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Africa

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Translation: Sandra Cliff

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Hello Cairo



A visit to Cairo

www.visitegypt.gov.eg

Magnificent Cairo is a melting-pot of many historic tribes and civilizations. The ancient ruins lie side by side with the modern and hectic city of Cairo, one of the largest cities in the world.

Many of the sights of this city will set your imagination in motion, just by hearing about them; The Pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza, Tutankhamen, the Egyptian Museum and the Alabaster Mosque are only a few of the many adventures which await a visitor of this city.

The only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World remaining today, the Pyramids, is, of course, a must when visiting Cairo. Also a trip to the hectic, colourful, enormous bazaar - for which the Egyptian capital is renowned - is a must. Here, commodities of all sorts are offered for sale in a unique atmosphere rarely found anywhere else in the world.

Not far from Cairo are other attractions as well as opportunities for real relaxation. The Suez Canal, the metropolis of Alexandria, the Pyramids of Saqqara and the beaches of the Red Sea are just a few possibilities.

Happy journey!

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Historical outline

The former course of the Nile River did not pass the present city of Cairo. Therefore, the site has not always been ideal for the establishment of a large city. King Menes founded the city of Memphis, about 25 kilometres south of Cairo, in 3100 BC after a unification of the kingdoms in the northern and southern parts of Egypt.

Through several millennia, the capital was moved between Memphis and Heliopolis, close to the present Cairo, and Thebes in the south and Alexandria in the north.

At the location of present day Cairo, the first settlement was made by the Romans, when they around the year 150 AD built Fort Babylon. The fort was situated strategically, close to a canal which had been made earlier and which connected the Nile to the Red Sea.

Through the following millennia the town grew slowly around the fortress. The settlers were Coptic Christians, who until the 7th Century made up the majority of the town's population.

In 640 AD, under the command of Amr Ibn al-Aas, the Arabs conquered Fort Babylon and the surrounding settlement. The Arab army set up camp a little east of Fort Babylon. Their camp was named Fustat, and this camp became the foundation of an Arab quarter in present day Cairo. Soon after Fustat had been established, the foundations of the first African mosque was laid. This was a very noticeable sign of the strong and permanent Arab domination of the region.

After several rulers had reigned, Fustat was attacked and conquered by the emerging Fatimide Dynasty in the year 970 AD. The Fatimides chose to found a new town called Al-Mansureya as their centre of administration and culture. However, the

name of the town was soon changed to Al-Qahira – present day Cairo.

In the same year as the establishment of the new town, the building of the Al-Azhar Mosque and an accompanying educational institution was begun. With this, the first university became a reality.

In the middle of the 12th century, Saladin established a new dynasty. With Saladin and his successors the city was expanded further, especially due to the commencement of a number of public construction works.

Cairo's position as one of the leading cities in the Islamic world was strengthened when its rival, Baghdad, was attacked and destroyed by the Mogul ruler Hulagu Khan in the year 1258.

After 250 years as the leading Islamic city, Cairo was captured by the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the year 1517. The ruling Mamluks quickly turned to the Turks and came back into power as vassals to the Turkish Empire. The Mamluk period is known today for its distinct architecture.

Towards the end of the 18th century, Napoleon expanded the French Empire in Paris, and in 1798, Egypt was conquered by France. A number of building projects were planned. However, they were never realized due to the short period of time the French occupied the country. One of the planned projects had been a possible canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

During the 19th century Egypt became more and more influenced by Europe, for instance in the field of technology. In 1854 the first railroad on the continent was opened. When the excavation for the Suez Canal started, it was also the start of immigration from the West to Egypt. The internationalization grew further after the opening of this important canal in 1869.

In the decades after the opening of the canal, the area of Cairo was expanded with new quarters along the Nile, west of the existing city. It was the French urban planner, Pierre Grand, who was responsible for the designs. In these new quarters large public gardens were laid out, and many new luxurious mansions were built by the more affluent inhabitants of Cairo.

The Egyptian rulers had invested in the large-scale building activities and had, at the same time, lived rather extravagantly. In the end Egypt was unable to pay its creditors and even more foreign influence had to be allowed. This resulted in the British taking over the administration in 1882. In the last decades of the 19th century Cairo was modernised. A modern sewer system and electricity were installed, and the city of Heliopolis was built in what was then still a desert. Cairo had to be developed continuously because the population, already at this time, had begun to increase dramatically. In 1882, Cairo had a population of 375.000. The following 50 years, this number more than tripled.

In 1922 Egypt became independent, at least officially. A new king was installed in Cairo. When the Arab League was founded in 1945, its headquarters were placed in Cairo. With this, the city regained some of its former glory as leader of the region. In 1953 the king was deposed, and Egypt was declared a republic. The following year, Gamal Abdel-Nasser became president. Nasser reformed Egypt by introducing land acts. He nationalised the Suez Canal and he developed the country as never before. In 1967 Egypt went into war against the neighbouring country Israel – a war the Egyptians lost. Nasser resigned. However, the streets of Cairo were filled with crowds of people demanding his reinstatement, which subsequently happened.

When Nasser died in 1970, he was succeeded by Anwar Sadat, who received the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1981 the murder of Sadat during a military parade put Egypt on the front page of newspapers around the world.

The huge increase in the population of Cairo has continued in recent decades, and the city now has a population of more than 15 million. The city has invested hugely in tourism, the city council does much to create green belts in the city, and the subway system is continuously expanded.

Tour 1: Cairo

1. The Cairo Tower/Borj al-Qāhirah



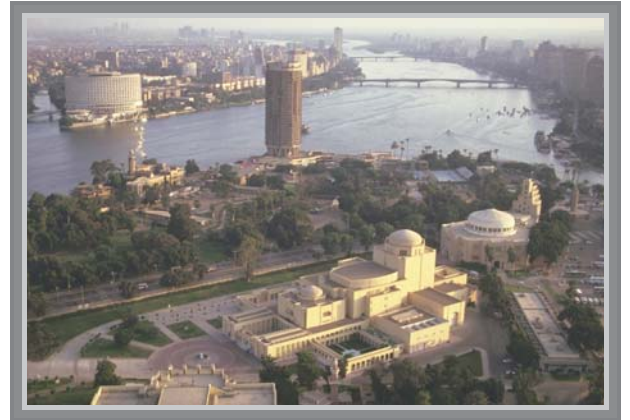
Al-Gazira

Metro: Al-Gazira

The Cairo Tower, which is 187 meters high, offers the best view of the Egyptian capital. From here one can see the layout of the city, with its modern and ancient districts, and also the Nile which flows through the city.

The tower was finished in 1961 and it is one of the landmarks of Cairo. Many celebrities have dined in the rotating restaurant at the top of the tower. Amongst them was the former president Nasser, who often dined here with his family.

2. The Gezira Centre for Modern Art



The Cairo Opera Complex

Metro: Al-Gazira

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Cairo's museum of modern art has been housed here since 1986, in a building erected in 1936 by the architect Moustafa Bey Fahmi. Today, the collection contains more than 10.000 Egyptian works of art from the 20th century to present day. Amongst the artists are the sculptor Mahmoud Mukhtar and the Impressionist painter Yossef Kamal.

3. The Mukhtar Museum

Shari' al-Tahrir, Gazira

Metro: Al-Gazira

The Mukhtar Museum was built to exhibit the works of one of the greatest Egyptian sculptors, Mahmoud Mukhtar. Almost a hundred sculptures, made in, for instance, bronze, granite and marble, are on display.

4. The Museum of Islamic Ceramics

Shari' el-Marsafi 1

www.icm.gov.eg

Metro: Zamalek

Countless magnificent works of Islamic ceramic ware from throughout the Islamic world can be seen at this art centre. The collection spans from the 9th century to present day. The beautiful building which houses the museum was built by prince Ibrahim in 1924.

5. The Marriott Hotel

Shari' el-Gazira

www.marriott.com

Metro: Zamalek

The German architect Julius Franz was hired in 1863 by Khedive Ismail to build a new and impressive palace in central Cairo. The palace was finished in 1868. It is an elegant mixture of French and Islamic architecture.

Beautiful building materials and works by artist-craftsmen were imported from Paris and Germany. Many of the ornamentations were made in Berlin, taken by train to Trieste, and from here shipped to

Egypt. Furthermore, the French landscape architect Barrillet Deschamps was hired to lay out an enormous palace garden.

In 1889 Ismail was forced to sell his possessions due to financial troubles. His palace was bought by a hotel chain and the palace was converted into the Gezira Palace Hotel. In 1908 it was turned back into a private residence by Prince Michel Lutfallah. In 1962 the palace again became a hotel. The larger part of the enormous garden is now laid out as recreational grounds for the public.

6. The Egyptian Museum



Midan el-Tahrir

www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg

Metro: Sadat

With more than 100.000 objects from Egypt's past, the Egyptian Museum is fantastic. In more than 100 rooms one can enjoy priceless art and cultural treasures. The museum first opened in 1902.

The exhibitions are arranged chronologically and thematically. The pre-historic era and the three kingdoms (the Old, the Middle and the Modern) of Egypt are all represented in the form of, for instance, artefacts from the time of Akhenaton and Nefertiti. The museum also contains a hall of mummies, and a number of rooms are filled with the possessions of the child king, Tutankhamen. The beautiful gold mask of Tutankhamen is, for example, on display.

The museum is truly extensive. It would be an idea to focus on a single historic period or theme during the visit.

7. The Museum of Islamic Art

Shari' Al-Sheikh Al-Marsafi 1

Metro: Port Said

In the Museum of Islamic Art one can see more than 10.000 pieces of Islamic art from different historic periods and geographical regions.

8. The Al-Azhar Mosque

Midan El Hossein

Metro: Al-Azhar

The Al-Azhar Mosque was founded in the year 972 on orders from the Caliph Muezz Li-Din Allah. A university was later established in connection with the mosque. The university is frequented by, for instance, a number of Islamic researchers. There are several buildings worth seeing in the large mosque and university complex, such as the impressive 15th century entrance gate of the mosque.

9. The Three Madrasa

Shari' el-Muizz Li-Din Allah

Metro: Al-Azhar

Placed next to each other are these three interesting mausoleums and schools, madrasa. They are all fine examples of Islamic architecture. The mausoleum of al-Nasir Muhammed from the year 1295 AD is from the height of the Mamluk period. The mausoleum Qalawun Madrasa was erected in 1285, whilst the mausoleum of the sultan Barquqs is 100 years younger.

10. The El-Aqmar Mosque

Shari' el-Muizz Li-Din Allah

Metro: Al-Azhar

The El-Aqmar Mosque is one of the few remaining mosques from the Fatimide period of Cairo. It was erected in the 12th century and it became a turning point for the building of mosques hereafter.

The El-Aqmar was the first mosque not to be built with its entrance on the axis of the Qibla Wall. Instead, it was situated to accommodate the street system of the city. The El-Aqmar Mosque was also the first to be built with an ornamented stone façade.

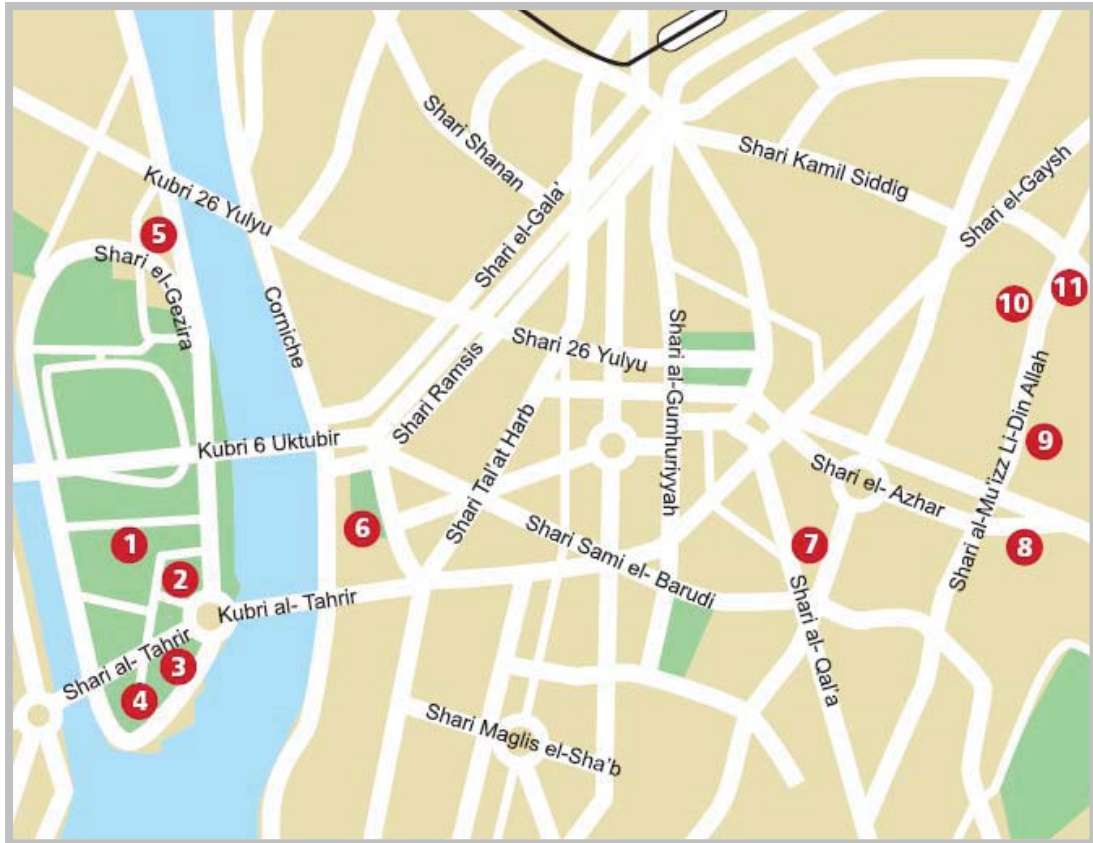
11. The El-Hakim Mosque

Shari' el-Muizz Li-Din Allah

Metro: Al-Azhar

This mosque was founded in the year 990 AD. It was finished by the Caliph el-Hakim bi-Amr Allah in 1013. The large and beautiful mosque includes a central square surrounded by arcades. The entire complex is built in the early Arabian style.

