

GAUTENG ATTRACTIONS





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TOP ATTRACTIONS



GAUTRAIN



The Gautrain is mainly aimed at providing and optimising an integrated, innovative public transport system that enables and promotes the long-term sustainable economic growth of Gauteng. It is also part of a broader vision to industrialise and modernise the region, including a commitment towards creating and sustaining an integrated culture of public transport use. The Gautrain is implemented as a public-private partnership (PPP) in terms of Treasury Regulation 16 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) is the public partner and the primary promoter of the Project. The Concessionaire is the Bombela Concession Company (Pty) Ltd, which holds a 19½ year concession for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Gautrain.

As a PPP, the Gautrain has two main entities responsible for keeping its wheels rolling. These are the GPG through the GMA and the Bombela Concession Company (BCC).

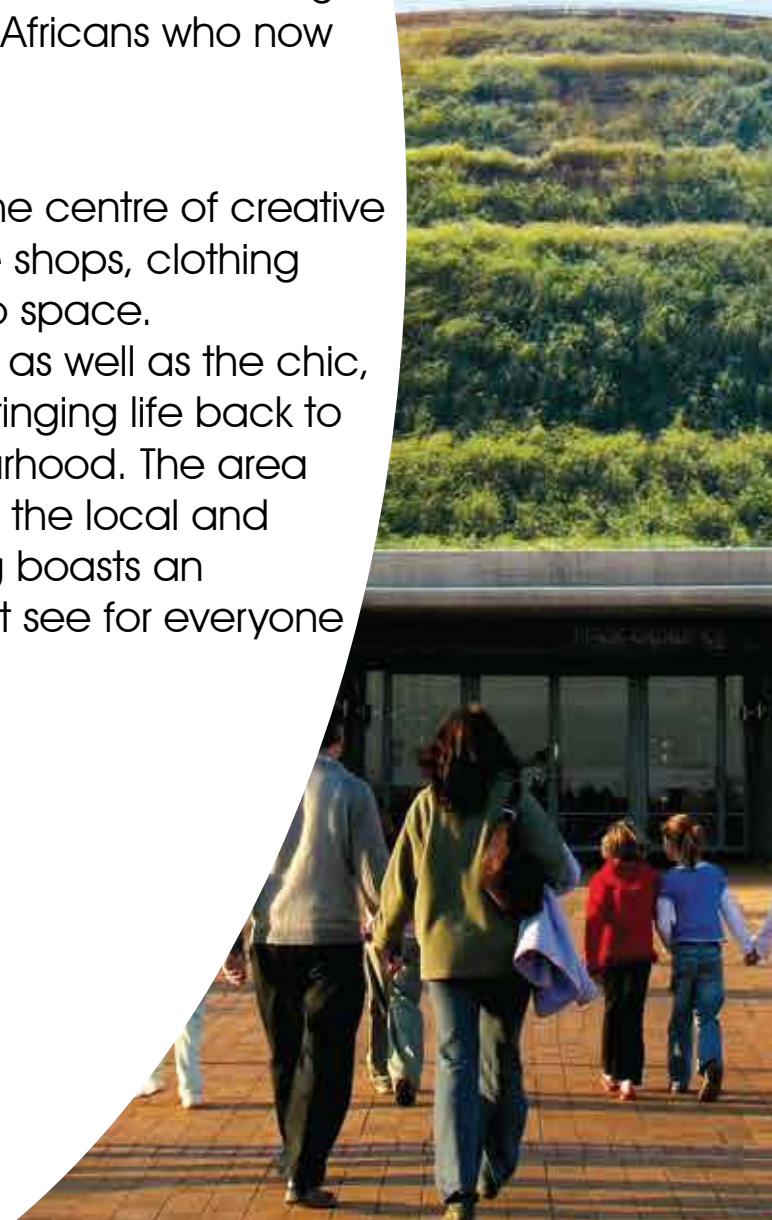
Gautrain is an 80-kilometre (50-mile) express commuter rail system in Gauteng, South Africa, which links Johannesburg, Pretoria, Ekurhuleni and O.R. Tambo International Airport. It takes 15 minutes to travel from Sandton to O.R. Tambo International Airport on the Gautrain and 35 minutes from Pretoria in Tshwane to Park Station in Johannesburg. The Gautrain has 10 stations. Buses, shuttles and midibus services are available to transport passengers to and from all stations excluding the O.R. Tambo International Airport Station.

