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EDITION

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#TravelWise in Mzansi



tourism

Department:
Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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EDITORIAL



We wrap up this year with gratitude. This year saw us on a strong trajectory of recovery. We are grateful to our stakeholders and industry partners for their unwavering commitment to the sector. You have been the engine driving the tourism machinery. Thank you.

Our series of summer graduations sets the tone for the festive season where graduates join the tourism value chain and add value to the tourism

experience. Thank you for your service to the industry.

Sincere gratitude to our staff for continuing to be of service. Without our commitment to manpower and human resources, we would not be able to fulfil our mandate. Thank you. To our visitors, both domestic and international, you have chosen South Africa and recognized us as a destination of choice. Thank you.

After a year of recovery and reset comes the time to relax. Holidays about family, friends and fun. Whatever it is you decide to do these holidays, please do it safely.

Our tourism family wishes you happy holidays.

- Seapei Lebele



MINISTER SISULU LAUNCHES SUMMER SEASON TOURISM CAMPAIGN

On 06 December 2022, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu launched the South African Tourism's Summer season "#GimmeSummerShotLeft" campaign in Sandton, Johannesburg. The event marked the beginning of the country's peak summer season where tourism numbers have continued to show unparalleled growth in both domestic and international arrivals. The Minister announced that the cumulative arrivals from January to October 2022 have amounted to 4,5 million in 2022. These numbers are 47% below the 2019 levels but are showing a significant improvement since 2021.

In her speech, Minister Sisulu expressed her excitement on the upcoming season. "As a country, we are poised for the best summer holidays since 2019. This summer is billed to be the biggest and boldest summer period yet after the two-year hiatus occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic's lockdowns,

restrictions and travel bans," said Minister Sisulu.

The Minister encouraged travellers to explore South Africa and all its exciting wonders. "This is the ideal time to get outside and explore our country again to visit friends, family and relatives, be on holiday in the bush or get sand under our toes by the sea. We have massive tourism offerings to cater for all discerning travellers, local and international," she boasted.

The Minister further encouraged South Africans to explore their country. "We are the best ambassadors of the tourism industry, which contributes significantly to economic growth, jobs and happiness, is within us to make a difference. Let's travel to all corners of our homeland," said Minister Sisulu.

On safety, the Minister assured travellers that law enforcement agencies have

been deployed to deliver an incident-free holiday period. She revealed that 182 126 police officers will be on active duty for the duration of the summer period. The special event concluded with the ringing of the bell launching #GimmeSummerShotLeft.

Visit <https://shotleft.co.za/> for amazing summer deals and discounts.



#TravelWise in Mzansi

Welcome to South Africa

There's so much to see, and so many uniquely South African experiences to explore.

Whether you are traveling in a group or alone, we want to ensure you have an unforgettable stay as you explore our beautiful country responsibly.

Information on our top tourism attractions and activities is available at our Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in all our airports, and on www.southafrica.net

Our tourism offerings are best explored with the aid of certified tourist guides. We have more than 10 000 certified tourist guides across the country that can easily be identified with their unique badge and identification cards. Visit www.tourism.gov.za to access information on guides near your destination.

#ResponsibleTraveller Tips



LOCATION:

- » Update the GPS App on your mobile device to accurately navigate through our country



CLIMATE: South Africa's climate can get extremely hot and dry.

- » Wear sunscreen and a hat
- » Wear the appropriate clothing and foot wear for outdoor activities
- » Carry enough water to stay hydrated
- » Avoid drinking water from rivers and streams



BE WATER WISE: Most of our beaches carry a Blue Flag Status

- » Only swim in designated areas
- » Lifeguards are on call to ensure your safety

- » Read and follow the signs to ensure an enjoyable experience at the Beach
- » Take care when swimming as rip currents can pull you out to sea