The mosque was originally part of Cairo's city boundaries. The minarets on the outer walls are the oldest minarets in Cairo, although the upper parts of these were replaced in 1303, following an earthquake.



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Tour 2: Cairo

12. The Citadel / El-Q'ala



El-Q'ala

Metro: Port Said

The elevated citadel of Cairo was built in the year 1176 AD in defence against approaching crusaders. The citadel remained the residence and seat of government for the Egyptian rulers until the 19th century.

At the top of the citadel is the Muhammad Ali Mosque from 1848, also called the Alabaster Mosque. It is covered in alabaster, and is incredibly beautiful inside. It is also one of the landmarks of Cairo.

There are a number of other buildings on the citadel, such as towers, museums and mosques. It is an adventure to explore the buildings which are centuries old. The view across Cairo is magnificent from the old fortress walls.

13. The Refa'i Mosque

Shari' el-Q'ala

Metro: Port Said

The Refa'i Mosque was built between 1869 and 1912 AD. The style is Mamluk and reflects Islamic inspiration. The last two kings of Egypt, Fuad and Faruq, are buried in the mosques. Also

Muhammad Pahlevi, the last shah of Iran who came to Egypt in 1979, is buried here.

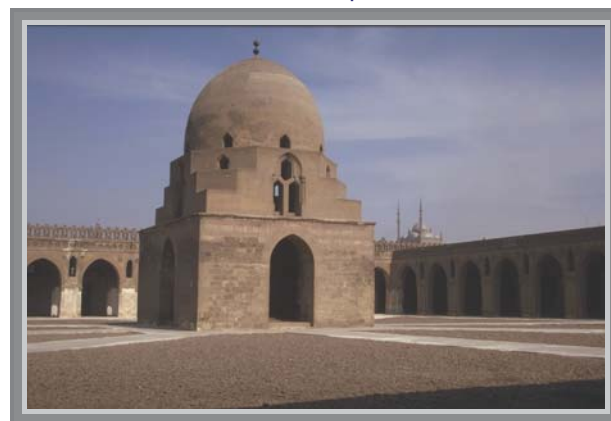
14. The Sultan Hassan Mosque

Shari' el-Q'ala

Metro: Port Said

This mosque was erected between 1256 and 1263 AD in a magnificent Mamluk style. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful Islamic buildings in Egypt. The building is imposing, and the inner courtyard, for instance, is very harmonious.

15. The Ibn Tulun Mosque

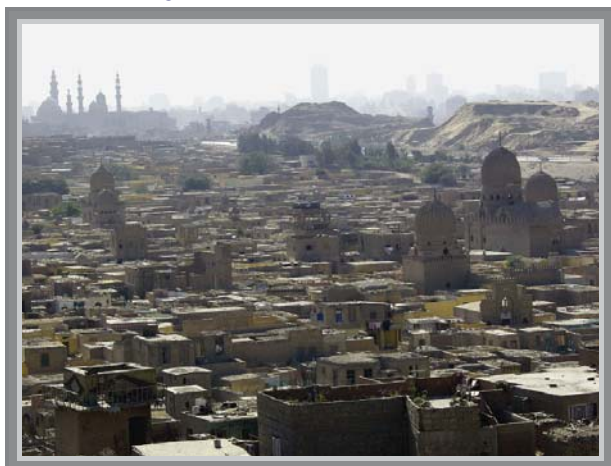


Shari' Tulun Bay

Metro: El Sayyida Nainab

The Ibn Tulun Mosque was inaugurated in the year 879 AD during the Tulunide Dynasty. It is one of the largest mosques in the world, and is, for the larger part, the original building. The complex measures 118x138 metres. For the visitor, the large central courtyard, the four arcades and the characteristic minaret (of which only the foundations are original) are highly recommendable. Furthermore, housed in two buildings from the 16th and the 17th century respectively, the Gayer-Anderson Museum is situated in a corner of the complex.

16. The City of the Dead



Metro: El-Malik El-Salih

There are five large cemeteries in the eastern part of Cairo, which to a varying degree contain grand mausoleums, the size of small houses. Millions of people therefore live at the cemeteries because of the cheap housing; something which is not easily found elsewhere in this huge city. Life is different here, and despite the fact that electricity and gas have been installed, there are no sewers. The cemeteries are therefore not really suitable for residential areas.

17. The Fustat Ruins

Misr al-Qāhirah

Metro: Mar Girgis

Fustat was the first town the Arabs founded when they came to the region in the year 640 AD. It was an advanced town with, for instance, sewers and running water. Despite this, Fustat became less important, when Cairo was founded towards the end of the 10th century.

There is not much left to see inside the ruins. However, you can still get a sense of this early town in relation to the modern city of Cairo. The only Fustat building still standing today is the Amr Ibn El-Aas Mosque which has been rebuilt on several occasions.

18. The Amr Ibn El-Aas Mosque

Misr al-Qāhirah

Metro: Mar Girgis

This is the oldest mosque in Egypt. It was built in the year 1642 at the beginning of the Fustat period. It is also the oldest preserved mosque in Africa.

Originally, the Amr Ibn El-Aas Mosque was built as a mosque and Islamic centre of learning. It was later extended and rebuilt several times; for the first time in 1672, and again in 1797.

19. Misr al-Qahirah

Misr al-Qāhirah

Metro: Mar Girgis

This small part of town is also called the Coptic Cairo. It contains some of the oldest churches of the city and the Coptic Museum.

19a. The Coptic Museum

www.copticismuseum.gov.eg

This museum contains the best collection of Coptic art from Egypt's Christian past. There are both religious and secular artefacts covering the period from 300 AD to 1000 AD.

Outside the Coptic Museum, by the main entrance of the complex, one can see the remaining tower from the Roman Fort Babylon, which was erected around the year 30 AD.

19b. The Religious Buildings of Ancient Cairo

The Hanging Church is found in this quarter. It was originally built in the 4th century, but rebuilt in the 9th century. The St Sergius Church is the oldest in the city, and was built in the 5th century. The oldest synagogue of Cairo is also found here; the Ben Ezra Synagogue. It was built as a Christian church in the 6th century and converted into a mosque in the 9th century. There are numerous other churches with adjoining monasteries in this part of Cairo.

20. The Nilometer

Shari' el-Malik el-Salid

Metro: Mar Girgis/El Malik El Salih

On the southern tip of the Rawda Island the unusual Nilometer is found. It has measured the levels of the Nile River since the early days of the Arabian conquest of Egypt, and thereby enabled predictions of floods. The water levels of the Nile have been measured since the time of the Pharaohs, and earlier Nilometres have therefore existed. The present Nilometer dates back to the 9th century, and is largely the original.

21. The Manial Palace

Shari' el-Saray 1

Metro: El Sayyida Zainab

The Manial Palace was erected between 1899 and 1929 AD as residence for Prince Muhammad Ali, a cousin of King Faruq. In 1955 the palace was donated by Prince Muhammad Ali to the Egyptian state. It is now a museum where beautiful furniture, hunting trophies and many other things are on display. The beautiful garden is a green spot in the city.

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Day Tours from Cairo

22. The Giza Pyramids



Giza, 12 km SW

Of the seven wonders of the ancient world, only the Pyramids in Giza are still intact. This unique complex consists of the Great Sphinx and the pyramids Keops/ Khufu, Kefren/ Khafre and Mykerinos/ Menkaure. There is access to parts of the pyramids for tourists.

22a. The Pyramid of Khufu

The Pyramid of Khufu is the oldest and largest pyramid in the area. It was erected as a mausoleum for Keops, who ruled from 2551 to 2528 BC. Today, the pyramid is 137 metres high, but it is believed to have been 10 metres higher, as its capstones have disappeared over the years. About 2.5 million stone blocks were used to build it. In close proximity to the pyramid there are three queen pyramids.

22b. The Pyramid of Khafre



Kefren reigned between 2520 and 2494 BC. He built a pyramid of the same size as the Pyramid of Khufu. The present day height is 136.5 metres. At the top, there is still a leftover of the original capstones. From the Temple of the Dead next to the Pyramid, the Road of Procession leads to the Temple of the Valley by the Great Sphinx. The Pyramid of Khafre has one queen pyramid.

22c. The Pyramid of Menkaure

Mykerinos reigned from 2490 to 2472 BC. He was the last to build a pyramid in Giza. The pyramid now measures 62 metres in height and has three queen pyramids.

Southwest of the Menkaure Pyramid there is a fantastic view of all three pyramids in their beautiful setting.

22d. The Great Sphinx

The Great Sphinx has become a symbol of the land of the pharaohs. It is 73 metres long and has a height of 20 metres. The Sphinx has the body of a lion and the head of a human. The discussion about the dating of the Sphinx is ongoing. Many believe that it predates the pyramids with several thousands years.

23. Memphis



Mit Rahina, 24 km S

Memphis was founded in the year 3100 BC by King Menes. For several millennia, the town was an important national political and cultural centre, even at times when some dynasties moved the capital to Thebes in the South.

In what remains of Memphis, one can see a 13 metres tall statue of Ramses II. There were originally two statues, but the second one is now situated in front of the Ramses Train Station in Cairo. There are several statues here, including the interesting Alabaster Sphinx.

24. Saqqara



Saqqara, 23 km S

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Saqqara is close to the ancient Memphis. In fact, Saqqara was the necropolis to Memphis. The many buildings date from between 2600 and 900 BC. The complex is dominated by the huge step pyramid which was built by King Djoser. Djoser reigned from 2668-2649 BC, and his pyramid was the first of the many large pyramids of Egypt.

Next to the smaller Pyramid of Teti are the tombs of Meruka and Kagemni, which are decorated inside with reliefs. These show different scenes from 2300 BC. There are several other pyramids, including the step pyramid of Sekhemkhet. However, unlike the pyramid of King Djoser, this one was never completed. The Monastery of St Jeremias is also found here. It was in active use between 500 and 900 AD.

25. The Suez Canal/Qana al-Suways

Suez, 190 km E

The Suez Canal is one of the largest and most important manmade structures in the world. The canal connects the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean with the Indian Ocean. The ships thereby avoid the long journey around Africa.

The first plan to build such a canal was made under the pharaoh Neko around 600 BC. The plan was to dig from the Nile River to the Red Sea. Neko's successors finished the project and it was later expanded. After the Arabs' conquest of Egypt in the year 640 AD, the canal which had filled up with sand, was reopened by Amr Ibn al-Aas. After about a hundred years the canal was closed.

In modern times, during Napoleon's conquest of Egypt, French engineers began to look into the possibility of a canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. However, it was not to be the forces of Napoleon, but rather another Frenchman, Ferdinand de Lesseps, who in 1854 presented concrete plans for the construction of a

canal for the Egyptian viceroy Said Pasha. The viceroy began the great excavation in 1859.

The canal connects Port Said/Bur Sa'id in the north and Suez/al-Suways in the south. It is 163 kilometres long. The Suez Canal was inaugurated in 1869 and has since then been the subject of political struggles for this economically important shortcut.

It is fascinating to watch the great ships sail through the canal. At both Port Said and Suez one can see the many ships waiting in line to pass through the canal.