MABONENG



A collection of old manufacturing buildings retrofitted with steel, glass and concrete. These original buildings fitted with welcoming street facing retail, commercial work spaces and artist studios juxtaposed with additions of more unconventional modern architecture rising upwards – making the neighbourhood more dense with additional levels of residential loft apartments and double volume penthouses... This is the making of Maboneng. The renewal of what is now considered a contemporary urban space filled with the character and the charm of the older buildings that were given a second life, bringing the soul and heart of Johannesburg out though a new community of South Africans who now live, work and play in the city.

This magical urban neighbourhood is the centre of creative energy with a mix of restaurants, coffee shops, clothing boutiques, art galleries, retail and studio space. The precinct draws the inner-city public as well as the chic, art-going crowd of the city's suburbs, bringing life back to this downtown Johannesburg neighbourhood. The area also drives Johannesburg tourism within the local and international tourist markets. Maboneng boasts an abundantly inclusive vibe, which a must see for everyone in Joburg and the world.



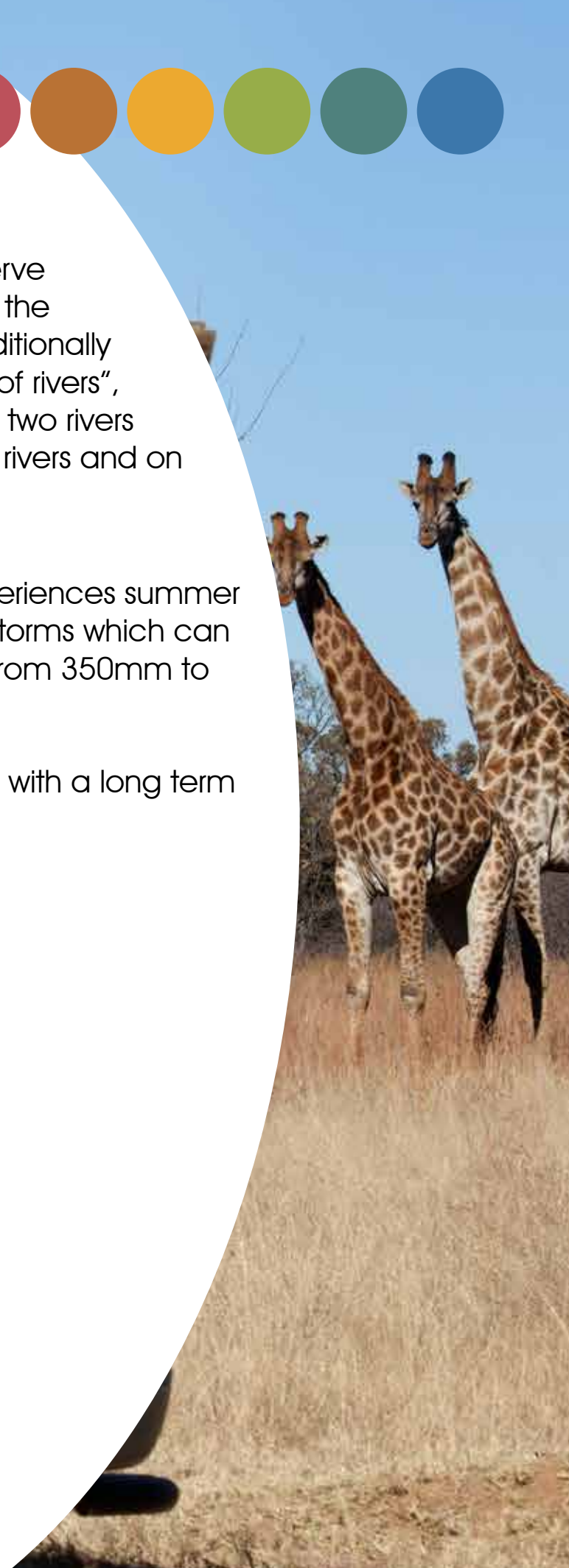
DINOKENG GAME RESERVE



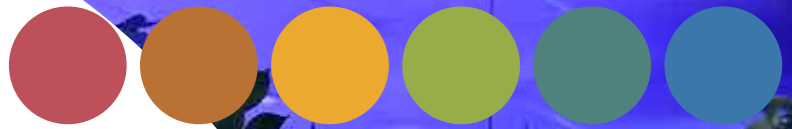
The name of the Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR) is derived from the languages of the baTswana and baPedi people who traditionally inhabited the area. Meaning “a place of rivers”, Dinokeng lies in the catchment area of two rivers that flow into the Olifants and Limpopo rivers and on to the Indian Ocean.

