



## Host City Background Sheet

### Johannesburg

#### Fast Facts:

**Province:** Gauteng Province

**Population:** 3,2 million

**Altitude:** 1753m

**Geography:** Located on the eastern high-lying plateau in South Africa referred to as the Highveld.

**Climate:** Dry with winter temperatures ranging from 24°-16°C. Summer is temperate with temperatures exceeding 30°C and afternoon thundershowers.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Retail, Finance

**Professional Football Clubs:** Bidvest Wits, Kaizer Chiefs, Moroka Swallows Orlando Pirates (Premier) FC AK, Jomo Cosmos (1st Division)

GPS Coordinates: [26°12'16"S 28°2'44"E](#)

#### Did you know?

- Johannesburg is one of the 40 largest metropolitan areas of the world.
- Forty percent of the world's gold is found in the greater Johannesburg region. In effect, Johannesburg is also referred to as 'Egoli', meaning the 'Place of Gold'.
- Around 1569 hectares of land is covered by nature reserves in the city of Johannesburg.
- Johannesburg is laced with over 10 million trees, and therefore is also known as the largest man made forest in the world.

#### The City:

In Johannesburg, wining and dining is superb; the championship golf courses are of the highest standard; and there seems to be an ongoing party all day, every day. In addition, the city boasts beautiful natural surroundings, adventure sports and the world's foremost palaeontological site at Sterkfontein.

Jozi, Jo'burg or Egoli to its friends - the city is a vibrant melting pot of humanity that ensures you won't walk alone when exploring the city's many cultural and leisure attractions. The City of Gold welcomes you.

The area where Johannesburg stands was once grassland, but is now one of the biggest man-made forests in the world. The Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden at Kloofendal conserves a piece of the original grassland as well as succulents and ferns. It is home to over 120 bird species, including the only pair of nesting black eagles in Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Botanical Gardens off Thomas Bowler Avenue in Emmarentia is famed for its Rose Garden and numerous waterfowl found in the reed beds of Emmarentia Dam.

Cutting through the northern suburbs from the Westdene Dam is the 25 km Braamfontein Spruit, the longest parkland stretch in SA. There are numerous sporting activities like walking trails along the river and adjoining areas, such as Melville Koppies, where an Iron Age village and smelting works are to be found.



Johannesburg, founded in 1886 with the discovery of gold, has had a somewhat turbulent past. Of most interest to the history buff are Newtown, Constitution Hill and Soweto. Mary Fitzgerald Square is also worth a visit in the CBD which includes Museum Africa, the Bensusan Museum of Photography and the Market Theatre in the restored Fresh Produce Market building, as well as the Workers Museum in the revamped Electricity Department Compound and art galleries, craft shops and restaurants.

For contemporary African sounds, try the Bassline in Newtown or head out to one of the funky jazz joints in Soweto. The thriving local music scene caters for all musical tastes. Africa's most cosmopolitan city, Johannesburg is also the wealthiest and most entertaining city in South Africa's Gauteng province.

### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here**

OR Tambo Airport receives daily flights from all major cities around the globe. The city's centre is about 30 min from the airport. Cape Town is 1390 km from Johannesburg and Durban is 565km away.

#### **Where to stay**

There's all sorts of accommodation offered around Johannesburg, ranging from 5-star hotels to budget B&Bs and guesthouses.

#### **Around the area**

Recommended are trips to the quaint town of Parys on the Vaal River to the south of the city; or west to Magaliesburg; or north to the diamond mining town of Cullinan in the Dinokeng conservancy. A slow Sunday meander along the Crocodile River Ramble will take you to an interesting assortment of crafters, artists, galleries, health spas and restaurants.

### **Soccer City stadium**

**Stadium owner:** City of Johannesburg

**Host City:** City of Johannesburg

**Total seat capacity:** 94,500 seats legacy World Cup configuration 87 000

**Contractor:** Grinaker-LTA/Interbeton joint venture

**Architect:** Boogertman Urban Edge

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

Just under 90 000 fans will fill up this World Cup centrepiece to watch some of the most important matches in the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Hosting both the opening match and the final, Soccer City stadium will soon become one of the world's most photographed structures and a world renowned symbol of South Africa's emergence onto the world stage.

#### **Facts and figures:**

- 80,000 cubic meters of concrete used
- 8000 tonnes of structural steel
- 9000 tonnes of reinforcing steel
- 120,000 cubic meters of soil removed



- The original stadium built in 1987. The only remaining section of the original stadium is the West stand. The stadium resembles a Calabash which is an African cooking pot.
- It was decided that this would be the most recognisable image to represent the continent.
- The façade of the stadium (outer edge) is made up of fibre reinforced panels with a selection of 8 different colours.
- The façade has 10 vertical slots which are geographically aligned with the nine other 2010 FIFA World Cup™ stadiums as well as the Berlin stadium which hosted the final of the previous FIFA World Cup™. This represents the road to the final.

### Ellis Park stadium

**Stadium owner:** City of Johannesburg

**Host City:** City of Johannesburg

**Total seat capacity:** 62,500

**Contractor:** Rainbow construction

**Architect:** DBN Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup 2009

Renovation work on the stadium started in July 2007 to provide a minor upgrade to the Johannesburg stadium which has hosted many top class sport matches. In 1995, Ellis Park was the scene of South Africa's historic win over New Zealand in the IRB Rugby World Cup final.

