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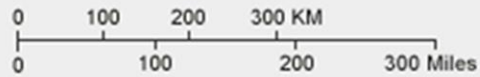
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North West Province

South Africa

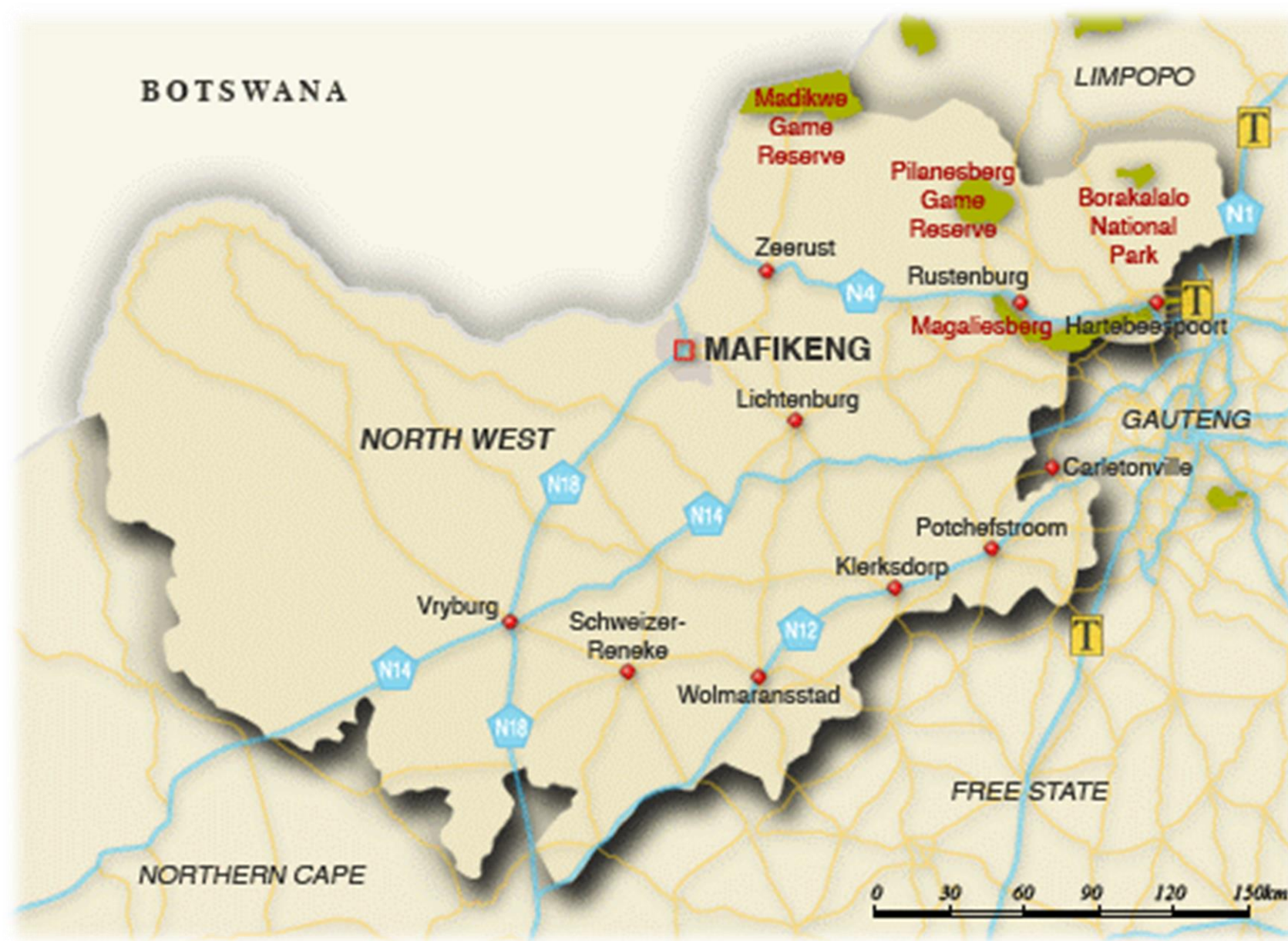
- ★ National Capital
- Province Capital
- City or Town
- International Boundary
- Province Boundary*
- Road
- River

*Province boundaries are subject to change under provisions of the South African Constitution.



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North West is an inland province that borders Botswana. Its landscape is defined by mountains in the northeast and bushveld scattered with trees and shrubs. The province is home to Sun City, an upscale resort with hotels, a casino, and a water park with a massive wave pool. Nearby is Pilanesberg National Park, with an extinct volcano and more than 7,000 animals, including lions and elephants. The Magaliesberg mountain range in the northeast extends about 130 km from Pretoria to Rustenburg. The Vaal River flows along the southern border.

The North West Province was created in 1994 by the merger of Bophuthatswana, one of the former bantustans (or black homelands), and the western part of Transvaal, one of the four former South African provinces.



- **Capital City:** *Mahikeng*
- **Airports:** *Mmabatho International Airport (MBO)*
- **Climate:** *Temperatures range from 17° to 31° C in the summer and from 3° to 21° C in the winter. Annual rainfall totals about 360 mm, with almost all of it falling during the summer months, between October and April.*
- **Food specialities:** *Bogobe (porridge made from Sorghum or Millet), Seswaa (pounded or shredded meat and often served with Bogobe or Porridge), Madila (sour cultured milk, a primitive form of cheese curd prepared from cow and goat milk over a period of time until fully matured), traditionally made using Lekuka (a leather sack or bag used in processing and storing madila). It is also traditionally used as relish, eaten with pap. It can also be used in popular Tswana breakfast meal, motogo, to give the soft porridge that sour and milky taste.*
- **Language:** *SeTswana, English, Afrikaans*

Attractions



1. Sun City

Sun City Resort in the Pilanesberg is one of the most remarkable destinations in Africa. The vast Sun City Resort complex, nearly 20 km in circumference, is an enormous, opulent extravaganza of luxurious hotels, glittering entertainment centres, restaurants, gaming rooms, shops, discos and extensive, beautifully landscaped grounds. Sun City Resort is rated among the world's most unusually conceived, and most lavish, inland resorts.



