midmar Mile) and the world's largest ultra-marathon (the Comrades Marathon).





Twenty-nine South African beaches were awarded Blue Flag status in 2009 – 10 more than in 2008. With the exception of Morocco, South Africa is the only other African country implementing the Blue Flag Programme, and has done so with increasing success since 2001. Blue Flag is an international award scheme that acts as a guarantee to tourists that the beach they are visiting is one of the best in the world.

It is awarded to beaches that have achieved the highest quality in water, facilities, safety, environmental education and management. Beaches that have received Blue Flag accreditation include:

- MacDougall's Bay, Port Nolloth (new)
- Yzerfontein main beach, Yzerfontein (new)
- Big Bay beach, Bloubergstrand, Cape Town (new)
- Clifton fifth beach, Cape Town
- Camps Bay, Cape Town
- Muizenberg, Cape Town
- Strandfontein beach, Cape Town
- Mnandi beach, Cape Town
- Bikini beach, Gordon's Bay
- Kleinmond beach, near Hermanus (back in programme)
- Hawston beach, near Hermanus
- Grotto beach, Hermanus
- Lappiesbaai, Stilbaai, Southern Cape
- Santos beach, Mossel Bay (new)
- Hartenbos beach, Mossel Bay (new)
- Robberg fifth beach, Plettenberg Bay (new)
- Dolphin beach, Jeffrey's Bay
- Humewood beach, Port Elizabeth
- Hobie beach, Port Elizabeth
- Wells Estate, north of Port Elizabeth
- Kelly's beach, Port Alfred
- Kariega main beach, Kenton-on-Sea (new)
- Boknes beach, Kenton-On-Sea (new)
- Gonubie beach, East London (back in programme)
- Trafalgar beach, South Coast, KwaZulu-Natal (new)
- Marina beach, South Coast, KwaZulu-Natal
- Ramsgate beach, near Margate
- Margate beach
- Alkant beach, Richard's Bay (new).

- Knysna, nestling on an estuary, is one of South Africa's favourite destinations, famous for its indigenous forests, lakes and beaches.
- Just 29 km from Oudtshoorn, the ostrich-feather capital of the world, at the start of the Cango Valley lie the Cango Caves, the only show caves in Africa that offer a choice of tours in various languages. The remarkable caves are a series of 30 spectacular subterranean limestone caverns. The cave system is 5,3 km long.

## Central Karoo

The Central Karoo forms part of one of the world's most interesting and unique arid zones. This ancient, fossil-rich land, with the richest desert flora in the world, also has the world's largest variety of succulents.

### Key attractions

- Matjiesfontein, a tiny railway village in the Karoo, offers tourists a peek into the splendour of colonial Victorian South Africa.
- Prince Albert is a well-preserved town, which nestles at the foot of the Swartberg mountains. The Fransie Pienaar Museum offers interesting cultural-history displays, a fossil room and an exhibit of gold-mining activities of the 19th century.
- The museum in Beaufort West, birthplace of heart surgeon Prof. Chris Barnard, depicts the story of the world's first heart transplant. The Karoo National Park on the outskirts of the town is also worth a visit.

## Northern Cape

The Augrabies Falls National Park, with its magnificent falls pressing through a narrow rock ravine, remains the main attraction of the Northern Cape. Game drives reveal a variety of birdlife and animals such as klipspringer, steenbok, wild cats and otters.

### Key attractions

- The Kimberley Mine Museum is South Africa's largest full-scale open-air museum. Underground mine tours are a big attraction. The Freddy Tate Golf Museum at the Kimberley Golf Club

was the first golfing museum in Africa. The Kimberley Ghost Trail has become a popular tourist attraction.

- The Robert Sobukwe House in Galeshewe was once the residence of Robert Sobukwe, an important figure in South African history and a major role player in the rise of African political consciousness.
- The Orange River Wine Cellars Coop in Upington offers wine-tastings and cellar tours. The South African Dried Fruit Cooperative is the second-largest in the world.
- Moffat's Mission in Kuruman is a tranquil place, featuring the house of missionary Robert Moffat, whose son-in-law was explorer David Livingstone.
- Namaqualand, the land of the Nama and San people, puts on a spectacular show in spring when its floral splendour covers vast tracts of desert in a riot of colour.
- A cultural centre at Wildebeestkuil outside Kimberley features !Xun and Khwe artwork for sale and a tour of rock engravings by these indigenous people.
- The 100-m high, 9-km long and 2-km wide white sand dune at the Witsand Nature Reserve near Postmasburg should not be missed.

