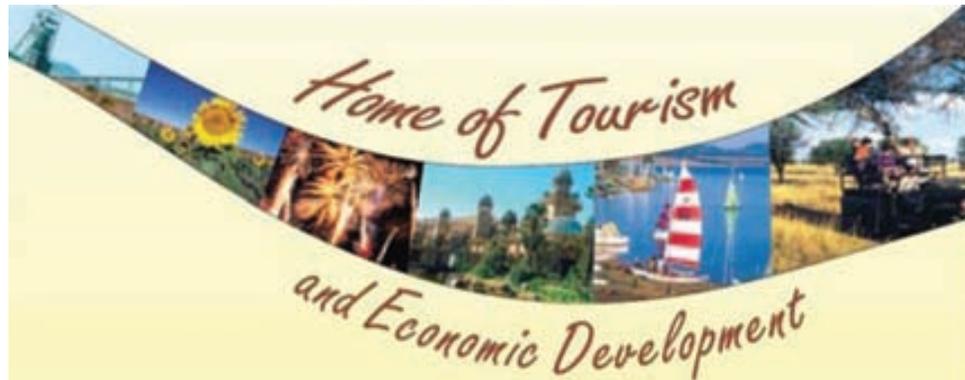




BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY SCENERY, ADVENTURE AND NATURE – WE HAVE IT ALL

Situated in the north-eastern corner of the North West Province, the **Bojanala Platinum District Municipality** gets its name from the Setswana word for tourism and from the abundant precious mineral that is considered the lifeblood of the region. The District consists of five local municipalities, namely the **Kgetleng Rivier, Madibeng, Moretele, Moses Kotane, and Rustenburg local municipalities** and the main towns and cities located within its borders are **Rustenburg, Brits and Koster**.

Much of the area is covered by natural bushveld vegetation and, as such, is home to numerous high quality game parks, such as the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, which hosts hundreds of species of wildlife, including the famed Big Five – lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant. Other wildlife areas include the Madikwe Game Reserve also including the famed Big Five, the Hartbeespoortdam and its surrounding areas, the Borakalalo Nature Reserve, and a number of dams. With the added attraction of the Magaliesberg, this region has much to offer to the eco-tourist, while there are a large variety of historical and cultural interests that are definitely worth visiting.

The beauty of Pilanesberg is reflected in a large central lake, the Mankwe Dam. Over time, wind and water have carved a spectacular landscape with rocky outcrops, open grasslands, wooded valleys and thickets.

The Cradle of Humankind, a 474 square kilometre World Heritage Site, extends into the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality and the area abounds with relics from the Stone Age and early, middle and late Iron Age. As a tourist destination, the Bojanala area is situated conveniently close to the economic hub of Gauteng and is regarded as the most scenic region of the province.

What's more, if it is adventure-sporting activities that you are after, then this is your kind of region. There are plenty of adventure options available to Bojanala visitors, including hiking trails, water activities, hang-gliding, 4x4 routes, parasailing, abseiling, ballooning, yachting and angling.

Within the area, visitors can also expect to find numerous arts, crafts and curio outlets, especially within the Hartbeespoortdam and Rustenburg areas. Many form part of the Crocodile, Rustenburg and Magaliesberg Arts and Crafts Rambles – the highly popular tourist routes with many eating venues, craft galleries, farm stalls, delightful curios and gift shops to browse.

The northwest of the region borders on the Madikwe Game Reserve, a haven to visitors who want to live the African experience. Rustenburg, with a population of almost half a million, may be known as the Platinum City, but the name does not do justice to a city that has retained its small-town charm. With access to a number of malaria-free game farms such as the Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (formally known as Rustenburg Nature Reserve) which has waterfalls throughout the year, and the Pilanesberg Nature Reserve, the town serves as an attractive destination for visitors seeking some time and space in the great outdoors.

Although more well known for the nearby Sun City golf courses. Rustenburg has other fine golf layouts in the scenic Rustenburg Golf Club and the nine-hole executive Hunters Rest golf courses for the golfing enthusiast. Other outdoor activities include hiking trails and water sports.

The Magaliesberg Canopy Tour (014-535 0150) is a unique eco-adventure that takes clients on a two-and-a-half hour tour down the spectacular Ysterhout Kloof, set in the Magaliesberg Mountains. Eleven platforms have been built against the cliffs and rock faces of the kloof and are joined by long steel cables that clients slide along to reach the next platform.

The region is also home to the world-famous **Sun City complex**, which has two Gary Player-designed golf courses, a 6 000-seater Superbowl auditorium, the Valley of the Waves and the largest casino and gaming complex in the country. What began as Sol Kerzner's dream of a luxury hotel in the middle of nowhere has evolved to include a second impressive hotel, the Cascades, with a tropical garden, a flamingo lake lapping the edge of the building, rushing waterfalls and a Sky Train that transports visitors between destinations within the resort. Kerzner then built his ultimate fantasy, the ultra-opulent Lost City complex – recreating a mythical lost city which, legend has it, was inhabited by an ancient civilization.

Sun City is located in the extinct Pilanesberg volcano formed more than 1 300 million years ago and hosts the Nedbank Golf Challenge annually.

Rustenburg was also a host venue for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, with matches played at the impressive Royal Bafokeng Sports Place.

The Magaliesberg Mountain range dominates the landscape of the Bojanala region, stretching for over 120 kilometres and separating the Highveld grasslands in the south from the bushveld savannah in the north. The mountains were once called the Kasha Mountains but changed to the Magaliesberg – after the Batswana Chief Mogale, who ruled at the same time that white pioneers discovered this part of the world. The Magaliesberg area's history is fascinating and the mountains played a role in the story of King Shaka and the Anglo-Boer wars.

Between the ancient mountain ranges of the Magaliesberg and Witwatersberg lies the local municipality of Madibeng. The name Madibeng translates to "place of water" and could not be more appropriate given the number of water features in the area, including the Hartbeespoort Dam, Rooikoppies Dam, Vaalkopdam and the Klipvoor Dam, all of which contribute to the area in terms of tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.

The Hartbeespoort Dam is an extremely popular destination and is estimated to be the second most visited place in South Africa after the Cape Town Waterfront, with approximately 19 000 – 20 000 vehicles per weekend driving over the Hartbeespoort Wall.

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