Ellis Park was constructed in 1982 as a modern, integrated stadium offering outstanding sight lines from every seat. The Stadium stands within a world class sporting precinct, barely 15 minutes' walk from the Johannesburg City Centre, and offers outstanding office, security and medical features.

### Facts and figures

- Ellis Park was conceived as a rugby stadium, and is fondly known to all South Africans as the venue of the 1995 Rugby World Cup final when South Africa defeated New Zealand, but it has also become recognised as a premier venue for soccer.
- Manchester United and Arsenal are two major clubs to have graced the turf, and the Stadium has hosted South Africa's national team on many celebrated occasions.
- For 2010, new upper tiers will be constructed behind each of the goals, at the north and south ends of the venue, increasing the net capacity by 10 149 seats to a total 60 000
- 18 month construction period in total
- 61,519 seating capacity
- 328 hospitality suites
- 947 parking bays
- 172 tonnes of steel used in total
- 2425 tonnes of concrete used
- 380 workers on site

### Training grounds:

UJ stadium

Rand stadium



### Matches:

#### Soccer City

- June 11: Opening match: A1 vs A2:
- June 14: E1 vs E2
- June 17: B1 vs B3
- June 20: G1 vs G3
- June 23: D4 vs D1
- June 27: Round of 16:
- July 2: Quarterfinal
- July 11: Final: Winner 1 vs Winner 2

#### Ellis Park

- June 12: B1 vs B2
- June 15: G1 vs G2
- June 18: C4 vs C2
- June 21: H1 vs H3
- June 24: F4 vs F1
- June 28: Round of 16
- July 3: Quarter-final

### Contact:

For more information contact the City of Johannesburg on +2711 375 5555 or email them at [queries.joburgconnect@joburg.org.za](mailto:queries.joburgconnect@joburg.org.za). You can also visit the website at [www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za).

[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

### Cape Town:

#### Fast Facts:

**Province:** Western Cape

**Population:** 1,3 million

**Altitude:** 0m

**Geography:** The city is located on either side of a mountain ridge on the Cape Peninsula and low-lying flat areas at sea level.

**Climate:** Mediterranean climate with winter rainfall and temperatures around 18°C. Summer time is generally warm with temperatures in the range of 25-27°C.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing

**Professional Football Clubs:** Ajax Cape Town, Santos (Premier) Hanover Park, Ikapa Sporting, FC Cape Town (1st Division)

**GPS Coordinates:** [33°55'31"S 18°25'26"E](#)

#### Did you know?

- Cape Town was originally developed by the Dutch East India Company as a supply station for Dutch ships sailing to Eastern Africa, India and the Far East.



- The Port of Cape Town is deemed to be one of the busiest shipping corridors in the world.
- Cape Town houses well known landmarks such as Table Mountain and Cape Point.
- The 'Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour', organised in Cape Town, is the largest individually timed cycle race in the world.

### **The City:**

Cape Town is SA's oldest city and it is for this reason that it is known as the Mother City. There's plenty to see and do in Cape Town, the legislative capital of SA. Take a trip through the Cape Winelands, visit Table Mountain or hang out at the V&A Waterfront.

Cape Town's attractions have made it a famed destination for many Hollywood movies and European travellers alike.

Take a trip to on the Cape Winelands and taste our homegrown wines; see the world from your vantage point on the top of famed Table Mountain; dine like a king at any of our fantastic restaurants and celebrate the great outdoors even during the winter months.

For some great retail therapy why not head to the V&A Waterfront. It's a super spot shopping and eating, and its attractions include the Two Oceans Aquarium, a craft market and an amphitheatre where local artists perform. From here you can take a harbour cruise or strike out for Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent many years in imprisonment.

The treacherous Cape Point promontory – a witness to many a shipwreck – enhances Cape Town's reputation for dramatic scenery. It's a trip well worth making, the last part up to a lighthouse completed by funicular. The journey to Cape Point includes a 10 km drive over Chapman's Peak which, with its hairpin bends atop sheer cliff drops, sets the stage for scenic awe. The drive also links the city to Hout Bay and Noordhoek beaches.

Cape Town has activities aplenty for more sedate natural encounters in Cape Town. On the eastern slopes of the mountain are the celebrated botanical gardens at Kirstenbosch, with walks of all levels to tackle, landscaped picnic spots and restaurants serving as a refined break with their offerings of tea and scones (or a glass of good Cape wine).

Its striking beauty and rugged landscape makes Cape Town the ideal holiday spot for those seeking adventure, relaxation and entertainment. The city offers something for everyone and all accommodation tastes and budgets are welcomed.

### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here**

Cape Town is about a 16-hour drive from Johannesburg. There are sea, rail and air routes all operating with daily schedules to Cape Town from most major cities in the world.

#### **Where to stay**

The city offers something for everyone and all accommodation tastes and budgets are welcomed.

#### **Around the area**

There are some 200 cellars within easy reach of Cape Town, where wine can be sampled. The best of them are located on the 4 main routes – the Stellenbosch, Paarl, Franschhoek and



Wellington routes. Up the east coast runs the aptly named Garden Route, incorporating Mossel Bay, Sedgefield, George, Wilderness, Plettenberg Bay and Knysna.

