

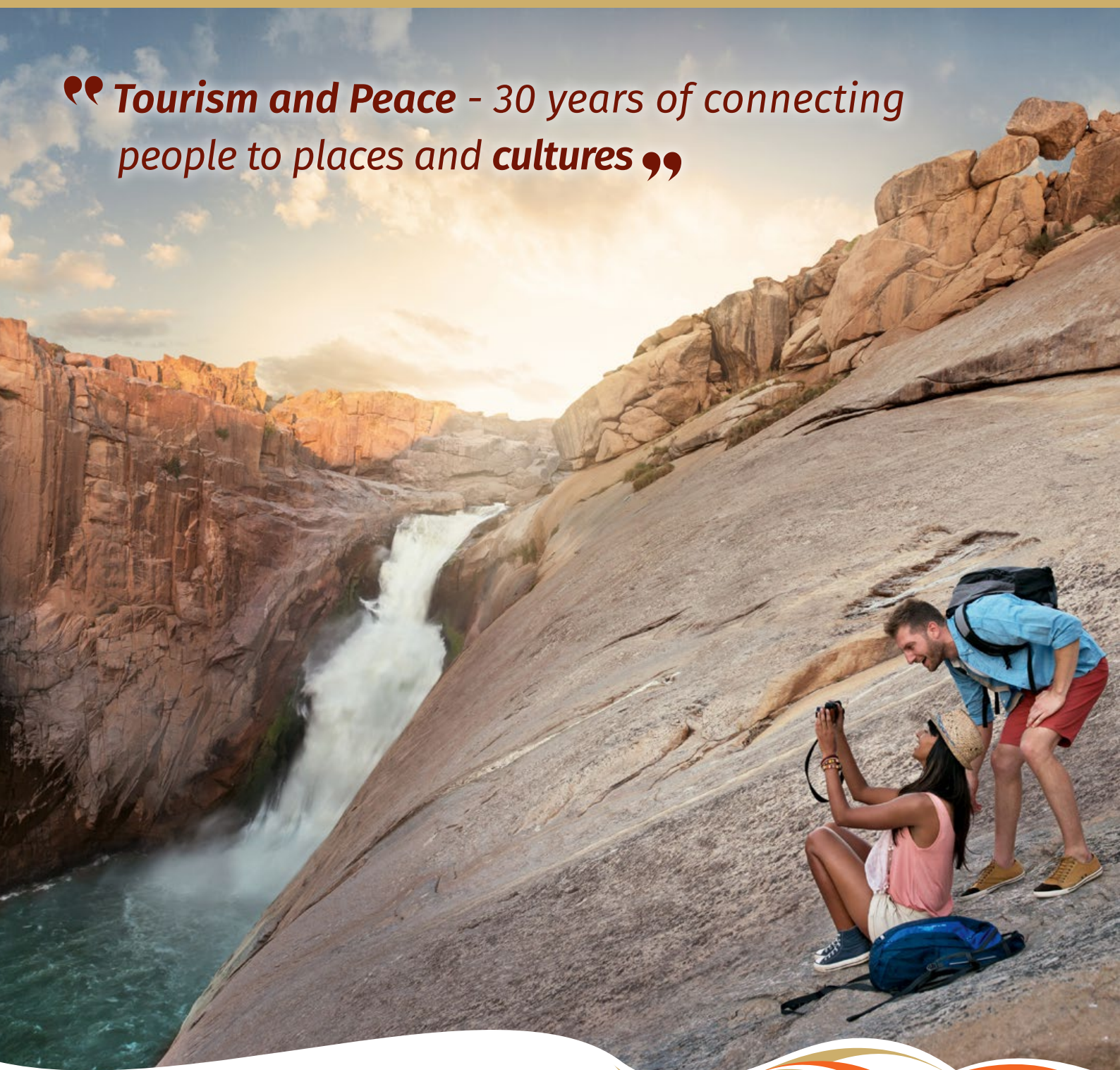
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EDITION

02

# BOLANALA

“*Tourism and Peace - 30 years of connecting people to places and cultures*”



**tourism**

Department:  
Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Spring! Despite recent freezing temperatures and snowfall over the last few days, we are indeed officially in Spring. And spring off course is also when we celebrate Tourism Month, this year, under the theme *"Tourism and Peace - 30 years of connecting people to places and cultures"*.

September certainly has been a busy month. The Domestic Tourism Unit has also rolled out their annual campaign that aimed at getting South Africans excited about Domestic Tourism, and enjoying what the sector has to offer, known as Travel Week. During the travel week, different products are sold to the public at discounted rates. This week, the Sho't Left Travel week took place from 2 - 8 September 2024. The annual SANParks free entry campaign and all the provinces' special campaigns added to the flavourful activity during the month.

New heritage sites, such as the Sibudhu Caves in Kwazulu Natal and the Pinnacle Point Site Complex in the Western Cape were also announced in September. These sites are in the process of being prepared for visitations and access to the sites will benefit the local communities.

Lufthansa announced a direct route between Germany and South Africa being re-established and Air Botswana also announced that it will add a significant capacity to its Cape Town route network.

The Minister of Tourism, Patricia De Lille launched Tourism Month on 20 August 2024 in the Northern Cape to bring attention to all the great national festivities and events taking place during Tourism Month. This beautiful province was chosen as the host for the celebration, not just because of its vast and varied tourism offerings but also to bring attention to the unique offering in a region that is less well known internationally compared to others in our country.

The Province was chosen to lead the country's proactive stance in leveraging the significant advances made in the development of the world's largest space telescope array.

As we celebrate World Tourism Day on 27 September in Carnarvon, Northern Cape, we focus on Astro-Tourism, an innovation which was developed in partnership between the Departments of Tourism and Science and Innovation.

The Astro-Tourism strategy aims to develop the Karoo and provide opportunities for visitors interested in astro-tourism. In the Northern Cape one can experience the beauty of the African dark night sky, which 50% of the world's population cannot see - the beauty of the African night sky.

Heritage Month falls parallel with Tourism Month and forms part of the celebrations in the Department of Tourism. Internally the Tourism staff was invited to participate in the festivities. This included a tourism route, named Resistance and Liberation route.

As we all know tourism is a key economic driver, contributing significantly to our economy and job creation. In quarter 1 of 2024, the tourism sector contributed 8,8% to the country's GDP. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), South Africa's Tourism sector's contribution to the GDP is expected to grow to 10.4% by 2030.

As the festive season draws closer, it is crucial to plan ahead to ensure the safety of our tourists on the roads and provide them with access to emergency numbers and important information.

We look forward to the much talked about, National Tourism Careers Expo that will take place from 08 to 10 October 2024 at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane. It is said that whether you are a student, a recent graduate or looking for a new career, this expo is your gateway to the vibrant tourism world. Hope to see you there!

**Tasneem Carrim**





# MINISTER DE LILLE CELEBRATES **TOURISM MONTH WITH A FOCUS ON ASTRO-TOURISM**

The Northern Cape province, is renowned for its breath-taking landscapes, vibrant cultural heritage and unparalleled experience for adventure and cultural immersion. This stunning province is the host for this year's World Tourism Day celebrations, not just because of the vastness and variety of offerings, but also to raise awareness of a region frequently less visited. From the rugged terrains of the Kalahari Desert to the vibrant wildflowers of Namaqualand, this province is a showcase of natural beauty and awe-inspiring landscapes.

It is against this backdrop that the Minister of Tourism, Patricia De Lille, launched Tourism Month on 20 August 2024 to bring attention to all the great national festivities and events to look forward to during the Tourism Month festivities.

World Tourism Day is celebrated globally on 27 September every year. It is an initiative

of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) to align the thinking and planning of the international tourism sector areas to the Sustainable Development Goals. In South Africa, World Tourism Day is commemorated and celebrated for the whole month of September, which is known

*We acknowledge and recognise that in a world where nations are increasingly interconnected, tourism is a powerful tool to break down barriers, defy stereotypes and challenge prejudices.*

as Tourism Month. The 2024 UNWTO theme for this year is: "Tourism and Peace."

