

Daytours in Johannesburg/ Pretoria

[Purple Palms Travellers Lodge, Johannesburg](#)

[North South Backpackers, Pretoria](#)

1 - The powerfull Apartheid Museum & Soweto Tour

Stop,1 AFTER a few hours at the Apartheid Museum

You will feel that you were in the townships in the 70s and 80s, dodging police bullets or teargas canisters, or marching and toy-toying with thousands of school children, or carrying the body of a comrade into a nearby house. This extraordinarily powerful museum has already become the city's leading tourist attraction, an obligatory stop for visitors and residents alike. The Museum, with its large blown-up photographs, metal cages and numerous monitors recording continuous replays of apartheid scenes set in a double volume ceiling, concrete and red brick walls and grey concrete floor, is next to the Gold Reef City Casino, five kilometers south of the city centre.

Stop 2, the Hector Peterson Memorial

The now-famous image of a young man, holding a dying schoolboy in his arms, as his hysterical sister runs besides screaming, dominated the 25th anniversary commemoration Saturday of the Soweto Uprising, when South Africa's black youth challenged the white apartheid government. The events of June 16, 1976 marked a turning point in South Africa's political history and are now marked with a public holiday, Youth Day. (45 Minute Stop) Stop 3, The Nelson Mandela Family Museum We takes a 15 min guided tour through the Mandela Family House. We also visit Vilikazi Street, which is the only street in the world which houses 3 celebrities and 2 Nobel Prize winners. Stop 4, Regina Mundi Cathedral Regina Mundi's renowned Black Madonna What started out as "church services" often ended up as political rallies. Funerals, points out Father Vusi Mazibuko, who has been pastor at the church for the past four years, were often political affairs. They started off at Regina Mundi and ended up at Avalon Cemetery. We stop here for a guided tour through the church. (25 Minute Stop) Stop 5, Soweto Suburb Visit We take a 25 min guided tour through one of the suburbs in Soweto. We visit a Shabeen, a family house, a small shop and interact with the locals.

2 - Johannesburg City Tour

Stop 1, Constitution Hill

We visit Constitution Hill and experience the unique way that the South African transition has built hope for the future out of the pain of the past. We stop here for a guided tour through the old and cold deserted prison. (1 Hour Stop)

Stop 2, The Carlton Centre

The Carlton Centre is a sky scraper located in downtown Johannesburg. At 233 meters (731 feet), it's the tallest building in Africa and about half the height of the Sears Tower in Chicago. This will be our last stop to ascend to the 50th floor of the highest building in Africa. The Top of Africa? This will offer you the best city aerial view in Africa (20 min Stop). From here we depart for a tour through Johannesburg city centre, a drive past New Town, we cross over the Nelson Mandela Bridge and via Hillbrow.

Stop 3, The Witwatersrand University

The fundamental role of any university is to promote freedom of enquiry and the search for knowledge and truth. Wits has built a reputation for itself in this role, establishing itself at the industrial and commercial heart of South Africa as a centre for education and research of the highest quality. Wits' mission is to build on this foundation in a way that takes account of its responsibilities within South Africa today; and to maintain and enhance its position as a leading university in South Africa, in Africa, and in the world by

sustaining globally competitive standards of excellence in learning, teaching and research.

3 - Lesedi Cultural Village Tour

Lesedi African Lodge is a multi cultural village set amongst the pristine bushveld and rocky hills less than a hours drive north of Johannesburg. Live the experience, the vibrant and colorful traditions of the Basotho, Ndebele, Pedi, Xhosa and Zulu peoples on a short tour. Be part of traditional Africa for just a short while.

You will never forget it! What's on the menu? Traditional African maize served with stew, oxtail, pork and for the brave there is well prepared crocodile! Traditional African dessert follows which includes South African Koek Sisters with cream and traditional brandy sponge cake and fruits.

4 - The Cradle Of Humankind Tour

Stop One, (A guided tour through the Sterkfontein Caves)

Sterkfontein Caves are most famous for the two world renowned hominid finds, namely Mrs. Ples in 1947 and Little Foot in 1997. Since excavations at the site first began, hundreds of hominid fossils as well as stone tools have been found at Sterkfontein. The excavation of Little Foot and other fossils is an ongoing process at this still active fossil dig.

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site consists of around 40 different fossil sites, 13 of which have been excavated. These include Bolt's Farm, where the remains of three sabre-tooth cats have been found in a pit that trapped animals. Swartkrans, site of the earliest-known deliberate use of fire, around 1.3-million years ago; Haasgat, where the fossils of early forest-dwelling monkeys, around 1.3-million years old, were found; and Gondolin, where 90 000 fossil specimens have been found since 1979.