26. Alexandria/al-Iskandariyah



Alexandria, 200 km NW

www.bibalex.org

Alexandria is the second largest city in Egypt. It has five million inhabitants. The city was named after its founder, Alexander the Great.

With its beaches, cooler climate and many green spaces, Alexandria is a favourite excursion spot for the inhabitants of Cairo. Along the Mediterranean Sea runs the popular road of Corniche. It is a wonderful place with many restaurants and activities.

The newly built library, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, is one of the cultural centres of Egypt. Both its content and its architecture are impressive.

There are a lot of tourist attractions relating to the history of Alexandria. The Fort Qaitbay from the 15th century is situated on the northern pier of the harbour. The Pompey Pillar is from the 4th century AD. There is also a Roman amphitheatre, a museum of the Greek-Roman period and interesting catacombs dating back to the year 100 AD.



Visiting Cairo with children

The Child Museum (Abu Bakr 34, Heliopolis)

Cairo Giza Zoo (Shari' el-Giza)

Grotto Garden Aquarium (Al-Gazira)

Railway Museum (Midan Ramsis)

Shopping in Cairo

The Bazaar, Downtown, Giza Street, Shar'a Hoda
Sharaawi, Baehler Passage

The Bazaar/Khan al-Khalili

First Residence (35 Giza Street)

Galleria (by the Grand Hyatt Hotel)

World Trade Center (Coeniche-al-Nil, Boulaq)

Public transportation in Cairo

Cairo Airport:

www.cairo-airport.com

Egyptian Railways:

www.egypttrail.gov.eg

Metro Map



Facts about Egypt



Political

Official name	Gumhūriyyat Misr al-Arabiyyah The Arab Republic of Egypt
Capital	Al Qahirah (Cairo)
Form of government	Republic
Head of state	President Hosni Mubarak
Head of government	Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif
National day	23 July
Acquired independence	In modern times, 22 February 1922 from Great Britain
Main religions	Islam, Christianity (Coptic)
Language	Arabic
Area	1,001,449 km ²
Population (1996)	59,313,000

Borders on	
North	Mediterranean
South	Sudan
East	Israel, Red Sea, Bay of Aqaba
West	Libya

Highest Mountains	
Mount Catherine	2,629 metres
Mount Umm Shūmar	2,586 metres
Mount al Khalā	2,543 metres
Mount ath Thabt	2,437 metres
Mount Abū Shajarah	2,343 metres
Mount al Azraq	2,297 metres
Mount Sinai	2,285 metres
Mount Şabbāgh	2,266 metres
Mount Ḥulayfīyah	2,247 metres
Mount Abū Ḥalaq	2,225 metres

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Lake Mansala	1 360 km ²
Toshka Lakes	1 300 km ²
Great Bitter Lake & Small Bitter Lake	250 km ²
Lake Mariout	250 km ²
Birket Qarun	200 km ²

Longest Rivers

The Nile *	6 650 km
------------	----------

* situated in other countries than Egypt

Largest Cities

Cairo	7,735,000
Alexandria	3,812,000
Al Jīzah	2,443,000
Suez	488,000
Al Maḥallah al Kubrá	431,000
Luxor	422,000
Asyūṭ	421,000
Al Maṣṣūrah	420,000
Ṭanṭā	405,000
Al Fayyūm	306,000

Administrative Structure		
Government	Capital	Area
Al Iskandariyah (Alexandria)	Alexandria	2,679 km ²
Aswān	Aswān	34,608 km ²
Asyūt	Asyūt	25,926 km ²
Al Buhayrah	Damanhur	10,129 km ²
Bani Suwayf	Bani Suwayf	1,322 km ²
Al Qahirah (Kairo)	Kairo	214 km ²
Ad Daqahliyah	Al-Mansurah	3,471 km ²
Dumyāt	Dumyāt	1,029 km ²
Al-Fayyūm	Fayyūm	1,827 km ²
Al Gharbiyah	Tanta	1,942 km ²
Al Jīzah (Giza)	Al Jīzah	85,105 km ²
Al Ismā`īliyah	Al Ismā`īliyah	1,442 km ²
Kafr asch-Schaich	Kafr asch-Schaich	3,437 km ²
Matrūh	Mersa Matrūh	212,112 km ²
Al Minya	Al Minya	32,279 km ²
Al Minūfiyah	Shibin al Kawm	1,532 km ²
Al Wādī al Jadīd	Al Kharijah	376,505 km ²
Shamal Sīnā	Al'Arish	27,574 km ²
Bur Sa'id (Port Said)	Port Said	72 km ²
Al Qalyūbiyah	Banha	1,001 km ²
Qinā	Qinā	1,796 km ²
Al Bahr al Ahmar	Hurghada	203,685 km ²
Ash Sharqīyah	Az Zaqaziq	4,180 km ²
Sūhāj	Sūhāj	1,547 km ²
Janūb Sīnā'	El-Tor	33,140 km ²
As Suways (Suez)	Suez	17,840 km ²

Heads of State since 1953

Muhammad Naguib	1953-1954
Gamal Abdel Nasser	1954-1970
Anwar Sadat	1970-1981
Sufi Abu Taleb	1981-1981
Hosni Mubarak	1981-

Prime Ministers since 1953

Muhammad Naguib	1952-1954
Gamal Abdel Nasser	1954-1962 och 1967-1970
Ali Sabri	1962-1965
Zakaria Mohieddin	1965-1966
Muhammad Sedki Sulayman	1966-1967
Mahmoud Fawzi	1970-1972
Aziz Sedki	1972-1973

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

– You have to be proactive and open-minded as a newcomer and make it clear to your colleagues what you are able to cope. The pharmaceutical field is new to me. But busy as they are, most of my colleagues find the time to teach me, and they also trust me. Even though it was a bit hard at first, I can feel over time that I am beginning to be taken seriously and that my contribution is appreciated.

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Anwar Sadat	1973-1974 och 1980-1981
Abdelaziz Muhammad Hejazi	1974-1975
Mamdouh Muhammad Salem	1975-1978
Mustafa Khalil	1978-1980
Hosni Mubarak	1981-1982
Ahmad Fuad Mohieddin	1982-1984
Kamal Hassan Ali	1984-1985
Ali Mahmoud Lufti	1985-1986
Atef Muhammad Naguib Sedki	1986-1996
Kamal Ganzouri	1996-1999
Atef Ebeid	1999-2004
Ahmed Nazif	2004-

Public Holidays and Memorial Days

1 January	New Year's Day
7 January	Coptic Christmas
Variable date	Islamic New Year
Variable date	Birthday of the Prophet
Variable date	Sham el-Nassim (Coptic Easter)
1 May	Labour Day
23 July	Revolution Day
6 October	Armed Forces' Day
Variable date	Eid (End of Ramadan – Bairam Feast)
25 December	Christmas Day

Various facts

Currency	Egyptian Pound
Currency code	EGP
Time zone	Standard Time (UTC+2)
Postal code	ET
Internet domain	.eg
National telephone code	+20

Climate – Cairo	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	13.8/56.8	5/0.2
February	15.2/59.4	4/0.1
March	17.4/63.3	4/0.1
April	21.4/70.5	2/0.1
May	24.7/76.5	1/0.1
June	27.3/81.1	0/0.0
July	27.9/82.2	0/0.0
August	27.9/82.2	0/0.0
September	26.3/79.3	0/0.0
October	23.7/74.7	1/0.1
November	19.1/66.4	3/0.1
December	15.1/59.2	6/0.2

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Alexandria	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	14.1/57.4	52/2.0
February	14.6/58.3	28/1.1
March	16.1/61.0	13/0.5
April	18.4/65.1	4/0.1
May	21.2/70.2	1/0.1
June	23.9/75.0	0/0.0
July	25.7/78.3	0/0.0
August	26.3/79.3	0/0.0
September	25.3/77.5	1/0.1
October	23.5/74.3	8/0.3
November	20.1/68.2	35/1.4
December	16.1/61.0	55/2.2

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Luxor	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	13.9/57.0	0/0.0
February	16.0/60.8	0/0.0
March	20.1/68.2	0/0.0
April	25.5/77.9	0/0.0
May	29.9/85.8	0/0.0
June	32.1/89.8	0/0.0
July	32.5/90.5	0/0.0
August	32.1/89.8	0/0.0
September	30.0/86.0	0/0.0
October	26.3/79.3	1/0.1
November	20.4/68.7	0/0.0
December	15.6/60.1	0/0.0

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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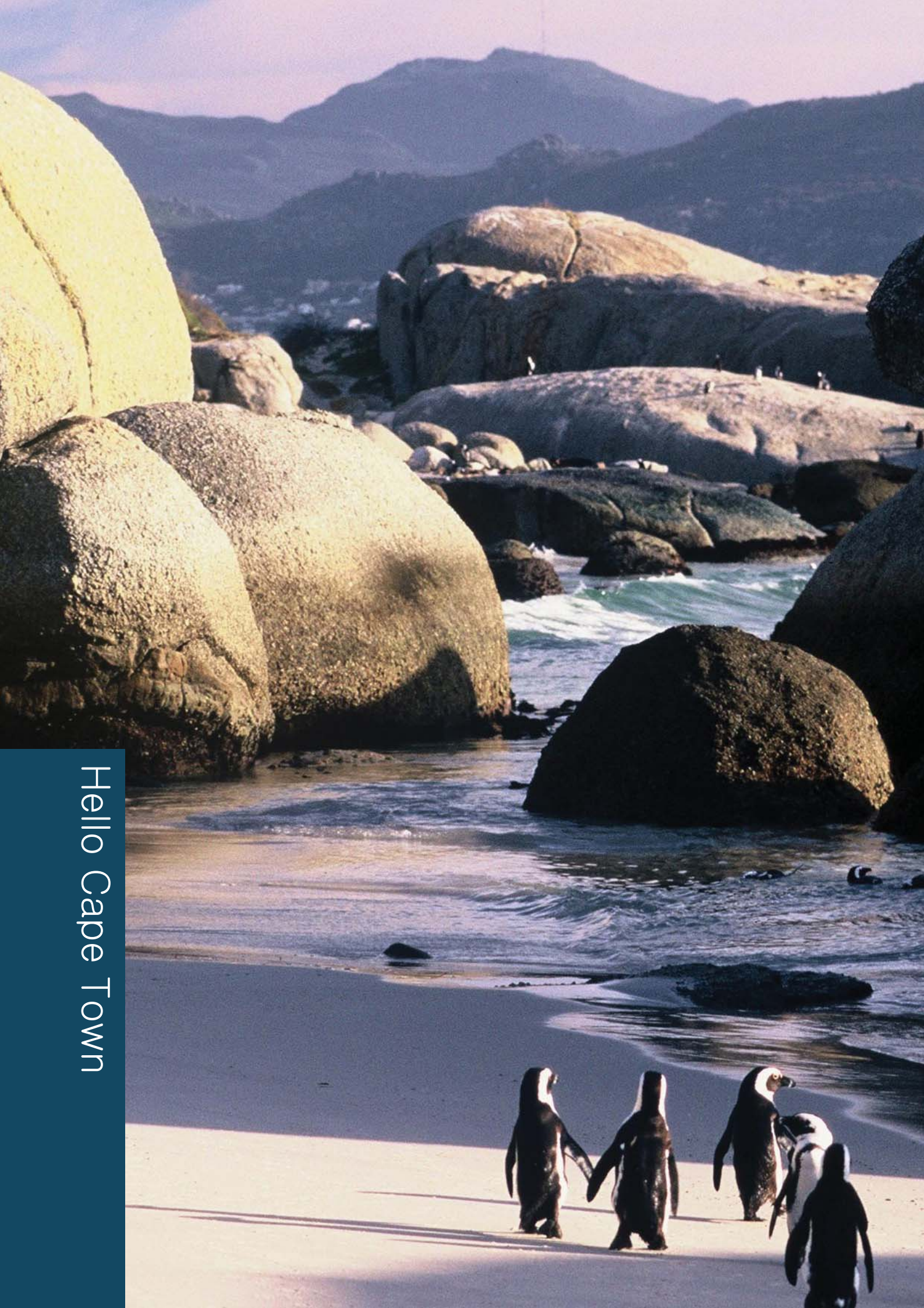
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Climate – Hurghada	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	15.6/60.1	0/0.0
February	16.4/61.5	0/0.0
March	18.9/66.0	1/0.1
April	22.4/72.3	0/0.0
May	25.6/78.1	0/0.0
June	28.4/83.1	0/0.0
July	29.3/84.7	0/0.0
August	29.7/85.5	0/0.0
September	27.8/82.0	0/0.0
October	24.9/76.8	0/0.0
November	21.0/69.8	0/0.0
December	17.1/62.8	1/0.1

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Siwa	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	12.2/54.0	1/0.1
February	14.1/57.4	1/0.1
March	17.2/63.0	1/0.1
April	21.7/71.1	1/0.1
May	25.7/78.3	1/0.1
June	28.9/84.0	0/0.0
July	29.6/85.3	0/0.0
August	29.4/84.9	0/0.0
September	27.1/80.8	0/0.0
October	23.0/73.4	0/0.0
November	17.6/63.7	1/0.1
December	13.3/55.9	2/0.1

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)



Hello Cape Town

A visit to Cape Town

www.tourismcapetown.co.za

www.southafrica.net

The fantastic location of Cape Town is perhaps one of the most scenic locations of any city in the world. The Table Mountain, which is more than 1 kilometre high, together with the Atlantic Ocean creates the perfect background for the development of a modern city that throughout offers visitors unique experiences on the southern tip of Africa.