PERSONAL SAFETY: We care about your safety

- » Ensure your personal possessions are with you at all times
- » Keep passports and important documents in a safe at your hotel, and carry a copy whilst out and about
- » Do not share your banking details or pin code with anyone
- » Alert your hotel before going for a walk alone or an excursion

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

Police (SAPS): (T) 10111 | **Ambulance/Fire:** (T) 10177 | **Covid-19 emergency no:** 0800 029 99

Tourism Complaints: (T) 012 444 6000 or 0860686747, E-mail: complaints@tourism.gov.za



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SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM



DEPUTY MINISTER MAHLALELA ATTENDS THE LAUNCH OF ORPEN KRUGER LODGE

On 10 November 2022, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mr Fish Mahlalela, attended the launch of Orpen Kruger Lodge, in Mpumalanga Province. The Lodge is situated in Welverdiend, a stone throw away from the Kruger National Park and the Manyeleti Game Reserve.

Significantly, the new Lodge is the result of a proud partnership between government, the private sector and communities. It aims to stimulate economic participation within local communities through tourism and diversify the ownership patterns of such tourism establishments.

During the launch, local community members performed a cultural dance, giving guests a glimpse of what visitors can expect when they make reservations at this culturally-rich Lodge. Deputy

Minister Mahlalela, highlighted the significance of this Lodge which took close to 20 years in the making. "It was a special project and it is located in a very strategic place where it will have huge potential to draw as many tourists as possible," said the Deputy Minister.

"The ownership now belongs to the community. People never thought in their lifetime they will find themselves being owners of a Lodge like this one," concluded the Deputy Minister.



KRUGER GETS ITS FIRST INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHT

Eurowings Discover touches down at Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport. South Africa officially has a new airport for intercontinental flights with the arrival of German leisure carrier. Eurowings Discover is set to bring up to 30 000 passengers a year from Frankfurt to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP).

After a stopover in Windhoek (WDH), the Lufthansa subsidiary's Airbus A330 touched down to an enthusiastic reception at the small airport outside Mbombela, Mpumalanga's capital city, on Wednesday, 16 November 2022. The flight – which Eurowings Discover aims to ramp up from a twice a week to a thrice-weekly, year-round service – is a major boon for the province and South Africa's tourism industry.

Germany is South Africa's third-largest overseas source market and the Kruger National Park (KNP) is a particularly sought-after destination, attracting approximately 170 000 German tourists annually pre-COVID period. "KNP is part of the itinerary for the vast majority of Germans visiting South Africa, so the opportunity to fly direct to the region is a significant attraction. Flights to Johannesburg and Cape Town are in extremely high demand and it is in the mutual interests of both South Africa and Germany to meet this demand with an additional, innovative offering such as this, which brings flights from Germany up to more than 30 per week," said Mr Andreas Peschke, Germany's Ambassador to South Africa.

Ms Thandiwe Mathibela, Global PR, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager for South African



Tourism, added that the new route would serve the needs that the agency had identified through its collaboration with government, airlines and trade partners.

"We believe in connecting with trade partners and travellers to discover exactly what they are looking for, so that we can serve that. We know that this flight is exactly what Europeans and Germans in particular, are looking for. And once you land at Kruger Mpumalanga, you can connect and enjoy the length and breadth of South Africa."

The new flight, which opens the tantalising opportunity for tourists from across Europe to reach the Kruger National Park faster than ever before, has the potential to provide a multimillion-rand boost to the economy of the region.

"This significant and game-changing initiative, which has taken more than a year of planning, can inject hundreds of millions of rands into the local economy. And it emphasises the importance and responsibility that all of us as tourism stakeholders in both the private and public sectors collectively bear to ensure that this flight is a sustainable long-term success," said MQP Chief Executive Officer, Mr Grant Ponting.

Mr Helmut Woelfel, the Chief Commercial Officer of Eurowings Discover, pointed out that through the integration into the Lufthansa network, passengers benefit from the direct connection to all German and European Lufthansa departure points. "As an airline, it is rare to find a destination anywhere in the world where Europe does not connect to. We are thrilled at the fact that we are the first long-haul flight to Mpumalanga and the Kruger National Park," said Mr Woelfel.

