

TOURISM TUESDAYS

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#TourismTuesdays



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM



A Word From The Editor

Dear Industry Partner,

The Summer season is fully underway and South Africans cannot wait to welcome people from various parts of the world come explore the various parts of the country. Equally, South Africans are getting ready to travel across provinces to share in the breath-taking landscapes, bask in the sun at the many blue-flag beaches and join in on the various festivities and events that will be taking place throughout all nine provinces. In this week's Tourism Tuesdays, we check out how the KwaZulu-Natal province is getting ready to receive both domestic and international visitors.

Staying in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, registrations for the 2024 edition of Africa's Travel Indaba, one of the top global trade shows in the world, are open and we extend a special invite for exhibitors to now apply to showcase at this trade show set to take place in May next year. On trade shows, Meetings Africa is extending an exciting opportunity to all registered Meetings Africa exhibitors.

As usual, we also feature some new and exciting products all a testament to South Africa's wide variety of offerings from both leisure and business tourism.

Have a great week
Kind regards
Tourism Tuesdays Team



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KwaZulu-Natal looks forward to a R3.6 Billion Summer Season

KwaZulu-Natal (TKZN) is looking forward to a successful summer season and all industry stakeholders have made great strides in preparing for the close to one million tourists who are expected to visit the province this festive season.

This is according to Dr Thandeka Ellenson Acting HOD Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), who officially initiated the province's Summer Season Campaign on behalf of EDTEA MEC, Mr. Siboniso Duma, at the Mpenjati Nature Reserve in the Ugu District on 24 November, 2023.

Speaking at the event, which was hosted by Tourism KwaZulu-Natal (TKZN), Dr Ellenson said that the resort, which is managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW), was a good example of the diverse, nature-rich offering which was a major attraction for both national and international tourists.



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Minister De Lille conducts an oversight visit to the Incomplete Manyane Lodge Project in Mahikeng, North West Province

Yesterday, together with stakeholders, Minister of Tourism for South Africa, Patricia de Lille conducted an oversight visit to the incomplete Manyane Lodge tourism infrastructure project in Mahikeng in the North West Province.

This project has been incomplete for several years which led to various stakeholders being concerned about the future of this project. The completion of the Manyane Lodge, however, remains a key priority for the Department of Tourism as investment in infrastructure development will boost further private sector investment in the region and result in more job opportunities for neighbouring communities.

“The Manyane Lodge is one of the longstanding, delayed and incomplete projects and my visit was geared towards meeting with stakeholders to inject urgency into this project. The delay on this project has a negative impact on tourism activities, the community and especially the tourism sector in the region and it is imperative that we finally complete this project,” Minister de Lille said.

Click here for more information: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-patricia-de-lille-conducts-oversight-visit-manyane-lodge%C2%A0infrastructure-project>



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Registration for Africa’s Travel Indaba 2024 is Now Open!

In an exciting development for the global tourism industry, South African Tourism is delighted to announce the beginning of registration for the much-anticipated Africa’s Travel Indaba 2024.

This proudly Pan African event is scheduled to illuminate the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex (ICC Durban), KwaZulu-Natal from 14 to 16 May 2024, preceded by a dedicated Business Opportunity Networking Day (BONDay) on 13 May. The show will once again bring together global travel trade under one roof. once again bringing together the global travel trade.

Zinhle Nzama, Acting Chief Convention Bureau Officer at South African Tourism, said this event is more than just a gathering; “it is a showcase of Africa’s diverse and dynamic tourism landscape, spotlighting the continent’s unique cultures, breath-taking destinations, and unparalleled hospitality.” For registration and further details, please visit www.indaba-southafrica.co.za



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Meetings Africa Invitation for Tour Submissions: Exhibitors to Showcase their Unique Experiences to International Buyers at Meetings Africa

The Meetings Africa team is extending an exclusive invitation to all confirmed exhibitors to submit their tour packages to the show’s extensive international buyers. Scheduled to take place from 27 to 28 February 2024, Meetings Africa is a proudly Pan African business events trade show hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre by South African Tourism together with the City of Johannesburg and the Gauteng Province.

The show organisers are constantly seeking new and exciting travel experiences to offer international business events delegates coming to attend Meetings Africa. This is a value-add that’s open only to Meetings Africa confirmed exhibitors. In leveraging this opportunity, exhibitors obtain exclusive access to over 1 000 accredited buyers. This is an unparalleled opportunity to connect with key decision-makers, establish valuable partnerships, and promote their offerings on an international stage.