### **Cape Town stadium:**

**Stadium owner:** City of Cape Town

**Host City:** Cape Town

**Total seat capacity:** 70,000 seats

**Contractor:** Murray and Roberts / WBHO joint venture

**Architect:** GMP Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

Situated between the world famous Table Mountain, which dominates Cape Town's skyline and the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Green Point stadium is a post card opportunity waiting to happen. With construction progressing well it will not be long before a new icon of Cape Town is born to sit alongside the city's already-famous landmarks.

### **Facts and Figures:**

- The new stadium has been built on a 10.6 hectare site in the suburb of Green Point.
- It is within walking distance of the city's popular Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.
- Regulations to limit noise and light pollution and to minimise the visual impact of the facility that will have a seating capacity of 68 000 are to be adhered to, officials in the Western Cape said.
- The stadium itself is situated in the corner of the Greenpoint Common which is a 85ha open space.
- An urban sport and recreation precinct which will include an urban park as well as a green area, practice and playing fields for seven different sporting codes as well as clubhouse facilities is being developed.
- The first phase of this project will cost of R311 million.
- The stadium will have 55 000 permanent seats but will be converted to a 68 000 seater for the World Cup.
- At the peak of construction 2500 were on site. And an average of 2000 people worked on the construction.

### **Training grounds:**

Athlone stadium

Philippi stadium

### **Matches:**

- June 11: A3 vs A4
- June 14: F1 vs F2
- June 18: C1 vs C3
- June 21: G4 vs G2
- June 24: E4 vs E1
- June 29: Round of 16
- July 3: Quarter-final
- July 6 : Semi-final

### **Contact:**



For more information, please contact Cape Town Tourism on +27 21 405 4500 or you can email them at [info@tourismcapetown.co.za](mailto:info@tourismcapetown.co.za). Visit their website at [www.tourismcapetown.co.za](http://www.tourismcapetown.co.za).

[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

## Durban:

### Fast Facts:

**Province:** KwaZulu-Natal

**Population:** 3064624

**Altitude:** 0m

**Geography:** The city is located on a huge natural lagoon that forms its harbour with a range of hills inland that are the remains of fossilized sand-dunes.

**Climate:** Sub-tropical, mild and sunny winters, hot and humid summers. Average temperatures are around 16 to 25° C year round.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Tourism, transport, agriculture, manufacturing

**Football Clubs:** Amazulu, Golden Arrows, Thanda Royal Zulu, Maritzburg United (Premier) Durban Stars, Nathi Lions (1st Division)

GPS Coordinates: [29°53'S 31°03'E](#)

### Did you know?

- Durban's harbour is the busiest in South Africa and one of the 10 largest ports in the world.
- India's political icon Mohandas Gandhi worked as a lawyer in Durban for over 20 years.

### The City:

Durban offers excellent urban vibes, including a mix of design, art, music and food – peppered with fascinating cultural influences. Even in winter there's lots to experience, especially with snow-capped mountains, top game reserves, country meanders and loads of other top attractions nearby.

Durban is South Africa's most popular domestic holiday city and it's easy to see why. It has miles of soft, sandy swimming beaches, great surfing and warm weather all year round. There's everything from B&Bs to world-class hotels, and you'll never run out of fun things to do.

Head to the ocean for a fishing charter or chill out on a sunset sundowner cruise. Take in the marine life at Ushaka Marine World and burn up some energy at Water World.

Durban is green all year round, thanks to its subtropical weather. To see the city and coastline at its best, head to La Lucia Ridge, preferably early on a clear morning. Look south to view the beach arcing around Durban's bay. See a different angle of the same view by looking north from atop the Bluff at the harbour entrance.



Durban is recognised for its well preserved art deco and Victorian architecture, particularly along Victoria Embankment and on the Berea. Many events, cultures and nations have shaped Durban and you'll find more than a dozen museums that tell its unique story.

You can even pack in some adrenalin activities at the Gateway Theatre of Shopping

Go for an early morning walk along which is close to Durban's main entertainment drag. It has a powerful wavehouse and an indoor climbing wall, which at 23 metres is the highest in the world. Plus, there are fast go-karts and a Tony Hawke-designed skate park. Stroll along the Umhlanga Rocks paved beachfront walkway and you may see dolphins surfing the waves just offshore. Or take to the air as a microlite passenger for a flip along the coast.

We call it Durbs or Surf City or "Thekwini", which means "sea" in Zulu, and that suggests what life's like here – one long holiday.

### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here**

Fly into Durban's brand new King Shaka International Airport (opening in early 2010).

#### **Where to stay**

There's everything from B&Bs to world-class hotels.

#### **Around the area**

To the north are some of the best Big 5 game reserves, subtropical marine reefs and the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park World Heritage Site. To the east is the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park, also a World Heritage site and the highest range in Africa (this side of Kilimanjaro). To the far south is the rugged Wild Coast with stretches of uninhabited indigenous dunes and forest, and some of the best fishing. The province has one of the highest ratios in the world of area under conservation.