All stakeholders have highlighted the importance of effectively marketing the route in both South Africa and Germany. On board the inaugural flight, were representatives from 25 German travel agencies.

Mr Mduduzi Vilakazi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), said the agency was excited to promote the destination and increase tourist numbers to the province. "We look forward to providing our tourists from Germany with a memorable experience of wildlife, scenic beauty, adventure, culture and heritage," said Mr Vilakazi.

The 305-seat A330 is configured with 30 seats in business class, 31 in premium economy and 244 in economy.





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN-IN-TOURISM EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GRADUATES

The Department of Tourism, in partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA) Graduate School of Business (SBL), recently held a graduation ceremony to recognise women who successfully completed the Executive Development Programme (EDP) for Women-in-Tourism (WiT).

The EDP is a transformation intervention of the Department that aims to level the playing field at executive level by upskilling women in the tourism and hospitality sector. Women from across the country participated in the 12-month training programme through UNISA's SBL. They were equipped with the necessary skills to lead and drive innovative organisational strategies within the sector. The intake for this graduating cohort was in 2019 and 2021.

The ZK Mathews Hall, at UNISA's main campus in Pretoria, provided the perfect setting for such a momentous occasion where 39 graduates were being honoured for their achievements.

In attendance, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mr Fish Mahlalela who delivered the keynote address. "Today, we celebrate the outstanding performance of dedicated and determined women who against all odds, successfully completed the Executive Development Programme. As government, we revere the heroic contribution of women in all sectors and we especially look forward to having these graduates entering the sector as leaders and drivers of change," said the Deputy Minister.

Since the Programme's inception, the Department of Tourism has invested

in the EDP and 120 women have been capacitated in managerial and entrepreneurial skills. A total of 94 women have successfully graduated from the Programme, with some advancing as entrepreneurs or being promoted as managers in their fields.

The Deputy Minister expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders that made the Programme a success. "I specifically want to thank CATHSETA, for making a financial contribution to the 2018 intake. I further want to thank private tourism businesses and employers who supported the Programme and released their women workers to participate in the EDP WiT," said the Deputy Minister.

EDPWIT graduate, Ms Zukiswa Quagraine, was invited as a guest speaker and she shared her insight on how the Programme elevated her career



in tourism. She lauded the Programme for improving her business acumen and growing her network.

“Through the EDP, I gained a broad knowledge in business management and finance. However, I have learned that having confidence, a leadership style and a network of influential women, is critical to one’s success. This network will offer you insight on how to tackle some of the challenges you will face in the sector as a leader. Embrace the connections you made during your training and continue to support each other on your leadership journey,” said Ms Quagraine.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy Executive Dean for SBL, Mr Andile Nobatyi, lauded the graduates’ achievements. He called on them to make a meaningful contribution to the

sector with their acquired skills.

“The Executive Development Programme which you have just completed, will open a whole new world for you, with endless opportunities. I urge you to plough back into the industry as leaders that will champion the advancement of the tourism sector,” added Mr Nobatyi.

As the world rebuilds post the COVID-19 pandemic, women empowerment has been prioritised globally to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2019 second edition of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Report of Women-in-Tourism, highlights the sector’s ability to drive the 5th United Nations Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and

girls. The Report’s action plan calls on the public and private sector to tailor gender sensitive policies to yield impactful advancements in women.

The EDP responds to this call by empowering women with skills to enable them to thrive in the tourism sector.



DEPARTMENTAL YOUTH PROGRAMME GRADUATIONS

The Department of Tourism hosted a number of graduations in November and December 2022.

WINE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME (SOMMELIERS)

In the third quarter, the Department of Tourism hosted graduation ceremonies for the Wine Service Training Programme in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape respectively. There were 88 Sommelier graduates in KwaZulu-Natal while the Western Cape welcomed the new cohort of 139 graduates into the tourism value chain.

