

Golden Gate, Free State

Free State Centre Yourself in the Heart of South Africa



Arrive Intrigued. Leave Inspired.

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**SOUTH
AFRICA**



NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

southafrica.net



Find Your Feet in South Africa

Welcome to South Africa, an Incentive Destination Ready to Inspire

The evolving needs of our clients and the future of the industry is making a positive upturn, and people are choosing to travel and explore the world beyond their own borders. So as they find their footing being drawn towards South Africa, it's the perfect opportunity to expose your guests to new and colourful experiences, which can be found in abundance in South Africa. Forge new paths in our destination – we are ready to ignite, entertain, and inspire once more.

South Africa as an Incentive Destination

South Africa has something for you, whether it's a group or a bespoke incentive travel programme. Our nature and wildlife offerings are second to none as the country is home to the magnificent Big 5, sighted from some of the most luxurious expansive game reserves in the world. This makes it a top contender for that once-in-a-lifetime incentive trip! The country boasts kilometres of award-winning beaches, all set against a backdrop of the blue and turquoise shades of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. This beach experience can be coupled with group excursions to watch whales, dolphins, penguins, and birdlife. The picturesque winelands, where guests can indulge in delicious award-winning wines paired with gourmet cuisine, are the perfect dream setting for the idyllic incentive gala evening and it will no doubt tempt guests to stay longer or return for post-event leisure stays.

Welcome to the Free State, the Land of Endless Horizons

Nestled between the magnificent Orange and Vaal Rivers, you will find the land of endless horizons, stunning blue skies, and majestic mountains. The Free State province, situated in the heart of South Africa, is a place where visitors are spoilt for choice. From the historical battlefield sites, memorials, and museums to the beautiful landscapes of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park and the unique Basotho Cultural Village, the province offers organisers and visitors an incredible landscape to create a memorable incentive event. The Free State's capital city, and South Africa's judicial capital, Bloemfontein, is a wondrous blend of history, heritage, and modern-day attractions.

Discover the Best of Nature and South African Hospitality

Located on the border of the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, the Free State's greatest appeal is its natural beauty. Experience the province's wide-open spaces and boundless skies. Explore its idiosyncratic towns and villages, interesting road routes, and vast rocky mountain areas. Encounter its remarkable people and the warmest of South African hospitality. Arrive with a sense of wonder and leave with a sense of home.

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Discover Unforgettable Cultures

The Basotho Cultural Village, Clarens, Free State

The Basotho Cultural Village: A visit to the village nestled at the foot of huge sandstone mountains is a must for visitors. Visitors will be transported back in time when they visit the Basotho Cultural Village, which mirrors an 18th-century Basotho Village. An amazing architectural sight with natural surroundings that serve to only enhance this picturesque little setting in the park, where safe game viewing can be happily enjoyed without the effort of embarking on an actual game drive.

Bloemfontein Township Tour: Get to know about the history and culture of Mangaung on a guided township tour. Visit the house of the late Thomas Maphikela and enjoy local beer and authentic township cuisine and nightlife. It's difficult not to dance along to the rhythm of the music that can be heard from surrounding nightclubs and restaurants as soon as the sun sets. In October, the Mangaung African Cultural Festival (Macufe) is held where music, drama, fine art and crafts are enjoyed by over 140 000 visitors annually. Should you find the extra time, take a tour of the Batho area, to visit the old homes of various ANC founding members.

