

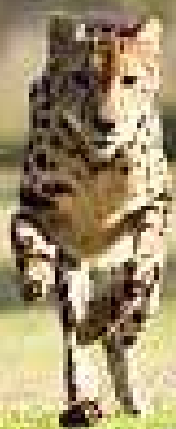
# RISE WITH THE PLATINUM PROVINCE

## NORTH WEST INCENTIVE FACT BOOK



NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

*De Wildt Cheetah Farm, Hartebeestpoort – North West*





## NORTH WEST PROVINCE

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North West province is a wonderful province for the incentive traveller who thrives on variety and adventure. The province has two fantastic game reserves, a wealth of heritage and culture, as well as a mix of exhilarating outdoor experiences. North West is a rewarding holiday destination that offers exciting wildlife and adventure encounters, as well as the opportunity to participate in a rich cultural and historical heritage. The extravagant Sun City entertainment complex is known the world over as a tourism hot spot. With a number of fantastic hotels, casinos, restaurants, golf courses and adult entertainment venues, Sun City remains SA's icon of fun and entertainment. Next door to the famous Sun City resort is the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, where visitors can experience the wild African bush just two hours from Johannesburg. The other largely notable game reserve in the North West province is Madikwe Game Reserve, which is relatively close to the Botswana border. The area is home to the Big 5 and is famous for its wild dog, spotted hyena, cheetah and elephant populations. Historical Mafikeng is another interesting destination in the province and this metropolitan hub offers an interesting combination of colonial and modern Africa. For something truly local, Groot Marico is a great place to explore the tall tales of legendary writer Herman Charles Bosman. The mampoer farms in the area are pretty interesting too. Hartbeespoort Dam is an option for those who enjoy watersports. The Magaliesberg mountains also offer outdoor activities and adventures, and a great place to take in a hot-air balloon safari. Rustenburg is the main urban centre in this agricultural heartland - a growing town that was also a host city during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.



## KEY ATTRACTIONS AND INSPIRING ACTIVITIES:

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- **THE PILANESBERG GAME RESERVE:** For an authentic wildlife experience in close proximity to Johannesburg and Pretoria, Pilanesberg is a popular game reserve featuring the Big 5 (elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard and rhino) and a wide variety of other game, including brown hyenas, sable antelope, African wild dog and exquisite birdlife. There are numerous lodges in and around the game reserve, with easy access to the entertainment attractions on offer at Sun City.
- **MADIKWE GAME RESERVE:** One of South Africa's foremost malaria-free Big 5 reserves, Madikwe is close to the border with Botswana and was once farmland before Operation Phoenix took place in the 1990s – one of the largest wildlife relocation exercises in South Africa's history. The game reserve is home to numerous varieties of game and wildlife, including wild dog and the Big 5. There are superb lodges in the park, from five-star luxury lodges to more rustic bush camps, as well as a variety of community-owned and run lodges.
- **SUN CITY:** When it comes to a range of entertainment options all in one place, Sun City is the gift that keeps on giving. There are numerous restaurants, bars, cinemas and gaming areas, as well as superb outdoor spaces, gorgeous gardens, two professional golf courses and the Valley of the Waves theme park. Various levels of accommodation are available, including the ultra-luxury Palace of the Lost City, the Cascades, Sun City Hotel and the Cabanas.
- **THE MAGALIESBERG MOUNTAINS:** Stretching across two of South Africa's provinces – Gauteng and North West – the Magaliesberg offers visitors an opportunity to explore nature and experience the great outdoors. There are waterfalls, cliffs, ravines and lots of activities in the Magaliesberg, as well as some wonderful hotels, guest lodges, country estates and spa retreats.
- **HARTBEESPOORT DAM:** A variety of watersports, including boating, are hugely popular at Hartbeespoort Dam, and where better to enjoy a sundowner cruise? There are also numerous hikes, walks and adventure activities on offer in the area, including a trip up the Harties cableway. The nearby market offers a wide range of locally made curios.
- **GROOT MARICO:** How about sending your delegates on a literary journey to follow in the footsteps of one of South Africa's finest authors, Herman Charles Bosman. His spirit is alive and well in the small North West town of Groot Marico and local history buffs will give you all the insights into his characters and his spectacular stories about 'Oom Schalk Lourens'. The information centre will give you information on all the local attractions, including information about the nearby mampoer farms and festivals and events that take place in this rural hamlet.
- **NATURE RESERVES:** In addition to the two main game reserves in North West province, namely Madikwe and Pilanesberg, there are 12 nature reserves and national parks to speak of, including: Barberspan Bird Sanctuary, Borakalalo National Park, Botsalano Game Reserve, Molemane Eye Nature Reserve, Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve, Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve, Boskop Dam Nature Reserve, Kgaswane Mountain Reserve, Mafikeng Game Reserve, Molopo Nature Reserve, SA Lombard Nature Reserve and Wolwespruit Nature Reserve.
- **ANN VAN DYK CHEETAH AND WILDLIFE CENTRE:** Named after founder and conservationist Ann van Dyk, this wildlife sanctuary has managed to breed about 600 cheetahs since the inception of the breeding programme. In addition to cheetah rehabilitation, the centre has also successfully bred Cape vultures, African wild dogs and brown hyenas. Visitors can enjoy the daily tours and all proceeds go to the upkeep of the centre.