Wine pairing is fast becoming a service offered at many establishments and the demand is growing. The development of this niche sub-sector aims to enhance the hospitality experience by creating a multi-sensory culinary adventure.

It is for this reason, the Department identified the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces to roll out the Wine Service Training Programme during the 2021/2022 financial year.

The programme aimed at training 252 unemployed youth from KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape in the hospitality-related Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Sector Education and

Training Authority (CATHSSETA) Skills Programme, namely Bar Attendant (SAQA ID HSP/BarAtt/2/0027) and Drink Service (SAQA ID HSP/DSRVA/2/0024). Learners also received training from the Sommelier Academy - South African and International Wine and Wine Ambassador - and the South African Sommeliers Association (Introductory Sommelier Certificate). It entailed three (3) months of theory training and nine (9) months of workplace experiential training.

On graduation day, graduates expressed jubilation at their achievements. Twenty year old learner, Yashiel Birkramchud from Phoenix, stated: "This has been a positive and empowering experience for me and I will encourage other young adults to apply for this programme." Benji Pienaar from Wellington said: "I love what I have achieved in this industry and I have yet to learn and achieve so much more. I am grateful to the Department of Tourism for this opportunity."





CHEFS TRAINING PROGRAMME: PROFESSIONAL COOKERY

This was a one-year programme targeting 120 unemployed youth in the Free State and 60 from the Northern Cape provinces with the aim of upskilling them and ensuring employability within the hospitality industry.

This programme commenced in 2021 and entailed 30% theory and 70% workplace experiential training with graduates receiving a National Certificate in Professional Cookery accredited by Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports sector education and Training Authority (Cathseta).

The Free State chefs graduates were excited to share their experiences. Claude Jantjies, from Thaba Nchu, said: "Cooking must be your passion to be successful! It was a pleasure and

honour to be part of this Professional Cookery Programme." Moloboheng Mabitle, also from Thaba Nchu, added: "A recipe has no soul. You as the cook must bring soul to the recipe."

The Northern Cape graduates were also elated and expressed gratitude to the Department of Tourism for initiating the programme. Bohlokoa Ntsau, from Kimberly, said: "I have grown in character and I'm more determined in pushing forward with my cookery career and I have a clear vision of my future." Modiegi Mmankgeli, from Kimberly, stated: "This programme gave me the chance to write my story again and have a new beginning as I was unemployed and impacted by the pandemic. I am thankful to the Department of Tourism for making my dreams come true."

FOOD AND BEVERAGE TRAINING PROGRAMME

This was a one-year programme targeting unemployed youth in the Eastern Cape and aimed to upskill and ensure employability within the hospitality industry. Statistics South Africa recently reported a 31.2% increase in the Food and Beverages Industry in Quarter 3, 2022 compared to Quarter 3, 2021. This year on year growth is a boost for the tourism industry. The Food and Beverage sub-sector has a strong service ethos which serves to enhance define and create memorable visitor experiences.

This programme entails 30% theory and 70% workplace experiential training with graduates receiving a National Certificate in Food and Beverages accredited by the Culture, Art, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports sector education and Training Authority (Cathseta). Graduates were excited to share their experiences with the Food and Beverages Programme. Njongo Ratshalala from Gqeberha said: "This programme has been the best time of my life. It has opened great opportunities for me and I got the

experience that I never thought I would get."

Tourism is a vital contributor to the South African economy. With its extensive value chain and labour absorption capacity, it is acknowledged as a tool for economic development, playing a significant role in responding to the country's socio-economic challenges. It is a sector that is people driven and the Department of Tourism aims to create an environment for sustainable employment and economic growth.



SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE TOURISM ASSOCIATION HOSTS ITS FIRST ANNUAL INTRA-TRADE CONFERENCE

Township and village tourism players gathered in Polokwane from 3 - 4 November 2022 to under the banner of South African Township and Village Tourism Association (SATOVITO), to discuss the economic impact of tourism in their hoods and progressively self-transform as an industry.

The Township and Rural Tourism Intra-trade Conference was a two-day high-level dialogue amongst stakeholders. The event included a panel discussions, forums and networking. It is an initiative that is aimed at developing, expanding and strengthening the township and rural tourism supplier value chain while fast-tracking economic participation of previously disadvantaged people from Villages, Townships and Small Towns / Dorpies (VTSDs).

The purpose of the conference was to:

- promote intra-trade amongst local township and rural tourism businesses across the country;
- showcase township and rural tourism development plans from government agencies and departments;
- improve tourism trade relations with Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries;
- improve relations with the government agencies;
- improve business relations with private sector;
- improve township and rural tourism value chain;

- introduce new efficiencies in the township and rural tourism sector – trading and investment tools; and
- celebrate unity in diversity, heritage and sector resilience.

The conference was well attended with over 300 tourism product-owners met at Hayani Lodge coming from all corners of the country to discuss the importance of taking ownership of their own tourism industry and working together to create a solid tourism value-chain. This was an indigenously approached conference which aligned on how black communities in the townships and villages would organise their events.

A cow was slaughtered for the guests and they all enjoyed the African cuisine from *mogodu*, *mqomboti* and *morogos* of this world. The delegates were welcomed by Kgosi Moloto Royal Council. The Council appreciated this refreshing conference and encouraged that product-owners and organisations should collaborate in every way possible as there many opportunities that come with the development and support towards SATOVITO products.

SATOVITO aims to expand the value chain and include township and village tourism sub-sector into the mainstream tourism economy by means of awareness, enable improved and inclusive participation of indigents within all levels of the tourism industry.

The conference was a great platform for township and village products to showcase all women-owned businesses. It served as a platform to establish relationships with other Women-in-Tourism (WiT) and other entrepreneurs from all other provinces across South Africa who were represented at the conference.

Women-in-Tourism were afforded an opportunity have a stall which helped them showcase some of their products and had opportunity to network with like-minded entrepreneurs. Chairperson of Gauteng Women-in-Tourism, Ms Ayanda Kela said, "The conference was absolutely amazing. I am truly grateful to the Gauteng Tourism Authority (GTA) for the opportunity it is great to have the support and access to market. Also, we met with other provinces' Women-in-Tourism and discussed further collaborations including possible National Women-in-Tourism collaboration."

The conference discussed variety of topics including fund investments, product and route development. The conference concluded that the outcomes must be implemented swiftly. SATOVITO also announced that they will be hosting the first Township and Village Tourism Expo on 23 – 24 March 2023 and more details will be shared with the industry in the near future.



TOURISM CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The tourism sector is highly vulnerable to climate change as tourism depends on environmental resources.

Accelerating climate action in tourism is therefore of utmost importance for the resilience of the sector as well as strengthening adaptive capacity.

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties referred to as COP27, was held in November 2022 in Egypt. This conference saw countries coming together to take action towards achieving the world's collective climate goals.

In mitigation of the current energy and water constraints, the Department of Tourism therefore invites all eligible tourism enterprises to take part in the current Green Tourism Incentive Programme (GTIP) application window which is now open until 28 February 2023.

Celebrating its fifth year since inception, the GTIP is a resource efficiency incentive programme of the Department of Tourism whose objective is to encourage and support private sector tourism enterprises to adopt responsible tourism practices through implementing solutions for the sustainable management of water and energy resources whilst adhering to responsible tourism practices.

Through grant funding, the GTIP assists private sector tourism enterprises in reducing the cost of investing in energy and water efficient solutions, while increasing their competitiveness, profitability and operational sustainability in the long term.

This programme has yielded success stories with beneficiaries nationally praising the positive impact of this programme.

