

Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga



Mpumalanga

Explore the Place of Rising Sun

Arrive Intrigued. Leave Inspired.

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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.

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Welcome to Mpumalanga, the Place of the Rising Sun

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Mpumalanga is Home to Some of South Africa's Greatest Attractions, including the country's largest and most famous game park, the world's third-largest canyon and the world's oldest cave system. Historians will love the tiny town of Pilgrim's Rest and the Genesis Route located in the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage site. Outdoor fanatics will have the time of their lives exploring the many waterfalls in the province, and those with an interest in culture will be enthralled by the Shangaan and Swati at Tshabalala Interpretation centre. Incentive travellers will love the opportunity to enjoy an authentic bush experience, whether it's going on a safari and stopping in the bush for sundowners, a guided hiking trail through the wilderness, or a star-gazing evening under an African sky as the sounds of nature provide the background soundtrack.

Authentic Experiences in the Bushveld

Mpumalanga is one of the smallest provinces in South Africa, but it offers huge natural diversity and a mix of attractions and activities for any group visiting this part of the world. It boasts dramatic natural attractions, historic towns and villages, and plenty on offer for the adventure-loving visitor. Mpumalanga is a place that invites exploration and adventure, inspiring people to try new things and learn more about the world, and about themselves.

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Authentic African Safaris

Kruger National Park: Covering an area about the size of Israel, the Kruger National Park is one of the largest and most famous game reserves in Africa. It is home to the Big 5 and 500 other species of animals, some of which are not found anywhere else in South Africa. For many visitors to South Africa, a trip to the Kruger is a lifetime dream and an essential element of any truly African safari.

Shalati Kruger Lodge: The Train on the Bridge is one of the most anticipated and exciting new offerings for incentive groups in the iconic Kruger National Park. With 24 luxury train carriage suites and 7 Bridge House Garden Suites, it is a perfect combination of South Africa's most breath-taking natural beauty with well-deserved luxuries onboard a refurbished train that's reminiscent of African rail history. Permanently stationed on the historically rich Selati Bridge, the re-envisioned train pays homage to the guests who explored the park nearly 100 years ago. On the bridge, you will also find a stunning deck with a swimming pool, high above the riverbanks. The pool will offer a Kruger swimming experience with crocodiles, hippos, buffalos, and other wildlife just below.

Sabi Sands Game Reserve: A 65 000-hectare game reserve pioneered by local landowners in the 1950s. It shares a border with the world-renowned Kruger National Park and is home to some of South Africa's most luxurious private game reserves. This exclusive part of the bushveld is where you will find some of the most luxurious safari lodges in the world. The region is known for incredible wildlife combined with luxurious and top-class pampering. It is here that you will find award-winning lodges such as Singita, Ulusaba, Lion Sands, and Londolozi to name just a few.

Loskopdam, a Forever Resort Boat Trip: Take a boat safari on the largest dam in the southern hemisphere and experience a bit of game viewing from the water. The Loskop Dam Nature Reserve is known for incredible fauna and flora, and you may even see three of the Big 5 from your boat (leopard, buffalo, and white rhino). There are also scenic hikes in the reserve.

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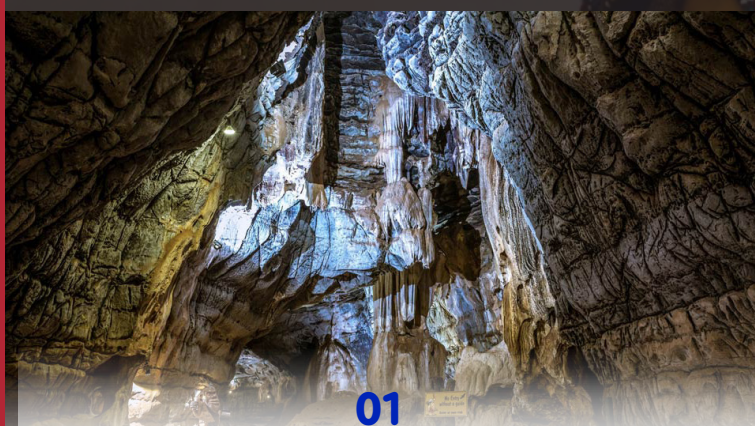


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Learn from Mpumalanga's Culture and History



01

Sudwala Caves: The Sudwala Caves are known to be some of the oldest dolomite caves in the world, dating back an incredible 240 million years. Enjoy guided tours of the caves and their various chambers.