Cabanas

The most relaxed and casual of all the hotels at Sun City, the Cabanas offer informal yet comfortable accommodation.

Cascades Hotel

A unique and relaxing atmosphere. A sophisticated, elegant hotel.

Hotel and Casino

The ambience of the Hotel is one of glamour and sophistication. The central area has been transformed into a jungle of lush foliage, cascading water and life-like boulders, encircling fast moving slot machines. The Sun City Theatre comes alive in the evenings sounds from back in the day.

The Palace

Offers royal hospitality and 5 star service. Luxurious in every facet of it's architecture. The Palace is adorned with exquisite mosaics, frescoes, hand-painted ceilings, found nowhere else in the world.

Attractions



- *The Valley of Waves, links The Palace to the Entertainment Centre at Sun City, incorporates 22 different regions of vegetation, from a rocky outcrop of ancient baoba trees, to a lush, tropical jungle.*
- *The Waterscape, is a huge arrangement of interlinked pools, a kilometre of low weirs and two kilometres of walkways, that lead through gardens and over, and under, rock formations.*
- *25 Hectare jungle of 3 500 trees, from around the world, plus a 100 x 60 m swimming pool and 'beach', with 1,8 m high artificially created surfing waves. Among other features are massive water chutes for the brave, and a Lazy River Ride for the young and not-so-brave.*
- *The Entertainment Centre is a concentration of restaurants, bars, discos, speciality shops, conference venues, cinemas, slot machines and a massive 200 seat computerised bingo hall.*
- *Outdoor activities include tennis, bowls, squash, horse-riding, swimming, tenpin bowling, an animal farm for children and game viewing at Pilanesberg Game Reserve.*
- *The Gary Player Country Club boasts 2 top world-class golf courses and has hosted most of the world's greatest players. It is the venue for the annual Million Dollar Golf Challenge.*
- *The Kwena Crocodile Garden at the entrance gate, is a reptile park and ranch distinguished by its dramatically 'ethnic' architecture, its luxuriantly tropical surround, and by the giant Nile crocodiles it contains, including 'Footloose', a 120-year old crocodile weighing 800 kg.*

Attractions



2. Pilanesberg

One of the largest volcanic complexes of its type, there are few similar alkaline volcanic structures in the world. A malaria-free Game Reserve located 2 hours drive from Johannesburg.

Black Rhino Game Lodge - A hidden treasure set amongst the trees of an old Tamboti forest, at the foot of an ancient volcanic crater that today, comprises one of South Africa's most exciting Big 5 eco-tourism destinations.

Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge - Place of the Rock - in the Pilanesberg is situated among the hills of an ancient alkaline volcano offering luxurious accommodation.

Bakubung Bush Lodge - Surrounding a hippo pool offers the comfort and tranquility in Big Five territory only minutes away from Sun City.

Ivory Tree Game Lodge - Situated in the north eastern region of the Pilanesberg National Park, the closest point of entry is through Bakgatla Gate.



Attractions



3. Madikwe Game Reserve

Offers a variety of Game Lodges, boasts the Big Five, and covers a vast area of 75,000 hectares with the second largest population of elephants in South Africa. A malaria-free Game Reserve located 3½ hours drive from Johannesburg. The fourth largest game reserve in South Africa. The terrain is mainly open grasslands and bushveld plains, interspersed with rocky outcrops and single mountains. Regarded as one of the finest conservation areas in Africa, offering all the major species, including lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, both white and black rhino along with almost all the plains antelope species. A special feature of Madikwe lies in its unique location, a transition zone on the edges of the Kalahari, where a number of rare species occur naturally. Home to the Big 5 and a Wild Dog Reserve.

Impodimo Game Lodge - Carved from the hillside, eight glass fronted luxury chalets line a natural spring, each enjoying striking views.

Thakadu River Camp - Set within the riverine canopy on the banks of the Marico River the camp comprises of 12 tented suites, each with their own viewing deck overlooking the river.

Tau Game Lodge - Overlooks a vast natural waterhole, which attracts a variety of game, the lodge was designed to reflect the natural surroundings and makes use of the natural resources wherever possible.



Attractions



4. Lesedi Cultural Village

Lesedi, which is seSotho for 'light', was initiated in 1995 as a tourist attraction and today features five traditional dwellings, each representing a South African culture: Pedi, Zulu, Xhosa, Basotho and Ndebele. Each of these families lives here permanently, looking after cows, chickens and tourists, and tours through their homes offer interesting cross-cultural comparisons of the customs and social organisation of the different cultures. If you're staying overnight, you are welcomed by the family of the homestead in which you will be staying, and the head of the house then becomes your personal guide for the duration of your stay.

Day visitors get to experience the origins of these nations with a guided tour of the Zulu, Basotho, Xhosa and Pedi homesteads, after a multi-visual presentation.

There are two 3-hour tours, one in the morning and one late afternoon, which is definitely the more preferable because of the atmosphere the traditional singing and dancing session, held in the boma right at the end of the tour.

The Nyama Choma restaurant offers a Pan African Buffet in true African style, after which visitors are invited to gather around a fire to share in some 'mamba juice', a unique Lesedi drink, before the story telling and singing and dancing begin.

