JOHANNESBURG AND
SURROUNDINGS

SAXON
HOTEL, VILLAS AND SPA
JOHANNESBURG
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EXPLORE THE GEMS OF
Johannesburg

Journey to Africa’s most metropolitan city and one of the largest urban forests, Johannesburg. Experience the embracing warmth of its charismatic people, the allure of its captivating cultures, the intrigue of its fascinating history and the awe-inspiring spectacle of its contrasting landscapes.

Whatever the purpose of your journey, whether business or a leisurely getaway, the Saxon offers you the most distinctive retreat in this sought-after destination. Johannesburg is a world-class African city that captures your imagination with its vibrant mix of arts, culture, cuisine, craftwork, shopping and historical sightseeing.

Food enthusiasts will enjoy the city’s wide variety of restaurants and eateries offering both local delicacies and international cuisines. Beyond the Saxon’s exceptional culinary offerings and business facilities, there is a diverse selection of restaurants in and around the city to play host to business lunches or dinners. The city’s thriving arts and culture scenes provide wonderful gallery and theatre outings, while a visit to one of the museums offers an in-depth exploration of the city’s history. To really immerse yourself in the diverse sensory delights of the city, opt for a day of excitement and adventure with one of our recommended citywide tours.
Johannesburg City Tour

Get a real feel for Johannesburg's unique urban charm with this extensive city tour. The immersive experience includes a panoramic view of the tree-lined city, a drive through the central business district, a visit to traditional healing markets and the bustling Hillbrow. You will cross the Nelson Mandela Bridge into Newtown, the cultural district of Johannesburg, where you will get your dose of the city's heritage with a visit to Museum Africa and step into a typical shebeen of the 1950s.

Our extended city tour option includes additional experiences, such as a visit to the historic Constitution Hill, as well as the SAB World of Beer, where beer enthusiasts can learn about the history of beer and take an interactive tour through the sample brewery before stopping in the Taproom to enjoy a glass or two.

Johannesburg and Soweto Tour

Experience the cultural diversity and rich heritage of South Africa with a tour of Johannesburg's inner city and the vibrant Soweto. It includes scenic views of the city and Newtown, as well as visits to traditional African healing markets and the infamous Hector Pieterson Memorial and Museum.

Soweto Tour

Soak up the dynamic spirit of the thriving township of Soweto, a cultural melting pot that is home to millions. The Soweto Tour takes you on an intriguing journey of South Africa's history, following the road that led to the end of Apartheid and the dawn of democracy. The tour includes a visit to the Nelson Mandela Museum, the original Soweto home of the late former President Nelson Mandela in Vilakazi Street, which is the only street in the world to have housed two Nobel Peace Prize laureates, namely Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. The itinerary also includes the interactive Hector Pieterson Memorial and Museum, where the high-tech multi-media centre portrays moving scenes leading up to the student uprising of 16 June 1976.

In addition, the tour offers a local craft experience at the Handiworx project or the Soweto Green, as well as a visit to an informal settlement, a day care centre and Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. There is also an optional cycle tour from Phomolong.

Nelson Mandela Museum and Desmond Tutu House

Trace the impressionable footsteps of two of South Africa's most treasured legacy-makers, with a visit to the Nelson Mandela Museum, the original Soweto home of Nelson Mandela, as well as the former home of Desmond Tutu in Vilakazi Street, Orlando West.

Footsteps of Mandela

Trace the impressionable footsteps of South Africa's leading legacy maker with this iconic tour. You will embark on an inspirational journey, exploring the historical path of the late former President Nelson Mandela in his efforts to end Apartheid. The tour begins at his home in Houghton, and includes visits to Chinatown and crosses the Nelson Mandela Bridge into Newtown and Museum Africa. The tour also includes a visit to the Nelson Mandela Museum, the original Soweto home of Nelson Mandela in Vilakazi Street.
Gold Reef City
Gold Reef City is a renovation of a former gold mine from the early days of Johannesburg during the gold rush era. Attractions include historic miners' houses and a Victorian fun fair, as well as the South African Mint Museum. Watch molten gold being poured or experience the thrill of a trip down the old mine shaft. Traditional tribal dancing adds a touch of indigenous cultural entertainment.

