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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

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Stuck at Lanseria Airport for the day?

Johannesburg, 1 Day

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: What is the point of being stuck in an airport for a few hours? This guide is just to give you an idea provided you can hire out a car for a day from Lanseria. You can decide to drive to the Lion Park first and enjoy a couple of hours before driving to Al Fresco for a lovely lunch. Then head back for Lanseria to catch your flight out. You will need a good five hours to do all at your own leisurely pace. Both places are easily accessible from Malibongwe Road that leads to Lanseria Airport.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Johannesburg

Lion Park
Roam With the Lions

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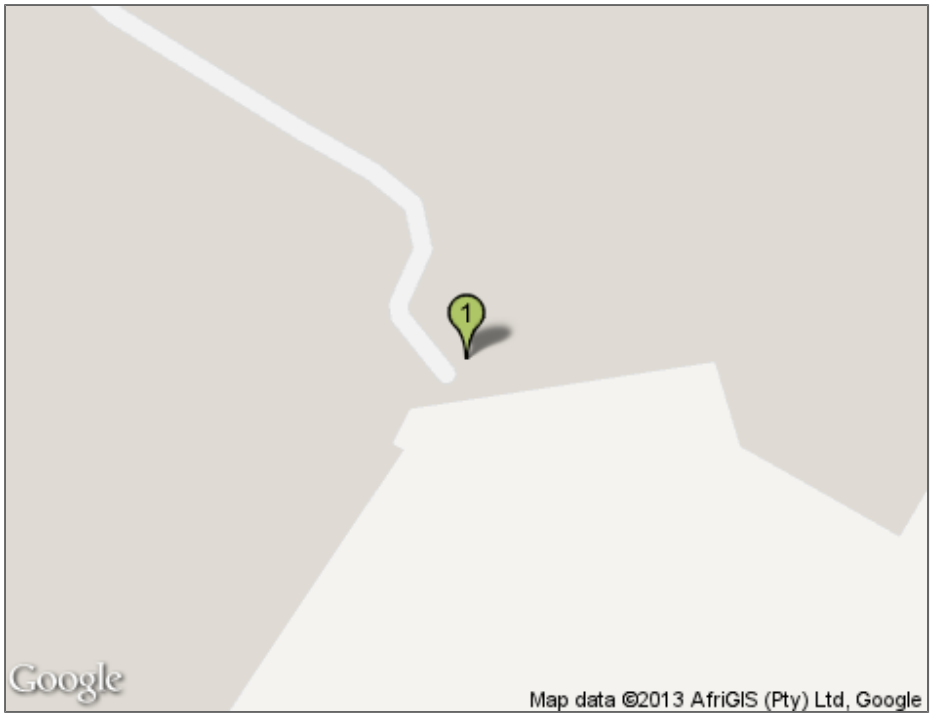
Day 1 - Johannesburg



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: +27 11 691 9905
fax: +27 11 691 9904
http://www.lion-park.com/

location:
Corner of Malibongwe and R114
Johannesburg 2055

1 Lion Park

DESCRIPTION: Featuring four prides of lions of various ages, Lion Park also boasts a number of rhino as well as other herbivores. The lions are enclosed in a high-security area while the greater park area is given over to the other animals. For the adventurous, photographs with lion cubs are permitted under supervision. A restaurant and curio shop is situated in shady surrounds. Picnic facilities are also available. These areas are clearly demarcated and nature conservation officers are always on hand. © wcities.com

wcities

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My List

contact:
tel: 011 7945475
http://www.alfresco.org.za

location:
Corner Beyers Nuade Drive & Boland Street

1 AL FRESCO

DESCRIPTION: This legendary country restauarant has been going strong for many years and is a favourite with families as there is a lovely playground for children to play. The extensive al la carte menu caters for all tastes and the pizzas are out of this world. Set in an attractive setting with generous patios, it is so easy to relax and unwind. The prices are good value for money and there is a good selection of wines on offer too. © Roger

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Johannesburg Snapshot

Local Info

Johannesburg South Africa's largest and wealthiest city, primarily due to its thriving gold and diamond trade. There are no lakes, rivers or beaches in the city but there is a lot of money floating around, which means there are plenty of entertainments, activities and other fun things to do in your idle time.

