

## Attractions

### Tourism

Whether you want to take a short break from your conference or exhibition, or explore further afield, Sandton and its surrounds have riches to offer.

One of the most glittering of Johannesburg's plethora of tourist attractions is the Montecasino Entertainment Centre at Fourways in the north of Johannesburg.

Several tour operators offer tours to Soweto, the living monument of the history of political struggle as well as a dynamic and multi-cultural community. About 50 km to the north of Sandton is Pretoria, the seat of government administration of South Africa. The city is renowned for its historic buildings, monuments and museums. It is also the diplomatic capital of South Africa and a major academic and research centre.

The Cradle of Humankind, a 45 minute drive west from Johannesburg, has been declared a World Heritage Site. It includes 12 key sites where fossils of early humans, animals and plants have been discovered.

A selection of wildlife venues are all within a comparatively short drive from Sandton. Pretoria, Johannesburg and the entire Gauteng province have outstanding zoos, botanical gardens, game reserves and bird sanctuaries. Many of the conservation areas have opened hiking trails.

Pre- and post-tours can be conveniently arranged from Johannesburg. The city is the hub of South African tourism and the central point for all transport and tourism routes. O.R.Tambo International Airport serves all major regional destinations with scheduled flights. Three smaller airports, namely Lanseria, Grand Central and Rand Airport, provide scheduled and chartered flights to the tourist and nature conservation areas throughout Southern Africa. There are also many reliable scheduled coach services that use Johannesburg as their central departure and return point.

South African Tourism - [www.southafrica.net/](http://www.southafrica.net/)  
Gauteng Tourism Authority - [www.gauteng.net](http://www.gauteng.net)  
Johannesburg Tourism - [www.joburgtourism.com](http://www.joburgtourism.com)  
Sandton Tourism - [www.sandtontourism.co.za](http://www.sandtontourism.co.za)

## Culture

### Gauteng

For many people all over the world, South Africa is synonymous with gold and diamond mining. But it is the aptly named Gauteng, meaning "place of gold" in Sotho that is particularly well known for its tremendous wealth of gold. Since the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1884, the south of Johannesburg has developed into one of the largest mining and industrial centres in the world, which offers tourists great entertainment and cultural diversity. Today, the principal cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria make Gauteng the commercial and industrial heart of South Africa and an important powerhouse for the whole of Southern Africa. Today, Gauteng houses the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Pretoria was established in 1855 and grew from

modest beginnings to become the centre of government administration for South Africa. The Union Buildings, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, dominate the skyline of this cultural, educational and government metropolis.

### **Cultural heart of South Africa**

Gauteng is vibrant, sophisticated, cosmopolitan, and unmistakably the cultural heart of Africa. Its rich and diverse heritage developed from an infusion of global culture locked in purposeful economic and social endeavour for over a century. Gauteng Province now boasts the best cultural offering of Southern Africa. Music, performing art, visual art and craft from this region are globally sought after and admired.

### **Entertainment**

Gauteng offers an unparalleled feast of entertainment and pleasure. The province has over 60 theatres and 100 museums. Pretoria is home of the renowned State Theatre which offers world-class opera and ballet. Johannesburg features the internationally-known Market Theatre, located in one of the most celebrated cultural precincts in Southern Africa.

An evening can be spent exploring the wonders of African cuisine and Jazz in and around Johannesburg. For a lively atmosphere and some excellent live Jazz or Blues, pop in to Kippies at the Market Theatre Precinct or head for the Blues Room at the Village Walk in Sandton. African cuisine can be enjoyed at Gramadoelas or Nikkis at the Market Theatre or Leipoldt's in Morningside. Other desirable choices include Anton Van Wouw in Doornfontein or Iyavaya in Muldersdrift.

Guests can wonder through the suburb of Melville in Johannesburg for great food and Jazz. For the experience of a more party atmosphere, the suburbs of Hatfield in Pretoria and Yeoville in Johannesburg can be explored.

Gauteng is also home to world-class entertainment centres that have turned their venues into fun places that offer entertainment for the whole family. With these entertainment centres spread out in different regions of Gauteng, you'll have easy access to any one of them no matter where you stay.

## **Shopping**

### **Gauteng**

Sandton offers its visitors a unique shopping experience. The Sandton Convention Centre is linked by skywalk to Sandton City and is adjacent to Nelson Mandela Square, two of the most prestigious and sophisticated shopping complexes in Africa. Their spacious mall environs are ideal for walking, browsing, sitting over coffee, eating or shopping. They offer over 50 restaurants, ranging from the relaxed and casual to the elegantly formal. The more than 200 shops are renowned for local and international fashion, specialist diamond and jewellery stores, and an abundance of African art, crafts and curios.

Sandton City - [www.sandton-city.co.za](http://www.sandton-city.co.za)

Nelson Mandela Square - [www.nelsonmandelasquare.co.za](http://www.nelsonmandelasquare.co.za)

Michelangelo Towers - [www.towersmall.co.za](http://www.towersmall.co.za)