02

Sudwala Dinosaur Park: A fun outing back to Jurassic times in a park set in a beautiful tropical garden. View abundant birdlife in the area from a wooden deck that overlooks the 'Rainforest Valley.'



03

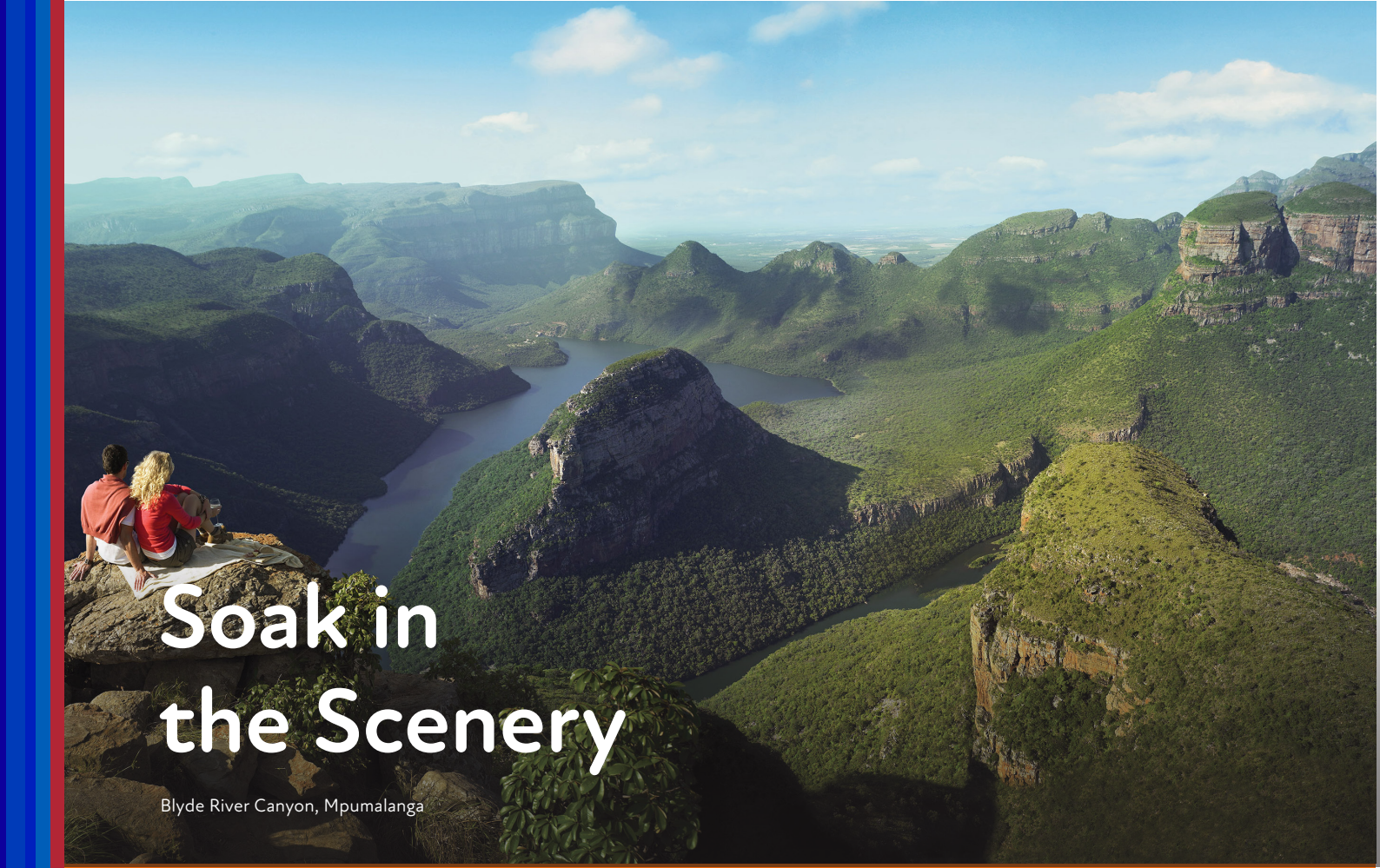
Shabalala Interpretation of Culture Centre: Traditions and customs of the Swati and Shangaan people are celebrated and explored at this Interpretation Centre. The Shangaan Cultural Village is an immersive place for visitors to interact with local people, take a guided tour, buy some arts and crafts at the centre, enjoy a traditional feast in the kraal and watch performers dance and sing as they share the story of the Shangaan and Swati people.