## **Free State**

In the capital, Bloemfontein, the Eerste Raadsaal (First Parliament Building) was built in 1849 as a school and is the city's oldest surviving building that is still in its original condition. It is still used as the seat of the Provincial Legislature.

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.

## **Not to be missed**

- Clarens, the jewel of the Free State, is surrounded by spectacular scenery and boasts many art galleries.
- The Golden Gate Highlands National Park outside Clarens has beautiful sandstone rock formations.
- The King's Park Rose Garden in Bloemfontein boasts more than 4 000 rose bushes.



Cape Town has earned a stamp of approval from the well-known travel company, Lonely Planet, as one of the world's top 10 party cities. This list is part of Lonely Planet's new guide, the *1 000 Ultimate Experiences*.



- The Vredefort Dome, a world heritage site, is the oldest and largest meteorite impact site in the world. It was formed about two billion years ago when a giant meteorite hit Earth.

## Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape is the only province in South Africa, and one of the few places on Earth, where all seven biomes (major vegetation types) converge.

### What to see and do

- The rugged beauty of the Wild Coast, including Hole-in-the-Wall.
- Port Elizabeth, the sunshine capital of the Eastern Cape, with its friendly people and excellent beaches.
- The Red Location Museum of the People's Struggle in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth – winner of three international awards.
- The Tsitsikamma National Park, forests and rivers.
- East London, South Africa's only river port, originally established as a supply port to serve the British military headquarters at King William's Town.
- The village of Qunu, former President Mandela's childhood home.
- The world's highest bungee jump (216 m) at the Bloukrans Bridge over the Storms River.
- Outstanding and varied game reserves, including the Addo Elephant, Mountain Zebra and Mkambati parks.

## Limpopo

Limpopo is well endowed with cultural diversity, historical sites and tourist attractions, and is an excellent destination for get-away-from-it-all luxury holidays in the bush.

### **Not to be missed**

- The Mokopane vicinity has several nature reserves. The Arend Dieperink Museum offers a fine cultural-historical collection, while the Makapan caves are famous for their fossils. The Makapan Valley is the only cultural-heritage site of its kind. It reflects the history of the Ndebele people and resistance wars dating back 151 years. The fossil hominid sites of Sterkfontein include Makapan Valley.
- With its outstanding game reserves, the Thabazimbi district is one of the fastest-growing ecotourism areas in South Africa.
- Bela-Bela is well known among South Africans, and increasingly foreigners, for its hot-water springs, fun water slides and scenery.
- The Waterberg mountain range is rich in indigenous trees, streams, springs, wetlands, birdlife and dramatic vistas.
- The Modjadji Nature Reserve, north of Tzaneen, is named after the legendary Rain Queen, Modjadji, who inspired Rider Haggard's *She*.
- Phalaborwa has one of the country's top-rated golf courses – just watch out for animals on the fairways.

### **North West**

The province abounds with attractions, including wild animals and fun nights at the famous Sun City and Lost City resorts.

### **Key attractions**

- The Historic Route of Mafikeng includes the town of Mafikeng, which was besieged by the Boers during the Anglo-Boer/South African War.
- The Groot Marico region, mampoer (moonshine) country, is associated with author Herman Charles Bosman.
- The Hartbeespoort Dam and surrounds are popular for weekend outings, yachting and golf.
- The Pilanesberg National Park supports over 7 000 head of game, including the Big Five and 350 bird species.
- Sun City and the Palace of the Lost City are hugely popular tourist attractions, offering gambling, golf, extravaganza shows, water sport and an artificial sea.
- The Taung Skull Fossil Site is an extension of the Sterkfontein hominid sites. The site marks the place where the celebrated

Taung skull – a specimen of the species *Australopithecus africanus* – was found in 1924.

- Madikwe Game Reserve, one of South Africa's largest game reserves, is home to 66 large mammal species, including the Big Five and about 300 resident and migrant bird species.

## Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga – the place where the sun rises – lies in the north-eastern part of South Africa, bordered by Mozambique to the east and the Kingdom of Swaziland to the south-east. Scenic beauty and wildlife are abundant.

### Tourist attractions

- Historical sites and villages, old wagon routes and monuments mark the lives of the characters who came to Mpumalanga seeking their fortune. The town of Pilgrim's Rest is a living monument reflecting the region's gold-fever period.
- The Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve near Graskop has striking rock formations and a rich diversity of plants.
- Within the Blyde River Canyon Nature 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

South Africa is home to the world's:

- largest land mammal – African elephant
- smallest mammal – a shrew, the size of a human fingertip
- tallest mammal – the giraffe
- fastest mammal – cheetah
- heaviest reptile – leatherback turtle
- largest antelope – eland
- heaviest flying bird – Kori Bustard.