This modern South African city sparkles like a diamond around the renovated harbour area, The Waterfront. Here is an international atmosphere, shops, restaurants as well as a number of other activities.

Close by, scattered around town, one finds the historic buildings of Cape Town. These include the oldest building in the county, the fort Castle of

Good Hope. There are also many beautiful builds on the squares and streets of the city centre. A large number of interesting museums are also situated in this area.

Nature is always close by in Cape Town. The great ocean stretches in front of the city and the mountains stand behind it. It is well worth travelling by cableway to the top of Table Mountain. The panoramic view at the top is splendid and almost impossible to imagine before you have actually experienced it.

Cape Town is the town by the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. The Cape of Good Hope is the best known place, although Cape Agulhas, further southeast, is actually the most southern place of the continent. On the way to Cape Agulhas, you can see something which further underlines the diversity of the area; the penguin colony in Simon's Town.

Happy journey!

Historical outline

The first Europeans in the Cape Town region were members of a Portuguese delegation led by Bartolomeu Dias, who sailed here from Lisbon in the year 1487. Like Vasco da Gama in 1497, Bartolomeu Dias led an expedition to explore the sea route to the coasts of the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese named this place Cabo da Boa Esperança, the Cape of Good Hope.

In the year 1652 the Dutch East Indian Company/Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie built a supplies depot here. This was strategically a well chosen place; on the southern tip of Africa and halfway to the harbours of the East. It was Jan van Riebeeck and a number of the company's other employees who founded the settlement. They soon began to sow crops in order to provide the Dutch ships with fresh provisions when they landed here. At the same time the Company Gardens were established. In order to expand the colony, workers from the Dutch Asiatic colonies arrived already to years after the foundation of the settlement. To cultivate more of the fertile land, people were brought over from Java and Madagascar.

The supplies depot became a regular town, and Riebeeck's people built a small fortress, so the town could protect itself from the natives. In the year 1666 the construction of a stone fort began. It still exists today. At the time it was situated close to the waterfront so that it could provide protection from attacks from all different sides.

In the year 1679 Simon van der Stel became governor of the Cape Province. He founded the lucrative wine production that is one of the area's main export products today. In 1688 French

Huguenots arrived in the area and they contributed positively to the development of the wine of the region.

During the following decades, the colony grew, and towards the middle of the 18th century the population had risen to 12,000. It was an equal mixture of Europeans and slaves.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the Dutch colonial empire was weakened. Due to wars in Europe, Great Britain was able to expand. During this period, the Dutch East Indian Company was ruined, whilst foundations were laid for the British conquest of the Cape Province and Kaapstad; the Dutch name for Cape Town. The British proclaimed the town a free port.

With a peace treaty in the year 1802 the colony again became Dutch. However, just three years later war broke out in Europe again, and a year later, the region became British once more. In accordance with another peace treaty in 1814, the Cape Province was to remain British, provided the British paid the Dutch. However, Dutch ships were still allowed access to the harbour.

In 1822 the governor Lord Charles Somerset started a number of initiatives to develop and anglicise the area. English was, for example, to become the official language instead of Dutch. In 1826 Lord Somerset left his post as governor.

In the year 1834 the slaves were emancipated and new quarters were built in the town. The Muslim population of the town settled in Bo-Kaap. The Dutch families were sceptical about the ever larger gap to the Dutch past, and in 1836 they started migrating inland. These people were the so-called Vortekkers. In 1838 they settled in, for instance, the Pretoria area.

In 1840 the municipality of Cape Town was created with a population of 20,000. Half of these were of European descent. Great Britain wanted to send convicts to the Cape Province as was done to Australia. However, this was prevented by local resistance and with help from the politician, Lord Adderley, in London.

In the following decades a new infrastructure was established, including a road to Stellenbosch and a railroad to Paarl and Wellington via Stellenbosch. In 1860 a modern harbour was built, and the first pier was constructed at what is now called Waterfront. Later horse drawn trams were added and a telegraph cable to Europe was laid down.

In 1882 Dutch became the official language again, together with English. Two years later the parliament of the Cape Province was inaugurated. Around the turn of the century street lights were introduced, electric trams could be seen in the streets, and the great project of paving Cape Town was completed.

In 1905 Cape Town was chosen as home for the First Assembly of the recently formed South African Union. In the Cape Province, the different communities retained the right to vote for parliament.

In the first half of the 20th century, Cape Town was in constant growth, and many of the surrounding areas became part of the town. The population increased and, in 1927, the first large scale town plan was passed. In 1935 large land reclamation projects began close to the town centre.

During the 1930s, non-Europeans' right to vote was tightened. When the National Party won the Parliamentary election in 1948, with the introduction of a racially segregated society as a central element in their campaign, it marked the beginning of the Apartheid system in the country. Over the next few years, an opposition of non-Europeans was formed, and from the 1960s it came to physical confrontations. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned in 1964. He was sent to the Robben Island Prison, outside Cape Town.

From the 1950s to the 1980s, a number of large construction works was carried out. The modern city centre and large road systems were built, and in 1988 the initiative was taken to create the popular Waterfront area.

In 1990 President Frederick de Clerk legalised all political organisations and Nelson Mandela was released from prison.

In 1995 the World Championship in Rugby, was held in South Africa. The opening match of this very popular sport was played in Cape Town. Since then, more and more tourist attractions have sprung up in the city

Tour 1: Cape Town

1. The Castle of Good Hope



Buitenkant Street

www.museums.org.za/wfc

The fortress of Cape Town, the Castle of Good Hope, is the oldest building still in use in the country. The construction was started in 1666 and the fortress was finished in 1679. This fortress formed the headquarters of the Dutch East Indian Company until 1795. After the British conquest of the region in 1806, the buildings became military headquarters for the Cape colony.

There is still a historic feel to these atmospheric buildings. A military museum and a museum for different arts and crafts, The William Fehr Collection, are now situated in the buildings.

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2. The City Hall



Grand Parade

Grand Parade is the oldest square in Cape Town. It used to form the centre of the city, and executions and military parades all took place there.

The beautiful City Hall of Cape Town was finished in 1905. It houses, amongst other things, parts of the town administration and a library. It was from the balcony of the City Hall that Nelson Mandela spoke to the crowds, when he returned from the Robben Island Prison in 1990.

3. The District Six Museum

Buitenkant Street 25A

www.districtsix.co.za

This area is the former District Six. The small residential houses were demolished between 1901 and 1982 to give way to new and modern buildings. The 60,000 inhabitants of District Six have been rehoused in the Cape Flats district, east of Table Mountain.

4. Groote Kerk/The Great Church

Bureau Street/Parliament Street

This church is the main building of the Dutch Reformed Church. The interior of the church is impressive. Be sure to see the great gallery.

On Spin Street across from the church, there is a monument for the former slave tree under which local trading of slaves used to take place.

5. The Slave Lodge

Adderley Street/Wale Street

www.museums.org.za/slavelodge

The Slave Lodge was built in 1679 and it is one of the oldest preserved buildings in Cape Town. The purpose of the elegant building, which is built in typical colonial style, was originally to house the slaves of the Dutch East Indian Company. In 1811 the Slave Lodge underwent extensive refurbishment, as a number of government offices were to be relocated here. Later the building became the home to the Supreme Court, before it was finally converted into a museum of cultural history.

6. Parliament

Parliament Street

www.parliament.gov.za

The beautiful Parliament building was built in 1885. Its impressive exterior is inspired by the neo-classicistic style. This building has housed the Parliament for the Cape Province, the South African Union and the South African Republic.

7. Tuynhuis

Parliament Street

Tuynhuis in Cape Town is the official residence of the South African President. Tuynhuis was originally built, and later expanded, to house official guests of the town, such as the English royal family in 1947.

8. The South African National Gallery

Government Avenue

www.museums.org.za/sang

The National Gallery, the art museum of Cape Town, is regarded as the leading museums in South Africa. The collection started with 45 pieces in 1871, and it now includes British, Dutch, Flemish, French and African Art. The elegant museum was built in 1930. However, it is not large enough to exhibit the more than 8,000 pieces of art in the museum. There is therefore both a permanent exhibition of, for instance, modern African art, and temporary exhibitions.

9. The Great Synagogue

Hatfield Street 88

www.sajewishmuseum.co.za

The Jewish Museum of Cape Town is placed next to the Great Synagogue. The museum depicts the history of the Jewish population of the country from before 1795, when religious freedom was introduced.

10. Bertram House

Orange Street/Government Avenue

www.museums.org.za/bertram/index.html

Bertram House is built in the late Gregorian style. It was converted into a museum after having been thoroughly renovated between 1983 and 1984. It focuses on the English period from the beginning of the 19th century. The many fine artefacts include furniture from the end of the 18th century and a collection of porcelain ware from, for instance, China and Great Britain.

11. The South African Museum

Queen Victoria Street 25

www.museums.org.za/sam

Founded in 1825, this is the oldest museum in South Africa. It holds a varied collection of South African arts and crafts, and focuses on the period from before the European colonisation.

12. The Company's Garden

Adderley Street

The Company's Garden dates back to the time of the founding of Cape Town. When Jan van Riebeeck came to the area in 1652 he built this garden in order to supply vegetables to the ships of the Dutch East Indian Company. Today, the garden is a beautiful park with footpaths, oak trees and green lawns.

13. The St George's Cathedral

Wale Street 5

www.stgeorgescathedral.com

The St George's Cathedral is known as the People's Cathedral, and it was a church that welcomed people of any colour. The building work began in 1901, and it is yet to be completed. The cathedral has beautiful glass mosaics.

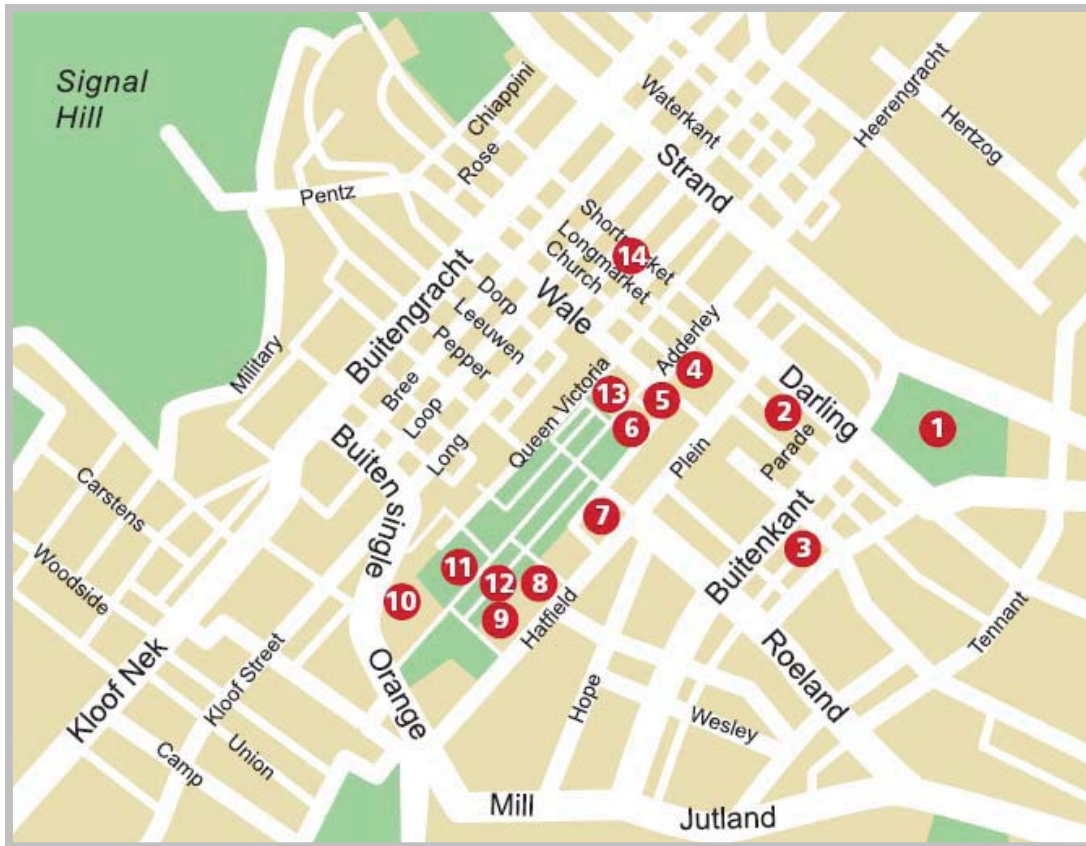
14. The Michaelis Collection



Greenmarket Square

www.museums.org.za/mc

The old town hall from 1755 is built in the exquisite Cape Town Rococo style. It holds the Michaelis Art Collection. The collector, Sir Max Michaelis, donated his collection to the town in 1914. Amongst them are a number of outstanding Flemish and Dutch 17th century paintings by, for instance, Frans Hals, van Dyck and Rembrandt.