The programme is managed by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) on behalf of the Department

and all applications and approvals are managed by the IDC.

The GTIP broadly offers the following benefits to qualifying tourism enterprises:

- the full cost for a new resource efficiency audit or the full cost for reviewing an existing resource efficiency audit;
- grant funding to qualifying small and micro-enterprises on a sliding scale from 50% to 90% of the total cost of implementing resource efficiency interventions, which is capped at R1 million; and
- qualifying enterprises may now implement projects in phases in order to better manage their cash flow over a two-year project implementation period.

The Department of Tourism remains committed to advancing a climate-resilient tourism economy.



THE KZN SOUTH COAST IS PRIMED FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ITS INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS

Home to world-class dive sites, 11 quality golf courses, numerous nature reserves, game reserves, gorges, lagoons and the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in the province, it's no wonder the KZN South Coast is a leading tourism destination. This tourism hotspot is now being primed to offer further investment opportunities through established local support services.

To facilitate engagements and unlock the tourism investment potential in the region, South Coast Tourism and Investment Enterprise (SCTIE) is working with stakeholders to remove 'red tape' barriers and create an environment conducive to business engagements.

"The natural resources, rich cultural heritage, and proactive local community make the KZN South Coast a top tourism destination. But we believe there is so much more opportunity for investors looking to create new tourism offerings or provide tourism support across the sector," said Phelisa Mangcu, CEO of SCTIE, the official economic development arm of the KZN South Coast. "We're on hand to facilitate meetings between interested investors and local establishments, eliminating any hurdles, and encouraging incentives that promote growth in the region."

SCTIE has partnered with Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) to establish a One Stop Shop office on the KZN South Coast. This aims to improve the efficiency of doing business, ensuring investors have access to municipal incentives in the district, such as those being offered through Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality (RNM).

The KZN South Coast is primed for investment in leisure, accommodation, events and adventure tourism opportunities, with the recent launch of two trails indicative of the area's potential. The Umzumbe River Trail, launched earlier this year, is a 70km, week-long hiking adventure led by local trail guides with overnight homestays. Just recently, SCTIE launched the 8km Weza Hiking Trail which traverses two Amakhosi areas, KwaMachi and KwaJali



in Umuziwabantu, finishing at Mkhoba Waterfall. These are in addition to several other Great Drives Out experiences such as KwaNzimakwe Multi-Trails.

To ensure the success of these ventures, SCTIE partnered with the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) to upskill local tourist guides with CATHSSETTA-accredited qualifications, as well as partnering with SEDA Port Shepstone Branch to train homestays in customer care, food handling and housekeeping.

The KZN South Coast also boasts massive potential as a filming destination, with SCTIE ready to assist in networking opportunities. The region plays host to the annual Ugu Film Festival which attracts the industry's best, as well as being the chosen site for several international film crews, among them Discovery, National Geographic and Nat Geo Wild. The Paradise of the Zulu Kingdom is also the location for local series and films, with popularity continuing to grow.

The ocean economy of the region holds a wealth of tourism development opportunities, with the KZN South Coast home to three Marine Protected Areas, two of which are world-class dive sites: Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks. The annual Sardine Run, considered the world's greatest biomass migration, is a huge drawcard for international visitors, with the annual humpback whale migration only growing year-on-year as these populations increase. Diving, ocean safaris and deep-sea fishing excursions are all thriving, with ample opportunity to grow.

Along the 120km coastal stretch are 58 golden beaches, six of which hold international Blue Flag status and another five earning pilot status. Beyond the attraction of swimming and relaxing, this is considered one of the country's top surfing destinations with investment opportunities in national and international surfing competitions and events.

With Oribi Gorge and Umtamvuna Gorge; Lake Eland Game Reserve; and numerous nature reserves, the KZN South Coast sets the scene for adventure tourism! The destination is already home to the award-winning Wild 5 Adventures which includes The Wild Swing into the gorge, the Wild Slide abseil adventure, quad biking, white water rafting and more. The trend in adventure tourism is only set to grow, and the KZN South Coast is proving the ideal location.