Shopping and Dining

One of the most popular pastimes in Joburg, as the locals call it, is, apparently, shopping. There are over 20 malls here and the Mall of Rosebank is where you'll find high-end shops, along with a cinema, art and craft galleries, and a Sunday rooftop market. The cosmopolitan neighborhood of Rosebank also has many stores that sell authentic African pieces like opal animals, black serpentine stones, beads and wooden bowls. On Sundays the Rosebank flea market opens to eager shoppers looking for specialty foods, home furnishings, unique clothing and crafts.

Restaurants are abundant in Johannesburg and you'll find cuisines from all over the world represented here. Try the suburb of Auckland Park, which is just northwest of the city center and known for its historic architecture. There are also many cafes and bars in Melville and Parktown North. Merville and Auckland Park are most popular among the city's sophisticates and serious foodies, while Parktown's eating atmosphere is more relaxed and great for family affairs.

Nightlife

Without beaches and resorts to occupy them during the day, urban Joburgers tend to focus their energy in the city's vibrant nightlife scene. The bars, clubs, music and entertainment venues range from trendy jazz and dance spots to gritty watering holes. Barhopping is a popular activity throughout the city and the 7th Avenue in Melville is a frequent destination for party animals. Take heed, though, as the bars and clubs here have a reputation for being on the hardcore side. If you prefer a more relaxed atmosphere, where a good time also means good clean fun, Newtown is the place to head.

Sights

Don't stay out too late because there are many fascinating attractions in the city and environs. The first sightseeing stop for most visitors(and locals) is the Newtown Cultural Precinct downtown. Here you'll find the Museum Africa, which takes visitors on a visit to the peak times and places of African civilization. Next door is the Market Theatre Complex, one of the places every tourist should visit to witness the wealth of talent displayed by the local people. The theater has shows nightly. Another worthwhile place for a visit is the SAB World of Beer, which has beer tours Tuesday through Saturday.
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History

The Sterkfontein Valley, situated just 18 miles(29 kilometers) northwest of Johannesburg, has yielded some of the most startling archaeological treasures of our time. Scientists working the limestone caves in 1998 discovered a lime-encrusted skeleton, which dates the presence of early human beings in the valley to 3.5 million years ago. This discovery places Gauteng at the forefront of international paleontology research.

Evidence of Iron Age smelters on the Melville Koppies and at Lone Hill just north of Sandton point to a more recent human occupation, while rock engravings in Magaliesberg mark the passage of these hunter-gatherers at 25,000 years ago.

It is not without reason that the province in which Johannesburg sits is calledGauteng —Sotho for"Place of Gold." The city was named after Johan Rissik, the Surveyor General sent to select a site for the village, and Johannes Joubert, the mining commissioner sent to investigate the claims.

With the discovery of gold in 1886—the world's most significant source of this precious mineral is located here—gold-diggers, speculators and fortune-hunters arrived in droves, and soon a tented town sprung up. This conglomerate of disparate people was to become what is today South Africa's main commercial center.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, the Witwatersrand gold mines attracted large numbers of African laborers who were housed in compounds on the mines. Company and municipal hostels housed migrant workers for other industries while some, such as domestic workers, resided at their places of work.

But there were also many people who wereuitlanders, or"foreigners". Their limited voting rights was one of the reasons for the beginning of the Anglo-Boer War, an earth-shattering clash between British imperialism and Afrikaaner nationalism.

It was not just the war of the white person; many Africans were employed by the British and the Boers.

The Johannesburg Fort, a prison for a good part of the late 1900s, was surrendered to the English during the Anglo-Boer War. The Fort was the only major military structure built in Johannesburg by the Transvaal Republic. It was designed to control—not protect—the rebellious mining town. The battlements offered commanding views of the city and its gold-miners; it was surrendered without a shot being fired.

As social and political tensions increased between 1950 and 1980, a new kind of leader emerged: Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela equipped themselves with academic qualifications.

In 1955, at a conference in Kliptown near Johannesburg, the ANC's Freedom Charter was signed and ratified by the Congress of the People.