Apartheid Museum
Witness the triumph of the human spirit over adversity at the renowned Apartheid Museum. This emotionally moving museum is an exquisitely designed showcase that offers the international community an insight into South Africa's past. The exhibits have been assembled and organised by a multi-disciplinary team of curators, film-makers, historians and designers. The multi-media installations include film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts illustrating the events and human stories from the Apartheid era.

Pretoria City Tours
The richly historical nearby city of Pretoria pulses with a multicultural energy from an intriguing mix of traditions, culture and architecture. In October, delight in the abundance of lilac-flowered jacaranda trees that have dubbed Pretoria the Jacaranda City. The tour includes a choice of either the Voortrekker Monument, a well-known landmark in honour of the early Voortrekker pioneers, or the Paul Kruger House, Church Square, Freedom Square, the Minnamen Hindu Temple which was built in 1905, and the Union Buildings designed by Sir Herbert Baker, which offers a striking view of the city from the top of Meintjieskop. Indigenous flora enthusiasts can enjoy the 50 hectares of indigenous flowering plant species and trees at the Pretoria National Botanical Gardens. Another famous national landmark is the Wonderboom, a unique 1 000 year old Wild Fig Tree at the Wonderboom Nature Reserve.

Union Buildings and Pretoria Botanical Gardens
Designed by Sir Herbert Baker, the imposing historic site of the Union Buildings offers visitors magnificent views of the city from atop Meintjieskop. The tour includes a visit to the Pretoria National Botanical Gardens with its 50 hectares of indigenous flowering plant species and trees.

Wonderboom Nature Reserve
Located in the Magaliesberg mountains in the north of Pretoria, Wonderboom Nature Reserve is a small reserve that is home to the renowned 'miracle tree', the Wonderboom. This immense Wild Fig tree is estimated to be 1 000 years old and stands 25 metres tall, 55 metres wide and has 13 individual trunks. Take a scenic hike up the mountain, with spectacular viewpoints, to view a cave and man-made waterfall that cascades down the western side of the mountain into the Apies River. The reserve is also the site of the historic Fort Wonderboom.
Art and Craft Galleries

Johannesburg offers a diverse array of art galleries, exhibiting a varied mix of artistry, from the work of international artists to local South African talent. Experience a tailor-made tour to a number of galleries and showrooms to suit your particular interests with the assistance of the Saxon.

Art Eye Gallery

Located in The Design Quarter in Fourways, the Art Eye Gallery is a vibrant, dynamic exhibition space that celebrates contemporary African art, sourcing rare artworks and gems that have been overlooked in the past, as well as encouraging the development of young artistic talent. This sophisticated gallery offers visitors an exceptional art experience.

Everard Read Gallery and Circa Gallery

Renowned as one of the most respected galleries in South Africa, the Everard Read Gallery showcases significant collections by highly acclaimed local and international artists. Adjacent to the Everard Read Gallery, Circa is a vibrant contemporary art gallery on Jellicoe Avenue, celebrating art and architecture in Johannesburg.

Goodman Gallery

The Goodman Gallery is recognised for offering an evolving programme of thought-provoking exhibitions by various artists throughout the year.

Kim Sacks Gallery

Showcasing a contemporary mixture of rural creativeness, the Kim Sacks Gallery includes fine craft, cutting-edge urban design and folk art. Kim-Sacks works with and represents a variety of southern African rural and urban craftspeople and acquires and houses a broad spectrum of pieces, including ceramics, textiles and beads.

Stevenson Gallery

The Stevenson Gallery has an international exhibition programme with a regional focus. In addition to exhibiting gallery artists, it has also brought in the work of celebrated artists and has in the past participated in international art events.

togu’na African Artefacts Collection

With pieces meticulously sourced from across the African continent, togu’na offers a range of items with a personal history developed through wear and use over time.

African Craft Market of Rosebank

Experience the artistic energy of Johannesburg’s unique cultural shopping destination, African Craft Market of Rosebank. It began as a social upliftment project to formalise the hawker trade in the area, and is now a bustling market known for its quality African artefacts and crafts.