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Soak in the Scenery

Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga

Panorama Route: It's all mountains, forests, valleys, and incredible 360-degree views as far as the eye can see on one of the most scenic routes in South Africa, the Panorama Route. The route traverses the Blyde River Canyon, a top spot for adventure-seekers and is said to be the largest green canyon in the world. Scenic sites around the canyon include the Bourke's Luck Potholes, a lookout point called God's Window, multiple waterfalls, and the Three Rondavels, which are three hills that resemble round huts. God's Window treats visitors to panoramic views of the Lowveld as the cliff plunges more than 900m into a lush ravine of indigenous forest. A real photography safari!

Lowveld National Botanical Garden: Home to the largest collection of cycads in Africa, these magnificent gardens are a must for visitors who enjoy being in nature. The gardens are home to over 600 naturally occurring plant species, as well as another 2 000 that have been introduced, with numerous plant species on display, medicinal gardens, and the largest collection of cycads in Africa.

Wildflowers and Lakes of Chrissiesmeer: This area is known as the 'lake district' of the country. Visitors come from near and far to see the wildflowers and fish for bass and carp in the 270 local pans and lakes in the area. The town is named after the biggest lake, Lake Chrissie.

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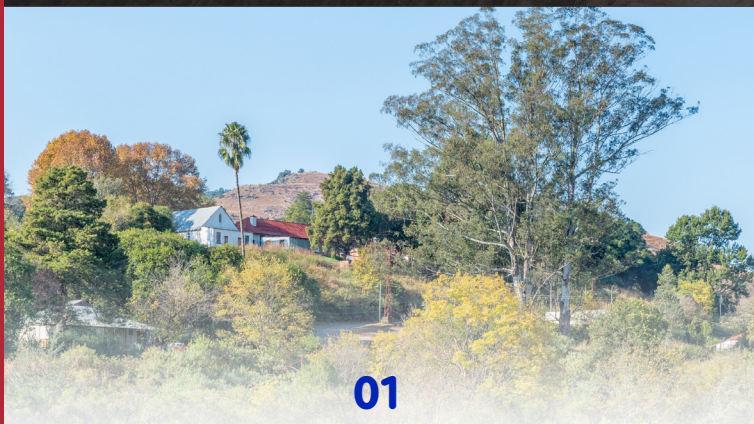


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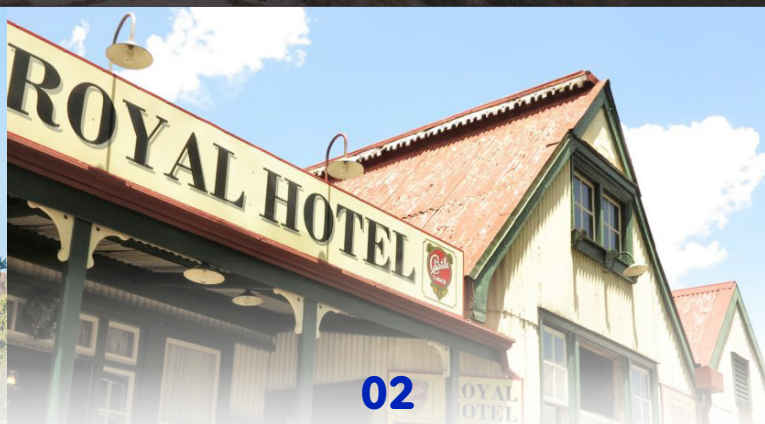
Go for Gold at Pilgrim's Rest

Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga



01

A 'Living Museum': The fascinating small town of Pilgrim's Rest pays tribute to the region's gold rush history, which dates to the 1870s. The discovery of gold in 1873 in a small stream at Pilgrim's Rest started South Africa's first gold rush.