Milestones during this period are numerous. Most significant was the awarding of the

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Nobel Peace Prize to Albert Luthuli, which brought international recognition and sympathy to the struggle against apartheid.

The Rivonia Trial, the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, and finally the student uprising in Soweto in 1976, marked the beginning of the end of apartheid. Gauteng —both Johannesburg and Soweto—was at the very cutting edge of the revolution.

Soweto—originally an acronym for Southwestern Townships adjacent to Johannesburg—comprises a number of townships and developed into a city as a result of territorial and political segregation policies. It has now developed from a mere geographical concept into a vibrant city that attracts many visitors.

Johannesburg today reflects the new South African order and a society in which the people are justly proud.
©

Hotel Insights

Johannesburg, the New York City of Africa, is a fast-paced cosmopolitan metropolis that offers accommodation for every taste and budget.

Johannesburg is divided into very distinct areas, each with its own character and idiosyncrasies. The movement out of the City Centre to the northern suburbs is the single largest development in recent years, altering the face of Jo'burg and adding more places to stay when visiting the city. Look for hotels in the City Centre, the eastern suburbs, Soweto, Parktown and Melville, and the northern suburbs.

City Centre

The relocation of businesses from the City Centre to the northern suburbs has left the CBD unsafe and unattractive to tourists. However, taking sensible precautions, there are some sights worth seeing, like the Johannesburg Fort for its sense of history, and the 50th floor of the Carlton Centre for its view. The Hotel Parktonian and the Carlton are located in the City Centre and offer luxury accommodation at substantially lower prices than the flashy northern'burbs hotels. Protea Hotel, Gold Reef City is located just south of the CBD and offers accommodation within a theme park that relives the turn-of-the-century gold mining era.

Eastern Suburbs

The eastern suburbs include Jo'burg's own Chinatown in Cyrildene. This is close to the established Observatory neighborhood, where you will find The Fountain Head Guest House, an Italian villa-style hotel dating back to the 1920s. Leave the city behind and head further east into tranquil suburbia. The Bedford View guesthouse in sleepy Bedford View is rather nice, as is the nearby Chateau Bri San with its swimming pool and tennis court.

Bedford View is also centrally located for accommodation near O.R. Tambo International Airport, and The Africa Centre Backpacker Lodge offers affordable lodging in the vicinity. The Don Johannesburg International Airport offers more luxurious lodgings next to the airport.

Soweto

Soweto, South Africa's most famous township, is safely reached with a tour group. It is worthwhile visiting this vast township to see how urbanized black South Africans live—from tin shacks to luxury mansions—and it's even possible to stay the night with a local family. The owner of Maweni Guest house is known as"The Godfather of Soweto" and can arrange tours around the township. For a more traditional experience, travel to the Lesedi multi-cultural village, less than an hour's drive from Jo'burg. It is a unique experience to stay with a rural African family in Zulu beehive houses or Xhosarondavels, or huts.

Parktown& Melville

Just north of the CBD lies Parktown, an affluent suburb with homes dating back to the late 19th Century. Avondrus offers cozy cottage accommodations in this neighborhood, while Barbet Hill is a guesthouse set in an indigenous garden with prolific bird-life. Trendy Melville has a buzzing nightlife, with over 30 excellent restaurants and plenty of inexpensive guesthouses. Melville House is run by an artist and comprises colonial-style, en-suite bedrooms. A Room with a View comes recommended for its, well, view. From here, one has a vantage point over the MelvilleKoppies(hills), and on a clear day, the Magaliesburg hills.

Northern Suburbs

The northern suburbs are modern Jo'burg: a vast sprawl of shopping centers and business complexes. The Inter-Continental Sandton Sun& Towers offers five-star luxury within the Sandton City Shopping Centre. The equally opulent Michelangelo, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World Group, is located within the neighboring Tuscan-inspired Sandton Square. Both Sandton City and Sandton Square offer world-class shopping and dining.

