

Welcome to
TSHWANE -
the heartbeat
of South
Africa.



FAST FACTS ABOUT CITY OF TSHWANE

EASY ACCESS

Tshwane is surrounded by several airports and is in close proximity to Johannesburg.



VALUE FOR MONEY

Tshwane is known as one of the most affordable business events and incentive travel destinations in the world, with an exchange rate that favours the dollar, pound and euro.



PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Professional infrastructure for congresses includes an established Convention Bureau to deliver quality services for, amongst others, bid production. Trained professionals and logistical support abounds for meeting planners, travel agents and corporations.



EMBASSIES

It is home to 134 embassies, the second-largest after Washington DC.



FREE WI-FI

Tshwane is the largest provider of free Wi-Fi in the whole of Africa.



ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL

It is the official seat of the South African government and houses the offices of the President. It occupies the highest point in Tshwane. It is thus the heart of policy development which has changed South Africa.



ACADEMIC CAPITAL

It has the highest concentration of institutions of higher learning. It is the hub of science and technology. The Tswaing Meteorite Crater was formed when a meteorite hit the earth 220 000 years ago. This first eco-tourism site in South Africa has an enviro-museum and offers environmental education, a research facility and a recreation area.



BIG 5 GAME RESERVE

It is the only city in South Africa with a big five game reserve.



CULTURAL AND HERITAGE

The Nan Hua Buddhist Temple is the largest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere and the only one in Africa. Freedom Park is a heritage heritage site that acknowledges the heroes and heroines of the struggle for human dignity and freedom.



KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

It is the knowledge hub of the continent: Seven of the eight research institutes of South Africa are based in Tshwane.



VERSATILITY

A versatile business events destination, Tshwane can host a vast array of events; from small meetings to massive international gatherings and conventions. The City boasts accessibility, excellent infrastructure, unique transport features, increased hotel inventory, superior meeting venues and world class support services.



POPULATION

Tshwane is home to 2.1 million people..



CLIMATE

The city enjoys plenty of sunshine (an average of 12 hours per day) and very little wind.



ANCESTRY

An amazing 40 percent of the entire world's human ancestor fossils have been found in areas close to Tshwane.



SIZE

The City of Tshwane is the largest metropolitan municipality in South Africa and the third largest city in the world in terms of land mass, after New York and Tokyo/Yokohama.



ABOUT CITY OF TSHWANE

The city is the single largest metropolitan municipality in South Africa, covering an area of 6 368 km². It has 105 wards, 210 councillors and about 2.5 million residents, and is divided into 7 regions. The city is now the third largest city in the world in terms of land mass, after New York and Tokyo/Yokohama.

The City of Tshwane is a progressive city which harmoniously blends its African roots with European traditions. An interesting blend of neo-classic, Victorian-colonial, modern and African architectural design features gives Tshwane a cosmopolitan character. The city is indeed a meeting place of many cultures.

Many historic buildings, monuments and museums tell the story of a colourful and often turbulent past. Being the home of 134 foreign embassies and missions as well as housing all the National Government Departments, this destination is ideally geared and best situated to meet the needs of the visitors.

The city, as the hub for science and technology, knowledge and industry, receives a high number of national and international delegations and hosts various conferences and conventions related to these sectors. It is the only city in the world with a Big-5 Game Reserve within its boundaries.



Traveling to Tshwane from the Airport



The most efficient and secure way to reach Tshwane from O.R. Tambo International Airport is via the Gautrain.

Step 1: Take the Gautrain directly from the airport terminal station.

Step 2: Transfer at the Marlboro station to the North-South line heading toward Pretoria.

Step 3: Disembark at **Hatfield Station**.

Step 4: From Hatfield Station, we highly recommend using a reputable **e-hailing service** (such as Uber or Bolt) to travel directly to your hotel.

You can view the latest train schedules and planning tools on the official [Gautrain Website](#) or calculate expenses using the [Gautrain Fare Calculator](#).



ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Tshwane boasts thousands of hotel rooms at different levels, all catering to a variety of budgets.

Visitors can stay in any of Tshwane's upmarket accommodation establishments. Ranging from five-star hotels to numerous boutique hotels and lodges situated throughout the city. Alternatively, a township home stay can include a hospitable stay in a township, a visit to a jazz concert, an excursion to the various arts and crafts markets or a joyful gathering in one of the numerous shebeens (pubs) around the townships.

The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa is the official grading authority. For more information about graded properties, please visit www.tourismgrading.co.za.