The Dinokeng Game Reserve area experiences summer rainfall patterns in the form of thunder storms which can be variable and erratic. Rainfall varies from 350mm to 750mm per season.

Temperatures vary between 0° and 40° with a long term daily average of 21°.



CRADLE OF HUMANKIND



The Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs, known as the Cradle of Humankind, were declared a World Heritage Site on December 2 1999. The Cradle of Humankind covers an area of over 47 000 hectares of privately owned land north west of Johannesburg and is home to over 17 000 residents.

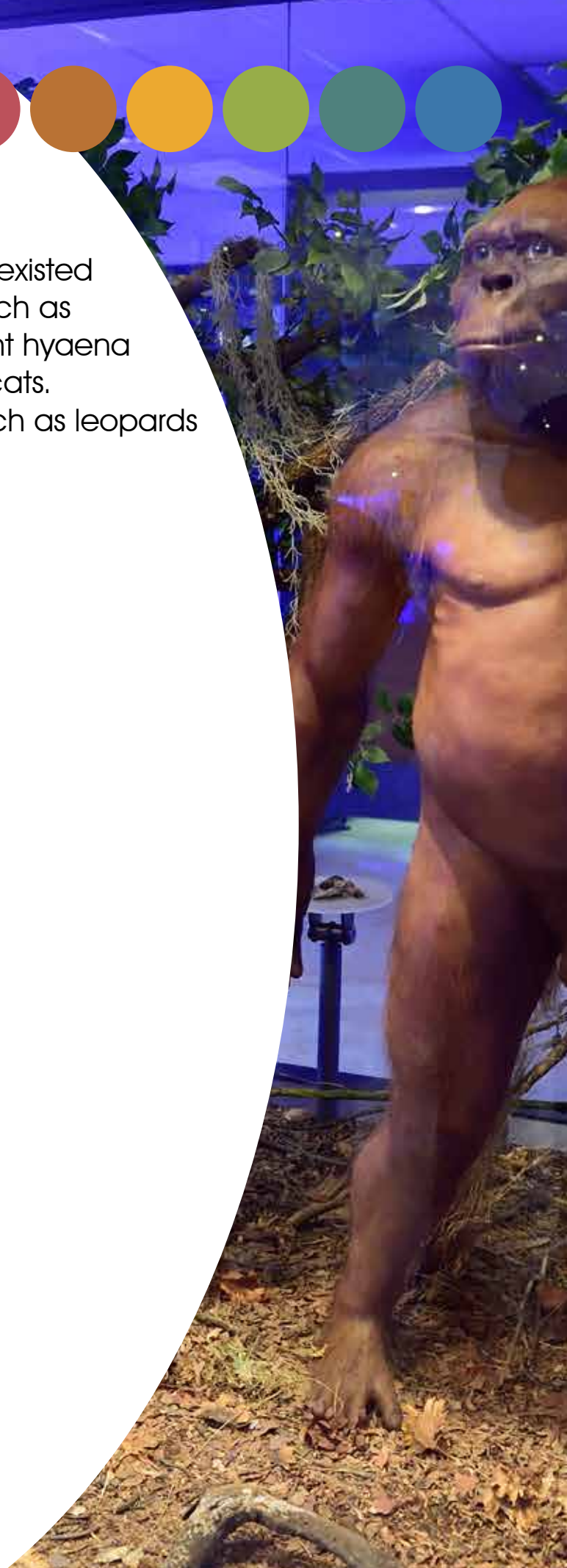
In 2005, two other highly significant sites, Makapan and Taung were listed as serial sites together with the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COH WHS). Together, these are the Fossil Hominid sites of South Africa. The area is of outstanding universal value, because it contains a complex of palaeo-anthropological sites, which have yielded some of the most valuable evidence, world-wide, of the origins of modern humans, hence its name Cradle of Humankind.

The declared area is 47 000 hectares and extends approximately between Oaktree, Hekpoort, Broederstroom and Lanseria in Gauteng. Most of the site is on dolomite, a rock type which is slightly soluble in water. This has two major consequences- the formation of caves and the formation of fossils. There are currently over 200 caves on the site, with possibly more to be discovered. There are 13 fossil sites which have been extensively examined and some have produced fossils of human ancestors and their relatives. A variety of stone tools used by human ancestors such as axes and scrapers have also been identified.





