

RISE WITH THE GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

**LIMPOPO
INCENTIVE FACT BOOK**



NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

XXXXX - Limpopo





LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Situated in the far north of the country, Limpopo borders Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is a prime wildlife destination with a host of game and nature reserves, including the northern Kruger National Park as well as the Mapungubwe National Park. There is spectacular game-viewing and birding in the province, as well as a mix of African cultures, intriguing folklore and legend and prehistoric treasures. It is home to the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, as well as Modjadji, the fabled Rain Queen, and the age-old relics of the Makapansgat Valley. It is here that the Venda artists live and thrive, and where places like Lake Fundudzi and the Vondo Forest are considered to be sacred. The birding at Nylsvley RAMSAR Wetland is a magnet for nature-lovers and many golf enthusiasts have the extreme 19th hole at Legend Golf and Safari Resort on their bucket list. The city of Polokwane is at the heart of the province – a growing urban hub with its sights set on the future, yet with a heart and soul steeped in traditional values. Limpopo is a fascinating province and delegates will enjoy the wild beauty of the area combined with incredible cultural insights and numerous adventure attractions that will keep them coming back for more.

Kruger National Park – Limpopo



KEY ATTRACTIONS AND INSPIRING ACTIVITIES:

- **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK:** One of South Africa's main attractions, the Kruger National Park is a highlight on any trip to the country. Home to the Big 5 and an abundance of animal and plant life, it is one of the best-known national parks in Africa. Delegates will enjoy game drives, walking trails and a host of activities in the amazing biodiversity that is the northern Kruger National Park.
- **MAPUNGUBWE:** Once an ancient African kingdom that welcomed traders from Asia and Arabia, the Mapungubwe UNESCO World Heritage Site is renowned the world over for its ancient archaeological treasures. The Mapungubwe National Park is one of the gems of the region - a wild stretch of pristine bushveld known for its incredible wildlife and magnificent baobab trees.
- **THE WATERBERG BIOSPHERE:** The Waterberg is about three hours from Johannesburg and Pretoria and is known as a nature and wildlife destination. There are numerous lodges and bush camps in the area and activities such as hiking, birding and game-viewing are all popular. The UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve is the only savannah biosphere reserve in Southern Africa and features a fascinating mix of rock formations which formed over millions of years. There are San (Bushmen) rock art sites in the Waterberg and wide bushveld plains that support a diverse array of creatures.
- **THE MODJADJI CYCAD RESERVE:** Holds the largest concentration of a single cycad species in the world. The Modjadji Cycad Reserve is found in the foothills of blue-green mountains above the village of Modjadji (near the town of Tzaneen). The reserve is also part of the realm of the legendary Rain Queen (Modjadji village has been ruled by a series of Rain Queens since the 16th century - the only matriarchal tribe in Southern Africa). The 560ha Modjadji Cycad Reserve is a unique natural forest that remains unspoilt and very much like it was in prehistoric times. Take a gentle hike through the reserve, which has a series of paths that lead up and down the mountain slopes.
- **BELA-BELA:** Roughly translated, the words Bela-Bela mean 'boiling boiling' in Tswana, which refers to the hot springs that are this town's key attraction. Bela-Bela's hot springs (set in the Waterberg mountains) were originally used for healing purposes, and today these legendary waters have been turned into a key resort and leisure attraction.
- **PRIVATE GAME RESERVES:** There are a number of private game reserves in Limpopo, all offering exclusive bush and wildlife experiences. Many of these reserves boast luxury accommodation at tented camps or bush lodges. The list includes Mabula Game Reserve, Timbavati Game Reserve, Thornybush Game Reserve, Timbavati Game Reserve, Kapama Game Reserve, Tshukudu Game Reserve and Makalali Game Reserve.
- **NYLSVLEY NATURE RESERVE:** Up to 80000 birds can be found at Nylsvley Nature Reserve at any one time, making it a prime birding attraction. The 4 000ha reserve has around 370 bird species, including rare ones like the dwarf bittern and rufous-bellied heron, as well as many others you won't find anywhere else.