TOURISM GRADING COUNCIL
OF SOUTH AFRICA
Quality in Tourism



Accredited Accommodation

We strongly advise booking your stay at one of the accredited hotel partners listed on our conference website. The Southern Sun Group has extended highly favorable, discounted rates for our delegates at properties like Southern Sun Pretoria, Garden Court Hatfield, and StayEasy Pretoria.

You can find the pricing breakdown and secure your room directly through the booking LINK on the GBVF Symposium Page.



GROUND TRANSPORT

Venue Transport

For the full duration of the conference, a dedicated City of Tshwane (CoT) GBVF Symposium bus service will provide complimentary shuttle transport between these accredited hotels and the Arts Campus venue. Please notify us as soon as your booking is finalized so we can include you in the transport schedule.



ITINERARY OPTIONS

These itineraries can be themed according to;

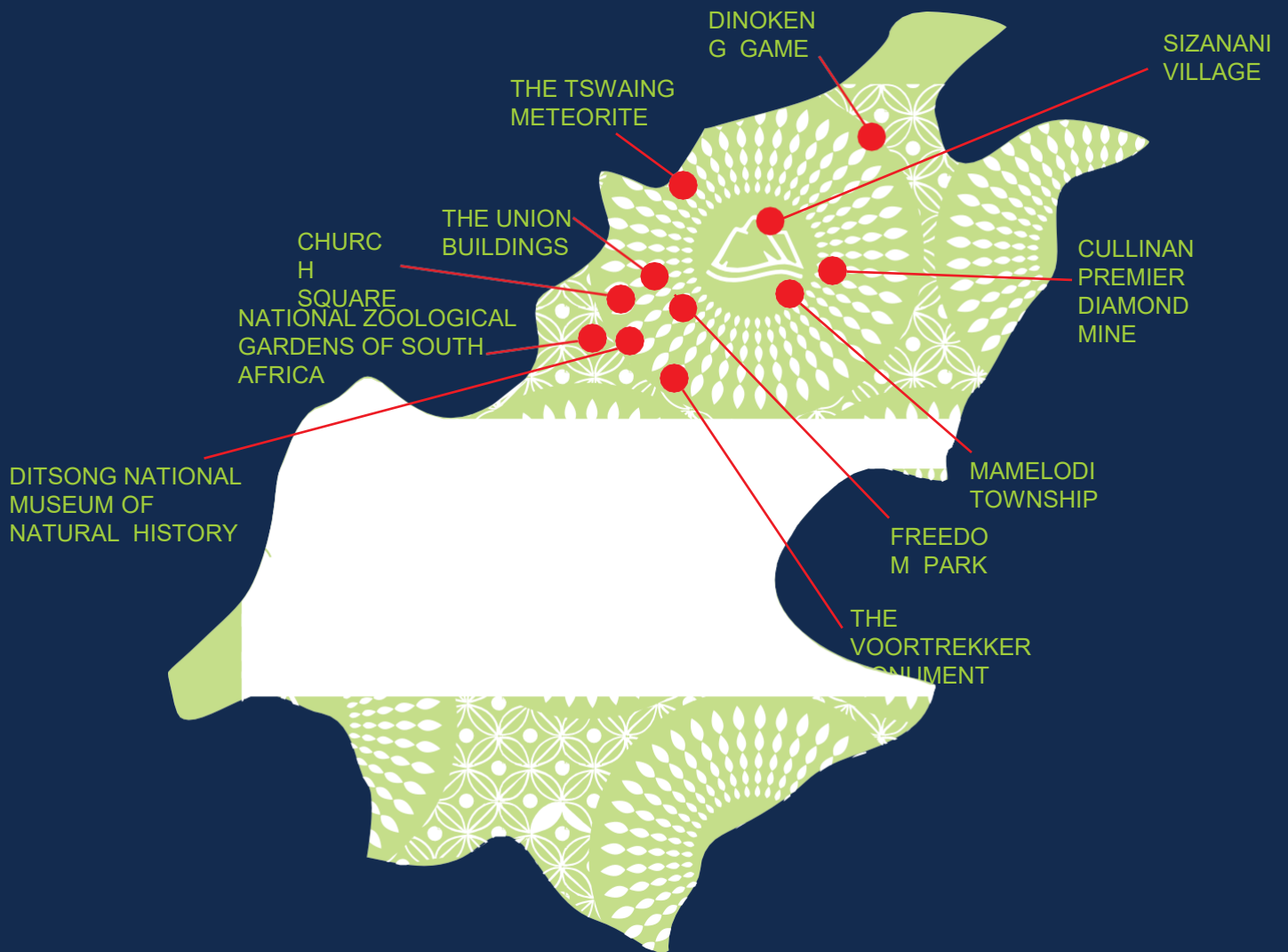
- Tshwane Heritage and culture tour;
- Tshwane Natural Splendor Tour;
- Tshwane Township and Jazz Tour;
- Tshwane The Automotive Industry Tour;
- Tshwane History Tour;
- Tshwane Shopping Tour;

To help delegates make the most of their stay, these itineraries can be tailored to include a variety of city experiences. Our dedicated tour operator will be on stand by to handle all guest bookings and inquiries.