"For South Africa, we have decided to expand the theme to: *Tourism and Peace – 30 years of connecting people, places and culture.* We acknowledge and recognise that in a world where nations are increasingly interconnected, tourism is a powerful tool to break down barriers, defy stereotypes and challenge prejudices," stated the Minister.

This year World Tourism Day in South Africa, was celebrated in Carnarvon, Northern Cape as the Department of Tourism and Department of Science and Innovation aims to promote the National Astro-Tourism Strategy.

"There are immense opportunities for astro-tourism in South Africa, especially in the Northern Cape and this is why we are intentional about selecting this province and the town of Carnarvon," the Minister emphasised.

The Northern Cape is leading South Africa's proactive stance in the development of the world's largest space telescope array with a comprehensive astro-strategy. Outside the small town of Carnarvon is the South African site where a global mega-infrastructure project is underway to build the most powerful radio telescope in the world. The launch is set to cast a spotlight on these different experiences and to invite not only South Africans, but also visitors from the rest of the world to come and explore the Northern Cape, engaging with living cultures and traditions. Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and astro-tourism form a catalyst to develop the Karoo and provide opportunities for rural and agri-tourism.

The Department of Tourism and Department of Science and Innovation developed the National Astro-Tourism Strategy together, with the objective of positioning South Africa as a world-class astro-tourism destination, thereby focusing on infrastructure development, optimal functioning of astronomy-tourism streams and in particular, community transformation.

During the Tourism Month launch, Minister De Lille reminded people that tourism is a powerful transformative tool and one of the priority sectors that contribute significantly to the economy and to job creation.

"Employment in the tourism sector is projected to grow from 1,7 million jobs in 2024 to 2,2 million by 2030, with tourism jobs expected to make up 12,8% of total employment by 2030 for South Africa," highlighted the Minister.

A great focus of Tourism Month is to encourage South Africans to explore their own country. Acknowledging the financial challenges of South Africans, South African Tourism annually offers a Sho't Left Travel Week at the beginning of September to help cash-strapped locals to book local gems at promotional rates.

*"Our domestic market is a powerhouse with the tourism sector. In 2023, South Africa recorded **38 million** domestic trips which contributed **R121 billion** in spend to the economy," stated the Minister.*

To grow tourism's contribution to the economy, the Department of Tourism is currently working on a five-year plan to align itself with the Government of National Unity priorities. Part of the Department's targets will be to increase arrivals to 15

million by 2030 as stated in the National Development Plan. Job creation in the tourism sector will be a priority by driving implementation for programmes which support the private sector.

The Department works with Operation Vulindlela in the Presidency and the Departments of Home Affairs, Transport and Sports, Arts and Culture to facilitate improvements in the visa regime, grow the number of direct flights, implement more seamless tour operator license processes and to invest in infrastructure that reflect and showcase diversity for visitors.

The festivities of Tourism Month 2024 are accompanied by recognising the significant milestones as the sector and the progress made as a nation over the past 30 years, while reminding all of the work that still lies ahead. It also presents an opportunity for us to re-dedicate and renew commitment to increase the contribution the sector made to the global economy.

"Tourism Month is not merely an occasion for celebration, but it is a powerful period for promoting advocacy and action," the Minister of Tourism concluded.

**By Lizanne Job**







Minister de Lille and Deputy Minister Sotyu visited the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) outside Carnarvon, Northern Cape, as part of the National Astro-Tourism Strategy opening for public comment from 27 September to 27 October 2024.

## CELEBRATING WORLD TOURISM DAY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

### *Tourism and Peace – 30 Years of connecting people to places and cultures*

On 27 September 2024, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Science and Innovation, and the Northern Cape Tourism Authority celebrated World Tourism Day in Carnarvon, Northern Cape. This important celebration in the tourism calendar took place under this year's localised theme "Tourism and Peace – 30 Years of Connecting People to Places and Cultures", which underscores the importance of tourism as a bridge between diverse human experiences, preserving heritage, and promoting sustainable tourism growth.

The Northern Cape, which is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, serves as the perfect example of how tourism fosters deep connections between people and their surroundings. As tourism continues to grow in the province, this year's celebration focused on Astro-Tourism and encouraged sustainable travel that brings people closer to both nature and culture.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ms Makhotsotyu, expressed her support for the Astro-tourism programme which aims to stimulate tourism growth in the Northern Cape. "Tourism through the National Astro-Tourism Strategy aligns with our shared values of sustainability and indigenous knowledge. We must acknowledge the deep connections the indigenous people have to the land and its resources. I hope this programme will inspire young people to learn more about astronomy," said Deputy Minister Sotyu.

The Minister of Science, and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, expressed his appreciation for the ongoing collaboration of government departments at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Losberg site. "As the Department of Science and Innovation, we have always believed that science infrastructure can make a bigger contribution to the development of local communities and one such contribution is

in how science infrastructure can boost the local economies of rural towns. It is for this reason that this event seeks to demonstrate the connection between astronomy and tourism," said Minister Nzimande.

The Minister of Tourism, Ms Patricia de Lille, delivered the keynote address highlighting the launch of the Astro-Tourism Strategy. "Today, the Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Department of Science and Innovation launched the National Astro-Tourism Strategy, a first on the African continent. The strategy will position South Africa as a world-class astro-tourism destination, focusing on Infrastructure development, the optimal functioning of astronomy-tourism streams, and community transformation," said Minister de Lille.

"We celebrate the launch of the National Astro-Tourism Strategy by announcing the Gazetteing Notice that was published today. We invite the public, including the tourism



and astronomy stakeholders to participate and contribute towards strengthening this very important work by submitting their comments,” added Minister de Lille.

“Today, we cast a spotlight on the experiences in the Northern Cape and we invite South Africans and visitors from the rest of the world, to come and explore this province and engage with the living cultures and traditions that thrive here. We want to use the SKA and Astro Tourism as a catalyst to develop the

Karoo and provide opportunities for rural and agri-tourism to develop our rural nodes,” concluded Minister de Lille.

The festivities culminated in a mesmerising performance by a local artist and a walk-about through the Sustainability Village, where delegates engaged with local resellers of arts and crafts.

This year’s World Tourism Day celebrations provided an opportunity to highlight the

role tourism plays in connecting people to the living cultures of the Northern Cape.

The event also served as a powerful reminder that sustainable travel, community engagement, and the exploration of our country’s natural beauty are not just about making memories, but about gaining a profound understanding of our world and its diverse people.

*By Sifiso Halama*





# OUR CELESTIAL LEGACY, THE BEAUTY OF THE AFRICAN DARK NIGHT SKY

*While the sun lights the African sky in day time, the moon begs the world to help her lighting Africa in the night – Munia Khan*

Before the invention of modern technology such as the telescope, the indigenous peoples of South Africa used their knowledge of the sky and their connection with nature to steer agriculture, reproductive cycles, rain making, navigation and natural disaster management.

San cosmology includes strong rituals, beliefs and artistic expression. By day the San uses the dunes and landscape to track and navigate, and by night, San travels rely on their detailed knowledge of the stars of the Pleiades constellation.

Astro(nomy)tourism is defined as “... tourism using the natural resource of unpolluted night skies, and appropriate scientific knowledge for astronomical, cultural and environmental activities”.

Astro-tourism activities include star and sky gazing with the naked eye and through a telescope, observing lunar and solar eclipses, meteorite showers, viewing comets and the northern lights, visiting planetariums and observatories and experiencing the unique indigenous starlore narratives.

The African sky and all its beauty (rainbows, stars, eclipses) is absolutely free, it is always available and never needs to be fixed or developed; all we need to do is to preserve our dark night sky, by limiting light pollution, without compromising the use of outdoor

lighting for safety and security. It is for this reason that we encourage tourism products and offerings to ensure that outdoor lighting is useful, targeted, shielded, low-levelled and warm-coloured.

Globally recognition is found within the implementation of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) who signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) demonstrating their commitment to “improve the understanding of the astronomical heritage and merge astronomy and cultural heritage”.

For circadian rhythm, plants, animals and humans all depend on Earth’s daily cycle of light and dark to govern life-sustaining behaviours for our general bodily function, nourishment and sleep.

