



Johannesburg



Description

Johannesburg is one of Africa's largest and most vibrant cities, affectionately known as Jozi or Joburg. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa. This sprawling metropolis, situated on the Highveld plateau, pulses with a vibrant energy that reflects its complex history, cultural diversity, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Originally founded in 1886 after the discovery of gold, Johannesburg grew rapidly into a thriving hub of industry and commerce, earning it the nickname "City of Gold." However, alongside its economic success, the city bore witness to the harsh realities of apartheid, segregation, and social inequality. Despite these challenges, Johannesburg emerged as a symbol of resilience and transformation, evolving into a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and aspirations.

Today, Johannesburg embodies a dynamic fusion of the old and the new. Skyscrapers dominate the skyline, standing as symbols of economic progress, while historic neighbourhoods like Soweto and Newtown resonate with the echoes of struggle and liberation. Art galleries, museums, and cultural centres dot the urban landscape, celebrating the diversity and creativity of its people.

From the vibrant streets of Maboneng to the sprawling malls of Sandton, Johannesburg offers a myriad of experiences for visitors to explore. Whether delving into its rich history at sites like the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill, immersing oneself in its lively arts and entertainment scene, or savouring the flavours of its diverse cuisine, Johannesburg promises an unforgettable journey of discovery and adventure. Welcome to the City of Gold, where every corner tells a story, and every encounter sparks inspiration.

Attractions

Here's a glimpse into what Johannesburg has to offer. These are just a few highlights of the city's offerings. With its dynamic energy, rich history, and cultural diversity, Johannesburg promises an exciting destination for travellers from around the world.



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Apartheid Museum

The Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, established in 2001, offers a compelling narrative of the Apartheid era. Visitors gain profound insights into the struggle for freedom and reconciliation during this challenging period in South Africa's history through immersive exhibits, multimedia displays, and personal accounts.

<https://www.apartheidmuseum.org/>





Soweto

Bordering Johannesburg's mining belt, Soweto is a township of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng, South Africa. The name Soweto is an acronym for 'Southwestern Township'. Developed as an area for people of colour under South Africa's apartheid system, Soweto has evolved into a place of pride and social prestige, filled to the brim with vibrant culture and incredible history. Visitors can explore the bustling Vilakazi Street, catch a show at the Soweto Theatre, sample local cuisine at one of the many traditional restaurants and enjoy a South African beer at a local shebeen. Must-see historical sites include Kliptown, the Hector Petersen Memorial and Museum, and the former home of President Nelson Mandela. Thrill-seekers shouldn't miss a chance to bungee jump 100 metres from a suspension bridge at the famed Orlando Towers bungee jump.

<https://sowetotourism.org.za/index.html>



Constitution Hill

This historic site was once the Old Fort Prison Complex, where many political activists, including Nelson Mandela, were held during apartheid. It's now home to the South African Constitutional Court – the country's highest judicial body. Constitution Hill encapsulates a fantastic amount of history in a relatively small area. Guided tours are offered of the court building, as well as the various facets of the penitentiary complex: the Women's Gaol, the Old Fort – reserved for white prisoners – and the spine-chilling 'Number Four', where prisoners of colour were imprisoned during the apartheid years, including prominent freedom fighters such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.

<https://www.constitutionhill.org.za/home>



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Johannesburg Art Gallery

The Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), established in 1910, is a prominent South African institution boasting a diverse collection of local and international art. Featuring works by renowned artists like Gerard Sekoto and Irma Stern, JAG offers a comprehensive overview of artistic expression. The museum houses Impressionist paintings, Dutch masters' works, the Brenthurst and Traditional collections of beadwork and headdresses, and other valuable historical artworks. Alongside regular temporary modern exhibitions, JAG hosts community events to engage audiences and foster appreciation for the arts. A visit promises a rewarding exploration of South Africa's cultural heritage.

<https://friendsofjag.org/>





Cradle of Humankind

Located just 90 minutes from Johannesburg, the Cradle of Humankind is one of the richest hominid sites in the world, where our famous ancestors, Ples, Little Foot and Sediba, were discovered. This important site holds UNESCO World Heritage status as it holds 40% of the world's human ancestor fossils, and today, these sites are still active archaeological digs.

<https://www.maropeng.co.za/content/page/maropeng-visitor-centre>





Maboneng Precinct

Located in downtown Johannesburg, Maboneng Precinct is an electric collection of old manufacturing buildings retrofitted with steel, glass, and concrete. A hub of creativity and community, the area is home to a lively mix of restaurants, shops, boutique stores, art galleries and studio spaces. The area is most famously known for its thriving Market on Main, which draws in crowds from the inner city, the suburbs, and tourists alike to marvel at the culture.