#### **Moses Mabhida stadium:**

**Stadium owner:** Ethekekwini Municipality

**Host City:** Durban

**Total seat capacity:** 70,000 seats

**Contractor:** Group 5 / WBHO / Pandev joint venture

**Architect:** iBhola Lethu

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

Anyone who has been to Durban in the last few months will be able to tell you about the breathtaking arch that now dominates Durban's skyline. Sending a strong message to the city that 2010 is on its way, Durban stadium is progressing well and is preparing itself for some big games during the tournament, including a semi-final.

#### **Facts and figures:**

- The entire stadium has been designed and built in line with all the latest safety and security requirements.
- The stadium infield has been designed and built in accordance with the latest international sporting codes.



- Each seat will be spacious and will have excellent site lines and ease of access is ensured, with 50% of the stadium's seats accessible from the main entrance level. 150 suites, housing a total of 7500 seats, will cover a range of different hospitality options.
- The grand centre arch, 106m high, will become a world first tourist attraction, thanks to a high-tech cable car designed to take visitors up to its highest point, where they can disembark and take in breathtaking, panoramic views of the city. This 350m long free-span steel arch weighs 2600 tons.
- The roof, consisting of Teflon coated glass fibre membranes - 46,000 square metres in total – are attached to the arch by 95mm diameter steel cables.
- Around the perimeter of the stadium structure is an 880m long steel compression ring that maintains the structure of the roof.
- On big match days, Walter Gilbert Road will be closed to traffic, creating a safe pedestrian precinct.
- Durban's People Mover bus will stop at the stadium, allowing spectators to park at one of the many parking facilities in town and get to the stadium safely and quickly
- More than 235,138 tons of concrete and 9,920 tons of reinforcement steel have been used on the project.
- 2,929 people employed on the stadium site - 165 are female and 1885 are under 35.
- As part of the stadium precinct project the upgrade, realignment and extension of Isaiah Ntshangase (ex Walter Gilbert) Road as well as the development of Imbizo Place and is expected to be completed by September.

#### **Training grounds:**

Princess Magogo stadium  
Sugar Ray Xulu stadium

#### **Matches:**

- June 13: D1 vs D2
- June 16: H1 vs H2
- June 19: E1 vs E3
- June 22: B2 vs B3
- June 25 G4 vs G1
- June 28: Round of 16
- July 7: Semi-Final

#### **Contact:**



For more information please contact the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority on +27 (0)31 366 7500 or you can email them at [kznta@iafrica.com](mailto:kznta@iafrica.com). Visit their website at [www.zulu.org.za](http://www.zulu.org.za).

[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

## **Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth**

### **Fast Facts:**

**Province:** Eastern Cape

**Population:** 1 00 5779

**Altitude:** 0m

**Geography:** Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth is nestled in the shelter of Algoa Bay

**Climate:** Sub-tropical with winter rainfall. The city has mild temperatures ranging from 20° - 9°C during winter and 25° - 17°C during summer.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Motor Industry, Tourism

**Professional Football Clubs:** Bay United (Premier)

**GPS Coordinates:** 33° 58' 0" S 25° 36' 0" E

### **Did you know?**

- The Friendly City or Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth is sometimes also nicknamed The Windy City.
- The actual founding of Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth dates back to the arrival by sea of 4 000 British Settlers in 1820 to become the first permanent British residents in the country.

### **The City:**

Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth, otherwise known as the “friendly city” or PE, is South Africa’s fifth largest city and quite an undiscovered gem, thanks to its undeveloped coastline. It is part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, which unites Port Elizabeth with the inland industrial towns of Uitenhage and Despatch.

Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth’s long stretches of white beach and its historical significance have resulted in the city experiencing a revival of sorts. PE, as it is fondly known, is a vibrant city, with shopping, flea markets, great restaurants and other entertainment on offer. It has always been a family destination, so there are activities for both young and old.

Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth is worth visiting for its surrounding attractions too – you can arrange day trips to game lodges, to the Addo Elephant National Park, to the cultural hub of Grahamstown and to Jeffrey’s Bay, famous for its impressive scenery and surfing.

Life generally revolves around the ocean, even during the cooler winter months. Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth’s Humewood beach has achieved Blue Flag status as a world-class beach venue. The city is a nature lover’s paradise, so don’t miss the boat cruises, diving opportunities, a visit to Seaview Game & Lion Park and an excursion to Bayworld, which incorporates an oceanarium, museum and snake park.

Algoa Bay, the coastal strip of Nelson Mandela Bay, has 40 km of beaches with protected areas for swimming, fishing, surfing, scuba diving, snorkelling and sailing. There is something magical about this coastal terrain. Closer to Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth is the Seaview Game & Lion Park and the Kragga Kamma Game Park.

Another popular activity is the Apple Express steam train trip from Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth to Thornhill, where you can take in scenic views from the highest narrow-gauge bridge in the world.

You’re in the right place if you’re an adrenalin junkie. In Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth, you can dive with sharks at the oceanarium at Bayworld. There are other dive sites too, including fascinating wreck dives. If you’re a keen cyclist, there are 2 mountain biking trails: the 23 km Baakens River trail and the 22 km circular route along the Swartkops Valley Nature Reserve.



## Travel tips and planning information

### How to get here

The centrally situated airport is within easy reach from all parts of the city. There are a number of flights connecting Port Elizabeth with domestic and international destinations.