It is for this reason that this unique indigenous Starlore heritage is being acknowledged through the National Astro-Tourism Strategy. This Strategy has been developed by the Department of Tourism and the Department of Science and Innovation. The Implementation Plan’s goal to grow astro-tourism in South Africa will be implemented, monitored and evaluated according to the three strategic pillars:

- **Pillar One:** Indigenous Celestial Narratives and Human Capacity Development

- **Pillar Two:** Infrastructure Development
- **Pillar Three:** Inclusive Tourism Growth and Partnerships

The National Astro-Tourism Strategy is also adding value to the largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), which is being built in Carnarvon, in the south of the Northern Cape Province. The SKA is an intergovernmental international radio telescope project being built in Australia (low-frequency) and South Africa (mid-frequency). These countries and sites have been chosen in the southern hemisphere, where the view of the Milky Way galaxy is the best and radio interference is at its least.

With the astro-tourism niche market growing and the international investment towards the SKA in South Africa, the country has the competitive advantage to develop the tourism sector and further boost transformation by enhancing the livelihoods of our local communities and sharing our indigenous celestial stories with the rest of the world.

The National Astro-Tourism Strategy has been approved by Cabinet and was gazetted on World Tourism Day, 27 September 2024.

✨ We therefore request the participation of all South Africans, tourism and astronomy stakeholders and the public to send us their comments at [astrotourism@tourism.gov.za](mailto:astrotourism@tourism.gov.za) before 27 October 2024.

*By Dr Laetitia Jacobs*





# A ROAD TRIP THROUGH THE **RUGGED WONDER THAT IS THE NORTHERN CAPE**



The wide-open roads of the Northern Cape beckon, promising grand adventures beyond the crowded holiday hubs. From flowering valleys to towering kloofs, exotic wildlife to dazzling night skies, this is South Africa's wild frontier. Grab the family and blaze your own trail of discovery!



Visit Nieuwoudtville, the Bulb Capital of the World, where rare fynbos and ancient succulents collide in a kaleidoscope of colour. Let the kids run free through the 6 000 hectare Hantam Garden, a botanist's paradise.

Gear up for a five-day, 52km trek along the imposing Oorlogskloof Rock Pigeon Trail. Scale towering rock formations, overnight in wilderness huts, and revel in the backcountry

solitude. You'll earn serious bragging rights after conquering this challenging hike!

Venture down the Karoo Highlands Route to experience the small-town charm of places like Calvinia, Sutherland, and Carnarvon. Visit working sheep farms, enjoy home-cooked meals, and marvel at the endless horizons. Under giant skies, you'll find room to breathe.

Keep your eyes peeled for meerkats standing sentry, bats fluttering through sundown skies, and aardvarks ambling by in the moonlight. The Northern Cape's exotic species promise memorable wildlife encounters without the crowds.

Embark on a road trip to the Northern Cape, where natural wonders, rugged beauty, and simple pleasures come together in perfect harmony. An unforgettable family adventure awaits!

*Visit working sheep farms, enjoy home-cooked meals, and marvel at the endless horizons. Under giant skies, you'll find room to breathe.*

**By Northern Cape Tourism Authority**



# NEW WORLD HERITAGE SITES DECLARED IN SOUTH AFRICA



**Photos:** KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute

Founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, the late Steve Biko once remarked, “great powers of the world have done wonders in giving the world an industrial look, but the great gift still has to come from Africa – giving the world a more human face”. In response to questions on what Africa has to offer to the world, the late internationally renowned paleoanthropologist, Professor Phillip Tobias, told the critics that, “Africa has given the world humanity. That is not a bad contribution”.

This perspective was reaffirmed during the 46<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee session in New Delhi, India, at the end of July 2024, when two new South African sites were added to the World Heritage List. These sites, representing two different historical eras, underscore the interconnectedness of our shared humanity.

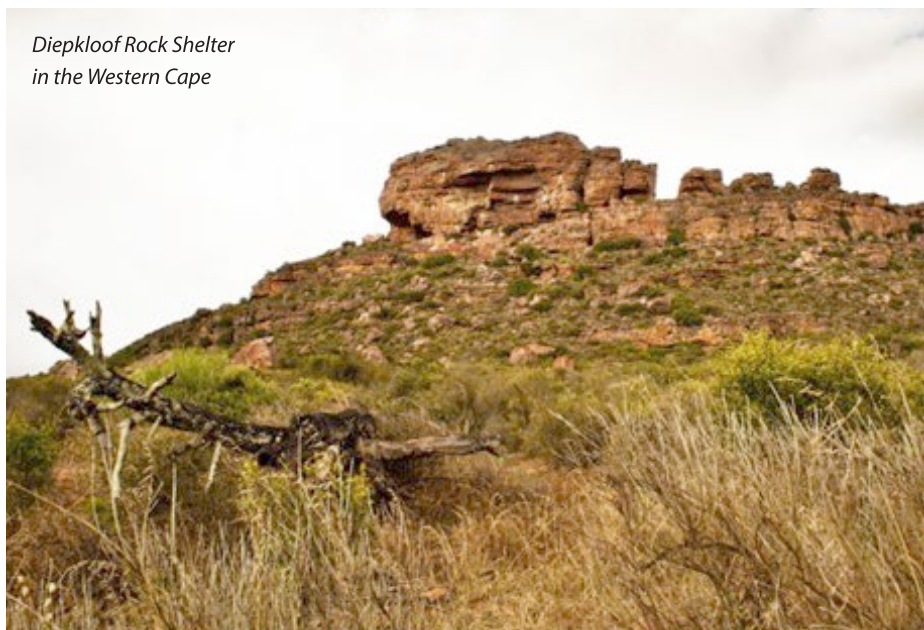
On 26 July 2024, the committee successfully inscribed the nomination, “The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa” on the World Heritage List. This inscription highlights how scientists found the first evidence of human modernity in archaeological sites in South Africa, dating back to approximately 162 000 years ago.

On 27 July, following an inspiring discussion, where all 21 committee members emphasised the significance of the “Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites”, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the site as the first World Heritage Property under the African Liberation Heritage Programme. The decision advances the 2005 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) resolution on African Roads to Independence.

The Nelson Mandela Legacy sites property demonstrates the principles of inclusive human rights, the importance of liberation and the transformative power of reconciliation. It also celebrates the collective victory of humanity over the evil of apartheid, articulates a sharp call for peaceful conclusion of conflicts and a permanent rebuke to every form of apartheid.

Both inscriptions are serial sites, hence they comprise several components in one

*Diepkloof Rock Shelter  
in the Western Cape*

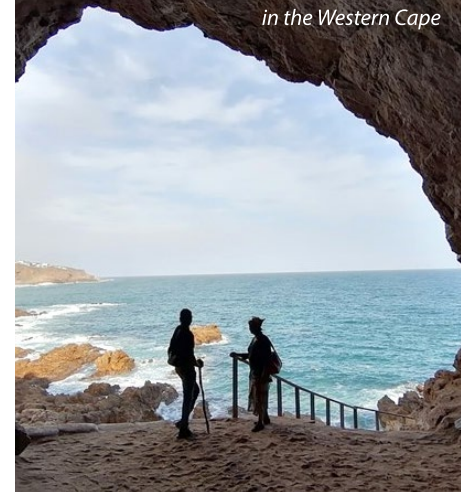




Sibhudu Cave in KwaZulu-Natal



Pinnacle Point site Complex in the Western Cape



single World Heritage Site. The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour currently spans through three archaeological sites – Diepkloof Rock Shelter and Pinnacle Point site Complex, in the Western Cape and Sibhudu Cave in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Nelson Mandela Legacy sites encompass a broad geographical area, including:

- components of the Sharpeville Massacre, Liliesleaf, the June 1976 Streets of Orlando West, Walter Sisulu Square, Union Buildings and Constitution Hill in Gauteng;
- the Great Place of Mqhekezweni and Fort Hare, inclusive of ZK Matthews House, in the Eastern Cape;
- Waaihoek Wesleyan Church in the Free State; and
- Ohlange in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour provides scientists with evidence of how humans started becoming behaviourally modern and more complex, dating back approximately 162 000 years. This evidence is reflected in several key practices, including the decoration of bodies with shell beads, indicating a new level of self-awareness; in the use of engravings on eggshell used as storage water containers, signifying ownership; in the consistent use of shellfish, demonstrating an understanding of the tidal system; in the development and use of composite tools, such as bow and arrow, showcasing our ancestors' ability to strategically use different materials to achieve specific goals.