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Tour 2: Cape Town

15. The Victoria & Alfred Waterfront



Dock Road

www.waterfront.co.za

The oldest part of Cape Town Harbour was renovated in the 1990s and became one of the most visited attractions of South Africa; a beautiful and exciting area of activities and entertainment. The many activities take place in the midst of the surrounding historical buildings. You can be lucky and spot a seal in the vicinity of the piers.

The names of Victoria and Alfred are also the names of the docks. The two docks were dug out between 1860 and 1920. Prince Alfred, son of Queen Victoria, cut the first sod.

15a. The Historic Clock Tower



This characteristic Clock Tower is built in the Gothic style of the Victorian Age. It was inaugurated as a port office in 1882. Inside there is a tide-gauge mechanism and a decorative hall of mirrors, which enabled the harbour master to watch all the activities in the harbour from here.

15b. The Chavonnes Battery

The many changes and building activities at the Waterfront have bared the ruins of the old fortress battery, the Chavonnes Battery. It was built between 1714 and 1725 by the Dutch East Indian Company. Together with Fort Knokke and the Amsterdam Battery it made up the defence of Cape Town. The Chavonnes Battery was decommissioned in 1861.

15c. The Time Ball Tower

The Time Ball Tower was built in 1894. It would let a ball drop at certain times, and thereby give ships in the harbour an opportunity to check how accurate their clocks were. Next to the tower stands a dragon tree [*Dracaena draco*], which is more than 100 years old. Legend will have that it was planted by a transient sailor.

15d. The Robben Island Embarkation

Building

Quay 5

At the end of Quay 5, stands the building which prisoners passed through, when they were bound for Robben Island. Next to the Waterfront's historical Ball Tower is the Robben Island Exhibition and Information Centre.

15e. Harbour Tour

You can experience the beautiful Victoria and Alfred Waterfront from tour boats which sail around the harbour every 30 minutes. The boats also sail to the busy area of the fishing and industrial harbour. Along with the beautiful view, you will receive information about the maritime history of the city.

16. Robben Island



Boat from Victoria & Albert Waterfront

www.robben-island.org.za

The beautiful Robben Island is situated 12 km off the coast of Cape Town. The name comes from the Dutch and means “the island of the seals”.

Already in the 17th century, the Dutch were using it as a prison. It was an excellent place to isolate people and from 1836 to 1931 the island was used as a leper colony. During the 20th century the island became known for being a prison for political prisoners. The best known was Nelson Mandela, who was incarcerated there for 18 years before he was released and later elected President of South Africa.

Nowadays you can get insight into prison-life on the island and see the prisoners' cells, including that of Nelson Mandela. You can also walk around the island and enjoy the scenery and the sight of the African penguins. There is a fantastic view of Cape Town and the iconic Table Mountain.



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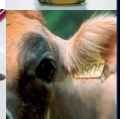
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Tour 3: Cape Town

17. The Gold of Africa Museum

Strand Street 96

www.goldofafrica.com

The Martin Melck House is one of Cape Town's beautiful and historical mansions, built in the colonial style. It houses the Gold of Africa Museum's large collection of art; all created in the precious metal.

18. The Koopmans-De Wet House

Strand Street 35

www.iziko.org.za

The beautiful Koopmans-De Wet House was the first building to be opened to the public. This happened in 1914. It gave the inhabitants insight into the daily life of the wealthy families. The mansion is set up as a museum. Its interior dates back to the end of the 18th century and the start of the 19th century. The furniture is typical for the Cape Province. Articles for everyday use include Asian ceramics, Delft porcelain, paintings and glass work.

19. The Bo-Kaap Museum



Wale Street 71

www.museums.org.za/bokaap

After the abolishment of slavery, the Bo-Kaap area became home to many of the Muslims in the region. Their culture and history can now be explored in the Bo-Kaap Museum.

20. Signal Hill

Signal Hill Road

There is a wonderful view across Cape Town and Table Mountain from the top of Signal-Hill. On Signal Hill you can see the traditional "Noon Gun", which is fired daily at 12 pm.

21. Table Mountain



Cable car from Table Mountain

www.tablemountain.net

Table Mountain is the landmark of Cape Town, and people use it all the time to find directions. The flat plateau of the 1,085 meter high mountain is like an enormous nature reserve in the middle of the metropolis. When climbing the mountain, the reward is a unique panoramic view.

The hair-raising but fantastic ride by cable car to the top is an adventure in itself. This form of transport was opened in 1929 and still brings tourists up to the top. During the trip, the view gets better and better. A trip up on Table Mountain is a "must" for any visitor. Notice the weather, though. It can be sunny in Cape Town, but a "table cloth" of cloud might surround Table Mountain.



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Day Tours from Cape Town

22. Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens



Rhodes Avenue, Newlands, 5 km E
www.kirstenbosch.co.za

On the eastern slopes of Table Mountain lies the amazingly beautiful botanical garden, Kirstenbosch. Almond trees were planted there in the year 1660 to mark the, then, boundaries of the colony. There are still a few of these trees left in the garden amongst the many flowers and other trees. Kirstenbosch was founded in 1913. There are several greenhouses with plants from various regions, while the beautiful outdoor gardens mostly contain vegetation from the Cape Province.

23. Simon's Town

Simon's Town, 30 km S
www.simonstown.com/tourism

Simon's Town is beautifully situated and is, for example, home to the base of the South African Navy. The town's maritime history can be explored at the South African Naval Museum. The Simon's Town Museum and the Heritage Museum, which depict the local history, are equally interesting.

One of the town's more curious points of interest is the grave of the dog "Just Nuisance". Just Nuisance was a Great Dane born in 1937. He became extremely popular with the staff in the navy. Just Nuisance achieved world fame when he officially became a seaman, or seadog, in the navy.

23a. The Boulders Colony



The best know tourist attraction around Simon's Town is the penguin colony at Boulders Beach. The African penguin is about ½ metre tall, and weighs about 3 kilos. There are all together 27 penguin colonies in southern Africa. Most of them live around islands such as Robben Island. Only three of them are found on the continent, such as the one near Simon's Town. This colony consists of about 2,500 specimens of this unusual and beautiful bird.

The penguin colony at Boulders Beach started in the middle of the 1980s, when a few birds began to nest there. The sea is rich on fish in this area, and more birds therefore joined the colony. Nowadays, they hang out along the coast, and if you are lucky, you may get a chance to swim along with them.

24. The Cape of Good Hope



Cape of Good Hope, 40 km S **www.cpnnp.co.za**

Cape Peninsula National park is located on the southern part of the Cape Peninsula. It offers long stretches of beautiful landscape and views of the surrounding ocean. There is great variation in the vegetation in this area and you might see baboons which are common in many places in South Africa. The Cape of Good Hope, Africa's most southern point, was named the Cape of Storms [Cabo das Tormentas] in 1487 by the Portuguese sailor, Bartolomeu Dias. But not long afterwards, the Portuguese King João II changed the name to Cape of Good Hope [Cabo da Boa Esperança], in hope of creating optimism about the route to the East around the south of Africa.

The Cape of Good Hope is exceeded by the higher and more impressive Cape Point near the southern point of the peninsula. The two locations are in the same vicinity, and from the light house at Cape Point there is a fantastic view of the area and the ocean.

25. Cape Agulhas



Cape Agulhas, 150 km SE **www.capeagulhas.org**

Cape Agulhas is Africa's southernmost point, and you will reach Antarctica, if crossing the sea to the south. At Cape Agulhas the Atlantic Ocean meets the warmer Indian Ocean. It is a stony beach with easy access to the sea, and you might want to stand with one leg in each ocean. Many ships have run aground off the coast of Cape Agulhas. You can visit the local lighthouse which was built in the year 1848. Agulhas is Portuguese for "the needles"; referring, of course, to a compass needle.

26. Stellenbosch and the Wine Country

Stellenbosch, 50 km E **www.stellenbosch.co.za**

The town of Stellenbosch was founded in 1679 by Simon van der Stel. The centre of this historical town is located around the atmospheric Dorp Street, which is lined with oak trees. Amongst the many old buildings are a number of cafes and restaurants.

26a. The Stellenryck Wine Museum **Dorp Street**

www.museums.org.za/stellenryck

Stellenbosch is the centre of South Africa's large wine production. In the town centre, the wine museum depicts the history of wine and its cultural and economic role across millennia. The museum

includes some 2,000 year old amphore for wine storage, ceramics for processing wine and many other objects used during the process of winemaking. The oldest wine bottle in the museum is from 1791. The wine museum is located in a building from the 18th century.

26b. The Stellenbosch Wine Routes

www.wineroute.co.za

The many vineyards in Stellenbosch are set in beautiful surroundings and offer the possibility of wonderful experiences - with regards to both the wine and the culture of the region. Several hundred vineyards constitute what is called the Stellenbosch Wine Routes, which were established in 1971. You can gain insight into the production of wine as well as taste and buy the local wines, such as those made from South Africa's Pinotage grapes.

There are also other wine routes near Cape Town. If you want to test them, you can, for example, start in either Paarl or Franschhoek.

27. The Garden Route



330 km E

www.gardenroute.co.za

www.onlinesources.co.za/chootjoe

www.sanparks.org/parks/tsitsikamma

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The Garden Route is a road along South Africa's southern coast. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful roads in the world. It is worth driving the entire distance from Hermanus (100 km SE of Cape Town) up to Port Elizabeth, and the Garden Route is the central part of the trip.

Hermanus is known for excursions to see the whales, whereas a trip to the east reveals a changing landscape of cliffs, beaches and green areas. The view often changes character and is like a symphony of impressions for the eye.

At Mossel Bay you can enjoy the Bartolomeu Dias Museum Complex which exhibits a model of his ship from the year 1487. The ship was built in Portugal and was sailed to South Africa in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Portuguese explorer's expedition.

Further to the east, you can ride on the old steam locomotive, "Outeniqua ChoTjoe", between the towns of George and Knysna. The railroad opened for service in 1928 and is considered to be one of the world's prettiest railroads. The cars are from 1903-1950 and the locomotive is of the classes 19D and 24.

The beautiful Tsitsikamma National Park is located along 80 km of coastline on the eastern part of the route. In the park you will find numerous lovely sceneries and there are plenty of activities to amuse you.



Visiting Cape Town with children

MTN Science Centre (Canal Walk 407, Century City):

www.mtnsciencentre.org.za

Ratanga Junction (Century City):

www.ratanga.co.za

Two Oceans Aquarium (Dock Road, Waterfront):

www.aquarium.co.za

Shopping in Cape Town

Waterfront, Greenmarket Square, St. George's Mall, Long Street

Canal Walk (Century Boulevard, Century City):

www.canalwalk.co.za

Cape Quarter (72 Waterkant Street)

Cavendish Square (Main Road, Claremont):

www.cavendish.co.za

Tygervalley Centre (Bill Bezuidenhout and Willie/Schoor Avenues, Bellville):

www.tygervalley.co.za

Victoria Wharf (Victoria & Albert Waterfront):

www.waterfront.co.za

Willowbridge (39 Carl Cronje Drive):

www.willowbridge.co.za

Public transport in Cape Town

Cape Town Airport:

www.airports.co.za

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Johannesburg & Pretoria

A visit to Johannesburg & Pretoria

www.joburg.org.za

www.gauteng.net

www.southafrica.net

The metropolis of Johannesburg is the economic locomotive of southern Africa, and it is one of the large and interesting cities of this continent. The city is the largest in South Africa and consists of what one might well think of as two cities: the old city and the modern Sandton, where there are large shopping malls and modern buildings. The old part of the city has a number of tourist attractions, such as the district of Soweto, which is known all over the world because the former President, Nelson Mandela, came from that area.