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Enjoy Small Town Adventures

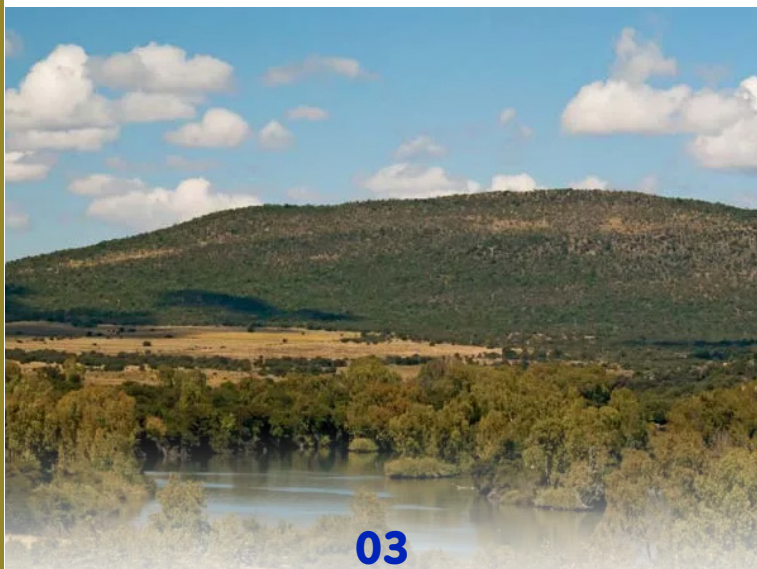
Golden Gate, Free State



Clarens: The charming town of Clarens, known as 'The Jewel of the Free State,' is a popular destination for both locals and foreigners alike. The ideal escape from the city, this picturesque town offers quirky art galleries, fantastic eateries, and an abundance of outdoor activities.



Ficksburg: The quaint town of Ficksburg comes alive every year with its annual Cherry Festival held in November. Offering a range of festival activities, including cherry tours, a golf tournament, a half-marathon race, and live entertainment provided by popular South African artists.



Parys: The attractive and arty village town of Parys is known for its restaurants, pubs, spas, galleries, and exciting adventure activities and water sports on the Vaal River. The local beer breweries in the vicinity of Parys are a must-try with their various ales, stouts, pilsners, and even honey beer.



Gariep Dam: This is known as the youngest town in South Africa's Free State province, in the Xhariep District Municipality. The town was established in 1996 and was designed to house the town's dam builders. As a result, it is home to Gariep Dam, the biggest man-made dam in South Africa.

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Explore a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Vredefort Dome, Parys, Free State

Located near the towns of Parys and Vredefort; the Vredefort Dome is known to be the world's oldest and largest visible meteorite impact site. The UNESCO World Heritage Site was created over two billion years ago when a meteorite larger than Table Mountain hit the area. Incentive travellers visiting the area can enjoy guided walks, rock-climbing, mountain biking, and quad biking.

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Experience Unforgettable Tours

Golden Gate, Free State

Breathtaking Routes: There is a range of incredible road routes in the Free State that make for excellent self-drive or bus tour opportunities for groups or solo travellers. Popular routes include the Maloti Drakensberg Route, which takes visitors through three provinces as well as Lesotho, the Friendly N6 Route, connecting the Free State and the Eastern Cape, the Battlefield Route, a favourite for history buffs, and the Cheetah Route, which includes Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, and Thaba Nchu.

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Nature and Wildlife Reserves

Golden Gate, Free State

Golden Gate Highlands National Park: The Free State is renowned for its natural beauty and outdoor lifestyle. Take a trip to the foothills of the Maluti Mountains to find the majestic Golden Gate Highlands National Park, an area rich in both cultural and natural beauty. In the country's only grassland national park, enjoy nature at its finest with sightings of zebra, oribi, blesbok, and South Africa's national animal, the springbok. Take a guided walk through the incredible cave to view Indigenous San rock art or visit a rare 'vulture restaurant' for sightings of the incredible Cape Vulture and endangered Bearded Vulture scavenging on a carcass.

Gariep Dam and Nature Reserve: A popular attraction for water sport enthusiasts, the Gariep Dam (which is the largest dam in South Africa) is a great destination for incentive trips and team-building opportunities. Enjoy fishing, canoeing, sailing, and water-skiing on the dam or game viewing, horseback riding, and hiking for those who prefer to be landbound.

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Outdoor Adventures

Drakensburg, Free State

River Rafting on the Ash River: For those who love a little bit of excitement, the Ash River outside Clarens is an excellent choice to go white water rafting. With names such as Car Wash, Fish Pond, and Big Surprise, the Grade 3 and Grade 4 Level Rapids on the Ash River are sure to provide a day of thrills.

Fossil Hunting Expeditions: The eastern area of the Free State offers visitors something a little different with its fossil hunting expeditions. The area is well known for some incredible dinosaur fossil findings, including a 210-million-year-old sauropod discovered in the Ladybrand district.