For registration and further details, please visit <https://www.meetingsafrica.co.za/>



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New Nelson Mandela Terminal officially inaugurated in Durban by President Ramaphosa

Sea Access is important to domestic and international tourism as it offers an alternative experience and South Africa lies in a unique geographical location. The country's nearly 3000 km of coastline (less than 1% of the total length of coastline in the world) is bathed by three oceans (Atlantic, Indian, and Southern oceans) and is home to roughly 16% of all the known coastal marine species.

In promotion of cruise tourism, a R330 million Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal in South Africa's main port of Durban was officially inaugurated by President Cyril Ramaphosa last week on 23 November, ahead of the start of South Africa's 2023-24 cruise season.

The building was devised and funded by MSC Cruises and its black economic empowerment partner, African Armada Consortium, and together with Transnet National Ports Authority created the first public-private partnership in South Africa's cruise industry. The venture called KwaZulu Cruise Terminal Limited operates the new facility.

The 6,000 square metre energy-efficient cruise terminal has the capacity to handle 4,000 passengers a day. The project created 10,000 construction jobs that were primarily sourced locally in Durban and the rest of South Africa.

Click here for more information: [New Nelson Mandela Cruise Terminal officially inaugurated in Durban by President Ramaphosa \(GL\) \(southafrica.net\)](#)



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R700 Million Upgrades At SANParks Over The Next Three Years To Improve Tourism Experience

South African National Parks (SANParks) Chief Executive Officer Hapiloe Sello announced the allocation of an additional R700 million for infrastructure investment over the next three years. This allocation by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is intended to improve visitor experience at various national parks under SANParks' management.

SANParks is currently managing an infrastructure portfolio of approximately R 16 billion. Most of the current infrastructure was developed in the 1970's, making it urgent for re-capitalisation. This is because tourism accommodation units are critical to generate much-needed revenue to support operations.

SANParks generates approximately 80% of its operating budget from its ecotourism business. This means the fulfilment of its holistic conservation mandate is heavily reliant on thriving and sustainable tourism operations.



SAA Cancels Malawi Route – Effective 30 November 2023

South African Airways (SAA) will suspend service to Malawi (Lilongwe and Blantyre), due to the recent economic challenges in Malawi.

In an industry alert last week, SAA mentioned that it was monitoring the situation of substantial devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha, acute foreign currency shortages, and the escalation of blocked funds, closely before making the difficult decision to cancel its route to Malawi. The suspension of services to Malawi is effective from Thursday, 30th November 2023.

SAA’s Chief Executive Officer, Prof. John Lamola, says SAA’s decision to cancel the route is a carefully considered risk management intervention in response to Malawi’s current economic challenges.

“This move should not be interpreted as a step back from the airline’s commitment to serving the people of Malawi and promoting trade links between South Africa and Malawi. As the new leadership of SAA – and as a small but growing airline – we cannot commit to routes that are not financially sustainable.

“SAA values its relationship with the Malawian market and thanks its customers for their understanding and continued support during these challenging times. We will continue to closely monitor the situation. We remain open to resuming the route to Malawi as soon as the situation warrants the substance of financially efficient operations from this route,” added Lamola.

SAA apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and thanks its customers for their understanding and continued support during these challenging times.

SAA support team:

- SAA office in LLW (Lilongwe): +265 887 57 13 24 contact: GodfreyLungu@flysaa.com
- SAA office is BLZ (Blantyre); +265 980 79 41 18 contact: LeonKachina@flysaa.com
- The Regional Manager, contact Austin Nyawara, email: Austinnyawara@flysaa.com; cell phone + 25 470 714 8520



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Experience of the week: Celebrating South African Fashion. New MaXhosa store launching in New York City in 2024

South African luxury brand MAXHOSA will open its first international store in New York City's SoHo district next year. Founder Laduma Ngxokolo expressed gratitude to the brand's supporters. According to Ngxokolo, New York is the brand's second-biggest market.



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New Experience

- Pullman Cape Town City

Website: <https://all.accor.com/hotel/C0H1/index.en.>

Location: Western Cape

Pullman Cape Town, City Centre occupies an architecturally award-nominated building in the city's central business district. The hotel is within walking distance of some of South Africa's top restaurants in Bree and Long Streets. Guest can also enjoy proximity to major tourist attractions such as Table Mountain, Castle of Good Hope, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and Camps Bay Beach, as well as the renowned Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. Pullman Cape Town, City Centre is a stylish urban oasis in downtown Cape Town.



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Bottomless Offerings

- Whippet- Linden

Website: <https://thewhippetcoffee.com/>

Location: Gauteng

Details: The Whippet usually runs a bottomless bubbly special once a month at month's end for R300 per person; however, that will be replaced by a special on oysters and bubbles on Saturday, 27 May 2023.