Rosebank

The Grace in Rosebank is another top-quality hotel, adjacent to the Mall of Rosebank with its cinemas, restaurants, galleries and boutiques. Ten Bompas Road is an exclusive boutique hotel, designed for the fastidious business traveler. Holiday Inn, Protea Hotels and Don Suites are some of the chain hotels offering comfortable and affordable accommodation across the northern suburbs and the rest of Johannesburg. There are a number of budget accommodation options in the modern northern suburbs including the Backpackers' Ritz in Dunkeld West.
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Restaurants Insights

Walk up to most Johannesburg restaurants, and you'll see waiters scurrying around and hear the clinking of cutlery. The hubbub and laughter billowing out the door is almost tangible. Dining out is a special social occasion here; eating comprises only about a third of the time spent in the restaurant.

So, is the quality of the food not important to Johannesburg diners? Oh, it certainly is, but locals also demand the full, theatrical production. As a local magazine editor said,"Local is not onlylekker(nice, tasty, enjoyable), but also intelligent, witty and sophisticated."

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Johannesburg has become the city of the restaurant. Whether you're hanging out with friends, having an extended Saturday lunch at Cornutti in Illovo or you have to impress a prospective business partner at The Courier in leafy Parkview, this Manhattan-in-the-veld has it all. From ethnic to international to fusion, there's a range of places just waiting to tantalize your taste buds.

Even the expensive level offers a range of choices. Do you want an expensive, formal place like Le Canard? Or Vilamoura, where the seafood receives top marks? It's carefully designed to be seriously slick and is a must for many international celebs visiting sunny South Africa.

One of the most popular pastimes here is doing coffee or lunch at a pretty, suburban sidewalk café, like Café Flo in Greenside or Sam's Café in trendy Melville, where foreign journalists in the know eat at least once.

In a city that sees more sun than much of the world, there are also many large, beautiful shopping centers that drive consumers to spend hours at a time indoors. The malls here have a lot to offer: you could even find a sidewalk in the middle of what is probably the southern hemisphere's largest shopping center, Sandton City, where you'll also find Ciao Baby Cucina. There's also Steffanie's in the shopping center at Hyde Park. Steffanie's is a classy eatery with plenty of regulars. It's a good place to people-watch and do a quick lunch or brunch with friends on the weekend.

"I know Johannesburg diners are demanding and that's why my restaurants are about people," said Naldo Goncalves. He'd know. His Portugese restaurant, Vilamoura, has a legendary success story. From the original small suburban venue—where queues always went out the door—to Sandton, Rosebank, Pretoria and Camps Bay in Cape Town: the joint is jumping.

Seafood is big in Jo'Burg and is often linked with Portuguese cuisine. From the humble suburban eatery to Beira Alta in the Colony Shopping Centre in Rivonia, there is a good range of truly excellent places to go to.

But, there are also plenty of other specialties to be found. The lemon-herb chicken at The Butcher Shop and Grill in Sandton Square is one of the best in town. Sublime chicken can also be found at the Italian restaurant, Mastrantonio, also in Sandton Square, and of course, it helps that the owners and waiters are gorgeous and charming. The Mastrantonio guys seem to have discovered the secrets of creating theater for their diners. And they're definitely doing something right: from their small beginnings in Illovo, they now have three restaurants across Johannesburg.

People from Jo'Burg are big on meat. The steakhouse of the 60s, 70s and 80s is now out of fashion, so instead takeaway hamburger joints are abound. If you have a sophisticated burger-joint palate, try Carnivore, which serves up meat of the highest quality.

The Singing Fig in Norwood(one of the older suburbs with a shopping street lined with many Italian coffee shops and eateries) serves what is reputed to be the best oxtail in town.

If your preferred cuisine is French, sadly, the only(and very pricey) restaurant is the stuffy but excellent Le Canard in Sandton.

Gauteng's multi-cultural population has produced a wide range of traditional foods found nowhere else in the world. Local food specialties can be both innovative and unusual: from Africanphutu(maize meal porridge) at Wandi's in Soweto to Afrikanerpotjiekos(stew cooked in a three-legged iron pot on an open fire) at Gramadoelas in the Market Theatre precinct.

It's a pity that weekend brunches aren't as big as they could be, but there are a number of places that are good, like the News Café in Rivonia. Many hotels, like The Grace in Rosebank or the Balalaika next to Village Walk shopping centre, are also good options.