### Where to stay

Whether your preference is a luxury hotel or a 5-star game lodge, a guesthouse in one of the townships or a B&B in the countryside - Port Elizabeth offers excellent and exciting possibilities.

### Around the area

Port Elizabeth forms part of the Sunshine Coast, the coastal route between St Francis Bay and East London.

### Nelson Mandela Bay stadium

**Stadium owner:** Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

**Host City:** Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth

**Total seat capacity:** 45,931 seats

**Contractor:** Grinaker-LTA / Interbeton / Ibhayi joint venture

**Architect:** Architectural Design Associates / Dominic Bonnesse Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

On 7 June Nelson Mandela Bay stadium became the first 2010 FIFA World Cup stadium to be officially opened – a full year ahead of the tournament. The opening was celebrated with over 17 000 residents of the city. The stadium is ready to host high profile events, the first being a game between the British & Irish Lions rugby team and a local Southern Kings Invitational side on 16 June 2009 and the next a match between perennial rivals Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates scheduled for July 2009.

### Facts and Figures:

- Its location in open land outside the city, two kilometres from the coast, will ensure provision of ample parking and the capacity to apply every required safety and security measure.
- The stadium's proximity to the N2 highway means it is no more than a 15-minute drive to the city's main hotel hub.
- The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium is adjacent to the North End Lake and as part of the development the water quality in the lake is set to be improved.
- The stadium will also feature a figure eight running and cycling track which will circle the stadium and the lake.
- The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium has already hosted four major events including a British and Lions rugby match and the Eastern Cape Premier's Cup, and a Vodacom Cup match featuring Pirates and English Club Manchester City.

### Training grounds:

NMM University stadium

Gelvendale stadium

### Matches:



- June 12: B3 vs B4
- June 15: G3 vs G4
- June 18: D1 vs D3
- June 21: H4 vs H2
- June 23: C4 vs C1
- June 26: Round of 16
- July 2: Quarter-final

### Contact:

For more information contact Port Elizabeth tourism by going to [www.portelizabeth.co.za](http://www.portelizabeth.co.za) .  
[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

### Mangaung/Bloemfontein fact sheet

#### Fast Facts:

**Province:** Free State

**Population:** 850,000

**Altitude:** 1400m

**Geography:** The city is located in central South Africa on the Free State Plateau. The landscape is accentuated by grassland plains and low hills.

**Climate:** Dry winters, from May to August with temperatures around 17° C in the day and reaching -2° C at night. Summer ranges from October to February and city is much warmer, around 30° C during the day and cloud bursts in the afternoon.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Trade, Finance, Transport

**Professional Football Clubs:** Bloemfontein Celtic, Free State Stars (Premier League) Carara Kicks (1<sup>st</sup> Division)

**GPS Coordinates:** [29°06'S 26°13'E / 29.1°S 26.217°E](#)

#### Did you know?

- Mangaung/Bloemfontein was officially founded in 1846.
- Lord of the Rings author, JRR Tolkien, was born in Mangaung/Bloemfontein, Free State, on 3 January 1892.
- The ANC, then the South African National Native Congress, was founded in Mangaung/Bloemfontein on 8 January 1912.
- South Africa's judicial capital is Mangaung/Bloemfontein, the seat of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

#### The City:

Mangaung/Bloemfontein is an active town, and sporting activities are high on the priority list of the majority of residents. The city is deservedly famous for its stately sandstone buildings of yesteryear and the annual Rose Festival in October, when the glory of its gardens takes centre stage.

The capital city of the Free State Province, Mangaung/Bloemfontein has the laid-back, friendly vibe of a country town. Hanging with the locals is a must because people here still believe in old-fashioned hospitality and traditions. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation – it's the best way to find the 'in' spots.



Sunny most of the year, Mangaung/Bloemfontein activities that are encouraged by the clear skies include cycling, quad biking and barbecuing anywhere near water (swimming pool, dam or river). A great way to wind down the day is taking a leisurely drive to a favourite lookout spot like Naval Hill to salute the sunset with something cold and enjoy the star-strewn night sky that follows.

Mangaung/Bloemfontein's live entertainment scene is a fun way to access local culture, as are restaurants that serve regional specialties like fragrant Free State grilled lamb and farmers' sausage (called "boerewors"). The Free State's Golden Gate National Park is a major highlight and offers up scenery not to be missed – it's definitely worth the drive and can be counted as a Bloemfontein attraction.

Sporty types can use their time out for a game of tennis or bowls, a leisurely cycle or a short hike. If you like to be pampered, there's always the massage table and the spa. On weekends, locals flock to Maselspoort, a green spot on the Modder River where parents can stoke the barbecue fires while the young ones explore the surrounds.

Bloemfontein is home to some of the country's most beautiful gardens and parks. Don't miss out on the Botanical Gardens with its esteemed orchid house, where thousands of these tropical plants flourish. King's Park just west of the city centre is home to the zoo and Loch Logan – good for a morning stroll, a browse through the market and a light lunch at the water.

### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here:**

Bloemfontein is 660 km from Durban, with Johannesburg 405 km away and Cape Town 990 km away. Mangaung/Bloemfontein has an airport that has been renovated to accommodate the influx of visitors for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

#### **Where to stay**

Accommodation is offered throughout the town and caters for all tastes and budgets.