It is also home to:

- 900 bird species – 10% of the world's variety on 1% of its land area
- 6 000 different spiders, 175 varieties of scorpion and 100 different snakes
- 23 200 different "fynbos" plants, making it the richest zone on Earth in terms of species to area.



The New7Wonders Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland, announced the top 28 wonders from around the world in July 2009. The finalists include legendary sites such as the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Grand Canyon in the United States of America and the Amazon in South America.



Cape Town's Table Mountain made it into the final round of the New7Wonders of Nature contest and is competing for a place among the top seven wonders to be announced in 2011. Table Mountain is the one of only two African sites to have made the prestigious list, along with Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

long gorge carved out of the face of the escarpment. It is the world's third-largest canyon and the only green canyon.

- The region includes the southern section of the Kruger National Park, which draws a million visitors yearly.
- Dullstroom is popular with trout- and fly-fishing enthusiasts.

## **Gauteng**

Gauteng, the economic heart of southern Africa, offers a vibrant business environment and many tourist attractions, including a rainbow of ecological and cultural diversity.

### **Key attractions**

- The Vaal Dam covers some 300 km<sup>2</sup> and is a popular venue for water sport. Numerous resorts line the shore. The dam is also popular with birders and anglers.
- The Sterkfontein caves near Krugersdorp are the site of the discovery of the skull of the famous Mrs Ples, an estimated 2,5-million-year-old hominid fossil; and Little Foot, an almost complete hominid skeleton of more than 3,3 million years old.
- The Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden has a 70-m high waterfall, stunning indigenous plant displays and a breeding pair of black eagles.
- There is a ring of hills a kilometre in diameter and 100 m high just 40 km north of Pretoria. These are the walls of the Tswaing Meteorite Crater, left by an asteroid 200 000 years ago.

The Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve, in the Western Cape's Cederberg Mountains, was rated the world's best hotel in 2009 by *Travel&Leisure* magazine.



Bushmans Kloof, set on a 7 500-ha reserve 270 km north of Cape Town, has received many accolades, including the 2007 *Relais and Chateaux* Environment Trophy for its environmental and conservation projects.

South Africa has three other hotels in the publication's top 15, namely Mpumalanga's Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, which was placed third; Singita Sabi Sands, which came sixth; and Cape Town's Twelve Apostles, at number 15.

- The National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria is considered one of the 10 best in the world.
- The Constitution Hill Precinct is set to become one of South Africa's most popular landmarks.
- The old mining town of Cullinan is where the world's biggest diamond, the 3 106-carat Cullinan diamond, was found.
- A guided tour of Soweto leaves a lasting impression of this vast community's life and struggle against apartheid.
- The Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg tells the story of the legacy of apartheid through photographs, film and artefacts.
- The Union Buildings in Pretoria was the venue for the inauguration of all South Africa's democratically elected presidents since 1994.

## **KwaZulu-Natal**

Also known as the Zulu Kingdom, KwaZulu-Natal is a combination of natural wonders, fascinating culture and ultra-modern facilities. Durban's Golden Mile skirts the main beaches of the Indian Ocean. Drawcards include an amusement centre, paddling pools, paved walkways and fountains.

### **Enticing attractions**

- The uShaka Marine World theme park comprises an oceanarium, dolphinarium and oceanographic research institute situated on Durban's Point.

- Spot dolphins or laze the days away on the coastline between the Umdloti and Tugela rivers – the Dolphin Coast.
- The Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park, one of the largest game parks in South Africa, is home to, among other things, the Big Five.
- The eMakhosini Valley, birthplace of King Shaka, and the Valley of Zulu Kings give visitors insight into the Zulu nation’s history and culture.
- The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is one of the highest forested dunes in the world, and has an abundance of fish and birds.
- The Royal Natal National Park offers many scenic highlights, including the Amphitheatre, Mont-aux-Sources and the Tugela falls.
- The Battlefields Route in northern KwaZulu-Natal has the highest concentration of battlefields and related military sites in South Africa.
- Every year around June or July, millions of sardines leave their home on the Agulhas banks and move up to the coast of Mozambique. Thousands of dolphins, Cape gannets, sharks and game fish follow the “sardine run” northwards.