All components of the Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites bear witness not only to

the struggle against apartheid; but also to Mandela's contribution to freedom, human rights and peace. They are tangibly associated with significant international events, ideas and literary works.

This inscription was especially significant for both South Africa and the world, as it closes a crucial gap in the World Heritage List by recognising sites related to memory and the African liberation struggles, which have been underrepresented. These sites honour the sacrifices made for, and victory of the values of human rights, freedom and reconciliation. They celebrate the safeguarding of human rights, which are central to the Ubuntu philosophy: ***"Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu" – "You are because I am, I am because you are"***.

### Safeguarding the sites

The commitment to safeguarding these newly inscribed sites is a collective effort involving local communities, stakeholders and authorities. The dedication of local communities and civil society is crucial to preserving the integrity and authenticity of these important properties.

As we celebrate both Tourism and Heritage Month, we are reminded of the unifying power of heritage and its ability to foster tourism. The inscription of these World Heritage sites is expected to develop pride, social cohesion and national identity among local communities and visitors. It will also support socio-economic development and create economic opportunities through

sustainable tourism and related activities. This will be as much a priority, as the duty to ensure conservation and sustainability of these properties.

While sites such as Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Pinnacle Point Site Complex, Liliesleaf, Constitution Hill, the Union Buildings and Ohlange are already open to the public, others, including Sibhudu Cave and ZK Matthews House, are in the process of being prepared for visitation. Efforts are underway to ensure that the sites can be accessed while also benefiting local communities.

The inscription of the two South African sites has been complemented by the addition of three other sites in the continent – the Royal Court of Tiébélé in Burkina Faso, the Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi in Kenya and the Melka Kunture and Balchit: Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites in the Highland Area in Ethiopia.

The inscription of these five World Heritage sites re-ignite the commitment of the region, the World Heritage Committee, the African World Heritage Fund, the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies to ensure a more representative and credible list as highlighted in the Priority Africa Strategy for World Heritage.

**By Dr Mariagrazia Galimberti**

*Amafa and Research Institute and Khwezi kaMpumlwana, Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route*

*First Published on Public Sector Manager magazine.*

# CAPE TOWN AIR ACCESS CELEBRATES **NEW MILESTONES** **WITH AIR BOTSWANA'S** **EXPANDED NETWORK**



Cape Town Air Access, powered by Wesgro, is pleased with the recent announcement that Air Botswana will be adding significant capacity to its Cape Town route network, facilitating greater business and leisure travel between the two destinations.

Starting from 1 November 2024, Air Botswana will introduce several changes to its Cape Town schedule. Most notably, the carrier will introduce a new direct service connecting Kasane to Cape Town with three flights per week. The addition of Kasane marks the 11th African destination to be added to Cape Town's route network since the start of the Cape Town Air Access project in 2015. The new service increases Cape Town and the Western Cape's connectivity to 16 destinations across the continent.

In addition, Air Botswana will up frequencies on its existing Gaborone-Cape Town connection from three to five per week, as well as launch a new route service connecting Maun to Cape Town, with three flights per week. Gaborone is Cape Town's best-performing city in Botswana, with over 28 000 passengers recorded in 2023. Maun, which ranks second behind Gaborone, has also seen incredible improvement with a year-on-year growth of 30% in two-way passengers for 2023. Maun - Cape Town currently has a daily Airlink flight; however, the addition of Air Botswana's service will increase capacity on the route to a total of 10 flights per week.

In total, Air Botswana's added frequencies will increase Cape Town's connectivity to

Botswana from 10 to 18 flights per week between the two destinations. Botswana is Cape Town's fifth largest two-way passenger market in Southern Africa, with over 57 000 passengers recorded in 2023 which represents a 21% growth when compared to the same period in 2022. As such, this capacity boost is set to further strengthen ties between the two regions, promoting enhanced trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.

"The expansions by Air Botswana are expected to significantly boost the connectivity between the destinations, contributing to the economic growth of both regions. The inclusion of Kasane as a new regional connection within Cape Town's route network is a testament to the project's success in expanding Cape Town and the Western Cape's reach across the continent. This development reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering economic growth through strategic partnerships and enhanced connectivity," stated Wrenelle Stander, Wesgro CEO and official spokesperson for Cape Town Air Access.

Commenting on the development, MEC Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Provincial Minister for Economic Development and Agriculture, said, "We are thrilled about this venture, as it will open up new business investment opportunities. The enhanced connectivity is expected to significantly boost tourism - a key driver for the Western Cape and the broader economy - while also creating potential trade opportunities."

"Tourism, one of the industries that experienced rapid growth following the

COVID-19 Pandemic, plays a crucial role in the region. The Western Cape's significant domestic tourism market adds to its resilience, helping the industry smooth out seasonally induced fluctuations," he continued.

Alderman James Vos, the City of Cape Town Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, said, "At the City of Cape Town, we take great pride in funding the Air Access Programme, as it directly supports our economic growth mission. This new flight from Botswana to Cape Town exemplifies our commitment to connecting with key markets across Africa. By enhancing our aviation links, we stimulate trade and travel, fostering greater economic activity and creating positive spinoffs for our local economy. We are excited about the opportunities this new route brings and the continued growth it will drive for Cape Town and our African partners."

"We are excited to welcome Air Botswana's new and expanded routes, which will greatly enhance Cape Town International Airport's connectivity with the region. The introduction of Kasane to our network, coupled with increased flights from Gaborone and the new service to Maun, offers our passengers greater accessibility and convenience. Our commitment remains steadfast in providing an exceptional airport experience as we support these new connections and facilitate seamless transit for travellers between these key destinations," added Mark Maclean, Regional General Manager for Cape Town International Airport.

## **About the Project:**

Cape Town Air Access is a global award-winning air route development project, acting as the focal point for proactive air route development, for both passengers and air cargo, in Cape Town and the Western Cape. The project is powered by Wesgro - The Tourism, Trade & Investment Promotion Agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape, and through a multi-party collaborative effort between six government entities and the private sector, we strive to improve air connectivity and capacity for the Western Cape province, in a sustainable manner, whilst increasing economic competitiveness and job creation.

**By WESGRO**





## BAHARI BAY ARCHITECT SET TO BRING **THE 'ESSENCE OF THE NORTH COAST'** TO THE KZN SOUTH COAST

As the subtropical climate, natural beauty, and affordable property prices continue to attract investors to the KZN South Coast, estate developments are being constructed to provide secure, holistic living options. The multi-billion rand Bahari Bay Eco Estate in Shelly Beach has renowned architect and project manager, Vinodh Bridglall, on board, with a vision to emulate the real estate success of the north on the KZN South Coast.

In addition to his involvement in the Bahari Bay development, Bridglall – who is the founder of VHB Associates – is designing a home for himself in an area known as The Executive. Consisting of 14 exclusive double plots totalling roughly between 1 600 m<sup>2</sup> to 2 000 m<sup>2</sup> per double plot - of which only four are still available – The Executive enjoys panoramic sea views and expansive natural surroundings.

“My initial inclination was to head north, erect a building there and relocate in that direction. However, I realised that rather than physically moving, I could bring the essence of the north coast to the south coast, right here where I am connected to the local community,” he explained.

Commenting on the architectural style of The Executive residences, Bridglall said it would be a minimalist yet earthy feel. “This is characterised by straight lines, concrete slabs, and roof gardens, to completely blend in with the natural environment. We’ve also incorporated sustainable elements to the design such as Low-E glazing and cantilevers

to optimise energy efficiency and enhance the living experience,” Bridglall continued.


He added, “Bahari Bay is the best place to be. This is going to be the next gem on the KZN South Coast and the value that one finds in this area far surpasses that of the North Coast offerings.”

