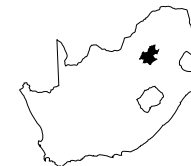


# Gauteng



If Africa, as the cliché goes, is the mother of all life, then Gauteng is a province born of the Western love for her gold-bearing ore. Fast, bustling and a cabaret of contradictions, Gauteng covers just 1.5% of the country's land surface, yet accounts for 34% of its GDP and, perhaps more extraordinarily, 10% of the GDP of the whole of Africa.

The laid-back, friendly atmosphere of Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, belies a turbulent past. Founded in 1855, it has been the seat of four governments; these days the grandiose Union Buildings look over a city at the centre of the world's most unexpected democracy. Fifty or so kilometres away is Johannesburg, or Jo'burg, or Egoli, or Jozi (depending on your mood), the provincial capital and third-largest city on the continent. Sprawling and booming, it's a strange conurbation of opulent suburbs, corporate headquarters, six-lane freeways and Tuscan-themed shopping malls set alongside some of the country's starkest urban poverty. While positive change is sweeping through parts of Soweto, particularly in its growing tourist industry, other sections of this famous township remain destitute. The province's perennial crime problem is perhaps the inevitable consequence of its palpable polarities.

Not all of Gauteng is caught in the feverish grip of growth; the province is chock-a-block with the history of mankind itself. The Cradle of Humankind, within an hour's drive of Jo'burg and Pretoria, is one of the world's most important palaeontological sites. It seems appropriate to find it here, for after a few days spent soaking up its sunshine and thunderstorms, its beauty and ugliness, all its idiosyncrasies, you'll get the feeling that things really do start and finish in Gauteng.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experiencing the Johannesburg revival in the **Newtown Cultural Precinct** (p401)
- Keeping pace with the cheetahs of the **De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre** (p442)
- Checking out Pretoria's party scene in **Hatfield** (p439)
- Exploring the world's best-known township, **Soweto** (p420), and catching the Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs playing in the local **soccer derby** (p415)
- Escaping Jo'burg's shopping centres at the roadside cafés of **Old Melville** (p410) and **Norwood** (p411)
- Discovering more about where you come from at the **Cradle of Humankind** (p425)



■ POPULATION: 10.5 MILLION

■ AREA: 17,010 SQ KM

## HISTORY

Gauteng's history reaches as far back as humankind itself. Dubbed the Cradle of Humankind (see p425), the northwestern corner of Gauteng (pronounced how-teng) is thought to have played a key role in human evolution, with sites across the region yielding as many as 850 sets of hominid remains. In 1947 Dr Robert Broome made one of the most famous discoveries, in Sterkfontein Caves, when he uncovered the 2.5-million-year-old fossilised skull of the affectionately named Mrs Ples.

Despite the massive disruption caused by the Zulu wars, when many local blacks left the region, the area now called Gauteng remained a relatively quiet and chiefly rural

place right through until the end of the 19th century. A number of different tribes lived in the region and there is evidence of mining activities dating as far back as the Iron Age, but it was only in 1886, when gold was discovered, that the area was catapulted into the modern age.

Boers, escaping British rule in the Cape Colony, had been here since the mid-19th century, founding the independent Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) and establishing its capital in the then frontier village of Pretoria. But as the British turned their attentions to the colossal profits being made in the gold mines, it was only a matter of time before the events that led to the 1899–1902 Anglo-Boer War were set in motion.

After suffering severe losses, particularly in British concentration camps, the Boers conceded defeat, leading to the Treaty of Vereeniging and ultimately to the Union of South Africa in 1910. The fledgling city of Jo'burg exploded into life, but little changed for the thousands of black miners. It was a theme that would persist throughout the coming century. Apartheid would be managed out of Pretoria, and the townships surrounding Jo'burg – not least of them Soweto – would become the hub of both the system's worst abuses and its most energetic opponents. Consequently Gauteng, then known as Transvaal, was at centre stage in South Africa's all-too-familiar 20th-century drama.

Post-transformative South Africa is all about change. Transvaal has been renamed Gauteng, a black president now rules out of Pretoria (itself subject to name-changing; see the boxed text, p431) and the country's new Constitutional Court has been built on the site of Jo'burg's most infamous apartheid-era jail, the Old Fort. However, it remains to be seen whether the new century will finally bring Gauteng's poor their slice of the pie.