# NORTH WEST: BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT, RUSTENBURG (including Sun City and Pilanesberg)

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## Rise with the Platinum Province

Divided into four main districts, the epicentre of tourism and hospitality in the North West province can be found in the Bojanala Platinum District, which includes Rustenburg, Pilanesberg and Sun City, the latter being a major attraction for the business events industry as well as the leisure market. The Palace of the Lost City is a major drawcard, and the entire Sun City complex has everything one could wish for in terms of entertainment and activities. Next to Sun City is the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, and further afield is Madikwe Game Reserve – both are home to luxury lodges and exclusive camps, as well as a wealth of wild animals and plant life indigenous to the area. There is a lot to explore in this part of the world and the mix of great outdoors, wildlife and entertainment (Sun City) is a hard combination to beat.

## Accessibility

Global air access is available through Johannesburg, 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

There are also chartered flights to the various lodges and Sun City.

From Johannesburg and Pretoria, the Bojanala District is an easy two-and-a-half hour drive by car or tour bus.

## Where to stay

The Sun City hotel complex offers a wide range of accommodation, from the luxurious suites at the Palace of the Lost City to various options available at Cascades Hotel, Sun City Hotel and the Sun City Cabanas. Further afield, there are hotel rooms available in Rustenburg, while the Pilanesberg and Madikwe Game Reserves offer excellent lodge accommodation. There are 3 066 graded hotel rooms in the region, this includes:

- 819 five-star rooms
- 1123 four-star rooms
- 1124 three-star rooms





## Exceptional incentive activities

- **HOT-AIR BALLOON SAFARIS:** A major attraction in North West is the hot-air ballooning adventures on offer from Bill Harrop's Original Balloon Safaris. Delegates will need to get up bright and early to be at the balloon base in Skeerpoort (Cradle of Humankind) before sunrise. Once on board, the early wake-up is so worth it as you watch the peaceful landscape slowly awaken to the day. The flight ends with a wonderful champagne breakfast, and each participant gets a personalised certificate.
- **SUN CITY SEGWAY TOURS:** A Segway tour could be one of the best ways to enjoy the gorgeous grounds of the Sun City hotel complex. Because the complex is so big, the two-wheeled transport device is a great way to make your way around without getting too tired. Tours can take up to 10 people at any one time, and there are golf tours, lake tours and even an off-road glide on offer.
- **HARTBESPOORT DAM CABLEWAY:** For uninterrupted views of the magnificent Hartbeespoort Dam and Magaliesberg Mountains, take a ride in the Hartbeespoort Dam Cableway. On a clear day you might even be able to see Johannesburg or Pretoria, but if you don't, the views from the top are pretty incredible – giving one a bird's-eye view of the entire landscape.
- **ZIP-LINING AND CANOPY TOURS:** The Sun City Zip-Line or Zip 2000 is 280m high and two kilometres long and is officially the world's longest and fastest zip-line - an absolute must for adventure seekers visiting the North West province. The other option is the Magaliesberg Canopy Tour, which takes participants on the trip of a lifetime as they make stops at various platforms in the Ysterkloof, part of the Magaliesberg Mountain range, to view the forests and birdlife below.
- **VREDEFORT DOME:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Vredefort Dome is where a huge crater was formed by a meteorite strike millions of years ago. The region is popular with adventure enthusiasts and there are some great hikes and trails on offer, as well as abseiling and water-based activities along the Vaal River.
- **TAUNG:** The Taung World Heritage Site is a major attraction along the North West's Taung Heritage Route. In 1924, Professor Raymond Dart from Wits University found the 2.5-million-year-old fossilised skull of a hominid child in the Buxton Quarry. Dart identified the skull as belonging to an early hominid and the discovery of the Taung Skull was acknowledged as one of the most significant scientific findings in South Africa's history. Delegates can follow in the prehistoric footsteps of our hominid ancestors on this 45km route, which includes numerous natural attractions, including the limestone waterfall and the Blue Pools in a lush valley.
- **ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:** Enjoy various adventure activities when visiting Pilanesberg, including game drives and bush barbecues, game walks and breakfasts in the bush, clay-target shooting, archery, urban combat paintball and quad-biking.

*Madikwe – North West*

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