<https://mabonengprecinct.com/>





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Johannesburg Botanical Garden

The 81-hectare Botanical Garden is a vital green space in Johannesburg, originally designated in 1969 from a sports field and golf range. Now, it offers large grassy areas with scattered trees, perfect for runners, picnickers, and dog walkers. Special gardens like the Shakespeare Garden, Rose Garden, and Herb Garden delight visitors, alongside the main arboretum showcasing plants from South Africa and beyond. Overlooking the 7.5-hectare Emmarentia Dam, popular for canoeing and boating, the gardens also feature a tea pergola and floreum for meetings and exhibitions.

The dam, fed by smaller dams above, is a haven for aquatic birds.

<https://www.jhbcityparksandzoo.com/services-facilities/botanical-gardens/about>



Recommended Accommodation

Welcome to Johannesburg, where every moment is infused with the vibrant rhythm of urban life and the unmistakable pulse of South Africa's largest city.

In the heart of Johannesburg lies a diverse array of accommodations, each offering a unique glimpse into the city's soul. From luxurious hotels boasting world-class amenities to charming boutique guesthouses tucked away in leafy suburbs, there's something to suit every taste and preference.

Whether you're here for business or leisure, Johannesburg's accommodations provide a warm embrace and a home away from home. Immerse yourself in the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Sandton, where sleek skyscrapers tower over upscale boutiques and gourmet restaurants. Or venture into the vibrant neighbourhoods of Maboneng and Braamfontein, where art galleries, trendy cafes, and buzzing nightlife await around every corner.

No matter where you choose to stay, you'll find yourself enchanted by Johannesburg's infectious energy and warm hospitality. So, come experience the magic of the City of Gold and let its accommodations be the perfect starting point for your unforgettable journey.