The range of other creatures which co-existed in the area included extinct animals such as short-necked giraffe, giant buffalo, giant hyaena and several species of saber-toothed cats. Numerous fossils of extant creatures such as leopards and hartebeest have also been found.



FREEDOM PARK



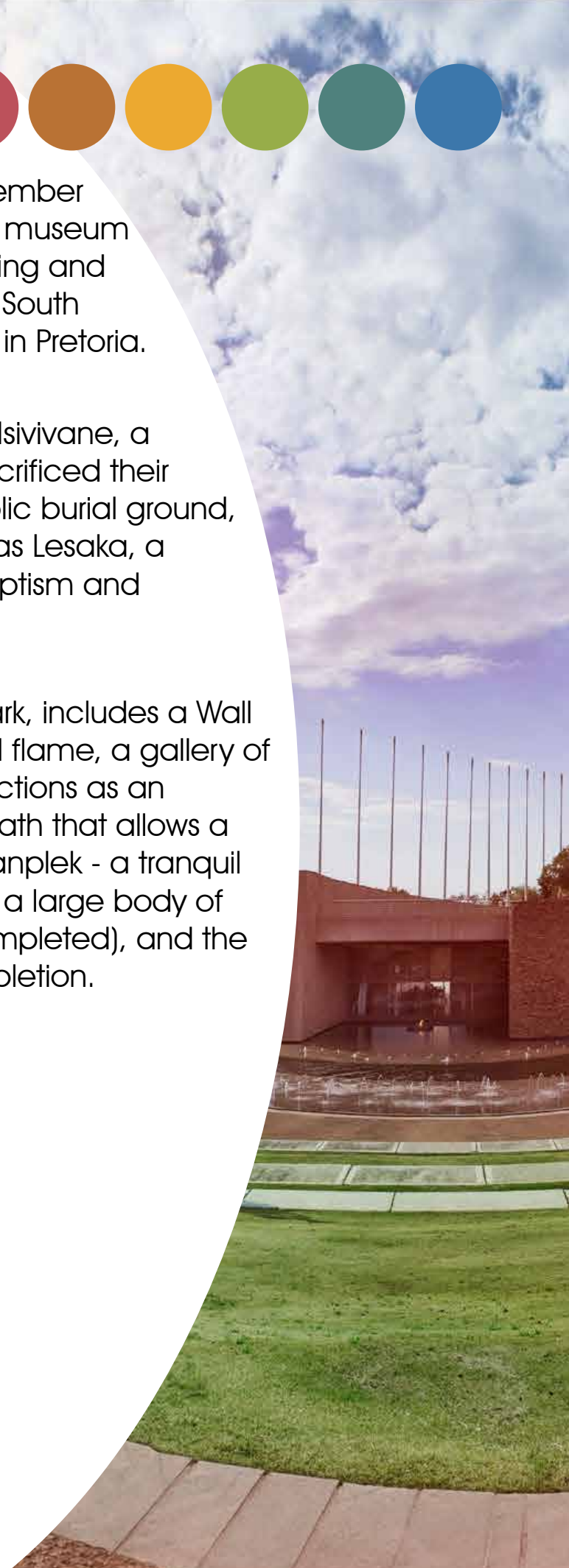
Freedom Park opened its doors in December 2007. It's a cultural institution housing a museum and a memorial dedicated to chronicling and honoring the many who contributed to South Africa's liberation. Situated on Salvokop in Pretoria.

The elements of Freedom Park include Isivivane, a symbolic resting place of those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle. It includes a symbolic burial ground, surrounded by eleven boulders known as Lesaka, a body of water at both entrances for baptism and drinking, and Umlahlankosi trees.

Sikhumbuto, another element of the park, includes a Wall of Names, an amphitheatre, an eternal flame, a gallery of leaders, and a sanctuary; Moshate functions as an exhibition space; Mveledzo is a spiral path that allows a contemplative journey for visitors; Uitspanplek - a tranquil space with a view in which to rest; Tiva, a large body of water symbolizing peace (still to be completed), and the Pan African archives, also due for completion.

Things to do around:

- Union Building
- Voortrekker Monument
- Church Square
- University of Pretoria Museum



CONSTITUTION HILL



Constitution Hill is almost as old as the city of Johannesburg. As the decades went by, the prisons at Constitution Hill became established sites of incarceration, along with the attendant issues of overcrowding, poor sanitation and disease. These problems were exacerbated with the advent of apartheid under the Nationalist government in 1948, and the burgeoning number of people arrested for both petty and severe apartheid laws.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ART COLLECTION

Part of what makes the Constitutional Court such a remarkable building is its fusion of architecture, art and adornment. It is a space that reflects a profound interest in humanity and a deep yearning for justice, both of which are evidenced in the court's aesthetic, including its permanent, curated art collection.