## CLIMATE

Largely on the highveld, the big cities of Gauteng benefit from the cooling effects of altitude. Both Jo'burg and Pretoria can become baking hot in summer, but a fresh breeze can often be relied upon to take the sting out of a Jo'burg January. At this time of year, cloudless days and plenty of sunshine are common, though most afternoons produce the famous highveld thunderstorm; Jo'burg is the most lightning-clattered city on earth.

Winters can get chilly, and frosts and freezing temperatures are experienced in the mornings and evenings. Early summer (September and October) and autumn (March and April) offer the best weather for a visit.

## NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES

Concrete streets, rather than open spaces, predominate in largely metropolitan Gauteng, but there are still a few decent day-trip escapes to be had. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve (p426), Krugersdorp Game Reserve (p426) and the Rhino & Lion Nature

Reserve (p426) all offer a reasonable spread of wildlife and a sense of the great outdoors, while the De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre (p442), near Pretoria, remains one of Gauteng's great attractions.

## LANGUAGE

English is widely spoken in Gauteng, although Afrikaans is predominant in Pretoria. Sotho, Pedi, Tswana and Zulu are the main languages spoken among blacks, although many will communicate using *tsotsitaal* (gangster-speak) or *isicamtho*, the hybrid melange of South African languages that developed in the townships.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Crime is a daily reality in Gauteng, and Jo'burg in particular, but the risks should always be kept in perspective. The worst crime is often limited to individual suburbs and so there is absolutely no need to feel trapped in your hotel room. Local advice is gold dust when it comes to having a good, safe time in the big cities: ask for it, listen to it and then go out there and enjoy yourself. See p608 for more information.

## GETTING THERE & AROUND

As South Africa's major national and international transport hubs, there aren't many places you can't get to from Jo'burg and Pretoria. **Johannesburg International Airport** (JIA; ☎ 011-921 6262; www.acsa.co.za), easily accessible from Pretoria and Jo'burg, has flights to regional centres across the country, with airlines covering many of the smaller towns as well. Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth are also connected to Jo'burg via a network of no-frills budget airlines – by far the best way of getting between the big cities.

South Africa's long-distance bus companies, **Translux** (☎ 0861-589 282; www.translux.co.za), **SA Roadlink** (☎ 011-333 2223; www.saroadlink.co.za), **Greyhound** (☎ 012-323 1154; www.greyhound.co.za) and **Intercap Mainliner** (☎ 0861-287 287; www.intercape.co.za), also link Jo'burg and Pretoria with just about anywhere you would want to go. Both cities are often served by the same buses, with buses heading north starting at Jo'burg's Park Station before passing through Pretoria, and services heading south commencing in Pretoria before stopping in Jo'burg. Prices are reasonable, with fares to destinations as far as Cape Town



rarely exceeding R400. If you are backpacking, the **Baz Bus** (☎ 021-439 2323; www.bazbus.com) links up with most of Gauteng's hostels. See p633 for details.

Trains, although slower, are also an option and several named services pass through both Jo'burg and Pretoria en route to destinations including Musina, near the Zimbabwe border, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Durban and Kimberley. If you have hired a car, you can even put your vehicle on the train and ship it all the way across to the Cape.

Hiring a car is easy in both cities and prices are competitive. If you are staying in Gauteng, there are few sights you can't reach as part of a tour, or via public bus, but Jo'burg remains a city of car owners and having one will make getting around easier. Despite its size, it isn't too much of a headache getting out of Jo'burg and onto regional and provincial highways.

If you are strapped for cash, minibus taxis also depart from Jo'burg for destinations across the country and fares tend to be considerably lower than those charged by the main bus companies. Just take a good look at the condition of the driver and the taxi you choose; some are hopelessly unfit for long-distance travel and their operators can be reckless.

See individual Getting There & Away sections for more details. See the Transport chapter for details of connections between Gauteng's major cities and neighbouring countries.

## JOHANNESBURG

☎ 011 / pop 5.7 million

Few fateful moments in colonial history can compare with Australian prospector George Harrison's somewhat apocryphal 'stumble' over a piece of gold on the Langlaagte Farm (present-day Fordsburg) in 1886. One could argue that this single event led to a gold rush, a war, a series of wretched imperialist and nationalist policies, and ultimately to the most cosmopolitan city in Africa.