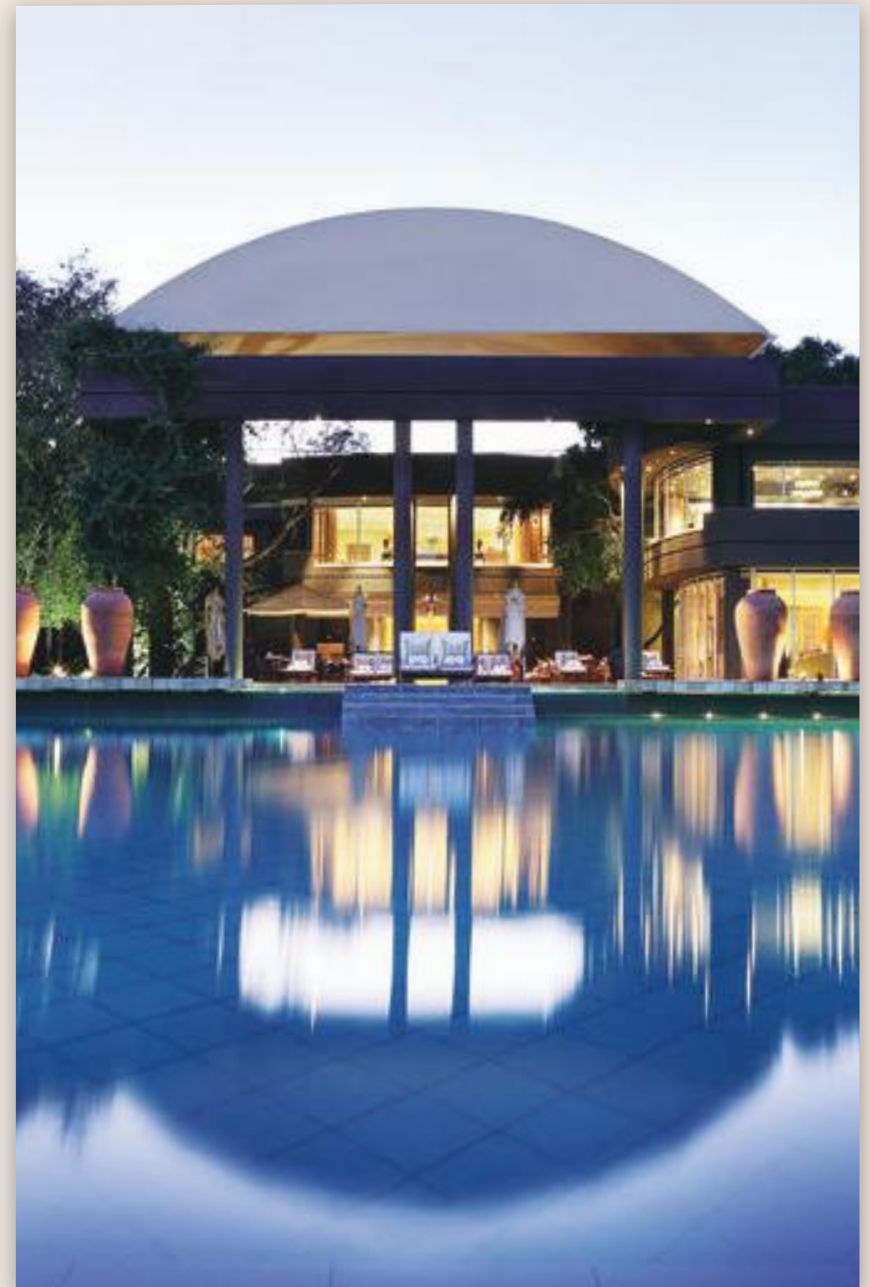


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Saxon Hotel Villas & Spa

The Saxon Hotel is as luxurious and elegant as it gets, with rooms, suites and villas adorned with contemporary décor and art on the walls. The villas are accessed via a tree-top canopy walkway and are serene and private. They include a kitchen, butler service, dining area and ample space to relax and unwind. The Saxon takes fine dining to an exceptionally high level with an Olive Bar and a choice of three restaurants in which you will be taken on an experiential journey. The Saxon goes over and above with added High Teas and the Eighteen05 Bar. There is also a cigar lounge and wine cellars, which you can relish in and enjoy at your request. The award-winning Spa offers signature treatments and hydro therapies. To enhance the luxurious aspect of this vibrant hotel, a shuttle and valet service is always on hand.

<https://www.saxon.co.za/>



Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa

Set among lush acres of landscaped gardens, you'll find Fairlawns Boutique Hotel & Spa, an urban sanctuary right in the heart of Johannesburg. With close attention to detail and exceptional service, Fairlawns creates an intimate atmosphere where some of the globe's most vibrant personalities converge. The chic, upscale suites are individually decorated in varying themes ranging from Eastern influence to French provincial, each featuring every desired modern amenity. The hotel also caters to a variety of culinary tastes with an array of elegant dining experiences to choose from. Located in Johannesburg - South Africa's largest city and gateway to the rest of Africa - Fairlawns is situated just 6 km from central Sandton and 20 km from the Johannesburg city centre to offer the upmarket traveller a delicate mix of luxury and convenience.

Established in 1997, Fairlawns, or "FBH" as it's come to be affectionately known by Managing Director Michael Kewley, is a property proud of heritage and character. Previously a luxury private residence, it is only fitting that the property has transformed "herself" into the stylish hotel, with an air of eclectic sophistication, that Fairlawns is today.

<https://fairlawns.co.za/>



The Peech Hotel

Set within two acres of Melrose, The Peech is a true boutique hotel with just sixteen guest rooms. Well-appointed rooms are set within lush gardens, with an interior style that is modern Afri-chic. All rooms have high-speed Wi-Fi, air conditioning, Nespresso machines, shower and bath, private garden patios and king-sized beds. The bistro style is fresh, light and seasonal, with locally sourced, sustainable and organic ingredients featured wherever possible. Service strikes a perfect note of sophistication, recently awarded 'Best City Boutique Hotel in Africa' at the World Boutique Hotel Awards.

<https://thepeech.co.za/>



The Residence Johannesburg

Welcome to The Residence Hotel. This exquisite boutique hotel is meticulously owned and managed and is in the upscale neighbourhood of Houghton. The surrounding streets are adorned with charming jacaranda trees, complementing the grand suburban residences, including the historic Nelson Mandela Houghton Estate, once the home of the revered leader himself. Every aspect of the hotel's décor has been thoughtfully curated, with each piece hand-selected by the property owners. The hotel takes pride in their attention to detail, offering personalised service that creates a warm and inviting atmosphere, making the guests feel at home away from home.

<https://theresidenceportfolio.co.za/>



Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff

Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff Johannesburg is situated high up on the rocky Witwatersrand. Despite being in the middle of South Africa's largest city, the Westcliff Hotel feels like a chic hillside village, with nine sun-splashed villas woven with courtyards, fountains, and gardens. Guest rooms and suites are luxuriously decorated and equipped with all the necessary modern amenities. When it comes to dining, guests can sip sundowners on the terrace while chefs prepare elevated reinterpretations of regional favourites at the on-site Flames restaurant or stay in and enjoy room service.

<https://www.fourseasons.com/johannesburg/>



InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport

InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport has taken a convenient location to an entirely new level. An easy walk from the arrivals terminal, the classic and executive rooms and suites are styled to fit your every need with chic bathrooms and stylish décor. Quills African restaurant is top-notch, with an astounding array of dishes and drinks. The spa includes deluxe treatments such as steam bathing and reflexology, which will merge your mind, body, and soul with a South African flair.



<https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/us/en/johannesburg/jnbhc/hoteldetail>