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- Radisson Hotel - Rosebank

Website: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-red-johannesburg-rosebank?cid=a:se+b:gmb+c:emea+i:local+e:rdr+d:mea+h:ZAJNBROS>

Location: Gauteng

Details: The rooftop chill spot at Rosebank's Radisson Red Hotel serves bottomless bubbles for R399 per person every Thursday. Guest can also get an appetiser with the deal between 4 pm and 6 pm every Thursday. The hotel accepts bookings through Dineplan under "RED Roof JHB."



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- Chalk Craft Eatery

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/chalkcrafteatery/>

Location :Gauteng

Chalk Craft Eatery serves bottomless bubbly between 12 pm and 4 pm on Sundays for R250 per person. Chalk Craft was located in Parkhurst; however, that location is now closed indefinitely.

For bookings and more info, contact: 067 914 3233

descendants of the area, and blends seamlessly with the surrounding fauna and flora. The style of the lodge also reinforces the ongoing relationship with the Mjejane Trust and honours the deep cultural history of Chief Mjejane and the Zulu people.



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- **TGCSA Corner**

Benchmark Properties

The following properties were identified as Benchmark properties:

These are properties that are recommended by the Committee (during pre-screening and viewing) as those that have exceptional product offerings (irrespective of the category and the star grading level). These properties are escalated to the Brand Experience team at South African Tourism who are responsible for seeking new products in order to package itineraries for the use of the South African Tourism hosting needs; and to enable inclusive growth through itineraries that incorporate emerging/transformed businesses, encourage geographic spread across the country and address the misperceptions associated with seasonal travel. The following properties were identified as Benchmark properties:

- **Fifty-Five Mjejane**

Five Star

Website: <https://55mjejane.co.za/>

Location: Mpumalanga

Fifty-Five Mjejane is a five-star safari lodge located within the Mjejane Private Game Reserve, on the banks of the Crocodile River.

The reserve is part of the Greater Kruger and wildlife roams freely between Mjejane and the Kruger Park. Visitors can spot and view wildlife from the lodge deck while enjoying a morning coffee or evening sundowner. Fifty-Five Mjejane serves guests an unparalleled five-star luxury experience with magnificent Big Five game viewing, but it has so much more to offer. The architecture of the lodge is inspired by a traditional Zulu village or spherical homestead, 'Umuzi', consisting of a cluster of beehive-shaped huts, 'Indlu'. This presents guests with an authentic African experience that pays homage to the original.

A well-appointed, fully furnished and well equipped Zimbali villa in a prime location. Comfortable with easy access to all Zimbali Facilities, this villa is conveniently located within the Zimbali Estate and close to the beach. Suitable for private family holidays or corporate/golf accommodation. 5 Zimbali Ridge is a property for self catering in Zimbali for up to 8 guests visiting the Dolphin Coast region. 5 Zimbali Ridge is a self catering holiday home sleeping eight guests in four bedrooms. Each bedroom has a Queen-size bed and an en-suite bathroom. Two rooms are on the lower floor level. The bedrooms are separated by a 'pyjama' lounge, leading onto the garden. There are both shower and bath facilities available for guests. The ground floor entrance level provides distinct and enticing entertainment areas with the living area leading out onto an extended deck and



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Zimbali Ridge is a self catering holiday home sleeping eight guests in four bedrooms. Each bedroom has a Queen-size bed and an en-suite bathroom. Two rooms are on the lower floor level. The bedrooms are separated by a ‘pyjama’ lounge, leading onto the garden. There are both shower and bath facilities available for guests. The ground floor entrance level provides distinct and enticing entertainment areas with the living area leading out onto an extended deck and vast ocean views. The living area commands a prime sea facing position making for jaw-dropping vistas that will delight and amaze guests.

Premium Award

- **Jabulani Nature Reserve**

Website: <https://jabulanisafari.com/>

Location: Limpopo

A safari lodge is about more than just game drives and a high thread count – it’s about the feeling it evokes in you, the memory that remains ingrained in your heart long after you’ve returned home. A Jabulani safari promises nothing but the best in luxury, but the highlight of your trip will no doubt be sharing a space with the gentle presence of their famous elephant herds. The style and ambience of Jabulani resonate with that of a classic safari lodge, refined with a fresh and modish touch. The main area features an elegant dining room and lounge that lead to an outside wooden deck lying beneath the shade of Leadwood trees – the ideal setting to enjoy an alfresco lunch while overlooking the waterhole. Their signature suspension bridge stretches gracefully over the river bed, connecting to the six Jabulani suites, Villa Somopane and Zindoga Villa.



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