#### **Around the area**

The surrounding areas also boast a wealth of attractions – go on a fossil-hunting safari, learn to ride like an African cowboy or go pony-trekking in the Maluti Mountains. The province is also the gateway to Lesotho, a region famous for pony-trekking, hiking and African rural lifestyles.

#### **Free State stadium**

**Stadium owner:** Mangaung Municipality

**Host City:** Mangaung/Bloemfontein

**Total seat capacity:** 45,000

**Contractor:** Ruwaccon / Meyker ReTeng Construction / Ikaneng Developments / Promania 128 joint venture

**Architect:** ACG Architects

**Tournaments:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup 2009

Home to the Free State Cheetahs Rugby team and the Bloemfontein Celtic football team, Free State stadium is no stranger to large numbers of passionate supporters every weekend. To accommodate the expected fans for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, minor improvements were made to the stadium with construction starting in September 2007.



### **Improvements to the stadium:**

- Adding a second tier on the western pavilion increased the stadium capacity to 40,000 saleable seats, excluding VIP seats and media seats.
- Media seating for written press, radio and telecommunication.
- Media centre behind the western pavilion, which will be converted to new indoor multi-purpose facility.
- Venue operating centre for Security and CCTV.
- Provision of security perimeters (including 16 cameras for CCTV).
- Floodlights upgrading to increase illuminance to the required 1500 lux.
- Upgrading of public address sound system.
- New turnstiles installed for improved controlled flow of spectators

### **Training grounds**

#### **Venue specific training sites:**

Central University of Technology stadium

#### **Venue specific training hotels**

Bloemfontein Spar Lodge  
Protea Hotel Bloemfontein

### **Matches**

- June 14 E3 vs E4
- June 17: B4 vs B2
- June 20: F4 vs F2
- June 22: A4 vs A1
- June 25: H2 vs H3
- June 27: Round of 16

### **Contact**

For more information please contact the Bloemfontein Tourism Centre on +2751 405 8489 / 8490. You can also email them on [information@bloemfontein.co.za](mailto:information@bloemfontein.co.za) and be sure to visit their website at [www.bloemfontein.co.za](http://www.bloemfontein.co.za).



[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

## Nelspruit

### Fast facts

**Province:** Mpumalanga

**Population:** 21541

**Altitude:** 660m

**Geography:** Located on a low-lying plateau, known as the Lowveld, in the fertile Crocodile River valley in the north eastern part of South Africa.

**Climate:** Sub-tropical with temperatures around 23°C during winter and warming up to 29°C during summer.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Agriculture, Mining

**Football Clubs:** Mpumalanga Black Aces, Witbank Spurs (1st Division)

**GPS Coordinates:** 25°27'57"S 30°59'07"E

### Did you know?

- Temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius are no exception in Nelspruit during summer

### The City

Named after the Nels River, Nelspruit is host to many attractions and activities, including a crocodile farm, elephant sanctuary, the oldest caves on Earth and a remarkable botanical garden.

Travellers can also recharge their batteries in Nelspruit's exquisite surrounds. Though there's plenty to do, the town is also a great place to just sit back and relax.

Though better-known as a gateway in to Big 5 country, floraphiles can have as much fun as those who are thrilled by the great diversity of fauna in the region. The town's botanical garden is a great place to get in touch with the natural environment.

South Africa's only Chimpanzee rehabilitation centre is found on the fringes of the city. Housed within the Umhloti Lodge estate, the Jane Goodall Institute opened its gates for these abused primates a few years back.

Helicopter flips are available for those who wish to experience Nelspruit's attractions from above while a short drive from the town are the Sudwala Caves, believed to be the oldest cavern system in the world. The crystal tour at the caves is a must, as is a visit to the dinosaur park that recreates the world as it was when the caves were first formed.

Nightlife is an important part of Nelspruit's activities, and the Barnyard Theatre, in the Casterbridge Centre on the town's outskirts, showcases performances by both international acts and some of the country's best musicians, dancers, comedians and actors.

Casterbridge is also packed with arts and crafts shops, clothes boutiques and coffee shops, as well as a micro-brewery, home to some superb beers, and a motor museum. Finally, just down the road from the centre, is lies Rottcher Wineries, which will awaken a few other senses with its delicious array orange-flavoured wines and liquers.



### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here**

The Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport is only 22km north-east of Nelspruit. The town is also easily accessible by road and is approximately a 5-hour drive from Johannesburg.

#### **Best time to visit**

Any time of year is good but summer can get uncomfortably hot.

#### **Where to stay**

The area is jam-packed with accommodation possibilities ranging from caravan parks, tented camps and backpacker lodges to hotels, guesthouses, private reserves and luxury lodges.

### **Mbombela stadium**

**Stadium owner:** Mbombela Municipality

**Host City:** Nelspruit

**Total seat capacity:** 46,000 seats

**Contractor:** Basil read / Bouygues joint venture

**Architect:** RL Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

The giraffe-like structures reaching up to the sky supporting the roof of Mbombela stadium and the unique Zebra design of the stadium seating means that this stadium is the most uniquely African off all those which have been built for the World. With little by the way of world class stadiums in the area, Mbombela stadium will be a great addition to the city once complete.