02

Go Back in Time: Walk in the footsteps of the early diamond prospectors who came to Pilgrim's Rest to make (and lose their fortunes). The entire town has been declared a national monument. Visitors can stay over in traditional houses and visit the Royal Hotel bar.



03

Gold-Panning: For something, a bit different, let visitors try their luck at gold-panning when visiting the historical old town of Pilgrim's Rest.

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Active Adventures

Blyde River Nature Reserve: Hiking and scenic drives to birdwatching, quad-biking, and mountain-climbing excursions, all in the most beautiful surroundings. Bourke's Luck Potholes are a remarkable feature located in this reserve and a major attraction in the area. Take visitors up the Abel Erasmus Pass for incredible views of the escarpment from places like God's Window.

Graskop: Home to one of the world's highest cable gorge swings and the thrilling high wire! Enjoy an adrenaline-filled activity when you face your fears and drop off from a grassy cliff-top plateau, into the cool mountain forest below. For the brave, a 68m free fall at 180km/h in under 3 seconds, one of the world's highest Cable Gorge Swings awaits! An extensive network of walkways, suspension bridges and interactive exhibits lead you along the tropical forest trails and rushing streams. After your adventure, treat yourself to a bit of shopping at the gift shop and a delicious meal and refreshing drinks at Lift Café, a spacious inviting restaurant and bar with the most spectacular views on its balcony. Across the centre, is an evergreen lush space where you can enjoy Jock of the Bushveld hiking and bicycle trails. Further along is the town of Waterval Boven, well-known for adventure activities and rock climbing.

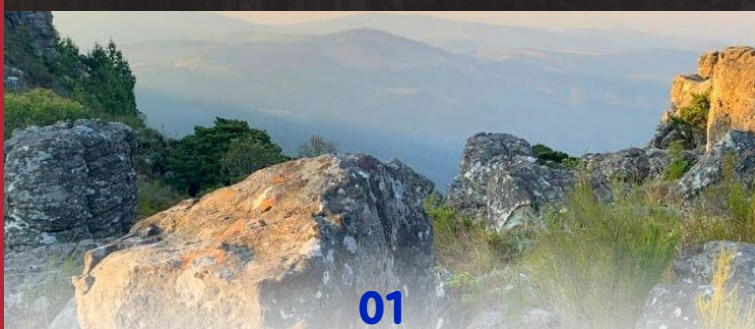
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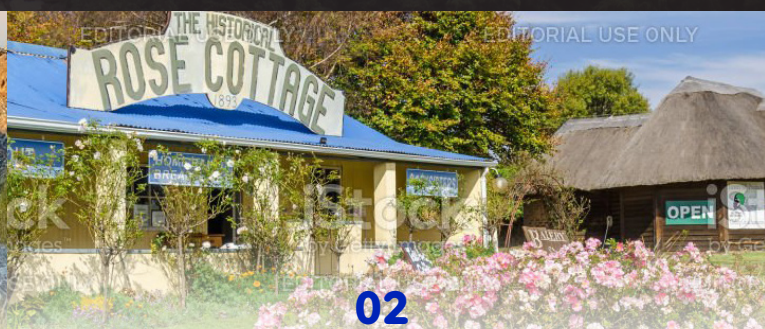
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Tour the Charming Towns