According to Gawie Venter, Developer of Bahari Bay, more than half of the 100-hectare Eco Estate will remain untouched, promising a conservation-focused investment where residents enjoy outdoor pursuits including scenic walking trails, hiking trails, and a specially curated mountain biking trail. Additionally, Bahari Bay features seven picturesque catch-and-release dams and direct private beach access - making it an idyllic retreat for residents seeking tranquillity amidst nature. Plots start at R470 000, or a plot-and-plan option starts from R2,6 million.

Bahari Bay joins several other catalytic property developments along the KZN South Coast. Among these are:

- The R2 billion **Umdoni Point Coastal Forest Estate**: a pristine over-50s lifestyle development alongside an indigenous coastal forest in the tranquil village of Pennington. More than 40 homes have already been constructed within the secure estate during Phase 1, with new sales already launched in Phase 2. There will be 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom homes in the Eco Estate starting from R2,3 million constructed with bespoke designs.

- The R800 million **Serenity Hills** eco-focused estate near Margate. This estate also offers secure living for all ages in a tranquil coastal setting. It has already attracted several international investors and construction has begun on homes, with buyers set to take residence this year.
- Another large-scale development pioneering the revival of the KZN South Coast is the R15 billion **Renishaw Coastal Precinct** in Scottburgh. This project is on track to be a successful mixed-use precinct. Its successful Phase 1 development is the 25-hectare retirement estate, Renishaw Hills, which in just five years, has seen house values escalate by 50%. This is likely set to continue as this 1 300-hectare mixed-use development unfolds.
- The 32-hectare **Injabulo Lifestyle Estate** in Margate. This estate boasts an estimated investment value of R300 million, largely from international investors. There will be 254 free-standing, full-title homes with private gardens and ocean views, with zoning for medical and educational facilities. Property prices start from R995 500 for a 2-bedroom unit and at R1 192 500 for a 3-bedroom unit.

 To find out more about these and other investment opportunities, get in touch with SCTIE, the KZN South Coast's One-Stop Shop for investment. **Contact SCTIE on 039 682 7944, email [oss@sctie.co.za](mailto:oss@sctie.co.za) or visit [www.investkznsouthcoast.co.za](http://www.investkznsouthcoast.co.za).**

*By Cara Smith*

# PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA LEADS THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO IN EKURHULENI



On 23 August this year, President Cyril Ramaphosa led the District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality at Tsakane Stadium, Gauteng. This was the first Presidential Imbizo of the Government of National Unity (GNU).

The City of Ekurhuleni is regarded as an Aerotropolis due to its economy being centered around O.R Tambo International Airport, the busiest airport in Africa. At its core, the key focus areas for economic growth include aerospace manufacturing and aviation, agri-business and food processing, retail, as well as education and skills training. From a tourism perspective,

there are opportunities for business tourism and cultural event-based travel, including convention and exhibition hosting facilities that create an avenue for accommodation.

A marquee was erected at the Tsakane Stadium, as community members came out in numbers to engage with the President, various Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Gauteng Premier and other Government officials. The Minister of Tourism, Ms Patricia de Lille, and the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ms Makhotsotso, joined this delegation of national, provincial and local government officials to hear first-hand the challenges the people of Ekurhuleni face.

The Imbizo kicked off with a welcome address by the Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Mr Nkosiphile Xhakaza. The Executive Mayor provided an overview of the City of Ekurhuleni, expressing Government's commitment to quality service delivery, financial stability, infrastructure development, and economic growth.

The Premier of Gauteng, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, addressed the audience and provided an update on upcoming projects that aim to improve job creation in the province. He announced the expansion of the Gautrain network, highlighting that its construction will provide increased job opportunities. The Premier also announced expansion plans at O.R Tambo International Airport to stimulate growth in cargo traffic.

Community members were given an opportunity to raise their concerns and highlight challenges to the President and the various Ministers in attendance. Mostly, community members indicated the need for increased job opportunities, support for small businesses, and access to social services. The President invited responsible Ministers and Deputy Ministers to address all the issues raised by the public.

In his address, President Ramaphosa expressed the importance of engagements such as an Imbizo to stimulate dialogue between Government and communities using the DDM. "A district approach enables us to look more closely at what we need to do, working together, with business, Government, community-based organisations, and a variety of other key role players," said President Ramaphosa.

Over and above the interactive engagements, various Government departments erected exhibition stands to assist community members with their inquiries. The Department of Tourism officials were also in attendance and provided information on the departmental programmes such as the Market Access Programme, the assortment of Skills Development Programmes, and the Green Tourism Incentives Programme.

*By Sifiso Halama*



# DEPUTY MINISTER SOTYU VISITS VANDERBIJLPARK



On 29 August 2024 Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ms Maggie Soty, held a stakeholder's engagement at Lalamanzi River Lodge in Vanderbijlpark. The Deputy Minister mentioned that former Minister Kubayi and former Deputy Minister Mahlalela previously paid a visit to Vanderbijlpark, and during this visit numerous salient issues and pertinent matters such as a need for more jobs and funding opportunities in the region were raised.

Deputy Minister Soty said, "You had also raised the issue of inadequate and unmaintained municipal roads and infrastructure, which have a negative impact on businesses. You cited an example that the Sharpville Monument was not maintained and preserved. So, I am here today to ensure that these matters and new ones that you will be raising here, will be swiftly attended to by my officials that are present, today."

The Department of Tourism, through its programmes, gives expression to its mandate for inclusive economic growth and to grow the tourism sector. It is in this context that Government continues to create a conducive environment for youth, women and people with disabilities in tourism to pursue tourism careers including entrepreneurship.

Tourism is significantly instrumental in building capacity. "We started by instilling a love for this industry at secondary school level. This gave birth to the National Tourism Careers Expo (NTCE) which serves as an intrinsic platform for introducing learners who are interested in pursuing a career in tourism. To advance the transformation agenda the Department has established a number of programmes aimed at skills development," the Deputy Minister continued.

She emphasised the Department's commitment to intensifying efforts to create promising opportunities for women, youth and people with disabilities to pursue their careers in the tourism sector. She mentioned that the Department would, through its programmes, ensure that these three groups are included as the Department grows the tourism sector.

She pointed to multiple programmes driven by the Department which she said continued to open doors for the previously disadvantaged and young people. Some of these programmes target unemployed youth between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty five (35).

She concluded that, "Over the years, tourism has undergone such a diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors. This has led to programmes such as the Tourism Monitors Programme and Tourist Guiding being introduced, and these, in turn, created jobs and internship programmes."

*By Annah Mashile*

# MINISTER OF TOURISM PATRICIA DE LILLE CONDUCTS OUTREACH ENGAGEMENT **WITH GREEN TOURISM INCENTIVE PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES**



As part of outreach activities, Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille recently conducted site visits to two tourism establishments that are beneficiaries of the Department of Tourism's Green Tourism Incentive Programme (GTIP).

The Timosha Guest House is a three-star graded establishment located in Kempton Park in Gauteng. The establishment is 100% black woman-owned. Following the application assessment for GTIP funding, the programme covered the full costs of the energy and water audit to determine the appropriate energy and water-saving opportunities at the establishment while at the same time highlighting the carbon footprint reduction and financial viability of this project.

The Timosha Guest House qualified for grant funding of 90% of the implementation cost (equivalent to R730 323) to implement the proposed energy and water-saving interventions. The installation was completed in February 2024 and a savings verification will be conducted to determine the impact of the installations over time. It is however expected that the establishment will make significant savings due to the solar

PV installations which were made possible through the GTIP funding.

The second property visited by Minister de Lille was the View Guest House, located in Thembisa, Gauteng. The establishment is also 100% black woman-owned and classified as a level one contributor according to the tourism B-BBEE scorecard.

The GTIP covered the full costs of the energy and water audit to determine the appropriate energy and water-saving opportunities at the establishment while at the same time highlighting the carbon footprint reduction and financial viability of this project. The View Guest House qualified for grant funding of 86% of the implementation cost (equivalent to R626 296) of the total cost of the proposed interventions.

The View implemented all the energy interventions stipulated in the assessment. The power generated by the solar system for both Timosha and The View Guest Houses will lead to a reduction in electricity usage and result in future savings on their utility bill. Not only will the interventions ensure more responsible operations and environmental benefits, but after the

projected payback period, the cost savings will continue to reduce the overall operation cost of the enterprises with direct and sustained benefits in terms of profitability and improved competitiveness.