#### **Facts and figures:**

- The Mbombela Stadium has been designed to ensure it enjoys a prosperous life beyond the tournament as an adaptable, relevant multi-sport, entertainment and exhibition venue.
- An elevated site has been chosen for the rounded, rectangular shaped structure, incorporating ideal sight lines from every seat and a substantial administrative area on the western side.
- Visiting teams and supporters may well be impressed by their safari drives in the nearby Kruger Park.
- Two practice fields and a hockey field have been built in the vicinity of the stadium.
- This stadium precinct is a greenfields project within a rural setting but still close to town centre. The area has been identified as a future sporting hub for Nelspruit.

### **Training grounds**

Kanyamazane stadium

### **Matches**

- June 16: H3 vs H4
- June 20: F1 vs F3
- June 23: D2 vs D3
- June 25: G2 vs G3



### Contact

For more information contact the Nelspruit Tourism Office on +27 (0) 13 755 1988 or email [nelspruit@soft.co.za](mailto:nelspruit@soft.co.za)

[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

### Polokwane

#### Fast Facts

**Province:** Limpopo

**Population:** 508 272

**Altitude:** 1310m

**Geography:** 60 kilometers south of the Tropic of Capricorn. The landscape is mainly grassland interspersed with rocky granite hills, referred to as 'koppies' in South African English.

**Climate:** Tropical climate with winter temperatures 20°- 4° Centigrade and summer temperatures between 28-16° Centigrade.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Agriculture, mining, manufacturing

**Professional Football Clubs:** Black Leopards, Dynamos, Winners Park (1st Division)

**GPS Coordinates:** 23°54'00"S 29°27'00"E

#### Did you know?

- Polokwane has more public sculptures per capita than any other town in South Africa

#### The City

Polokwane has wide, jacaranda-lined streets, leafy suburbs and a wonderful climate. The capital city of Limpopo has attractions and entertainment galore to offer the intrepid traveler. The Polokwane Game Reserve is an ecological jewel on the city's doorstep. Here you can go on a self-drive adventure or a guided tour to see game like antelope, rhino and tsessebe. It is only a few hours' drive to the Kruger National Park.

Kickstart your cultural outing at Polokwane Art Museum in the Library Gardens Complex. The museum has an extensive indoor and outdoor collection, reflecting some of the country's best artists. Nearby, the Hugh Exton Photographic Museum has some 20 000 black-and-white photographs from the 1890s showing life as it was back then – from bodices to ox wagons and acacia trees. Perhaps the most famous spot in Polokwane is Irish House, a late-Victorian shop building that is currently undergoing renovations for 2010. The new and dynamic exhibition will show the different cultures of the province.

For something completely different, book a guided tour to the home of Amarula liqueur to see how this unique drink is made. Enjoy the atmosphere of a good old-fashioned village pub at the Iron Crown in the nearby mountain hamlet of Haenertsburg, or head for the Ranch Hotel, where you can get up close and personal with a pride of lions and then enjoy a hearty meal outdoors.

The mountainous areas around Polokwane are popular amongst mountain bikers and you can arrange to go on a guided mountain bike trail through the Kruger National Park. The northern



Drakensberg mountains and Magoebaskloof areas also offer excellent hiking, along with outdoor activities such as mountain biking, horse-riding and - for the more adventurous - abseiling, quad-biking and white water tubing.

### Travel tips and planning information

#### How to get here

Polokwane International Airport by air, otherwise main roads connect the city to the rest of the country.

#### Around the area

Famed for its forests, waterfalls and rivers full of trout, the picturesque mountain hamlet of Haenertsburg is an easy drive from Polokwane. The Iron Crown rises into the sky above the village – this peak is the highest point in Limpopo and is also the name of the local pub. Eat pancakes, stroll around pretty public gardens and take a sundowner cruise on the Ebenezer Dam.

#### Peter Mokaba stadium

**Stadium owner:** Polokwane Municipality

**Host City:** Polokwane

**Total seat capacity:** 45,000

**Contractor:** WBHO / Paul joint venture

**Architect:** Prism Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™

As the Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane takes shape, the residents of the city are getting more and more excited about the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup. In a province with so many football fans and players, the stadium will certainly not go to waste once the tournament is over.

#### Facts and Figures:

- The stadium is named for Peter Mokaba a former leader of the ANC Youth League
- It is located 5km from the city centre and just east of the existing Pietersburg Stadium
- The form of the largely concrete structure is inspired by the locally iconic Baobab tree.
- A hierarchy of 'tree' structures runs through the scheme, emphasizing the efficiency of the design through the repetition of elements.
- The site has been arranged to offer convenient access, parking and circulation for supporters attending both Football and Rugby fixtures as well as for Groups gathering for concerts and rallies.
- The new 45,000 seat stadium will have 500-seat VIP area with its own entrance, seats for 1 675 media representatives, an 800-m<sup>2</sup> VIP reception area and lounge, offices and storage areas, and parking for both players and officials.
- The stadium is the first of its kind in the entire province of Limpopo,
- The Peter Mokaba Stadium will be home to local soccer teams as well as facilitate a wide range of South African sport competitions including rugby.