LIMPOPO: POLOKWANE

Rise with the Great North

Polokwane is a city on the rise. This fast-growing capital of Limpopo is a cosmopolitan mix of cultures, places and people and is an excellent launch pad to the Kruger National Park, Big 5 reserves and the rest of Africa. There is a wide variety of accommodation establishments (hotels, guest lodges and country estates), meetings venues and entertainment options in Polokwane and the city really does offer the best of both worlds: excellent infrastructure and a stepping stone to the game reserves and wilderness regions blessed with superb wildlife and options for nature-lovers, not to mention the spectacular cultural and heritage sites for which the region is so well known. In town, there are museums, galleries, restaurants, casinos and nightclubs, as well as some of the country's finest golf courses.

Accessibility

Polokwane is easily accessible from major centres:

- There are four direct daily flights from Johannesburg.
- The city is within a four-hour drive of Johannesburg.
- Polokwane is easily accessible from Maputo.

Johannesburg is the gateway to South Africa via OR Tambo International Airport – the largest airport in Africa. Connecting flights via Johannesburg include:

- Europe: Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Zurich
- Middle East: Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Dubai, Jeddah
- North America: Washington, New York
- South America: Buenos Aires, Sao Paolo
- Asia: Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Singapore
- Australia: Perth, Sydney
- Africa: all major cities

Where to stay

There are 1 510 graded hotel rooms in Polokwane and surrounding areas. These consist of 33 five-star establishments, 461 four-star establishments and 902 three-star rooms. Places like the Meropa Casino are very popular with conference delegates and just about anyone visiting the city who wants fantastic entertainment and good accommodation in the same place. However, incentive travellers will enjoy moving further afield to stay in the many excellent game lodges and bush camps, as well as country estates further afield.

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Exceptional incentive activities

- **ELEPHANT-BACK SAFARIS:** Experience the wonders of the African bush from a completely different viewpoint – take an elephant-back safari when visiting Limpopo province. These safaris take place under the supervision of a trained guide and delegates will have the opportunity to explore the bushveld on the backs of these incredible pachyderms - no doubt a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- **THE MAGOEBASKLOOF CANOPY TOUR:** Takes explorers on an unforgettable journey above the Letaba River Gorge. The zip-line site is within two hours' drive of the Kruger National Park and is a must for any adventurer passing through the area – a great one for team-building.
- **HAENERTSBURG:** Is a charming hamlet in Limpopo's Magoebaskloof Mountains. It's a high rainfall area and, as a result, boasts thick indigenous forests, rolling grasslands and incredible views (although the mist can be a challenge for any photographer). Browse the village's lovely shops, including arts and crafts, books, curios, fresh produce, and antiques and collectibles. There are also a few charming bistros and the iconic village pub, Iron Crown, which is named after the district's highest peak.
- **KUHESTAN ORGANIC FARM IN THE MAGOEBASKLOOF MOUNTAINS:** Offers cooking courses focused on the methods and flavours of Persian cuisine (using the best of local produce). These cooking courses are a wonderful way to feed mind, body and soul while learning something new in a gorgeous mountain setting – another great team-building opportunity.
- **THE LEGEND GOLF & SAFARI RESORT:** Is famous for its unusual golf course, which boasts a 19th hole that players can access only via helicopter. Situated in the gorgeous Entabeni Safari Conservancy in Limpopo province, the combination of wildlife, bushveld and award-winning golf is an attractive option for those searching for something extraordinary.
- **DRINKS IN THE LARGEST BAOBAB:** The Sunland Baobab is estimated to be around 6000 years old, and is the country's biggest baobab, featuring a small pub inside its hollow trunk. With its giant surreal branches, interesting flowers and quaint little pub, the Sunland Baobab delights all who visit. The Sunland Baobab, near the subtropical town of Tzaneen, is one of the area's most popular attractions.
- **PAFURI WALKING TRAILS:** Participants can walk in the private Makuleke Concession in the northern Kruger National Park – a place with incredible biodiversity and beautiful scenery. There is also the opportunity to do a cross-border walking trail (into Zimbabwe or Mozambique) with a trained guide. These trails run from April to October every year.
- **VENDA ARTISTS:** The culture of the Venda people in places like Makhado, Elim, Giyani and Thohoyandou is steeped in legend and myth and this is reflected in the amazing sculpture, pottery and artwork found along the somewhat informal Venda art route, where visitors can visit the makeshift studios of the artists when they are in residence and, of course, buy incredible Venda artworks to take home.

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