However, if you're a motor biker, the breakfast run(leap out of bed at dawn, ride like hell for an hour or so, stop for brunch, come home) is really long. There are almost countless places within an hour's drive that serve anything from eggs andslap chips(French fries) to a large, really good feast.

Gianni Mariano, one of the founders of Mastrantonio says,"the key issue about Johannesburgers is that they are keen diners—and they demand high-quality food."
©

Nightlife Insights

Johannesburg, the city of great diversity, is a place that celebrates and rejoices its different cultures. New genres are being created and cross-cultural projects are tearing down Old South African boundaries. These are exciting times to visit, as the vibrant arts scene sets off on a new course.

The city, which was built on gold and then manufacturing, offers cultural escapism for every taste. This is South Africa's entertainment center – where would-be actors get their first break; where singers are launched onto the international stage and successful artists are invited to exhibit at institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Look out for listings of mainstream entertainment as well as film festivals, unusual art exhibitions and the like. The daily Star newspaper's Tonight section is a good source of information, but the weekly Mail& Guardian's Friday section is probably the most comprehensive entertainment guide available.

Art

There is a plethora of galleries and museums in and around Johannesburg and a week could easily be filled just doing the art routes. The Johannesburg Art Gallery houses the definitive collection of South African art. ABSA Gallery in the center of the city(always phone to book parking) houses an excellent art collection. The Witwatersrand(Wits) University houses the Gertrude Posel Gallery, where exhibitions include collaborations with the Rock Art

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Research Institute. The Karen McKerron Fine Art Gallery, the Goodman Gallery in Parkwood and The Everard Read Gallery, not far down the road in Rosebank, are among the oldest and most established galleries, always showing the crème de la crème of local talent.

Cabaret

Enjoy an impressive range from serious dancers in Madonna brassieres to Jargonelle's in Brixton(behind the South African Broadcasting Corporation near Melville). Local talent, whether living in the country or abroad, is showcased at this venue. Catch hip Afrikaan rockers like Wouter van de Venter there. The Randburg Waterfront often offers comedy and sing-along favorites in a Vaudeville style. But, be warned: anything goes.

Cinema

There are cinema complexes all over the city in shopping centers. Mainstream films are on view from all over the world, mostly from the US. ‘Art films' are shown in the Rosebank Mall cinema complex Cinema Nouveau, and also at embassies and the French Institute of South Africa, in Parkview. They do say it's always better on the big screen, and they don't come any bigger than the IMAX cinema, found in the Hyde Park Shopping Center.

Music

Music is everywhere, and everything from the operatic to the sassy and silly can easily be found. There's get-down blues and jazz at The Blues Room in Village Walk and jazz at the Market Theatre Complex. For classical music lovers the Witwatersrand(Wits) University offers regular recitals. The Civic Theatre(in Braamfontein, not far from Wits University) and Linder Auditorium(about 20 minutes from there) both also offer the classics. Larger arenas like the Johannesburg Stadium showcase big-name national and international artists. These visiting greats can also be found at some of the big casino complexes like Carnival City.

Theatre

The Wits Theatre at the Witwatersrand(Wits) University in Braamfontein often shows contemporary drama. The Alhambra Theatre presents mostly humorous and comedic performances.

Museums

The city offers numerous museums, and your first stop should be Museum Africa, founded in 1935 as the Africana Museum. Since then it has built up a collection of geological specimens, paintings, prints and photographs – life in southern Africa from the stone-age to the nuclear age, and beyond. In addition to the fascinating photographic collection, the Bensusan Museum in Newtown(near the Market theater complex) has a good historic art collection. If your taste tends towards the sybaritic, try the Breweries Museum(corner of Bezuidenhout and President Streets in Newtown), which depicts the history of brewing, going back to 1895. This is the date that South African Breweries(SAB) were officially registered on the London Stock Exchange. Come and sample some excellent South African beer. **Clubbing**

Clubs in Jo'burg cater to every taste – from hip hop and drum ‘n bass to hard house and pop. If trance is your thing, there's Horror Cafe opposite Electric Workshop near the Market Theatre Complex.