There are also many cultural gems hidden along the KZN South Coast just waiting to be unearthed by keen-eyed investors. The Nightingale shipwreck in Trafalgar; the São Joao shipwreck and monument in Port Edward; museums, art galleries and the Ntelezi Msani Heritage Centre are just a selection of the historic sites within the Paradise of the Zulu Kingdom.

Extending from Port Shepstone, the area's economic hub, throughout the KZN South Coast, there are so many investment opportunities. To find out more about these, get in touch with SCTIE, the KZN South Coast's one-stop shop for investment. Contact SCTIE on 039 682 7944, email info@sctie.co.za or visit www.investkznsouthcoast.co.za.



SAA INVESTS IN MORE AIRCRAFT, SEAT CAPACITY



As the peak holiday season approaches, the South African Airways (SAA) is bringing into service an additional three A320 aircrafts to support the high-capacity demand. This acquisition brings the total number of A320s at SAA to five. The first of these aircrafts was delivered in September, while the rest were delivered in October and November 2022.

Meanwhile, the national carrier has highlighted that, despite the delays with the implementation of the capital restructuring transaction involving a Strategic Equity Partners (SEPs), it is on course to deliver commercially sustainable and world-class air passenger and cargo services in South Africa, regionally and soon globally, according to SAA Executive Chairman, Professor John Lamola.

He pointed out that there was a clear demarcation of focus between the SAA management that is driving a plan for competitive airline operations and the oversight of matters relating to the

SEP, which are being managed by the Department of Public Enterprises.

"The SAA management is relentlessly implementing the expansion of the airline to match market dynamics in both the domestic and international scene," said Professor Lamola.

He added that, "The SAA as the national flag carrier and an entity wholly owned by the people of South Africa, has a responsibility to secure the sustainability of the airline industry in South Africa as an enabler of economic development and facilitator of affordable air travel to all users of air transportation in the country."

According to Professor Lamola, the addition of extra seat capacity enables the achievement of an equilibrium between supply and demand in the market that affects the pricing of air tickets.

Besides the additional capacity of three A320s, SAA has, over the last two weeks, increased the aircraft size on two of its

busiest routes, Cape Town and Harare. The Harare-Johannesburg route is now serviced by the larger A330 on three of its seven-day weekly frequencies.

SAA Chief Commercial Officer, Mr Tebogo Tsimane, highlighted that, in addition, SAA was replacing its A340-300 with a similar capacity aircraft and would exit the A319 fleet next year.

"As we increase fleet size to match the needs of the growing network schedule, we are encouraged that our strategy to cautiously re-enter markets abandoned due to the COVID-19 pandemic has served us very well during the past 12 months and we will continue to follow that cautious risk-adjusted trajectory," he said.

Mr Tsimane pointed out that the SAA's current business plan was to aggressively ramp up operations and to implement a fleet strategy that would continue to gain momentum of growing its regional-continental services and introduce international long-haul services.



EXPLORE 3.4 MILLION YEARS IN ONE DAY

CRADLE OF HUMANKIND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COH WHS) is located in the north-western quadrant of the Gauteng province of South Africa. It is a 53 000 hectare area situated about 45 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg (Jo'burg), which is approximately a hour's drive from both the airport and city of Joburg.

WHY IS IT SO SPECIAL?

It was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999 because the area has produced a host of globally significant and unmatched fossils that throw light onto early human ancestors and their relatives, dating back more than 3.4 million years. To date, more than 900 catalogued fossil hominin

specimens have been recovered. The Sterkfontein excavation (one of the 15 fossil sites) has been active since 1966, making it the world's longest sustained palaeoanthropological excavation.

WHEN TO VISIT?

- Weather in the Cradle of Humankind is pleasant all year round.
- The summer months (September – April) are hot with afternoon thundershowers.
- The winter months (May – August) are cold in the mornings and evenings but are normally pleasantly warm during the day.