Shopping Experiences

Visit the world-class shopping destinations that surround the Saxon, and enjoy a wide variety of shopping experiences, from leading global retailers to designer boutiques to local artefacts and curios. The most exclusive shopping malls, including Hyde Park, Melrose Arch, Rosebank Mall, Sandton City, and Nelson Mandela Square are just a few minutes away, and the Mall of Africa and The Pivot at Montecasino are a mere ten to fifteen minutes by car. Should you wish to purchase specialised products, such as jewellery or African artefacts, our concierge can arrange for reputable designers and agents to assist you in the comfort of the Saxon.
With its renowned restaurants and eateries, Johannesburg offers an enticing culinary journey of local delicacies and international cuisines. The Saxon is home to Qunu Restaurant and Grei, our herbaceous-inspired fine dining restaurant, which was nominated for World’s Leading Fine Dining Hotel Restaurant 2018. Explore Johannesburg’s broad range of award-winning restaurants which have a gastronomic offering to suit any palate. Leading local artisan produce can be sourced at Johannesburg’s local gourmet and craft markets. These are popular meeting places where you can enjoy the vibrant bustle of the city’s energetic atmosphere while enjoying the finest local speciality foods. Our knowledgeable Saxon concierges are able to provide proficient advice and recommendations on local Johannesburg restaurants, bistros or gourmet markets.
Theatre
South Africa is renowned for its flourishing visual and performing arts community. Johannesburg showcases a year-round programme of innovative, world-class homegrown productions, as well as major international shows. Theatres include Auto & General Theatre On The Square, Joburg Theatre, Peter Toerien's Montecasino Theatre and Studio, Victory Theatre, Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef City and the Market Theatre in Newtown. Theatregoers are spoilt for choice with Johannesburg's plethora of theatre productions.

Museums, Culture and Science
Get in-depth insight into the fascinating history of South Africa and the events that have shaped it, by visiting the wide array of museums and heritage sites in and around Johannesburg, which cover countless topics. Go back to your roots and explore the development of our ancestors at the Maropeng Visitor Centre, which showcases the Cradle of Humankind. The Origins Centre is a world-class museum that explores and celebrates the history of modern humankind, telling the story of the emergence of human beings and humanity. There are also many sites showcasing South Africa’s unique democracy, such as the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill, which demonstrate the rise and fall of Apartheid, through to the dawn of democracy.

Mining Tours
Cullinan Diamond Mine
Cullinan is a quaint, historic mining town that’s located to the east of Pretoria. It was developed around the Premier Diamond Mine, where the famous Star of Africa was found. One of the largest diamonds ever mined, the Star of Africa forms part of the Queen of England’s Crown Jewels. Diamonds can be purchased on site. Surface tours are standard, but underground tours can be arranged on request. Tour times are specific and are not flexible.

Gold Reef City
Located near the bustling central business district of Johannesburg, Gold Reef City has been built around a former gold mine as a reconstruction of the early days of Johannesburg during the gold rush era.

Jewel Africa at The Pivot at Montecasino
At Jewel Africa, the ancient heritage of Africa meets the timeless allure of diamonds. From authentic African curios and artefacts at the Nguna showroom, to diamonds and the largest retail collection of the continent’s very own tanzanite gemstone, guests can enjoy a luxurious and comprehensive retail experience. You can also take an interactive diamond educational tour.

Natural History
Maropeng – Cradle of Humankind
Discover the universal relevance of the Cradle of Humankind as our ancestral home at this internationally renowned tourist attraction, located just a 1½ hour’s drive from Sandton. The tour visits the Sterkfontein Caves, where the earliest hominid fossils dating back over 3 million years were discovered. At Maropeng, you can experience fascinating, interactive showcases of the origins of the earth and life on our planet. A boat ride takes you back 3 billion years through the elements that started life on the planet, and your journey continues through a 150 metre interactive ‘virtual cave’.

Origins Centre
Explore the beginning of life on our planet with a visit to the fascinating Origins Centre. This museum celebrates the history of modern humankind, telling the story of the emergence of human beings and their evolution to modern-day humanity. Suiited to both adults and children, this tour is a ‘must see’ on the itinerary of anyone visiting Gauteng.
Nature and Wildlife

Montecasino Bird Park
Home to over 1,000 birds, small animals and reptiles, the Montecasino Bird Garden is the only sanctuary of its kind on the African continent. Enjoy entertainment and educational shows that are perfect for the whole family.