Tour Operator list: [TTA – Tshwane Tourism Association](#)



KEY ATTRACTIONS



Gauteng Province
Map



DAY TRIPS IN TSHWANE

Tshwane is a cosmopolitan city with a rich heritage and cultural diversity. Owing to its location, heritage and economic activities, it attracts travelers of all kinds, ranging from business, leisure and special interest groups. A walk through the city streets takes you to a variety of museums, monuments, historic buildings and art centers.

Tshwane is a lively metropolis that combines culture, recreation and entertainment with education, commerce, industry, and a very busy administrative government sector.

The charm of this progressive city lies in the harmonious blend of African roots and European and Eastern traditions. Hooting taxis, buses crammed to capacity and hawkers selling an array of goods at intersections and on sidewalks contrast starkly with the chauffeur-driven vehicles of diplomats and the upmarket malls where the well-heeled shop. Tshwane is proud of its rich culture. No visit to South Africa would be complete without a visit to Tshwane.

DINOKENG GAME RESERVE

The Dinokeng Game Reserve is the first free roaming big 5 residential game reserve in Gauteng (and probably in the world) next to an urbanised area. This big 5 game reserve is located 50 km north-east of the city center. The reserve is not a self-drive, and guests are required to book game drives with one of many establishments in the area. The sunrises and sunsets are spectacular, as well as the game viewing – either from a game viewer or from your restaurant table overlooking one of the dams.

TOWNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Tshwane has a long relationship with jazz music, and has become known as the “Home of Jazz”. Numerous shebeens (pubs) in the townships provide venues where locals and visitors can listen to live jazz performances while enjoying a traditional African meal.

The name of one of Tshwane’s largest townships, *Mamelodi*, means “mother of melodies” and, true to its name, the township regularly offers jazz festivals. Its residents have given South Africa the original and unique style of music called Molombo jazz, originating from mbaqanga, traditional Pedi and Ndebele drumming, Zionist Baptist gospel music and the African jazz guitar. The township is home to world renowned musicians like Vusi Mahlasela, Don Lake, Dr Phillip Tabane and Malombo.

Atteridgeville, with numerous jazz clubs and nine established jazz bands, has earned itself the reputation of being the jazz capital of South Africa and the name “Soul City”.



Rhino at Dinokeng Game Reserve.



Township experience.

SHOPPING IN TSHWANE

Tshwane offers a variety of shops. Here's a rundown of Tshwane's most interesting shopping scenes, with highlights of each of the three sections (Pretoria West, East and North) to give you a feel for the neighbourhood. All three offer a variety of shopping experiences from malls and plazas, to flea markets. The east of the city has everything from entertainment to shopping at Menlyn Park, Brooklyn Mall, Centurion Mall and Irene Village Mall. One can also get a bite to eat in the malls. In Pretoria West and North one can shop up a storm at Kolonade or Wonderpark Shopping Centre and enjoy the rest of what the area has to offer.



Tshwane Regional Mall.

HERITAGE SITES



CULLINAN PREMIER DIAMOND MINE

This mine is world-famous for producing the Cullinan Diamond, the largest uncut diamond ever found, in 1905. The diamond weighed 3 106 carats and was cut into several stones. Two of the largest stones were given to the British Royal Family and incorporated in the crown jewels. Take a tour of the mine or even buy a diamond of your own.



Cullinan Premier Diamond Mine.

UNION BUILDINGS

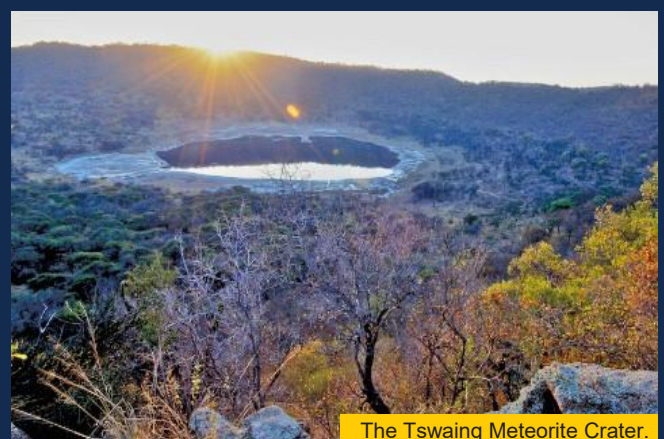
The Union Buildings are a modern-day acropolis built on the highest point of the capital city. This is where one can learn about the inauguration of the first democratically-elected president, Nelson Mandela, and the last days when he lay in state. The site can also be used for picnics and other activities such as the Red Bull X-Fighters event, which was held there a few years ago.



