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Gauteng





Gauteng is a northern province of South Africa, with most of its territory defined by 2 of the nation's largest cities. Pretoria is the de facto national capital, with the Voortrekker Monument to 19th-century Dutch residents and Kruger House, home of 19th-century president Paul Kruger. Johannesburg has many sites relating to the country's 20th-century struggle to end segregation, including the Apartheid Museum.

- Capital City: Johannesburg. Pretoria is the administrative capital.*
- Airport: OR Tambo International Airport (ORT) and Lanseria Airport (HLA)*
- Best time to visit: May to September when the days are cooler, drier and sunnier than they are in the peak of the southern hemisphere summer (December to February).*
- Food specialities: Pap, Vetkoek, Braai/Shisanyama, Biltong, Chakalaka, Melktert, Atchar, Kota, Malva Pudding and Skopas Popcorn.*
- Language: mainly Tswana, and Zulu, English and Afrikaans. There is also a Jozi (Johannesburg) language which is basically a mix of most of the languages.*

Attractions in Gauteng



1. The Apartheid Museum

The Apartheid Museum graphically portrays the apartheid story through photos, artifacts, newspaper clippings, chilling personal accounts, and film footage. Paths follow the country through decades of oppression to the birth of democracy. Reserve at least two hours and preferably longer to get the most out of a visit here.



2. Constitution Hill

Constitution Hill is a former prison, which provides fascinating insight into South Africa's history. At the site, you can explore provocative exhibits at the Number Four museum, the Women's Gaol museum, and the Old Fort museum. Together, the precinct was once known as The Fort, and it forged a reputation for its brutal treatment of political prisoners, common criminals, and passive resistors; famous former prisoners include Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi.



Attractions in Gauteng



3. Gold Reef City

Takes you back to the gold rush days through a series of thrilling theme park rides and historical exhibits. This family-friendly attraction hosts reproductions of buildings and businesses from the era, and you can also tour a disused shaft of the Crown Mines, one of the richest gold-mines in the world.



4. The Maboneng Precinct

Fantastic example of a successful mixed-use urban renewal project. Once a rather run-down neighborhood, Maboneng, meaning "place of light," now fizzes with life. Funky restaurants, cafes, art galleries, shops, hotels, and entertainment venues mix smartly with residential buildings.



Attractions in Gauteng



5. Soweto & the Mandela Museum

Soweto (Southwestern Townships) was an area of planned segregation, where black laborers were housed far from the city center, many in shacks made of corrugated iron. It was also the birthplace of the struggle for democracy. In 1976, the Soweto Uprisings sought to overthrow the apartheid state and spread from here to the rest of the country. The Hector Pieterson Memorial and Museum, honours the brave students who protested apartheid during the Soweto Uprisings. visit the famous Vilakazi Street and the former homes of two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu,



Attractions in Gauteng



6. The Union Buildings and Mandela Statue

The Union Buildings form the official seat of the South African government and also house the offices of the President of South Africa. The grand Union buildings sit on Meintjies Kop and overlook the city of Pretoria.

Nelson Mandela Statue is a bronze sculpture on the Union Buildings grounds in Pretoria, of former President of South Africa and anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela.

The statue is 9m high, making it the tallest statue of Nelson Mandela in the world. It is made in bronze and weighs approximately 3.5 tonnes. The engineering work was carried out by the Knight brothers at Sculpture Casting Services Foundry in Cape Town.

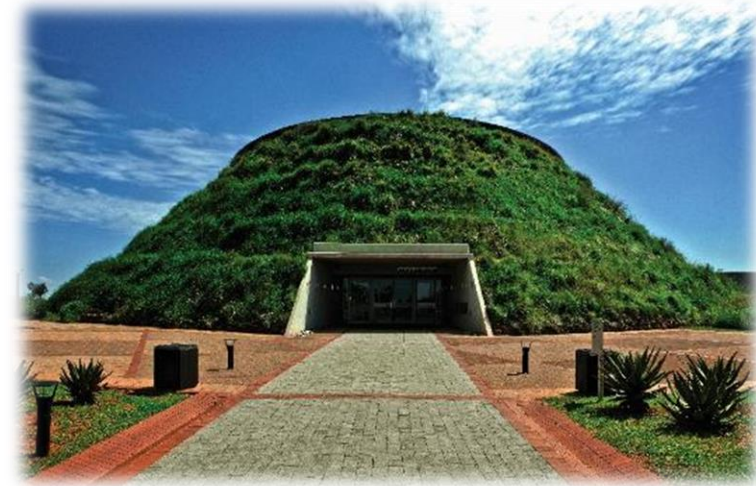


Attractions in Gauteng



7. The Cradle of Humankind

A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most productive and important paleo-anthropological areas. One of the top attractions here are the Sterkfontein stalactitic caves, which consist of six linked underground chambers with a lake at a depth of about 40 meters. Archaeological excavations here unearthed the skull of a humanoid creature known as *Australopithecus africanus*, estimated to be two million years old, called "Mrs Ples," and in 1998, scientists discovered a skeleton that dates the presence of early humans in the valley at 3.5 million years ago. Stop by the Maropeng Visitor Center to view related exhibits and learn more about this fascinating site.



8. Pretoria

Boasts an impressive lineup of historical buildings, monuments, and museums. Ablaze with the purple hues of jacarandas in the spring, Pretoria is also a city of beautiful parks and gardens. Highlights of a visit here include the Pretoria National Botanic Garden, the Voortrekker Monument, Freedom Park, the large zoo, and a clutch of peaceful nature reserves within the city limits, with diverse wildlife and an abundance of birds.