"The visit to the two establishments is a follow-up after the Presidential Imbizo held in Ekurhuleni last month as we sought to engage beneficiaries of the department's GTIP programme. This programme has been instrumental in assisting hundreds of South African tourism business to go green and have more efficient operations to ensure they can provide guests with an uninterrupted visitor experience. We are extremely proud of what this project has been able to achieve in providing financial support to businesses to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by going green in their operations," Minister de Lille said.

"I encourage all tourism businesses to take up this amazing opportunity by applying for funding from this incentive programme. This is a key example of how government is creating an enabling environment for businesses to grow and thrive," Minister de Lille concluded.

*By Ministry*



# THE GREEN TOURISM INCENTIVE PROGRAMME (GTIP) OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



The Department of Tourism invites eligible tourism enterprises to apply for support under the Green Tourism Incentive Programme's (GTIP) 10<sup>th</sup> application window that opened on 2 September 2024 and will remain open until 28 February 2025.

The GTIP was developed by the Department of Tourism in partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to enable and encourage tourism enterprises to improve efficiency in the utilisation of energy and water resources in their operations. In this way, the programme not only promotes compliance with responsible tourism principles, but also offers a mechanism for enterprises to reduce operational costs so they can operate in a sustainable and competitive manner.

The GTIP offers partial grant funding on the cost of retrofitting tourism facilities with energy and water efficiency equipment and systems. The application process to access the GTIP is done through two phases:

- **Phase 1:** The applying Tourism enterprises undergoes a resource efficiency audit during which appropriate efficiency measures and solutions are recommended. The cost of this audit is fully covered under the GTIP programme.
- **Phase 2:** Eligible applicants (who completed phase 1) are able to apply for grant funding support of between 50% and 90% on the cost of installing relevant technologies and equipment recommended during the Phase 1 (capped at a maximum of R1 million per applicant).

The GTIP is administered by the IDC and all applications are received, processed and managed by the IDC on behalf of the Department of Tourism.

Since inception in November 2017 and June 2024, the GTIP has had nine application windows from which 216 applications were approved at a total grant value of more than R140 million.

Explaining the impact of this Tourism incentive, Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille stated that initiatives such as the GTIP are contributing immensely to greening the tourism sector in the process helping to sustain the future of this sector.

*"Conserving our scarce natural resource is crucial to the sustainability of the tourism sector."*

*"As we work towards the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), programmes such as the GTIP become critical in reinforcing and supporting tourism enterprises to adopt responsible tourism practices."*

"Accordingly, the GTIP aims to support tourism enterprises to retrofit their facilities with green technologies such as solar PV panels and water saving measures. I therefore encourage businesses to apply for funding support under the GTIP," said Minister De Lille.

The GTIP has enjoyed much success from tourism enterprises who applied for support. The following tourism business owners shared their experience of how the GTIP has empowered their businesses, and reduced electricity and water costs:

**Ms Mokgaetji Flora Phala (Mminanoko Eco Guesthouse (Limpopo))** - "I was spending R2 500 on electricity costs per month. I now spend R500 a month, saving between R1 500 to R2000 a month following the installation of energy solutions. The GTIP is a great initiative that helps a lot and can be recommended to other businesses."

**Mr. Chris de Vries – (Maribelle's B&B (Pretoria, Gauteng))** - "The amount spent on electricity was high before the installations, but it has gone down significantly. It is still too early to tell the exact amounts, but I have noticed a significant saving from the installations. I would definitely recommend other business to get access to this programme, it is very beneficial."

**Mr. Gugulethu Nogaya - (Imvomvo Country Lodge (MaXesibeni), Eastern Cape)** - "Energy consumption prior to the installation of energy solutions averaged at 24 000 kWh per month. Since the installation it has reduced our monthly energy consumption by half. We were spending approximately R60 000.00 on diesel during peak load shedding, but that has now dropped to less than R5 000 per month only when there are power outages. I would highly recommend the GTIP programme for all lodges, B&B's and other businesses as it significantly improves margins by reducing cost and increases customer satisfactions."

 Tourism enterprises can visit both the websites of the Department of Tourism ([www.tourism.gov.za](http://www.tourism.gov.za)) or that of the Industrial Development Corporation ([www.idc.co.za](http://www.idc.co.za)) to read more on the requirements, eligibility and qualifying criteria and the application processes for the GTIP.

**By Ministry**



# THE NATIONAL TOURISM CAREER EXPO 2024 IS HERE!

*As the global tourism industry continues to rebound and evolve, there's never been a more exciting time to explore a career in this dynamic sector.*

The Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA), the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) will host this year's edition of the National Tourism Careers Expo (NTCE) from 08 – 10 October 2024.

The three-day expo will take place at the new Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane where thousands of high school learners, educators, TVET College and University students, and unemployed graduates will attend.

As one of the premier event on the Department's calendar, the NTCE is designed to connect aspiring professionals with opportunities in travel, hospitality, and related industries. Whether you're a student, a recent graduate, or someone looking to pivot into a new career, this expo is your

gateway to discovering the diverse and vibrant world of tourism.

The expo will provide an opportunity for the youth gain insight about tourism's diverse careers, latest trends, challenges and

*Whether you're a student, a recent graduate, or someone looking to pivot into a new career, this expo is your gateway to discovering the diverse and vibrant world of tourism.*

opportunities. Attendees will be exposed to a plethora of exhibitor booths, industry-specific acumen, and networking opportunities with experienced industry professionals.

This year's edition will also mark 15 years since its inception in 2008. Each year, the expo continues to draw thousands of learners and educators who are eager to learn and play a vital role in the country's tourism sector.

Whether you're looking to start your journey or advance your career, the expo offers the resources and opportunities to help you succeed in the exciting field of tourism. Don't miss out on this chance to discover your future in the global travel industry!

Visit: [www.tourism.gov.za](http://www.tourism.gov.za) for more details on the upcoming NTCE.

*By Sifiso Halama*







# DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

## PROGRAMME: RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING



### 1. Chef Denisha Padayachee

Chef Denisha Padayachee from KwaZulu-Natal successfully completed the Department's Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Programme that takes into account any prior educational courses completed by chefs, and awards them with the relevant occupational qualification and designation.

*"The RPL Programme helped to refine my skills. I have been in the industry for 13 years, and the RPL exam environment afforded me an opportunity to reflect on the basics of being a chef. The qualification I attained, boosted my CV, and will help me pursue teaching in the future."* – **Chef Denisha Padayachee.**



### 2. August Mthembu

KwaZulu-Natal-based August Mthembu is a chef with 11 years of experience in the culinary industry. With extensive experience in cookery, baking, and desserts, Chef August refined his skill through the RPL Programme, and subsequently obtained an occupational qualification and designation.

*"Completing the RPL Programme opened many doors for me to advance my career. I am able to work at high-end establishments with good remuneration. I am hopeful that my qualification will help me attain my dream of working on a cruise ship, and ultimately of owning my own restaurant one day."* – **Chef August Mthembu.**

## MARKET ACCESS PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES



### 3. Nicolette Coetzee

Discover Thabazimbi is a woman-owned travel agency and the brainchild of Nicolette Coetzee of Thabazimbi in the Limpopo Province. Her mission is to establish the Waterberg District, including Thabazimbi, as a destination of choice. She made her way to the Africa Travel Indaba with the aim of marketing her business to the rest of the world.

*"Africa Travel Indaba has exceeded my expectations. I'm honoured to have been invited to an event of this magnitude. The chance to gain new clients and grow my business is massive. I am really grateful to the Department of Tourism for providing me with this opportunity."* – **Nicolette Coetzee.**



### 4. Baile Ntsoeng

Baile Ntsoeng is the owner of Botho Crochette. All the way from Midrand in the Gauteng Province, Baile joined the Market Access Support Programme for the first time at Meetings Africa 2024. Baile specialises in crocheting unique creations by hand, using an assortment of yarns.