Jo'burg, or Jozi as it's commonly known, is without a doubt the great big beating heart of South Africa and has long played a Jekyll-and-Hyde role in the global consciousness. Often the stage on which the

epic of this extraordinary nation has been played out, the colossus of Jo'burg – with all its thrills and foibles – is today a fascinating, multitudinous city, where all the ups and downs of 21st-century South Africa can be witnessed in three, multicolour, dimensions.

In the past, the city's darker personality proved the most enduring. The Jo'burg of the newsflash was a city where fear and loathing reigned supreme; a city where spiralling gun crime and poverty had manifested itself in a society where one half of the population stagnated, while the other looked on impassively through coils of razor wire.

As ever, there is an element of truth to the stereotypes. Jo'burg does bear the scars of South Africa's turbulent 20th century, and many will take time to heal. Stark inequalities persist: wealthy northern suburbs like Sandton and Melville bristle with glossy shopping precincts, chic restaurants and electric fences, while the worst slums of the townships are only down the road, yet a world apart.

But armed with a new self-confidence – ironically most pronounced in the infamous township of Soweto – Africa's giant hub is fast introducing itself to a healthy new diet of urban renewal and social regeneration. A black middle class is on the rise, tourists and investors are flooding into Soweto, and developments in the central Newtown district are providing the city with a communal hub where Jo'burg's many faces can come together as one. From the recently erected Mandela Bridge, which symbolically connects previously divided sections of the city, to the new Constitutional Court, built on the site of one of the country's most infamous apartheid-era prisons, Jo'burg's 21st-century monuments herald a new era of optimism.

Perhaps more than in any other big city (and at more than 2500 sq km, Jo'burg is *big*), it pays to keep your wits about you. Advances in the battle against crime have yet to win the war, and local advice is often the surest way of avoiding a costly run-in with its more sinister elements. Aware of its shortcomings and determined to make a difference, Jo'burg is an extraordinarily friendly and informal city, and not one to hide away in – get out there and live the big time.

## HISTORY

Within a matter of months of Harrison's discovery, thousands of diggers descended on the small collection of farms on the Witwatersrand. Because the gold was deep – in reef form, not the more easily accessible alluvial form – mining was quickly concentrated in the hands of men who had the capital to finance large underground mines. Mining magnates, who had made their money at the Kimberley diamond field, bought up the small claims and soon came to be known as the Randlords.

By 1889 Jo'burg was the largest town in Southern Africa, a rowdy city of bars and brothels. The multicultural fortune-seekers – blacks and whites – were regarded with deep distrust by the Boers, the Transvaal government and especially by the president, Paul Kruger. Kruger introduced electoral laws that effectively restricted voting rights to the Boers, while laws aimed at controlling the movement of blacks also were passed. The tensions between the Randlords and *uitlanders* (foreigners) on one side, and the Transvaal government on the other, were crucial factors in the events that led to the 1899–1902 Anglo-Boer War. Jo'burg, which already had a population in excess of 100,000, became a ghost town during the war. It recovered quickly when the British took control and massive new mines were developed to the east and west.

Although gold-mining remained the backbone of the city's economy, manufacturing industries soon sprang up, gaining fresh impetus during WWII. Under increasing pressure in the countryside, thousands of blacks moved to the city in search of jobs. Racial segregation had become entrenched during the interwar years, and from the 1930s onwards vast squatter camps had sprung up around Jo'burg.

Under black leadership these camps eventually became well-organised cities, despite their gross overcrowding and negligible services. But in the late 1940s many were destroyed by the authorities, and the people were moved to new suburbs known as the South-Western Townships, or Soweto.

The official development of apartheid during the 1960s did nothing to slow the expansion of the city or the arrival of black

squatters. Large-scale violence finally broke out in 1976, when the Soweto Students' Representative Council organised protests against the use of Afrikaans (regarded as the language of the oppressor) in black schools. Police opened fire on a student march and over the next 12 months more than 1000 would die fighting the apartheid system.