Things to do around:

The Wilds Nature Reserve
One day Africa's tour



MAROPENG/ STERKFONTAIN CAVES



Maropeng is the official visitors center for the Cradle Of Humankind, a cave-strewn area around 50km north west of Johannesburg where some of the world's most significant hominid discoveries have been made. Declared a World Heritage Site in 1999, fossils continue to be found here, with the latest significant discovery made in 2013.

A visit starts with a fun boat ride through the ages before you enter the museum where interactive and educational displays are complemented by examples of the kinds of fossils and tools which have been found in the Cradle of Humankind.

Maropeng's newest exhibition space 'Almost Human' tells the amazing story of the discovery of the Rising Star Cave and the Homo Naledi fossils in 2015. The exhibition includes the opportunity to see a display of some of the incredible fossil discoveries that made world headlines in 2015 (entrance to the exhibition is included in the museum price).

A perfect accompaniment to the museum is a guided tour of the Sterkfontein Caves (a five minute drive down the road) where the remains of Little Foot, Mrs. Ples and other famous fossils were found. Tours of the caves take around 45 minutes and are not recommended for the unfit as there are numerous steps and some places where you are required to kneel or crawl.



LILIESLEAF



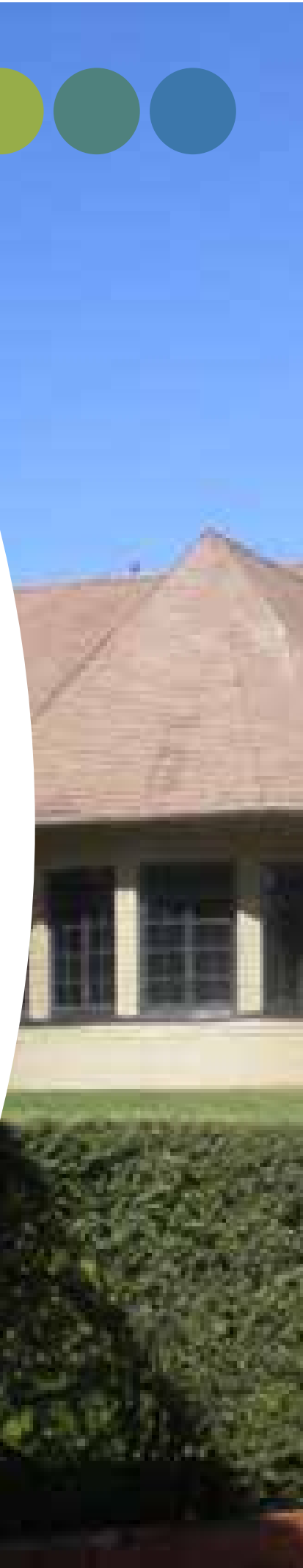
Liliesleaf is one of South Africa's foremost national heritage sites. Between 1961 and 1963, Liliesleaf served as the secret headquarters and nerve center of the ANC, SACP, Umkhonto we Sizwe and the Congress Alliance.

On 11 July 1963, the police, acting on a tip-off, raided Liliesleaf and arrested the core leadership of the underground liberation movement. Following the raid, ten people were put on trial to face charges of 193 counts of sabotage against the state. Liliesleaf lies in the midst of the leafy suburb of Rivonia,

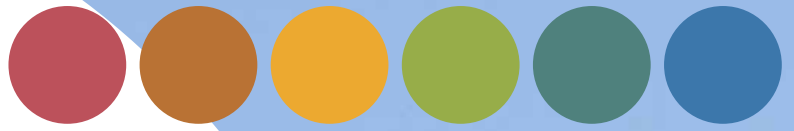
things to do around:

Fourways Mall

Fourways Farmers Market



APARTHEID MUSEUM



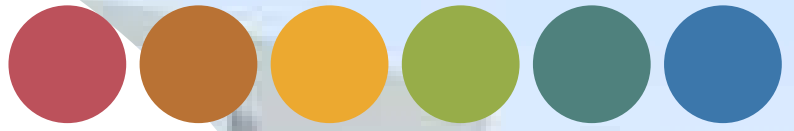
The Apartheid Museum opened in 2001 and is acknowledged as the pre-eminent museum in the world dealing with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story. The Apartheid Museum, the first of its kind, illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid. An architectural consortium, comprising several leading architectural firms, conceptualised the design of the building on a seven-hectare stand. The museum is a superb example of design, space and landscape offering the international community a unique South African experience.

