



Gauteng

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Why Go?

Gauteng, formerly the Boer Republic of Transvaal, remains the pulse of the South African nation.

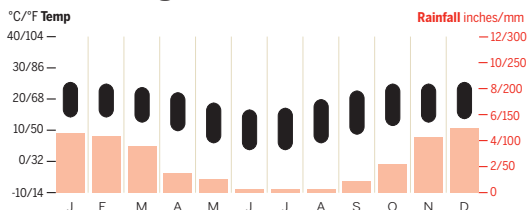
Johannesburg (Jo'burg) is the country's largest and most happening city, where gold was discovered in the late 19th century and where fortunes are still made and lost. Gauteng's provincial capital is still riding on the back of the World Cup in 2010, and the creative and inventive spirit is alive in the cafes, galleries and clubs popping up across the rejuvenated city streets. The wealth divide is stark, though, and it can be difficult to reconcile the glistening wealth with the sprawling townships.

The political centre of Pretoria, a short drive north, is decidedly less urbane but is somewhat grander with its stately buildings and jacaranda-lined streets.

In the World Heritage-listed Cradle of Humankind, in a vast valley is full of caves and fossils, you can ponder three million years of your own existence.

When to Go

Johannesburg



Mar School's back, so Jo'burg's Melville and Braamfontein hop. High fashion is out in Sandton.

Aug Festival season led by Joy of Jazz, the Dance Umbrella and a hectic calendar of theatre.

Late Nov–Mar Spectacular near-daily lightning strikes. Enjoy less traffic and a great NYE carnival.

Gauteng Highlights

1 Hooking up with Southern Africa's cultural hub in the revamped Johannesburg (p312) suburbs of **Newtown** (p317), **Braamfontein** (p317) and **Doornfontein**.

2 Revisiting South Africa's chilling history at Jo'burg's **Apartheid Museum** (p321) and **Constitution Hill** (p319).

3 Leaping off the Orlando Towers in **Soweto** (p337) and spending the night on the township's shebeen trail.

4 Cruising in the bookshops, cafes, guesthouses and bars in the leafy streets of **Melville** (p323) in Jo'burg.

5 Going deep underground in the caves and fossil sites at the **Cradle of Humankind** (p343).

6 Paying respects to the fallen at **Freedom Park** (p348) in Pretoria.