### Training grounds

Peter Mokaba stadium

### Matches

- June 13: C3 vs C4
- June 17: A4 vs A2
- June 22: B4 vs B1
- June 24: F2 vs F3

### Contact

For more information contact the Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board on +2715 290 7300 or email them at [info@golimpopo.com](mailto:info@golimpopo.com)

[www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)

## Rustenburg

### Fast Facts:

**Province:** North West

**Population:** 395 539

**Altitude:** 1500m **Geography:** Located on the Highveld Plateau with low mountains and grasslands in the north western part of South Africa.

**Climate:** Rustenburg enjoys a sub-tropical climate with temperatures around 16°C during winter and 31°C during summer. The climate is generally ideal for year round outdoor activities.

**Key Economic Sectors:** Mining, Agriculture

**Professional Football Clubs:** Platinum Stars (Premier)

### Did you know?

- Rustenburg means 'town of rest' in Afrikaans.
- Rustenburg is home to the two largest platinum mines in the world and the world's largest platinum refinery, which processes around 70% of the world's platinum.

### The City:

Rustenburg, in the North West province, was Paul Kruger's hometown and was established long before either Pretoria or Johannesburg. These days, due to this rich history, the town is a tourism hot-spot, with areas of interest to entice all types of travellers.

Officially founded in 1851 by Boers who had trekked into the area a decade earlier, Rustenburg is one of the oldest towns in the North West province and makes for a great base from which to explore areas of interest throughout the region.

By far the best-known Rustenburg attractions are the nature reserves that are all within striking distance of the town. But for those more culturally minded there are some magnificent churches to be seen, including the Anglican Church (1871) and the Dutch Reformed Church (1898 -1903).



There are a multitude of sites with cultural and historical significance in and around Rustenburg. This is no surprise, given the many different communities in the area, such as the indigenous Bafokeng, Bakgatla and Botswana tribes, whose totemic tribal traditions are of much interest. There is also the German community of Kroondal that traces its origins back to 1857.

Pilanesberg National Park is one of the most accessible South African game reserves. It is the 4th largest in the country and is set high in the Pilanesberg mountain range, traversing the floor of an ancient, long-extinct volcano. Pilanesberg features all the major mammal species including the Big 5 – lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo.

The Hartebeespoort dam is another nearby attraction offering plenty of activities near Rustenburg as well as providing irrigation for the entire region. A favoured site for watersports, the dam has many resorts, boat clubs and picnic sites scattered along its banks.

Easily accessible and filled with entertainment, Rustenburg is located on major highway routes and offers a wide range of activities for the visitor. Far from peaceful as its name would suggest, Rustenburg is the throbbing centre of the North West province.

### **Travel tips and planning information:**

#### **How to get here**

Rustenburg is 165km from Johannesburg on a major highway, easily accessible by car.

#### **Best time to visit**

Any time of year is good but summer's can be uncomfortably hot.

#### **Where to stay**

Accommodation options in the area are plentiful and range from luxury guesthouses and game lodges to budget B&Bs.

#### **Around the area**

The Pilanesberg National Park, almost half the size of Belgium, is a must-see. The Madikwe National Park, also nearby, has the 2nd largest concentration of elephants in the country. Also close to the town is the Sun City resort with its vast range of activities.

### **Royal Bafokeng stadium**

**Stadium owner:** Royal Bafokeng Administration

**Host City:** Rustenburg

**Total seat capacity:** 45,000

**Contractor:** No main contractor

**Architect:** BSP Architects

**Tournament:** 2010 FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup 2009

Owned by the platinum rich Royal Bafokeng community in the North West Province, the Royal Bafokeng stadium is the only privately owned stadium to be used during both the FIFA Confederations Cup and the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. The Royal Bafokeng stadium received an upgrade to its Western stand, with two new levels being added and this has brought the total seating capacity up to 45,000.



### **Facts and figures:**

- Only minor renovations will be required to bring the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace into line with requirements for a stadium able to host first and second round matches at a Fifa World Cup.
- This reality underlines the excellence of the venue, opened in 1999 and completely funded by the Royal Bafokeng community, an administrative entity that functions within North West province and presides over the world's richest platinum mines.
- The stadium is located on open land, offering easy access and extensive parking facilities for local supporters and those who make the comfortable 90-minute drive from Johannesburg.
- As a multi-purpose venue used by the community, the venue includes an athletics track, but the oval bowl structure maintains a degree of intimacy and engenders an excellent atmosphere.
- The stadium capacity has been increased to 40 000, excluding VIPs and Media.
- For 2010, essentially cosmetic measures such as installation of new electronic scoreboards and upgrading of the floodlights and public address system will render the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace ready to welcome the soccer supporters of the world.

### **Training grounds**

Mogwase stadium

### **Matches**

- June 12: C1 vs C2
- June 15: F3 vs F4
- June 19: D4 vs D2
- June 22: A2 vs A3
- June 24: E2 vs E3
- June 26: Round of 16

### **Contact:**

For more information contact the Rustenburg Tourism Information Centre on +27 (0) 14 579 0904 or email [tidcrust@mweb.co.za](mailto:tidcrust@mweb.co.za).

You can also go to [www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net) for more information on Rustenburg and South Africa.