The capitol of South Africa, Pretoria, is located in the middle of the country's enormous gold and diamond industries; a location which has influenced both Pretoria and Johannesburg. As the capitol, Pretoria has a number of large and impressive public buildings. There is also a number of beautiful historic mansions as well as some very good museums.

Johannesburg and Pretoria are both surrounded by the beautiful countryside of South Africa. There are several national parks in addition to exciting cultural and industrial historic sites, such as the luxurious Sun City and the Cullinan Diamond Mine where the largest diamond in the world was found in 1905.

Happy journey!

Historical outline

Johannesburg

The area around Johannesburg has been inhabited for millions of years, but despite its size, Johannesburg is a rather young city. In the 19th century, many Boer farmers arrived in the area and they cultivated large parts of the countryside. This was especially the case, after they moved inland from Cape Town in 1836. However, an actual city was not founded at that time.

The Australian, George Harrison, found gold here in 1886, which was the start signal for a hectic gold rush. The government officials, Johann Rissik and Johannes Joubert, were sent from Pretoria to the area where gold had been found. They selected the location for the foundation of the town Johannesburg, which was subsequently named after them. The first gold was found in Barberton, but soon after even greater deposits were found in Witwatersrand.

The gold brought an influx of newcomers, not only from other parts of southern Africa, but also from Europe and North America. In just five years, Johannesburg became the largest city in South Africa. Due to the economic interest of the area, tension arose between the Dutch Afrikaans and the British – this resulted in the Second Boer War, and Great Britain gained control also of this part of South Africa.

After the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, regulations for non-Europeans were put into effect in Johannesburg and the Transvaal. Particular districts were allocated to the non-Europeans, such as Soweto where the population increased greatly during the 1940s.

With the wealth from the gold mines, Johannesburg's industrial production increased during the first half of the 20th century, and a number of cultural institutions were established as well. The many mining and industrial jobs continued to attract black people from the poor rural districts, and the city's black districts soon became over-populated slums. Johannesburg's central business district shot up, and there were many international hotels, skyscrapers and entertainment offers for the many wealthy white people and travelling business people. The white districts were as modern as any similar district in Europe or North America, whilst the deprived districts for black people grew without economic investment. Political pressure continued to mount against the white regime which had been established after the National Party's victory in the 1948 elections.

In 1976, riots broke out in Soweto. Following 12 months of unrest, the riots were suppressed, but this gave nourishment to the black opposition's battle for political influence. After several uprisings, the political structure of the country changed in 1990. Political freedom was introduced and presidential elections were held in 1994. Nelson Mandela from Soweto was elected as the first black president.

The changes to the political system had consequences for Johannesburg. Many black people moved into the central business districts where the financial sector was located. Businesses and the Stock Exchange moved to new areas, primarily to the northern suburb of Sandton. Hotels also closed down and relocated, and the city centre changed radically in just a few years. Nowadays, effort is being made to re-establish central Johannesburg as a place of attraction to both investors and tourists.

Pretoria

The so-called Ndebele people were the first to settle in the area now known as Pretoria. They named their town after one of their chiefs, Tshwane, which means “small monkey”. During the Zulu Wars, their town was attacked and the Ndebele people were forced to leave in 1832.

In 1836, the Dutch families began their great “Voortrekker-karavane” from Cape Town to the interior of the country. They came to the Pretoria area which they began to cultivate. Later, in 1855, the “Voortrekker” leader, Martinius Pretorius, founded the city of Pretoria. He named the town after his father, Andries Pretorius, who had become a Dutch national hero following the victory over the Zulus in the battle at Blood River. Pretoria soon became the capitol of the Boer-dominated South African Republic (Zuid-Afrikaanche Republik).

The capitol developed until the first war with Great Britain between 1899 and 1902. In 1900 the British captured Pretoria, and the war concluded with the signing of a peace treaty. This became the end of the South African Republic, which in 1910 was replaced by the Union of South Africa. Pretoria became the administrative capitol, whereas Cape Town in Cape Province became the legislative capitol. At the same time, Pretoria was made the capitol of the Transvaal Province.

Due to the new status of the city, a number of large public buildings were built, including the impressive government offices, the Union Buildings which were taken into use in 1913. Economically, the nearby Johannesburg developed by leaps and bounds, whilst Pretoria managed administrative and legal affairs. Pretoria was therefore often in the international news, not least after the introduction of Apartheid.

Pretoria benefited financially from the rich gold and diamond deposits, and a number of modern buildings and suburbs were built during the second half of the 20th century.

Pretoria has preserved many of its historical buildings. Nowadays, visitors can explore the history of the city by going to see these old buildings with their historical interior, or by visiting other places of historical or cultural interest.

Tour 1: Johannesburg

1. Sandton



Sandton

The suburb of Sandton north of the historical centre of Johannesburg is the new, modern centre where a number of businesses now have their main offices. There are hotels, shopping centres and many activities.

Sandton is one of the wealthier districts of Johannesburg, and there are many beautiful houses and large gardens. Sandton therefore stands in sharp contrast to other parts of Johannesburg and South Africa.

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2. The Johannesburg Fort

Kotze Street

Modern Johannesburg meets the old part of town in the Constitution Hill area. You can visit the Johannesburg Fort which was built there as a garrison in the 1890s. After the war with the British, the fort became a prison where a number of political prisoners were incarcerated. Nowadays, the constitutional court of South Africa is located in the area.

3. The Telkom Tower



Bourke Street

This tower, which used to be called, Hillbrow Tower, is 270 metres high. It is thereby the tallest building in Africa – if you exempt the chimneys of power stations. The tower used to be a main tourist attraction with its observation room and rotating restaurant. However, both of these have been closed since 1981. The tower was built between 1968 and 1971.

4. The Johannesburg Art Gallery

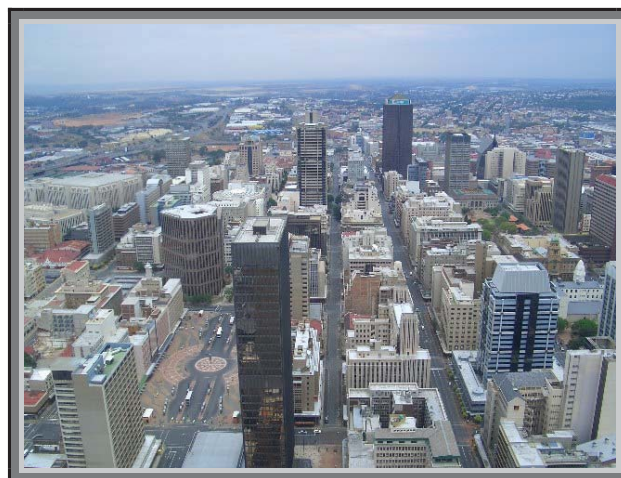
Joubert Park

The Johannesburg Art Gallery was founded in 1910, and the exhibition building in Joubert Park, which was completed in 1915, has been expanded several times.

The 15 exhibition halls contain a large collection of works from the 19th century to present day.

British, Dutch and South African artists are represented in the exhibition.

5. The Carlton Centre



Main Street

Standing at 223 meters high and built between 1967 and 1974, the Carlton Centre was once the tallest office building in the southern hemisphere. It is still the tallest office building in Africa. It is a 50 storey building, and there is a wonderful view across Johannesburg from the observation deck on the top floor.

6. The Johannesburg Town Hall

Market Street

The Town Hall in Johannesburg is one of the characteristic historical buildings of the city. Some of the Gauteng region's administrative offices are located there. The famous pipe organ, which was built in Norwich and installed in 1916, is also found there.

7. The Market Theatre

Wolhuter Street 56

www.markettheatre.co.za

The name of the Market Theatre relates to the former use of the building. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was a food market. Much of the original interior of the building is still intact, which makes it something worth seeing. This beautiful

building contains several performance stages in addition to a number of eating establishments.

8. Museum Africa

Bree Street 121

Museum Africa was set up in a former market building and opened 1994. It depicts, in a modern way, the complex history of southern Africa, starting with Johannesburg. The thematic exhibitions give the visitor an insight into the daily life of the miners.

9. The Apartheid Museum

Northern Parkway/Gold Reef Road, Ormonde **www.apartheidmuseum.org**

The Apartheid Museum opened in 2001 and relates the South African history of Apartheid; its introduction, regulation and discontinuation.

The introduction of the policy was formalized in 1948, when the Government of the National Party made the Apartheid laws which determined the structure of society for decades. The symbolic end of the period came in 1994 when Nelson Mandela was elected president.

The museum presents the visitor with detailed insights into daily life for various segments of the population as well as the general development of the South African Republic.

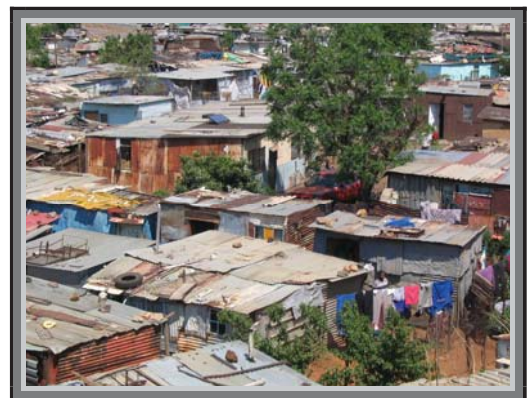
10. Gold Reef City



Xavier Road, Ormonde **www.goldreefcity.co.za**

Gold Reef City is a fascinating historical and recreational area where one is taken back to the 19th century and the era of gold digging. The area is built up around the old mine shaft No. 14, Crown Mine, which was mined for gold from 1887 to 1975. 1400 tons of gold were produced from the mine. A mining town from Victorian times has been reconstructed and, besides the interesting buildings, there is also entertainment. Probably the most exciting attraction is the 200 metres deep mine shaft, which is open to visitors.

11. Soweto



Soweto

www.soweto.co.za

The name, Soweto, is an abbreviation of South Western Townships. The history of Soweto goes back to 1905, when people started relocating from Johannesburg to Klipspruit, which was named Pimville, before it was called Soweto. In the 1940s, the area became flooded with black settlers, and that was the start of present day Soweto.

Soweto has been at the heart of several riots, including those of 1976. Of all of Soweto's inhabitants, Nelson Mandela is the best known. The area has been deprived for many years, and if visiting this place, it is recommended that you take one of the official, guided tours.

11a. The Hector Pietersen Museum Maseko Street 8288, Orlando West

This museum was created in memory of the riots in Soweto in 1976. Hector Pietersen was one of the first people to be shot during this violent time. The museum portrays uprisings, the people, places and events.

11b. The Mandela Family Museum



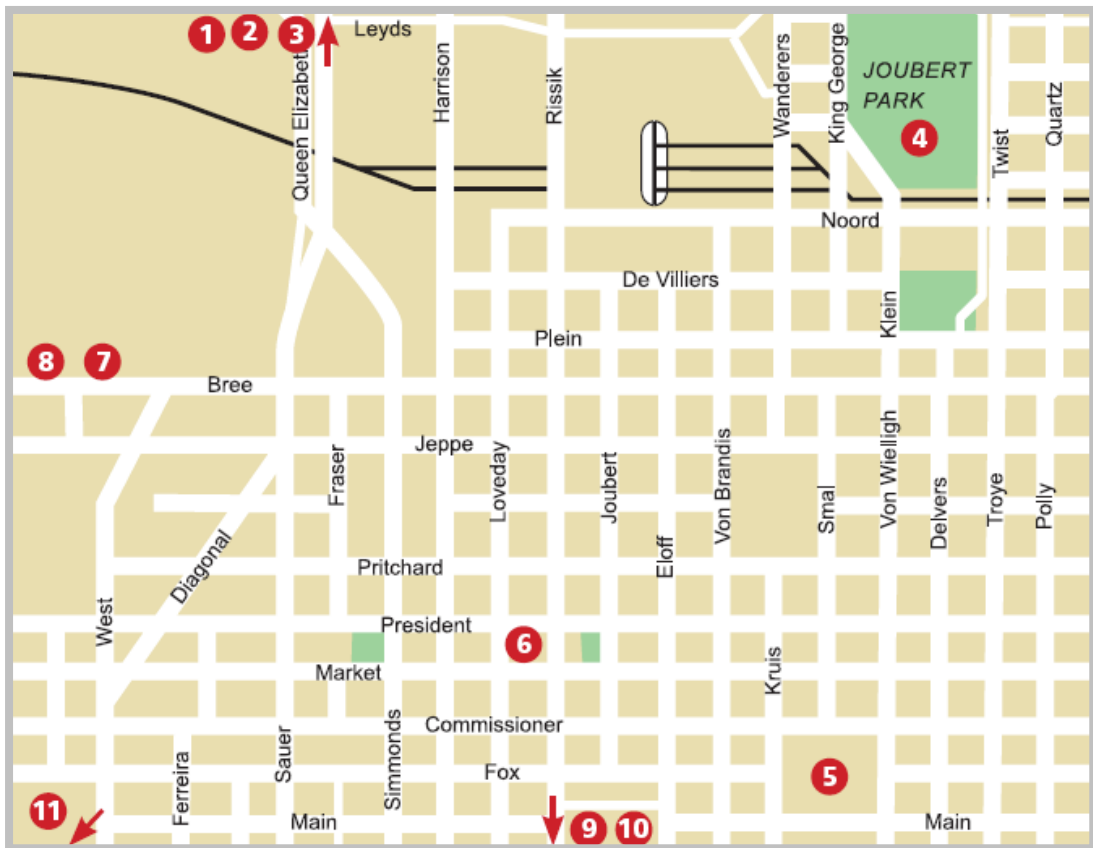
Ngakane Street 8115, Orlando West

Nelson Mandela's former home in Soweto now contains a museum which has information about the former South African president, Nelson Mandela, and about the cause he fought for.