Bars,Pubs& Lounges

Tanz Café, in Bryanston, combines the essence of a European and Argentinean dance café where the music is passionate, the dance floor is large and the menu is unique. The atmosphere is reminiscent of a continental cafe.

Gay& Lesbian

Although Johannesburg pales in comparison to the world's ‘gay capitals' such as San Francisco, Sydney, and indeed, Cape Town, numerous bars and clubs catering to gays and lesbians have sprung up in post-apartheid South Africa. Ravers should head out to Champions, which offers the latest house grooves. ©

Things to Do Insights

Tour 1: City

Travel via lush green suburbs into the heart ofEgoli,"place of gold." This ever-changing city offers diverse history, architecture, culture and style. Visit the top of the Carlton, 50 floors up. See the City Hall, Post Office, Von Brandis statue, Rand Club and more than 20 other historical statues competing with skyscrapers and shopping centers. Visit Museum Africa, workers' compound, and the S.A. Breweries Museum. Experience aMuti(traditional medicine) shop. Drive to the"other city" for lunch. See Gold Reef City, an authentic reconstruction of old Johannesburg, built around Shaft number 14, Crown Mines. Venture underground to learn about gold mining: see gold being poured or visit the house museums and other replicas. Enjoy thrilling, fun rides or try your luck at the casino.

The tour will take a whole day, and if taken in your own transport, care must be taken in Old Johannesburg.

Tour 2: City And Soweto

Travel through the affluent Northern Suburbs, into the"City of Gold." See the prominent mining relics, headgear and dumps. Visit the preserved mine stope inside a banking hall. View the city from the highest commercial building in Africa. Do a historical walkabout of the 25 historical buildings and monuments, including City Hall, Library, Post Office, Guild Hall, Rand Club and Between the Chains. See thousands of street vendors before a visit to Museum Africa and workers compound. Visit the site of the first gold discovery before entering a different world, Soweto, 62 square miles of cultural interaction. See"matchbox" houses next to squatters' huts and then mansions, a little further on. Visit the Mandela House Museum, Hector Peterson Museum and the Ekhaya

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neighborhood museum. A visit to a local pub(shebeen) will round off the trip.

This is not a recommended trip to take without a guide or trusted person, and will take a full day.

Tour 3: Cradle of Mankind And Rhino and Lion Park

Travel via the Western Suburbs to reach the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens in Roddeport. Stroll through this garden with cliffs and a waterfall. Continue further west to the Sterkfontein Caves, recently declared a World Heritage Site, renowned for the discovery of Mrs. Plea(Plesiantropus—now calledAustralopithicus Africanus) a collection of human bones that are 2.3 million years old. The cave and display area will give a fascinating insight into the scientific search.

Continue on to the Rhino and Lion Nature Preserve for a fulfilling game-viewing afternoon. Privately owned, it houses more than 20 species of animals including rhino, lion, cheetah, wild dog, buffalo, zebra, sable, impala eland and also has a bird of prey feeding area. Another cave, the Wondercave, can be visited in this area.

Highly recommended, with plenty of picnic opportunities. It will take a full day and can be a guided tour or done as a self drive.

Tour 4: Lesedi Cultural Village

Lesedi is a multi-cultural village set amongst the pristine bush veld and rocky hills less than an hour's drive north of Johannesburg. Travel northwest towards the Magalies mountains, 35 minutes out of town, Lesedi awaits. Experience the culture, tradition and customs of these tribal groups. Situated at Lesedi are four traditional homesteads: the Zulu with their cozy beehive huts, the Xhosa with their perfectly thatchedrondawels and distinctive white blankets, the rhythmic drums and whistles of the Pedi tribe and the conical straw huts and thick, colored blankets of the Basotho.

Visit these inhabited villages to learn from them before the dancing starts. Participation is always welcomed. Traditional cuisine follows.

This tour can be done in a half day at a push and can be achieved as a self-drive or guided expedition.