The regulations of apartheid were finally abandoned in February 1990 and since the 1994 elections the city has, in theory, been free of discriminatory laws. The black townships have been integrated into the municipal government system, the city centre is vibrant with black hawkers and street stalls, and inner suburbs have become multiracial.

Gold-mining is no longer undertaken in the city area, and the old pale-yellow mine dumps that created such a surreal landscape on the edge of the city are being reprocessed. Modern recovery methods allow the mining companies to extract as much gold from these waste tailings today as was found in the raw ore 100 years ago. The classic view of Jo'burg – a mine dump in the foreground and skyscrapers in the background – will be retained, however, as some dumps are being preserved as historical monuments.

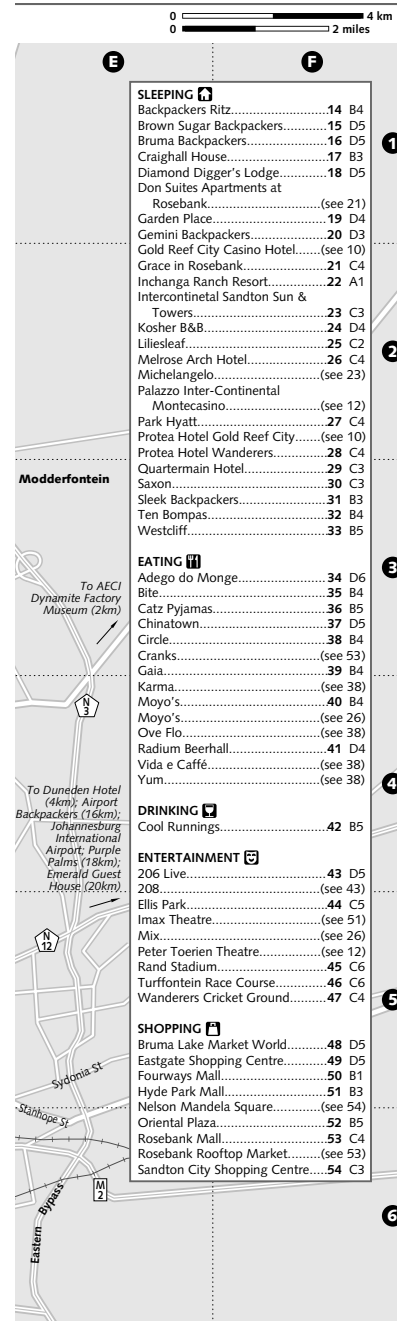
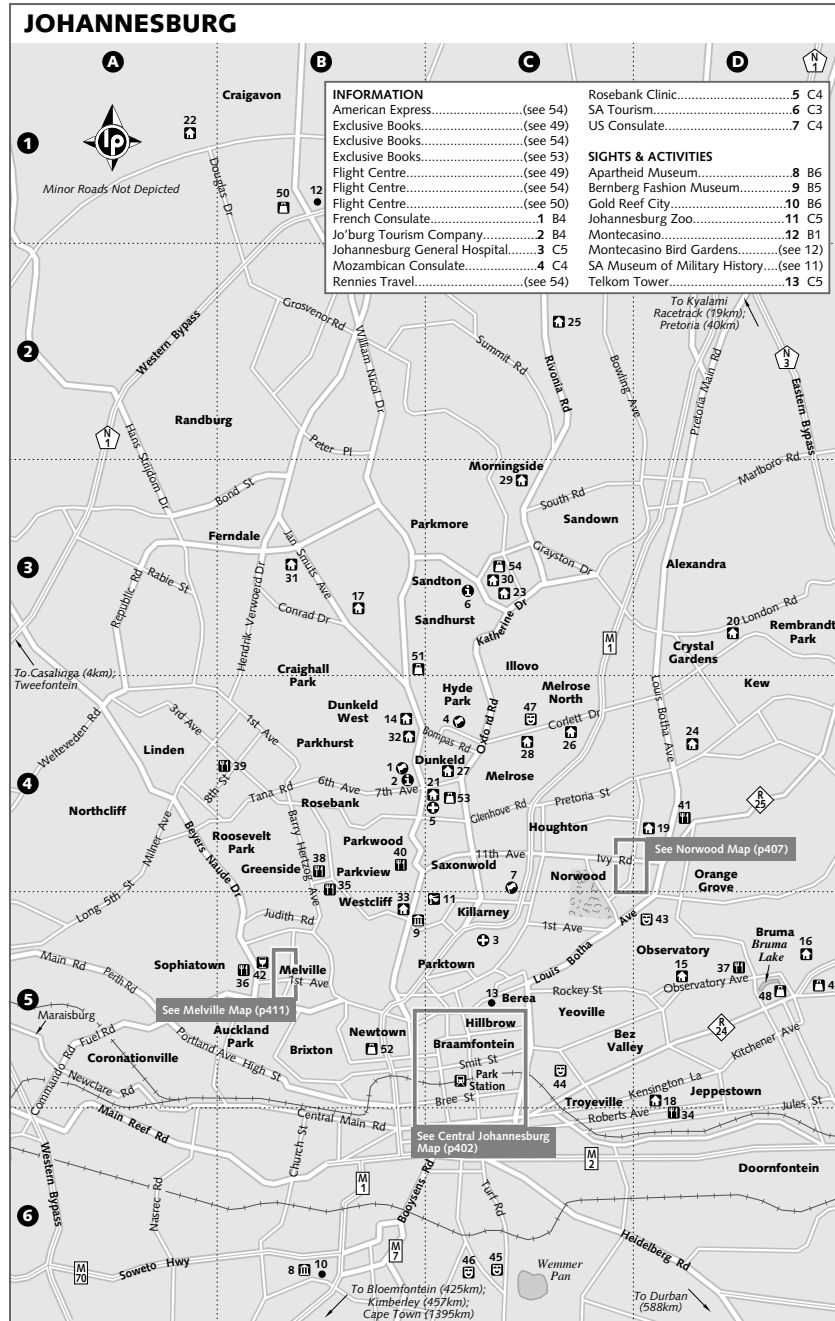
## ORIENTATION