*"The Market Access Support Programme is what we small businesses need in order to tap into the international marketplace out there. It's a difficult market to penetrate. This is the best initiative that the Department of Tourism has come up with."* – **Baile Ntsoeng.**



# BENEFICIARIES



## 5. Nonzwanga Thisani

Rainbow Guest House and Tours is a 3-star graded establishment owned by Nonzwanga Thisani. She transformed her house into a guest house with six standard rooms and two family units. Nonzwanga attended her first Africa Travel Indaba and she was so grateful for the prospect of showcasing her business to the world.

*"I would like to thank the Department of Tourism for this opportunity. My business has been exposed to international markets and I have no doubt that this will positively impact my business. International markets are often difficult to reach, but The Department has created a platform to put us all under one roof, and this to me is a win-win situation."* – **Nonzwanga Thisani.**



## 6. Dakalo Mukwevho Thavhani

Boutique Hotel is an 11-room establishment located in the Limpopo Province. Dakalo Mukwevho who manages the beautiful hotel, had the opportunity of showcasing her business as a representative at the World Travel Market 2024.

*"I was so excited when I received a call from the Department of Tourism. I am grateful for this opportunity to market my business. I have gained new clients and exposure during this exhibition. I am hopeful that the business will grow."* – **Dakalo Mukwevho.**



## 7. Palesa Selepe

Victorious Corner Guest House is a woman-owned business that was founded by Palesa Selepe in 2018. She flew to Cape Town to be part of the Market Access Support Programme at the World Travel Market 2024.

*"The Market Access Support Programme is a great initiative by the Department of Tourism. I have made new contacts and concluded a deal with a client from Tanzania. I'm excited to see how this relationship with this new client will benefit my business."* – **Palesa Selepe.**



## 8. Mpho Molema

Mpho Molema is a founder of Workshop ko Kasi, an establishment that represents the Batswana culture in Kuruman in the Northern Cape. Mpho had the opportunity of marketing her business at SATOVITO and also showcased her husband's book called "We Are World Creators".

*"Township and Village Tourism is very important in our communities because tourists flock to our villages and townships to learn about African cultures and experience it first-hand. We have so much to offer in the tourism industry, and I would like to say thank you to the Department of Tourism and SATOVITO for exploring this avenue."* – **Mpho Molema.**



## SERVICE EXCELLENCE ROUND TABLE IN MTHATHA – EASTERN CAPE

The two-day round table was held on 11 and 12 September 2024. The first day activities were held at Hotel Savoy in Mthatha, Eastern Cape. This initiative is aimed at bringing partners and stakeholders together to engage in discussions that will create a culture of service excellence in small towns. Processes are facilitated with the involvement of Government, businesses, associations, regulators, communities and the tourism value chain. The discussions and topics are informed by identified challenges, utilising the service excellence needs assessment tool.

The session was led by Mr Rodney Malehase from the Department of Tourism, in partnership with the King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency. "We need to create an enabling environment in developing

positive customer service culture," Malehase said. Panel discussions were held, addressing the consumer protection redress, tourism signage, pollution and waste management, tourism marketing, B-BBEE compliance, safety and tourism norms and standards.

The stakeholders raised issues of safety for tourists who come to visit Mthatha, and the water shortages around the N2 National Route. It was noted that the filling stations are unable to offer services to the tourists as they stop to ease themselves at these stations.

Mr Nomonde Makaula from ECPTA elaborated, "If there is no water for the whole week, the toilets will be closed and the person responsible for cleaning the toilets will be told to stay at home until further notice. This means no work, no pay, resulting in unemployment." It was also noted that

Government needs to give black people the opportunity to work in the wild life resorts.

It was agreed that the municipality will have a discussion with the taxi association of Mthatha as they are taking over the shuttle services, even in hotels. The branded buses in private accommodation facilities are no longer used to transport their tourists due to taxi drivers invading that space.

A concern regarding parking space when visiting Nelson Mandela Museum was raised; that it is not safe, as tourists have to cross the streets with their cameras, leaving other valuables in their cars unattended at the mall. It was also mentioned that the Liberation Heritage Route was riddled with potholes.

The issues raised were addressed by the panel of members and experts in the tourism field. There was consensus around the fact that working together with the municipality, the water, waste and infrastructure issues would be addressed. It was also suggested that Tourism Safety Monitors should be assigned around the tourism attraction areas to address the issue of safety.

On day two of the programme, a physical intervention was conducted. All the members of the Tourism Department, KSD Municipality and surrounding community members of Mthatha Dam gathered to clean up the Umthatha Dam.



*By Annah Mashile*



# MAKERS VILLAGE EXTENDS WELCOME SUPPORT **FOR CULLINAN ARTISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS**

Makers Foundation's latest endeavour, Makers Village in Cullinan, is already making waves in the local community by offering vital support for artists and entrepreneurs. With a proven track record in Irene over the past 14 years, Makers Foundation is now expanding its efforts to uplift and empower the residents of Cullinan.

Makers Village Irene has been a beacon of hope for local artists and small entrepreneurs, providing them with a platform to showcase their talents and grow their businesses. Now, the spotlight is on Cullinan, and Makers Village is bustling with activity, innovation, and creativity. From aeroponics, recycling, laser cutting, and 3D printing to sewing, designing, vending, and training, Makers Village offers a diverse range of opportunities for individuals of all ages and from all backgrounds.

"Our workshops may be the apple of our eye, but our main mission is to turn Cullinan into everyone's cup of tea," says Tania Bryant, one of the founders of Makers Foundation. "We believe in a world where everyone is free to be who they are, and talent is valued."

Makers Foundation is committed to building a greener, more socially inclusive, and more creative society. Through initiatives like Makers Village, the foundation aims to empower vulnerable communities and provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

As part of its efforts to revitalise tourism in Cullinan, Makers Foundation has unveiled a comprehensive plan to enhance the local community and attract visitors from near and far. From 'welcome' signs and community clean-up initiatives, to historical tours and cultural experiences, Makers Foundation is

dedicated to creating an inviting, vibrant destination for tourists and locals alike.

"At a time when people are searching for connection and authenticity, Cullinan has the potential to reclaim and revitalise local and international tourism," says Tania Bryant. "We invite companies and travellers alike to join us on this journey to discover the unexplored charms of this small corner of the world."

## About Makers Foundation:

Makers Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to community development and empowerment. Through initiatives like Makers Village, the foundation provides individuals of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities for economic empowerment, skills development, and cultural enrichment.

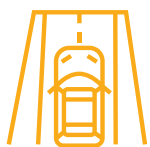
*By Tania Bryant*







# #ResponsibleTraveller Road Safety Tips



- » Stay alert & avoid poorly lit areas, especially at night.
- » Alert your holiday residence of your route & arrival time.
- » Lock doors and close windows at traffic intersections.
- » Double check your car is locked to avoid remote jamming.
- » Keep belongings inside the vehicle and out of view.
- » Car Breakdown: Call car rental company for assistance or insurance company. Stay in the car.
- » Accidents: call 10111 (Police) & 10177 (ambulance).

## ROADBLOCK ETIQUETTE

- » Keep your passport & driver's license (local /international) readily available.
- » Pull over safely at Police or Metro police roadblocks.
- » Safety officers wear uniform, a name badge and drive marked cars.
- » Traffic fines are paid at police stations or Magistrate Courts
- » Do not stop for unmarked cars - proceed cautiously with your hazard lights on to the nearest police station or busy area.
- » Do not pay bribes to police or metro police officers.

**Useful contacts: Should you require support or find yourself in distress, contact the authorities for assistance:**

**Police (SAPS):** (T) 10111 | **Ambulance/Fire:** (T) 10177 | **Tourist Emergency WhatsApp line:** +27 (0) 82 321 6018

**Tourism Complaints:** (T) 012 444 6000 or 0860 686 747 / E-mail: [complaints@tourism.gov.za](mailto:complaints@tourism.gov.za) (Monday to Friday from 08:00 - 16:00)



**tourism**

Department:  
Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM**



# SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN KWAZULU-NATAL



On 22 August 2024, the Department of Tourism held a Joint Tourism Safety Awareness Campaign activity in Manguzi (Kosi Bay), KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The Department held this activity in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Umkhanyakude District Municipality; Umhlabauyalingana Local Municipality; the South African Police Service; Cross Border Road and Transport Agency; Ezemvelo Nature Reserve and iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

The objective of the Joint Tourism Safety Awareness Campaign is:

- To enhance tourism safety awareness at key tourism attractions/sites;
- To raise awareness and reduce the number of crime incidents that are directed at tourists who are visiting the provinces, and the communities that host them;

- To reduce tourist vulnerabilities and eliminate opportunities for violent crime aimed at tourist operations; and
- To integrate current tourism safety and awareness initiatives into a strategy implemented by the public and private sectors, as well as communities.