Other options:

Pretoria, via Midrand, Centurion Lake, Voortekker monument, Kruger House, Church Square and the Union Buildings(half day)

Pretoria and De Wildt Cheetah and wild dog breeding project(full day)

Pretoria and Premier Diamond Mine(full day)

Pilansberg National Park, and Sun City(full day)

Sun Suburban Tours also organize suburban walking tours; the special one being the walk from the magnificent Botanical Gardens and Emmerentia Dam through Parkhurst to Rosebank.
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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Johannesburg International Airport(JIA) (http://www.johannesburg-jnb.com/) has six terminals providing service from the following airlines:

Air France(+27 0860 340 340/ http://www.airfrance.com/) British Airways(+27 011 441 8600/ http://www.britishairways.com/) Delta Airlines(+27 011 482 4582/ http://www.delta.com/) Egyptair(+27 011 390 2202/ http://www.egyptair.com.eg/) Emirates Airlines(+27 011 883 8420/ http://www.emirates.com/) KLM(+27 0860 247 747/ http://www.klm.com/) Lufthansa(+27 0860 572 573/ http://www.lufthansa.com/) Northwest Airlines(+27 0860 247 747/ http://www.nwa.com/) Qantas(+27 011 441 8550/ http://www.qantas.com.au/) Swissair(+27 0860 04 05 06/ http://www.swiss.com/) Thai Airways(+27 011 883 9068/ http://www.thaiair.com/) South African Airways(+27 0860 359 722/ http://ww1.flysaa.com/) SA Express(+27 011 978 5577/ http://www.saexpress.co.za/)

From the Airport

Taxi& Shuttle: Taxi services can be found outside the arrivals area of JIA. The journey to the center of Johannesburg should take between 30 and 45 minutes. For groups of up to 12 passengers, there is a minibus service from the same location and shuttle buses from most of the nearby hotels that will await you.

Car Rentals: Avis(+27 11 934 0330/ http://www.avis.fr/) Budget(+27 11 380 3140/ http://www.budget.fr/) Europcar(+27 11 934 2265/ http://www.europcar.fr/) Hertz(+27 11 386 1560/ http://www.hertz.fr/)

Train

There are various train services in Johannesburg. Some of the most popular include the Blue Train, Rovos Rail, Spier Vintage Train, and Outenigua Choo Tjoe. Train service can usually be booked through the Mainline Passenger Service Call Center(086 000 8888/ http://www.spoornet.co.za/).

Bus

The Greyhound station(+27 011 336 9184/ http://www.greyhound.co.za/) is located at the corner of Polly and Church street. Station hours are Mon- Fri: 6:30a- 11:30a/ 1:30p- 4:30p and Sat- Sun: 6:30a- 11:30a. BazBus(http://www.bazbus.com/) is also an option while traveling in Johannesburg.

Car

From the northern South African cities, take route M1 or M18 south. From the southern cities, take route M11 or M7 north. From the west, follow route M18 east and from the east, take N12 west.

Getting Around

Public Transport

Metrobus(011 403 4300/ http://www.mbus.co.za/) is owned by the City of Johannesburg, and is the second largest municipal bus operator in South Africa, with

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460 buses covering 80 routes. Visit the website for schedule information.
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Fun Facts

Johannesburg Province: Gauteng
Country: South Africa

Johannesburg By The Numbers:

Population: 3.9 million

Elevation: 190 m/ 623 ft

Average Annual Rainfall: 60 cm/ 23.6 in

Average Annual Snowfall: 46 cm/ 18 in

Average January Temperature: 26°C/ 79°F

Average July Temperature: 17°C/ 63°F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: machine building, metalworking, oil refining, publishing, brewing

Electricity: 220 V, 50 Hz, three round prongs

Time Zone: GMT+2

Country Dialing Code:+27

Area Code: 11

Average hours of sunlight a day: 12 h

Amount of trees within city limits: over 10 million

Did You Know?

A cave in Johannesburg is the site where the discovery of the three and a half million year old Australopithecus africanus was found. It was among the oldest human skeletons ever uncovered.

Johannesburg is the birthplace of Kwaito, a form of music that is most favoured by South African youth. It consists of the rhythm and beats of House music combined with repetitive lyrics. Some say it is apolitical because of its catchy tunes, others say it is very political and therefore the most influental music of post-apartheid.
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