The Union Buildings.

THE TSWAING METEORITE CRATER

This was formed when a meteorite hit the earth 220 000 years ago. The first eco-tourism site in South Africa, it has an enviro-museum and offers environmental education, a research facility and a recreational area.



The Tswaing Meteorite Crater.

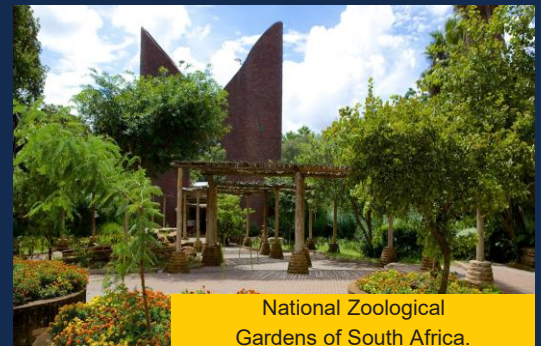
FREEDOM PARK

This heritage site provides a broad new perspective of South Africa's history and is a symbol of acknowledgment of the heroes and heroines of the struggle for humanity and freedom. It includes a memorial with a list of the names of those who were killed in the South African Wars, World War I, World War II, as well as during the apartheid era. In March 2009, 24 deceased "liberation struggle heroes" were proposed for inclusion in the memorial. Some of the "national leaders" chosen include Steve Biko, Oliver Tambo, Helen Joseph, Albert Luthuli, and Bram Fischer. International and continental leaders were also among those considered for their contribution to the liberation of South Africa or the repressed in general. The continental leaders included Mozambican President Samora Machel and Amílcar Cabral. Amongst the international list was Che Guevara, a revolutionary who fought alongside former Cuban President Fidel Castro, and Toussaint Louverture who fought during Haiti's war for independence.



NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS OF SOUTH AFRICA

This is the largest zoo in the country and the only one with national status, housing the largest inland marine aquarium in South Africa.



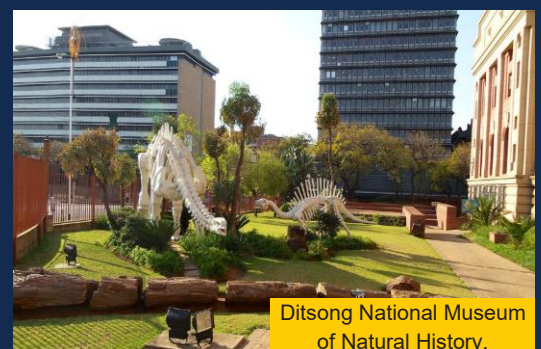
THE VOORTREKKER MONUMENT

This massive granite structure is prominently located on a hilltop, and was raised to commemorate the Voortrekkers who left the Cape Colony between 1835 and 1854. It is situated in the tranquil nature reserve of the Voortrekker Monument where zebras and blesbok roam the field freely. The fresh air fills your lungs and you can truly experience nature at its best with only the backdrop of the city's lights creating a romantic dream.



CHURCH SQUARE

This buzzing area of the city is very rich in heritage; buildings such as the Ou Raadsaal, the Palace of Justice, the Law Chambers, the Nederlandsche Bank and the National Mint are located here.



DITSONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

This museum houses one of the oldest hominid skulls in the world, and many other world-famous collections.

SIZANANI VILLAGE

Situated in the east part of the capital, it is a retreat for those who wish to rejuvenate with activities, including themed evenings, nature walks and labyrinth meditation. The Ndebele people reside near the Sizanani village. A lot of the Ndebele craft work can also be seen at the village.





City Safety Tips

While Tshwane is a vibrant city, it is important to stay vigilant to ensure a safe trip:

Stay Aware: Always keep a close eye on your personal belongings and avoid displaying valuable items like smartphones, cameras, or expensive jewelry in public spaces.

Reputable Transport: Avoid hailing random taxis on the street. Stick to the official Gautrain bus network, the dedicated conference shuttle, or tracked e-hailing apps. [[1](#), [2](#)]

Travel in Groups: Avoid walking alone, especially after dark or in quiet, poorly lit areas.

Keep Documents Secure: Keep your passport and critical travel documents locked in your hotel room safe, and carry digital copies on your phone instead.

Please let us know if you need any further assistance with your travel coordination. Safe travels, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