WHAT DOES IT OFFER A TOURIST?

- A whole lot of living where life began – over 440 diverse visitor experiences.
- All connected by magnificent scenic routes, offering a variety of experiences for the international and domestic tourists, business or leisure traveller ranging from business (meetings, conferences and events), leisure (adventure, tranquil escapes, wedding hotspots, family and kids-friendly) and related complementary offerings.



WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE AREA?

- The Cradle of Humankind offers an exciting adventure for all members of the human family, young and old.
- This site of outstanding universal value is famous for, amongst many other fossil sites, the Sterkfontein Caves, where Dr Robert Broom discovered Mrs Ples in 1947. There are also other caves to be explored.
- In 1997, Little Foot – a virtually complete 3,3 million years old skeleton of a bipedal specimen belonging to the genus Australopithecus was discovered in the Sterkfontein Caves.
- Australopithecus sediba was discovered in 2008 by Dr Lee Berger. The fossil which dates from 1.977 million years ago are one of the most complete fossils ever



- discovered and has been called Karabo.
- The site continues to yield groundbreaking evidence on the origins and evolution of humankind, confirming the notion that Africa indeed is the Cradle of all humankind.
- Hiking, cycling and picnicking are amongst the activities available for those that like the outdoors.
- Adventure addicts can enjoy river rafting, quad-biking and hot air ballooning over a pristine 53 000 hectare site.
- Nature enthusiasts have a variety of nature reserves and nature-based activities to choose from.
- The site offers wining and dining, some of the country's premier wedding venues, arts and cultural experiences and much more.



The Alba arrives at the shores of Harties Dam

Harties tourism received a boost when it welcomed The Alba to the famous waters of Hartbeespoort Dam. The Alba Restaurant Boat is an exclusive fine dining restaurant boat experience. Measuring 22 meters in length, The Alba can accommodate 72 guests for either seated or cocktail functions.

It caters for weddings, corporate cruises, gala events and family outings. There is nothing the planners, captain, crew and waiters love more than helping to create unforgettable memories.

A group of industry players and government were invited at the launch of the magical sunset cruise in the evening on The Alba organised by Tourism Friendly and Harties Boat Company. Her name means sunrise and which better province for her to shine in than that of Bokone Bophirima, where the sun shines brightest in the Cradle of Humankind.

It has been designed to be stable and smooth in the water, with floor to ceiling glass windows, which will ensure a comfortable year-end event, wedding

ceremony or family day outing with great views, regardless of the weather.

Additionally, The Alba is fully compliant with all the safety regulations of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) and the captain as well as the crew thereof, are seasoned veterans, fully qualified to handle a vessel of its size.

More about Hartbeespoort Dam as a tourist destination

Hartbeespoort is a popular weekend getaway for many in the North West and Gauteng provinces. The town is built on the slopes of the Magaliesberg mountain overlooking the Hartbeespoort Dam - a beautiful 20km square body of water. This little town gives South Africa's landlocked city folks an easy escape to the joys of boats and fishing, water sports, the smell of sunblock and braai smoke as well as endless sunny days.

But, beyond the water, you will find many other exciting adventures. Head into the craggy heart of the Magaliesberg mountain and go abseiling, walk with elephants or catch a ride on the Aerial Cableway all in one day. Hartbeespoort gives visitors a destination that is holiday-resort-alpine-safari vibe all in one go.

Day trips with the family are also quite doable as the Hartbeespoort Dam is only an hour's drive from Johannesburg

and 30 minutes from Pretoria. You can be fighting rush hour traffic in Sandton one moment and next you could be showing off your big floppy sun hat on a boat cruise.

The town has an arty side to it too. It is a home to many creatives and hosts music festivals and craft markets. Excellent eateries, some producing their own craft beer, are also adding to the appeal of Harties as a holiday destination.



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