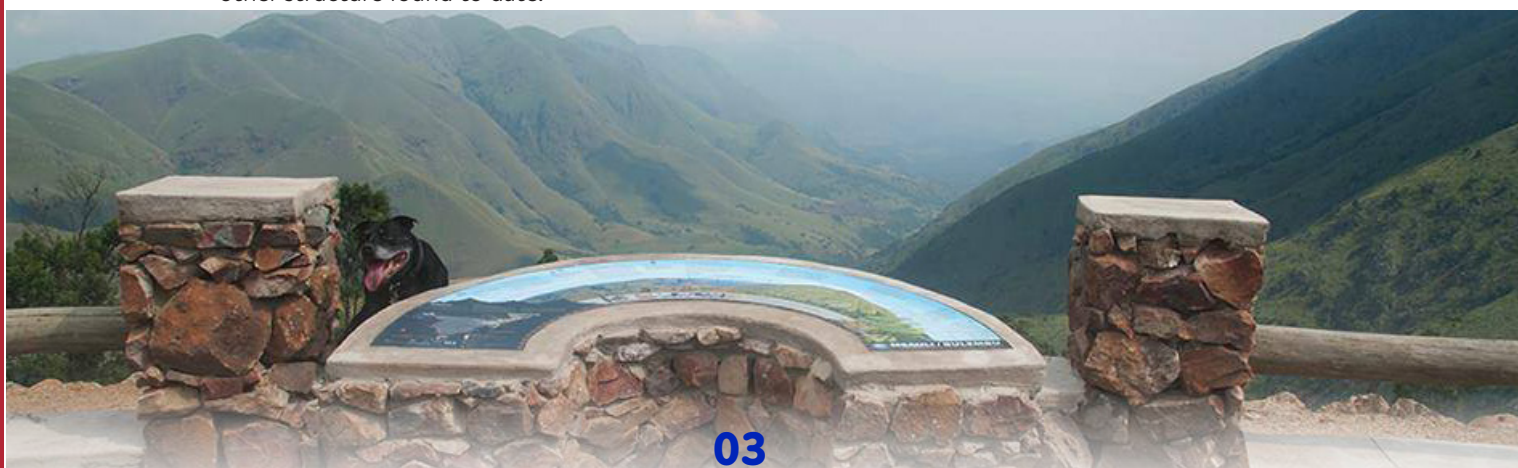
01

Kaapschehoop: Enjoy a farm-stay experience and an opportunity to see the wild horses for which this town is so famous. The region is also known for excellent birding and sightings of the endangered blue swallow. Activities include hikes and walks, horse-riding, and horse-drawn carriage rides. Take time to visit Adam's Calendar – a series of stones believed to be the oldest man-made structure on Earth. At 75 000 years old, these ancient circular monolithic stones predate any other structure found to date.



02

Dullstroom: For those in search of a genteel getaway, Dullstroom fits the bill. Just two and a half hours from Johannesburg, this village is known for fly-fishing and trout fishing. There are also golfing options on sprawling estates with very fine greens, as well as lovely shops, restaurants, and spa options in the village.



03

Barberton: Barberton is a geological mecca and the town's ancient green rocks are among the world's oldest geological formations. The mountains that surround the town of Barberton contain some of the rarest rocks on the planet. Step back in time and visualise what the Earth's surface would have looked like 3.5 billion years ago. The Geotrail uncovers secrets hidden in these rocks, including evidence of the first life forms visible to the naked eye.

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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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What's New in Mpumalanga

Thanks to the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa, Mpumalanga has an amazing quality assured accommodation offering, and several new offerings have been launched in the past two years.

God's Window, Mpumalanga



01

Radisson Middelburg:

Set to open its doors in early 2023, the Radisson Hotel Middelburg will be the 16th hotel launched by the group in South Africa. The contemporary venue will have 150 room luxurious rooms and is within walking distance of Middelburg Mall.



02

The Capital Mbombela:

Conveniently located in close proximity to business and leisure amenities, The Capital Mbombela is your accommodation of choice for your next event. Sophisticated and showcasing smart functionality it is a significant social hub for business and leisure travellers.



03

Babanango Game Reserve:

This new offering has views of the Nsubeni River and all its surrounds – from quartzite ridges, granite koppies, and the splendour of the bush. Situated in a remote valley. Babanango Valley Lodge offers luxury 4-star accommodation in a farmhouse setting.

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Accessibility

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport

Mpumalanga is easily accessible via Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, which has multiple daily flights from Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport is the largest airport in Africa, with incoming flights from destinations around the globe. Mpumalanga is an east 4-5-hour drive by car from Johannesburg and Pretoria. Eurowing flies direct 3 times a week flight from Frankfurt to Kruger, Mpumalanga International will commence on 15 November 2023.

Did You Know?

- The oldest known single-cell form on earth can be found at the Genesis of Life in Barberton
- The Blyde River Canyon is the largest green canyon in the world
- Mpumalanga played a significant role in the discovery of alluvial gold in 1873 near Pilgrim's Rest, leading to the world's biggest gold rush of the time

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 Budget®

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BLUU

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1 first
CAR RENTAL

Thrifty
CAR RENTAL®

E-taxis

Uber Bolt

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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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