The Campaign events consisted of a tour for community members in and around Manguzi on 20 August 2024. This is part of a social tourism initiative to expose members of communities living in and around tourism attractions to tourism products, services, and activities to encourage them to **'Do Tourism'** within their areas of concentration.

The events also included a Community Information Sharing Workshop on 21 August 2024, wherein information about Tourism Programmes and Initiatives were shared. Information on Tourism Safety, Cross Border Permits, Marine Safety, Domestic Tourism, Serve Excellence, Tourism Complaints and Community Policing initiatives was also shared.

The Campaign culminated in a Tourism Safety Clean-up activity as well as the Joint Tourism Safety Road-Side Awareness Blitz on 22 August 2024. The aim of the Clean-Up activity and the Tourism Safety Awareness Blitz was to promote cleaner cities to boost tourism flow as well as to encourage repeat tourism. On the other hand, the purpose of the Tourism Safety Awareness Blitz was to inform communities and tourists in transit about various tourism attractions and activities.

Tourism is fundamentally a collaborative endeavour, consisting of a complex network of stakeholders and groups that have an interest in its planning, development, management, and marketing. The support, commitment, and cooperation of these stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, is essential for the long-term sustainability of the sector.

*By Annah Mashile*

# SIX WAYS IN WHICH THE KZN SOUTH COAST IS LEADING THE WAY IN 2024 TRAVEL TRENDS

Sustainably exploring the natural world, experiencing authentic culture, and improving self-wellness are just some of the demands of the modern traveller. On the exquisite KZN South Coast where natural beauty abounds, visitors are enjoying the best in 2024 travel trends, with exciting new tourism activities being developed every year.

“The KZN South Coast is a well-established holiday destination, but many are still discovering the incredible tourism assets that extend beyond our Blue Flag beaches into the hinterland,” commented Deborah Ludick, Acting CEO of South Coast Tourism & Investment Enterprise (SCTIE). “These are not only refreshingly unique and authentic, they actually speak to many of the current travel trends of sustainability, health, wellness, and connecting with nature.”

## Trend #1: Eco-diving



The KZN South Coast is home to two incredible dive sites that are considered among the world's best: Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks. These are both Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ensuring ocean health, and can be explored sustainably through eco-dive operators that put the environment first. This includes scuba diving, freediving, and even snorkelling

among the reefs while enjoying the marine life found here. The Devil Ray Conservation Dive takes visitors to the shortfin devil ray cleaning station – one of only two known in the world – at Aliwal Shoal, with part of the funding contributing to ocean conservation.

## Trend #2: Astro-tourism



Star-gazing is becoming a popular pastime for travellers, and with the beautiful clear skies found on the KZN South Coast, there are many sites to enjoy this astronomical pastime. Astro-tourism is a way to break from the digital world and replenish the soul by exploring the stars. There are many seaside campsites and open-air venues ideal for stargazing, including the renowned Lake Eland Game Reserve in Oribi Gorge.

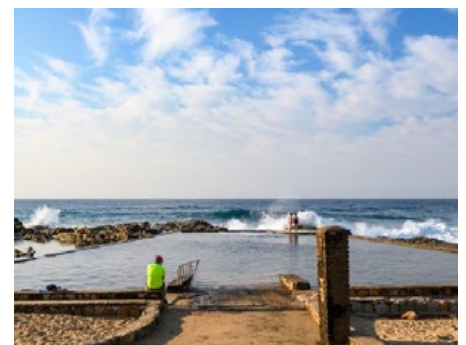
The newly launched Wellness Way Route includes astro-tourism opportunities with plans for astro-gazing at the KwazuluSpirit™ Festival 2024 (weather permitting) from 9 to 11 August at The Laughing Forest in Elysium. Then, from 15 to 17 November, Secret Sithela in Munster, will host a Wild Forage and Feast Retreat during the full moon with a moon-gazing session. Speakers will include Wild about Weeds author, Nikki Brighton and Mycologist Jon McGillivray, an expert in foraging and identifying all types of mushroom species.

## Trend #3: Rural Tourism



This popular travel trend encourages visitors to connect with a region's natural world and people more authentically. It benefits the traveller while also supporting entrepreneurs in rural areas, creating a more sustainable economy. SCTIE has established a number of rural tourism offerings for visitors to experience on the KZN South Coast. These include the KwaXolo Caves Adventures, the Agri Tourism Route, the Ntelezi Msani Heritage Centre, the KwaNzimakwe Experience, the KwaNdwalane Adventure Experience, the Umzumbe River Trails, the Weza Hiking Trail, the Mission Tourism Route, and the Gamalakhe Township Experience.

## Trend #4: Water-centric Travel

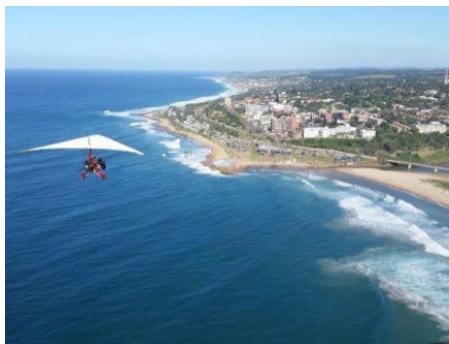


With the warmest winters in the country, travellers heading to the KZN South Coast can cool off by booking into 'water-based'



tourism spots. The KZN South Coast boasts the highest number of Blue Flag beaches and tidal pools in the province, as well as two world-class dive sites, making it a top seaside destination. The many rivers and water sports activities are also a refreshing tourism option, with hikes to waterfalls a must! The whole family will also enjoy the Wild Waves Water Park at the Wild Coast Sun, an epic water park with rides ranging from relaxing to extreme.

#### Trend #5: Active / Adventure Travel



It's time to seize the day as travellers start ticking off their bucket list options. This

means no time for simply resting on holiday; adventures need to be had. Fortunately, the KZN South Coast is where ocean sunrises and hinterland adventures await! In addition to the rural tourism adventures, the KZN South Coast has the Beach-to-Beach Adventure hike, gorge swinging, ziplining, abseiling, suspension bridge crossing, microlighting, shark cage diving, and more!

#### Trend #6: Wellness Tourism



Travel is a great way to reboot and re-energise body, mind, and soul wellness. On the KZN South Coast, where the natural beauty supports overall health, The Wellness

Way was recently launched and is supported by SCTIE and The Southern Explorer KZN. There are around 82 practitioners along The Wellness Way dedicated to therapies of natural health and holistic healing, from Amanzimtoti right through to the Wild Coast; 35 of these are available at short notice on the Wellness Way Portal.

Get on trend by visiting the KZN South Coast where ocean sunrises and hinterland adventures await!

*The KZN South Coast boasts the highest number of Blue Flag beaches and tidal pools in the province.*

**By Cara Smith**

**Images: Supplied by SCTIE**



## #ResponsibleTraveller Tips

### SECURE BOOKINGS: Tips for secure holiday bookings



- » Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true.
- » Read and understand the terms and conditions before booking.
- » Ensure you receive written quotations.
- » Check your quote for the following: the supplier premises, landline number, company registration number, membership of the tourism association like SATSA or ASATA.
- » Verify your bookings with the airline or accommodation.
- » Never share your banking details when making a booking.
- » Preferably use Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) graded establishments.
- » Scrutinise the company's marketing materials.

For more tips & information visit [www.tourism.gov.za](http://www.tourism.gov.za)

**#ResponsibleTraveller #TourismSafety #ShareSouthAfrica**

**Tourism complaints: [complaints@tourism.gov.za](mailto:complaints@tourism.gov.za)**



**tourism**

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