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Tour 2: Pretoria

12. Kruger House

Church Street West 60

www.nfi.org.za/km/khkruger.htm

When the elegant Kruger House was erected in 1884, it was very modern. It was, for example, one of the first houses in the city to get electricity.

Kruger House was both home and state residence for Transvaal's President, Paul Kruger. You can feel the distinguished ambience in the presidential reception room. You can almost imagine seeing John Kruger sitting and conversing with Cecil John Rhodes or other famous visitors.

The interior of the house gives an insight into the lives of the former Paul Kruger and his wife Gezina. You can see Paul Kruger's grave at Church Street Cemetery, which is just west of the house.

13. Church Square



Church Square

Church Square is Pretoria's central square. It has a number of historical buildings. In the middle of the square is a stature of the Boer leader and Transvaal's former President, Paul Kruger.

The beautiful and characteristic buildings include the court house, Palace of Justice, where the trials

of, for instance, Nelson Mandela took place in the 1960s.

The former national bank, Old Reserve Bank, is located next to the Palace of Justice. The beautiful building, Old Raadsal, still houses some of the city's administrative offices, and to the west lies the General Post Office.

14. The Union Buildings



Government Avenue

The Union Buildings are the offices of the South African Government. This imposing building complex was designed by the well-known British colonial architect, Sir Herbert Baker, and it is regarded as his masterpiece.

The Union Buildings have been the seat of both the government and the South African President since 1913. It was in these buildings that Nelson Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.

The elevated position of the Union Buildings provides a wonderful view across Pretoria, and you get a feel of both the history of the South African capitol and its modern areas.

15. The Pretoria Art Museum

Arcadia Park

www.pretoriaartmuseum.co.za

The Pretoria Art Museum has an outstanding collection of works by South African artists.

There are changing exhibitions where more than 3,000 pieces are shown in rotation. The museum continues to expand its collection.

16. Melrose House



Jacob Maré Street 275
www.melrosehouse.co.za

In 1886, the well-to-do George Heys built this mansion in a distinguished mixture of Victorian and Edwardian styles.

After Great Britain re-conquered the city during the Boer War of 1899-1902, Lord Roberts installed the British military headquarters in the mansion in 1900. Due to the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging, the war was over, and the two Boer republics became British Crown Colonies.

17. The Transvaal Museum of Natural History

Paul Kruger Street

www.nfi.org.za/tmpage.html

Transvaal museum is a museum of natural history where you can see a number of collections on exhibition. There are numerous stuffed animals, a whale skeleton and fossils that are millions of years old. The latter were found in the caves of Stekfontein and Kroomdrai.

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18. Pretoria City Hall

Visagie Street/Paul Kruger Street

Pretoria City Hall was dedicated in 1935. It was designed in a style typical of the era, adapted from Italian Classicism.

In front of the City Hall there are statues of Martinus Wessel Pretorius and Andries Pretorius who founded the city. The statues were built in 1955, in connection with the anniversary of the town.

19. National Cultural History Museum & the African Window

Visagie Street 149

www.nfi.org.za/nchm/nchmindex.htm

The former National Museum, Staatsmuseum of the South African Republic, was in 1964 divided into the Transvaal Museum of National History and the National Cultural History Museum. The museum was inaugurated in 1997. The large and interesting collection includes everything from archaeological findings to South African craft ware. One part of the museum, the African Window, is a celebration of the many different people and cultures of South Africa.

20. The Correctional Services Museum

Potgieter Street

<http://www-dcs.pwv.gov.za/Museum/Museum.htm>

This prison museum depicts the development of South Africa's penal system. You can see the cells and learn about daily life of the inmates. The exhibition includes a number of objects which have been made illegally in the prison and confiscated by the authorities.

21. The Voortrekker Monument and Museum

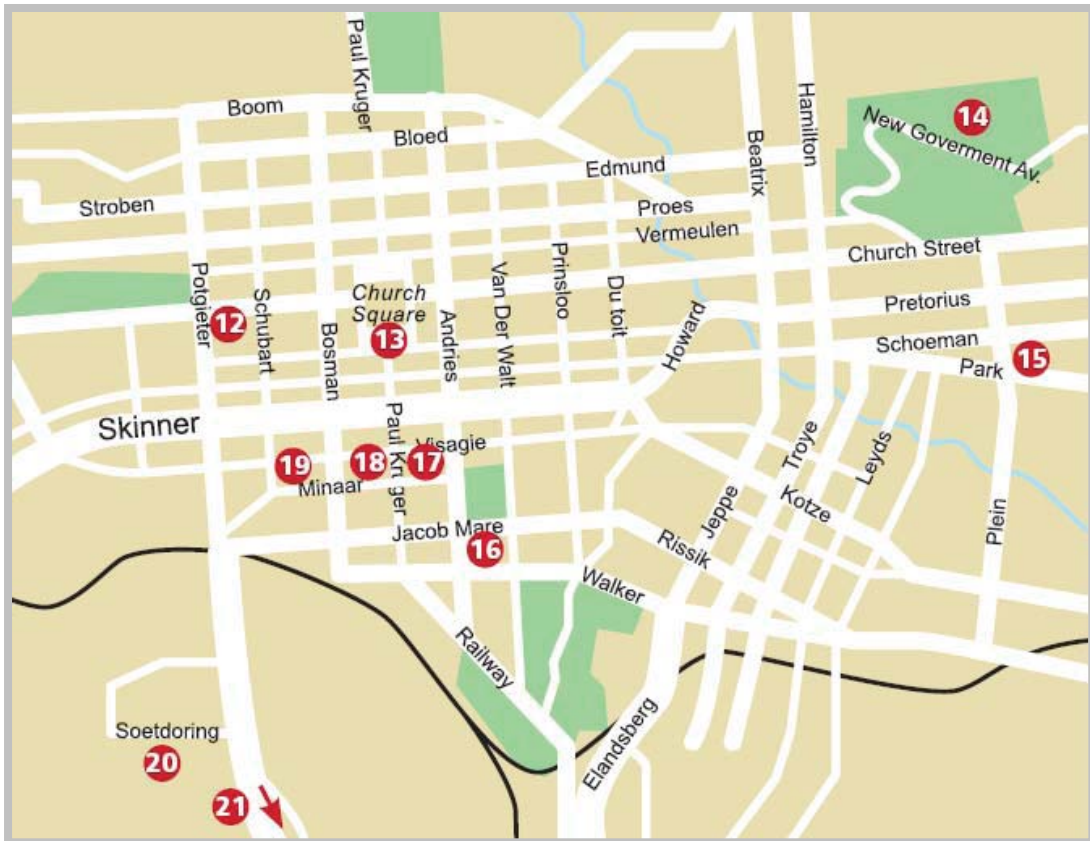


Monument Hill

The Voortrekkers were white Boers, who farmed the land. During the 1830s and 1840 many of them moved inland and created settlements, away from the Cape Province. In 1838 the great Battle of Blood River took place. The king of the Zulus, King Dingane turned back on a settlement agreement, and sent thousands of his warriors to fight the Voortrekkers, who defeated the Zulus.

In 1938, the African Broederbond repeated the journey from Cape Town to Pretoria in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the event. At the end, there were almost 200,000 participants who finished up at Monument Hill next to the southern entrance to Pretoria.

The enormous Voortrekker Monument, built in granite, was dedicated in 1948. At the local museum, you can explore a range of objects from the history of the Voortrekkers.



Day Tours from Johannesburg

22. Lion Park



Muldersdrift Road, Northriding, 35 km NW
www.lion-park.com

In the safari park, Lion Park, you can get close to many of Africa’s animals; not least the lions, but also leopards, hyenas, caracal (or African Lynx) and many others. There are also large areas where some of the more harmless animals, such as giraffes, zebras, and antelopes can be observed.

The Lion Park opened in 1996 and has, over the years, set up several activities with and amongst the animals. The visitor can take a tour by car through the park and see the enclosures with both the common and the white lion.

In an area with baby animals, you can learn about their fascinating lives and the conditions, under which they grow up. Meanwhile, you will receive a lot of information about, for instance, animal protection.

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23. The Cradle of Humankind

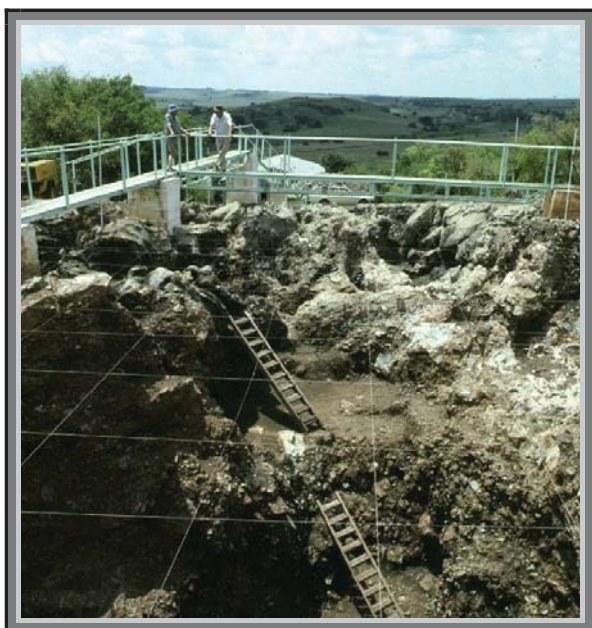
50 km NW

www.cradleofhumankind.co.za

The Cradle of Humankind is the name of an area where hundreds of objects from early human life has been found, including fossils and stone tools. There are more than 40 excavations, some of which are open to the public.

23a. The Sterkfontein Caves

www.sterkfontein-caves.co.za



A visit to the Sterkfontein Caves can successfully be combined with a visit to the Cradle of Humankind. The oldest human ape was found there in 1936, and this set extensive archaeological excavation work in motion.

Thus far, more than 500 remains have been found in the Sterkfontein Caves, including skulls from early human species. The work has brought to light thousands of tools, and fossils of animals and trees.

The limestone caves in Sterkfontein are millions of years old and worth a visit.

24. Cullinan Diamond Mine

Cullinan, 120 km NE

www.debeersgroup.com

This diamond mine, which is owned by De Beers, is located in the town of Cullinan. The mine was opened in 1902 and is still mined. The mine became widely known when the world's largest diamond was found there by Frederick Wells and named, The Cullinan Diamond. The diamond, which measured 3,106.75 carat and weighed 621.35 grams, was cut into several pieces. The largest stone was polished into 74 facets and mounted on the sceptre of the British Crown. The diamond was called the Great Star of Africa.

You can visit the place by taking a tour from either Johannesburg or Pretoria. You will, for example, gain insight into the work in the diamond mine and what it has produced.

If you are interested in the diamond production in South Africa, you can make the longer trip to the diamond centre, Kimberly, where you can see the enormous and deep man-made mine shaft. Because of its tremendous size, this mine is a unique sight. There used to be a mountain where the hole is now, and in 1866 diamonds were found there. This resulted in a diamond rush and newcomers arrived and began digging for precious stones. In 1914, when the mine closed, the hole had become 215 metres deep, and its circumference was 1.6 kilometres long. 2,722 kilograms of diamonds had been found in total. There are five such holes in South Africa. The largest and deepest is found in Jagersfontein, south of Kimberley.