Stop Two, (We visit the Cradle of Humankind Museum)

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site is 47,000 hectares large and apart from the Sterkfontein Caves and Maropeng the surrounding area has a wide offering of activities from horse-riding, game drives, gliding, game reserves, other caves, arts and crafts venues and much more.

Within the visitor attraction lies an exciting 4-billion-year journey on an underground lake, through the elemental forces, water, air, fire and earth dipping through waterfalls and real icebergs, into the eye of a storm, past erupting volcanoes and through the depths of the earth and emerging at the beginning of the world. From here, the journey continues through an experience highlighting the history of our world and humankind as a species, brought to life via audiovisual techniques, evocative sounds effects, theme-park technology and theatrical displays. At the visitors centre there will be real fossils on display.

5 - The Lion Park Tour - Touch a Lion Cub

The Lion Park near Lanseria Airport north of Johannesburg in Gauteng Province serves as a gateway and introduction, a true window, to the splendors of Africans Wildlife. It is home to more than 70 lions including white lions and many other carnivores such as cheetahs, wild dogs, brown and spotted hyenas, black leopards and many more.

The Lion Park is constantly involved in new ventures and scientific research projects. One of these projects involves our long-term relationship with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). This project has enabled us to test all our lions for the possibility Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), bovine tuberculosis and various other diseases. All of our

lions have been micro-chipped by the EWT to ensure reliable identification.

BASIC ITINERARY

It is approximately 40 minutes from your hotel pick up in Johannesburg to the Lion Park west of the Gauteng province. We first do a drive through the main lion camps where we will also see the white lions. There after we depart to the lion cub den to have the chance to touch and play with the young lion cubs!

6 - Pilanesberg and Sun City

Pilanesberg National Park: Kwa-Maritane or Bakubung lodges

The park is an ancient volcanic crater, which lies in the Northwest province, adjoining the internationally acclaimed Sun City. Visitors to the park will have the opportunity to view African wildlife in a malaria-free zone.

Day one:

We shall start driving to the Pilanesberg Nature Reserve at 11:00. You can book into your chalet at Bakubung or Kwa-Maritana camps on arrival. (Camps to be confirmed at the time of booking.) We shall embark on a late afternoon, open vehicle game drive. Dinner may then be enjoyed at your camp.

Day two:

An early morning game-drive in an open vehicle is first on the schedule for the second day of the tour. We shall then return to the camp for breakfast. At 10:00, the return journey to Johannesburg will commence. We should arrive at our destination before or by 12:00.

Daily departures: minimum of two people required for the Pilanesberg Option 1 tour.

7 - Rhino and Lion Park

The Rhino & Lion Nature reserve is situated on the West Rand in the world heritage site Cradle of Humankind area. You will be met by your tour guide at your hotel and transferred in an air-conditioned microbus to the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve in the Cradle of mankind. The park has two separate areas, a vast predator camp and the even larger herbivore area where we will conduct the game drives. Animals which may be seen roaming in the Rhino & Lion park are lion, cheetah, rhino, hippo, wild dogs and rare antelope such as Sable. The visitors centre offers an interesting snake display area holding venomous snakes, scorpions etc. The nursery area often has young rhino, lion cubs, wild dog pups and sometimes it is possible to briefly play with one of the young ones. The Rhino & Lion park boasts lion, rhino, cheetah, hippo, wild dogs and more than 20 other species totaling over 600 head of game. Guests may purchase refreshments at the Croc Pub, overlooking a crocodile pool.

8 - Cycling in Soweto

These popular tours take you out cruising the vibrant streets of the township. Visit places like migrant worker's hostels, Meadowlands, Hector Pieterse Museum, Nelson Mandela's and Bishop Tutu's house and finish it off with a relaxing cold drink at the local shebeen.

Guided tours around Soweto can also be arranged by car or walking around in the community.

Other activities:

Visit the informal settlement Kliptown, where the Freedom charter was signed in 1955.

Play volleyball and football on the local sports field just outside the backpackers. If you are in a party mood, join us to nightclubs, local pubs and festivals. We can also offer tailor made tours according to your specific interest.

Our aim is to work hand in the hand with the community and we are networking with a number of organizations and projects around the area. Orphanages, youth clubs and schools etc. If you have some extra space in your bag, donations such as second hand clothes, shoes, toys and footballs are much appreciated. Let us know at your arrival to Soweto if you wish to visit some of our community projects and get involved.

Experience Soweto by bike!