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Discover South Africa's Rich History

Bloemfontein, Free State

Bloemfontein and its surroundings have a wealth of historical and heritage sites, including President Brand Street in Bloemfontein, the only national monument street in the southern hemisphere; Bloemfontein National Museum, War Museum of the Boer Republics; and the Basotho Cultural Village, which gives visitors to experience the heritage of the Sotho people with an interactive encounter.

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DMC Partners and Incentive Suppliers

South Africa has a large database of full-service Destination Management Companies (DMCs) and Incentive Houses that have expert knowledge when it comes to logistics and arrangements of incentives, tailor-made itineraries, motivational trips, and logistics. Combining top standard tourism services and social awareness, our DMCs and Incentive Houses have an in-depth knowledge of the destinations they cover and a vast network of connections to travel agents, local tourism product suppliers, principal players, and affiliates in every country in Southern Africa. DMCs help to create experiences where business travel clients can connect with each other, and themselves, to achieve brand growth brought about by bonding over a shared experience.

By working with our DMCs, organisers can be assured of the most exclusive and unique experiences for their clients at the best rates and assistance with key selling points and anecdotes to help close the sale. Having built their businesses around a burning passion for Southern Africa, its people, animals, and landscapes, our DMCs offer prompt, accurate, creative, and relevant travel solutions and personalised services to ensure organisers and travellers return home having enjoyed the ultimate, unforgettable journey.

For more information, or assistance with DMCs, please contact the South Africa National Convention Bureau (SANCb).

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Ease of Access

Accessibility

With good roads, excellent infrastructure, and daily flights from all of South Africa's major international airports, Bloemfontein is an easily accessible destination via its local Bram Fischer International Airport. For those who wish to drive, Bloemfontein is an easy 3-to-4-hour trip from Johannesburg along the N1 highway.

Car Hire

SIXT

Hertz

Europcar

Thrifty
CAR RENTAL

AVIS

Budget

TEMPEST
CAR HIRE

1first
CAR RENTAL

BLUU

E-taxis

Uber

Did you know?

- The Free State is home to the oldest known dinosaur nesting site in the world
- Referred to as the 'breadbasket' of South Africa, the province has more than 30 000 farms that produce over 70% of the country's grain
- Although the Free State is South Africa's third-largest province, it has the second smallest population
- The famous author, JRR Tolkien, who wrote 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' was born in Bloemfontein on 3 January 1892. The family left South Africa when Tolkien was only 3 years old, however, The Hobbit Boutique Hotel is a tribute to him
- Gariep Dam is the largest man-made dam in South Africa and was constructed on the Orange River
- Vredefort Dome is the biggest meteorite impact and the oldest impact crater that geologists have yet found on Earth, nearly twice as big as the impact that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.
- It is also one of the World Heritage Sites

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Visitor Support

Visa Regulations

Travellers looking to visit South Africa must produce a valid visa before they can enter the country. A visa will be issued for a visit for tourism or business purposes and is valid for a period of 90 days (3 months). Certain countries are exempted from visa control, which means that citizens from those countries do not need a visa to visit South Africa. For those that require visas, please note that visas are not issued at South African ports of entry, and airline officials must insist on visas before allowing passengers to board.

Requirements for a visa

Types of visas

Countries exempt from South African visas

To our Valued Partners

The SANCB has implemented a portal, which is a web-based platform allowing the business events industry to collaborate with the SANCB in bidding for business events. This tool provides personalised access and self-service by enabling convention bureaus and other business events stakeholders to solicit support from the SANCB and exchange information relating to bidding for business events. The system is integrated with the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for operational efficiency and allows for industry partner management, consumer marketing, forecasting, and reporting.

Features of the Portal and How Will it Assist our Clients include:

- Personalised access
- A dashboard that provides a holistic view of all the user's projects
- Functionality to exchange information with the SANCB for bidding purposes
- Reporting functionality

Visit our portal for a step-by-step guide here:

<https://ncbportal.southafrica.net>

For quality assured accommodation, visit www.tourismgrading.co.za

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