25. Sun City



Sun City, 120 km NW

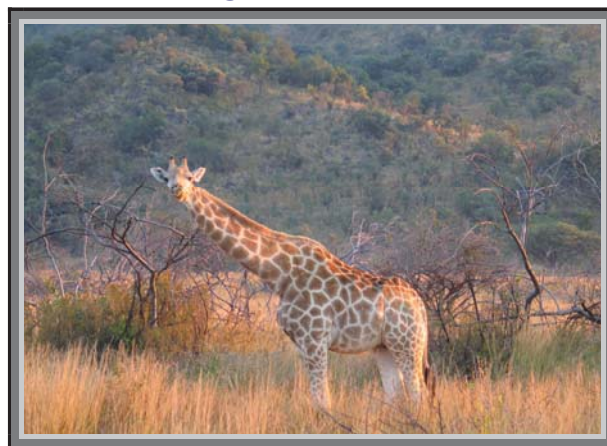
www.suninternational.com

Sun City is a fantastic entertainment park in the middle of rural South Africa. There are luxury hotels, golf courses, casinos and a delightful artificial beach. The entire park was built in an old volcanic crater and opened in 1979.

Sun City was built in the Bophutatswana homeland. In the South African homelands, casinos and erotic entertainment were allowed, in contrast to the rest of South Africa. The park was therefore built in the middle of nowhere, but still close enough to Johannesburg and Pretoria to make Sun City a popular location.

The hotel, Palace of the Lost City, with its towers and rich ornamentation, is the jewel in the crown. This luxurious palace was built around a legend of lost people and their magnificent city.

26. Pilanesberg National Park



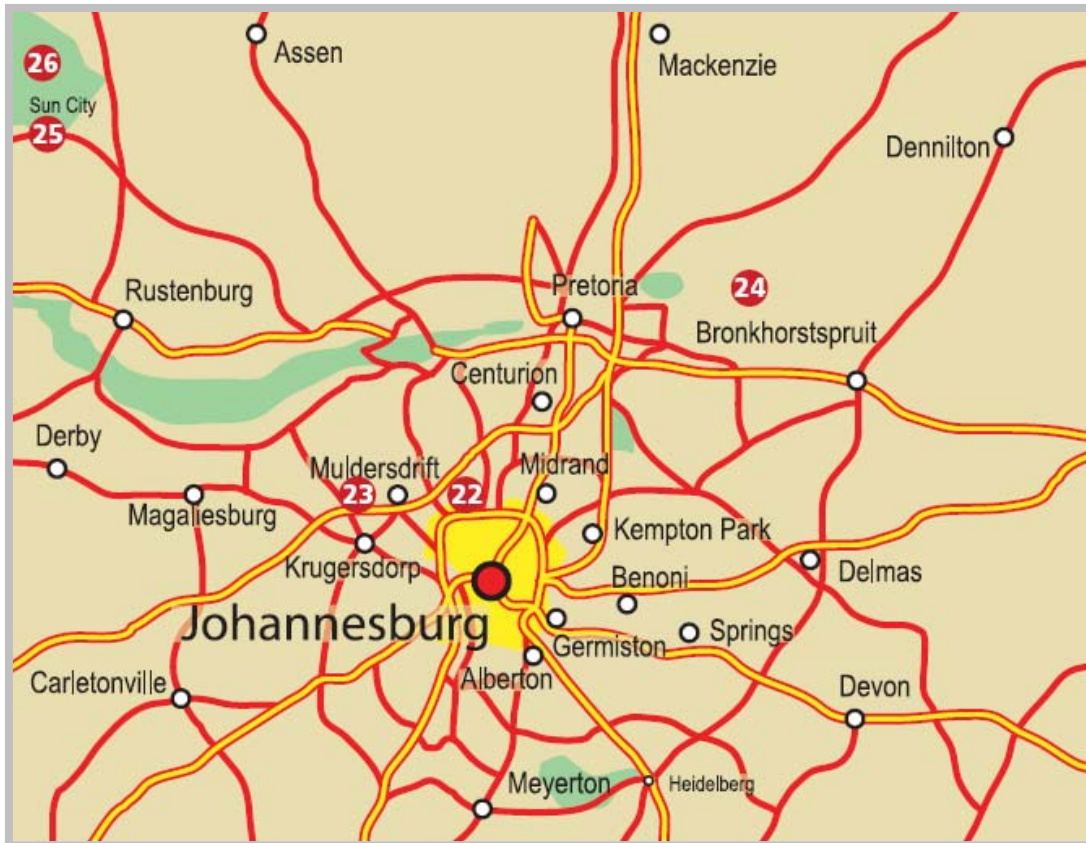
Pilanesberg National Park, 150 km NW

www.nature-reserve.co.za/pilanesberg-park-north-west.html

In the Pilanesberg National Park you can encounter the Big Five in African wildlife: elephants, leopards, lions, rhinos and water buffalos. The term, Big Five was formerly a hunting term, used about the most dangerous animals; with the water buffalo being the most dangerous. The Big Five was, in other words, not a reference to size.

The 135,000 acres of park are situated in a circle around a central lake. This is because the entire area was a volcanic crater. Nearly all of southern Africa's wildlife is represented. In the early 1980s, more than 6,000 animals were introduced from other parks. These included lions from the Etosha National Park in Namibia. By far the majority of the animals have acclimatized to the beautiful area, and they constitute a harmonious whole.

There are about 200 km of roads in the park which can easily be accessed with an ordinary car. It is possible to stay in the park, and there are several places where you can eat in natural surroundings whilst observing the interesting wildlife.



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Visiting Johannesburg with children

Adventureland, Sandton Field & Study Centre
(William Nicol Road, Sandton)

Gold Reef City (Xavier Road, Ormonde):
www.goldreefcity.co.za

Johannesburg Zoo (Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown):
www.jhbzoo.org.za

Lion Park (Muldersdrift Road, Northriding, 35 km
NW):
www.lion-park.com

Shopping in Johannesburg

The city's shopping centres:

Clearwater Mall (Christiaan de Wet Road/Hendrik
Potgieter Drive):
www.clearwatermall.co.za

Cresta Mall (Beyers Naude Drive):
www.crestashoppingcentre.co.za

Dobsonville Shopping Centre (75 Mercy Park)

Eastgate Mall (Bradford Road):
www.eastgateshops.com

Killarney Mall (60 Riviera Road):
www.killarneymall.co.za

Oriental Plaza (Bree Street):
www.orientalplaza-fordsburg.co.za

Sandton City (Sandton Drive/Rivonia Road):
www.sandtoncity.com

Sandton Shopping Centre (Nelson Mandela
Square, Sandton):
www.sandtonsquare.com

Southgate Mall (Columbine Road/Rifle Range
Road)

Village Walk Shopping Centre (Maude
Street/Rivonia Road):
www.villagewalk.co.za

Public transport in Johannesburg

Johannesburg Airport:
www.airports.co.za

Visiting Pretoria with children

Lion Park (Muldersdrift Road, Northriding, 35 km NW):

www.lion-park.com

Pretoria Zoo (Boom Street):

www.zoo.ac.za

Shopping in Pretoria

The city's shopping centres:

Arcadia Centre

De Bruyn Park

Centurion City

Jacaranda Centre

Menlyn Shopping Centre

Sanlam Centre

Standard Bank Centre

Sunny Park

Wonderpark

Public transport in Pretoria

Pretoria City Transport:

www.tshwane.gov.za/busbooklet.cfm

Facts about South Africa



Political

Official name	Republic of South Africa
Capital	Pretoria
Form of government	Republic
Head of state	Thabo Mbeki
National Day	27 April
Acquired independence	Established as a country 31 May 1910 Independent from Great Britain as a republic 31 May 1961
Main religion	Christianity
Languages	Afrikaans, English, Isindebele, Isixhosa, Isizulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga
Area	1,219,080 km ²
Population	44,820,000 (2001)

Borders on

North	Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland
South	-
East	South Africa surrounds the independent state of Lesotho
West	-

Highest Mountains

Mafadi	3,450 metres
Ben Macdhui	3,001 metres
Kompadberg	2,502 metres
Seweweekspoortpiek	2,325 metres
Toverkop	2,240 metres
Grootwinterhoekpiek	2,077 metres
Sneeuberg	2,026 metres
Du Toits Peak	1,995 metres
Nooitgedacht	1,852 metres
Renosterkop	1,690 metres

Trust and responsibility

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

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Largest Lakes

Gariiep Dam Lake	360 km ²
Vaal Dam Lake	300 km ²
Lake Fundudzi	km ²

Longest Rivers*

Orange River	2,092 km
Limpopo	1,800 km
Vaal	1,210 km
Molopo River	960 km
Nossob River	800 km
Great Fish River	644 km
Tugela	520 km
Breede River	337 km
Berg River	294 km
Sundays River	250 km
Mngeni	232 km

*Some of these rivers are situated partly in other countries than South Africa.

Largest Cities

Johannesburg	8,837,000
Kapstaden	3,653,000
Durban	3,192,000
Port Elizabeth	1,572,000
East London	958,000

Administrative Structure		
Province	Administrative city	Area
Eastern Cape	Bhisho	169,580 km ²
Free State	Bloemfontein	129,480 km ²
Gauteng	Johannesburg	17,010 km ²
KwaZulu Natal	Pietermaritzburg	92,100 km ²
Limpopo	Polokwane	123,900 km ²
Mpumalanga	Nelspruit	79,490 km ²
Northern Cape	Kimberley	361,830 km ²
North West	Mafikeng	116,320 km ²
Western Cape	Cape Town	129,370 km ²

Heads of State since 1961	
Charles Robberts Swart	1961-1967
Jozua François Naudé	1967-1968
Jacobus Johannes Fouché	1968-1975
Johannes de Klerk	1975-1975
Nicolaas Johannes Diederichs	1975-1978
Marais Viljoen	1978-1978 and 1979-1984
Balthazar Johannes Vorster	1978-1979
Pieter Willem Botha	1984-1989
Chris Heunis	1989-1989
Frederik Willem de Klerk	1989-1994
Nelson Mandela	1994-1999
Thabo Mbeki	1999-

Prime Ministers 1910-1984	
Louis Botha	1910-1919
Jan Christiaan Smuts	1919-1924 and 1939-1948
James Barry Munnik Hertzog	1924-1939
Daniel François Malan	1948-1954
Johannes Gerhardus Strijdom	1954-1958
Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd	1958-1966
Balthazar Johannes Vorster	1966-1978
Pieter Willem Botha	1978-1984

Public Holidays and Memorial Days	
1 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
Variable dates, March-April	Good Friday
Variable dates, March-April	Easter Day
Variable dates, March-April	2nd Easter Day
27 April	Freedom Day
1 May	Workers' Day
16 June	Youth Day
9 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

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Various facts

Currency	Rand
Currency code	ZAR
Time zone	South African Standard Time (UTC+2)
Postal code	ZA
Internet domain	.za
National telephone number	+27

Climate – Cape Town	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	21.0/69.8	16/0.6
February	21.2/70.0	15/0.6
March	19.9/67.8	22/0.9
April	17.3/63.1	50/1.9
May	14.9/58.8	92/3.6
June	13.1/55.6	105/4.1
July	12.4/54.3	91/3.6
August	13.0/55.4	83/3.3
September	14.3/57.7	54/2.1
October	16.2/61.2	40/1.6
November	18.2/64.8	24/1.0
December	19.9/67.8	19/0.8

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Johannesburg	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	19.4/66.9	123/4.9
February	19.0/66.2	97/3.8
March	18.0/64.4	84/3.3
April	15.3/59.5	52/2.1
May	12.5/54.5	17/0.7
June	9.4/48.9	9/0.3
July	9.8/49.6	6/0.2
August	12.4/54.3	6/0.2
September	15.6/60.1	28/1.1
October	17.2/63.0	73/2.9
November	17.9/64.2	120/4.7
December	18.9/66.0	110/4.3

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Durban	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	24.3/75.7	119/4.7
February	24.5/76.1	126/5.0
March	23.7/74.7	132/5.2
April	21.9/71.4	84/3.3
May	19.5/67.1	56/2.2
June	17.5/63.5	34/1.3
July	17.2/63.0	35/1.4
August	18.2/64.8	49/1.9
September	19.4/66.9	73/2.9
October	20.5/68.9	110/4.3
November	21.9/71.4	118/4.6
December	23.3/73.9	120/4.7

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Kimberley	Daily average temperature °C / °F	Precipitation millimetres / inches
January	24.7/76.5	60/2.4
February	23.6/74.5	67/2.7
March	21.3/70.3	74/2.9
April	17.5/63.5	40/1.6
May	13.3/55.9	18/0.7
June	10.1/50.2	7/0.3
July	10.2/50.4	7/0.3
August	12.8/55.0	9/0.3
September	16.6/61.9	15/0.6
October	19.7/67.5	28/1.1
November	21.9/71.4	42/1.6
December	24.0/75.2	52/2.1

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!