Permanent exhibition

South Africa's struggle for liberation has been a journey of pain and strife. Freedom brought peace to our land in 1994 after centuries of colonialism and more than 40 years of life under apartheid. The permanent exhibition is a trip through time that traces the country's footsteps from these dark days of bondage to a place of healing founded on the principles of a democracy.



CHRIS HANI MUSEUM



History

The home of late struggle icon Chris Hani, in Dawn Park was converted into a museum. The Ekurhuleni metro purchased the property in 2016 as part of its programme to preserve the City's history and heritage. The project to convert the house into a museum will cost about R50-million. Hani's widow, Limpho, officially handed over the keys to Ekurhuleni mayor Mzwandile Masina in November 2016, during a ceremony at the property. Hani was the leader of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and chief of staff of Umkhonto weSizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, and was assassinated on April 10, 1993, in his driveway.

The entrance fee of the museum is set to be free with the operating hours starting on every Tuesday until Sunday from 09H00 am until 17H00 pm. The museum is closed on Mondays and Public Holidays. It is stated on the notice board that no weapons are allowed on the premise for the safety of all.

CULLINAN DIAMOND MINE



The Premier Mine is an underground diamond mine owned by Petra Diamonds in the town of Cullinan, 40 kilometres (25 mi) east of Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa. Established in 1902, it was renamed the Cullinan Diamond Mine in November 2003 in celebration of its centenary. The mine rose to prominence in 1905, when the Cullinan Diamond – the largest rough diamond of gem quality ever found – was discovered there. The mine has produced over 750 stones that are greater than 100 carats (20 g) and more than a quarter of all the world's diamonds that are greater than 400 carats (80 g). It is also the only significant source of blue diamonds in the world.

The Cullinan Diamond Mine

The tour starts with a 15-minute video before we are led into the high security premises of the mine where we are shown the workings and machinery of the mine. We then visit the enormous open cast mine, that are four times larger than the famous Kimberley 'Big Hole'. After visiting the mine, we will have the opportunity to visit the Cullinan Diamond Mine market for an unforgettable diamond and jewellery shopping experience.

Things to do around:

Lion and Cheetah Sanctuary, Cullinan Diamond Mine, Adventure Zone Cullinan, McHardy House Museum, Zonderwater Italian POW, Ukuthula Bush Spa, Fundani Tours and Horse Riding Adventures.



EMERALD RESORT



Situated in Vaal River and just a mere 45 minutes from Johannesburg, lies Emerald Resort & Casino, a Caesars Entertainment property.

Our magnificent estate offers a four-star hotel rooms, one and two-bedroom luxurious Bush Lodges to our popular self-catering three-star River Resort Chalets, are able to provide you with a “home from away from home feeling”.

Choose one of our incredible conference spaces with facilities to host up to 3,000 delegates and venues that cater to team building activities, events and live stage performances which create some of the Vaal’s most happening nightlife scenes.



RED BUS



The open-top, hop-on hop-off red bus is a great way to zoom around many of the city's biggest sights in one day. You'll be accompanied by an insightful audio guide on the two-hour journey (the route without stops).

The Red Route takes a circular route around downtown Johannesburg and the south of the city to the following sights:

Constitution Hill
Gold Reef City theme park
Apartheid Museum

The Zone@Rosebank winds its way through Joburg's historic leafy suburbs finishing at Constitution Hill

Helpful information and self-guided walking tour maps are available to help you make the most of your time at the different stops and many museums also offer discounted entry to City Sightseeing bus riders.



SOWETO HOTEL



The first four-star luxury boutique hotel offering African hospitality in the heart of Soweto. Soweto Hotel and Conference Centre is located in Kliptown, Soweto. Kliptown, one of the oldest districts in Soweto, is an area steeped in history – violent, restorative, sad and uplifting. It is most famously known as the site where more than 3 000 people attended what became known as the Congress of the People in 1955 to adopt the Freedom Charter. Today you can experience township elegance at the first 4-star hotel, centrally located at the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, one of South Africa's national heritage sites. The hotel offers an eclectic fusion of history and culture with a contemporary urban vibe. From here explore the Kliptown Open Air Museum, walk or cycle through the neighborhood and immerse yourself in local township life.