Elephant Sanctuary
Get up close and personal with the most majestic beast of the bush. Small groups of visitors are guided on foot through the Elephant Sanctuary, situated to the north-west of the Hartbeespoort Dam, and given in-depth information on the African elephant. Touch and interact with the elephants and take a short trunk-in-hand walk, which makes for an unforgettable experience. Enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to feed the elephants and learn more about their anatomy, as well as their intricate ways of communicating with one another.

Bush Babies and Monkey Sanctuary
Set on approximately 7 hectares, the Bush Babies and Monkey Sanctuary is a privately-owned, non-subsidised sanctuary that is one of only eight free-release primate sanctuaries in the world that provide for orphaned and abused animals. The sanctuary is situated west of Hartbeespoort Dam, alongside the Elephant Sanctuary, and provides a natural environment where primates can enjoy their freedom. The sanctuary, situated in one of the many gorges of the Magaliesberg mountain range, is a haven for many species of monkeys from around the world.

Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre
The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre, situated northeast of the Hartbeespoort Dam, was previously known as the De Wildt Cheetah Centre. The Centre was originally established in 1971 as a cheetah breeding project and has over the past 49 years bred over 800 cheetah cubs. Various conservation projects include a successful Cape hunting dog breeding programme (formerly known as African wild dogs). The tours coincide with feeding times and booking is essential.

Lion Park
For an experience of a lifetime, meet the king of the wild at the Lion Park, situated just north of Johannesburg. Admire the lion cubs and white lions, and get to see the hyenas and wild dogs up close and personal. You can even get your picture taken with an irresistible lion cub. Visits to the Lion Park need to be pre-booked.

Pilanesberg Game Reserve
If you are up for some thrilling big game viewing in a malaria-free environment, the bushveld terrain of Pilanesberg Game Reserve is ideal, as it is home to virtually every mammal of southern Africa as well as a variety of flora and fauna. Enjoy an open vehicle game drive operated by experienced guides to enjoy the numerous wonders of the area.

Johannesburg Zoo
Established in 1899, South Africa’s largest zoo, Pretoria Zoo, is situated on 85 hectares and is home to over 7,000 mammals, reptiles, fish and birds. Attractions include South African fur seals, the gorilla enclosure, the aquarium, a reptile park and the endangered Komodo dragon. Enjoy the meandering paths around the grounds and take a seven-minute cableway ride for an aerial view of the zoo.
Outdoor and Adventure

For adrenaline-seeking, adventurous visitors, the Johannesburg area offers scenic balloon safaris. The balloon safaris offer a most unforgettable experience, taking you over the scenic landscape near the Hartbeespoort Dam. Other exciting activities include cave adventures, abseiling, rock climbing and skydiving.

Hot Air Ballooning

Experience the spirit of Africa in a most unique way with a once-in-a-lifetime hot air balloon ride. Indulge in a spectacular sunrise, breathtaking scenery and exceptional views of wildlife from the air, with the added luxury of a champagne breakfast and superb cuisine.

Gold Reef City Theme Park

Gold Reef City is an entertainment complex that comprises a theme park, museum and casino. Get your heart racing on one of the park's many rollercoaster rides, go underground into a mine shaft, watch smelted gold being poured, try panning for gold and see traditional gumboot dancing.

Orlando Towers

The brightly painted Orlando Towers have become one of the most distinctive landmarks in Soweto. Perfect for thrill-seekers, it is the site of the world's first bungee jump between two cooling towers, and offers extreme sports such as bungee jumping, abseiling, zipline, pendulum swinging and more. An open-air viewing platform offers spectacular views of Soweto and Johannesburg.

Golf

Johannesburg's fantastic year-round weather and exceptional golf courses make it a golfer's paradise. The city has a number of world-class golf courses that have hosted the European PGA Tour and South African golfing events. Should you wish to visit or play a round of golf at one of the local Johannesburg golf courses, the Saxon concierge is available to assist you with the necessary arrangements to suit your preferences and time schedule.

Steyn City Golf Course

Steyn City is a ground-breaking lifestyle residential estate which boasts an award-winning Jack Nicklaus designed golf course that is rated par with the best in the world. Nineteen, the clubhouse restaurant and bar, provides the perfect setting for taking in the magnificent views over the golf course while enjoying delicious refreshments.