Despite its size, it's not difficult to find your way around Jo'burg. However, cars are king here, so getting around with one is surprisingly easy and getting around without one can be extremely time-consuming. Johannesburg International Airport (JIA) is 25km northeast of the city and easily accessible (Rte 24 runs out of the CBD and becomes the N12 freeway), but if you need to get there during the weekday rush hour (5pm to 7pm) allow up to an extra hour's travelling time. Regular buses connect the airport with the main train station, Park Station, on the northern edge of the city centre (see p419).

The large city centre, which is laid out on a straightforward grid, is dominated by office blocks – in particular the 50-storey Carlton Centre on Commissioner St. There's no reason to stay in the city centre; after the shops close, the centre becomes a virtual ghost town. However, redevelopment

GAUTENG

GAUTENG



of the Newtown cultural precinct, at the northwestern edge of the city, is at the core of an effort to clean up central Jo'burg. North of the city centre, a steep ridge runs west-east from Braamfontein across to the dangerous suburb of Hillbrow. To the northeast of the centre is the equally dangerous Yeoville.

The northern suburbs are predominantly white middle- and upper-class areas, within an arc formed by the N1 and N3 freeways. These suburbs of big houses, big trees and big fences are where most travellers stay. Sterile shopping malls form the centre of most social life, although there are a few pockets of resistance. The inner-suburban restaurant enclaves of Melville, Greenside, Parkhurst and Norwood make a refreshing change.

The black townships ring the city and present a stark contrast to the northern suburbs. Conditions within the townships range from the stereotypically suburban to the appalling. The main township is Soweto, but there are also big townships at Alexandra (inside the N3 freeway to the northeast of the city centre) and further out at Thokoza (south of Alberton), Kwa-Thema and Tsakane (southeast and south of Brakpan, respectively), Daveyton (east of Benoni) and Tembisa (to the northeast).

**Maps**

For maps try the **Map Office** (Map p402; ☎ 011-339 4941; Ground fl, Standard House, 40 De Korte St, Braamfontein; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri). This place sells government maps of all South African provinces for R40 a sheet.

**INFORMATION Bookshops**

**Book Dealers of Melville** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 4054; 12 7th St, Melville; ☎ 10am-9pm) Has a good antiquarian selection and buys second-hand books (from 2.30pm to 5.30pm Tuesday and Thursday).

**Exclusive Books** Eastgate Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-622 4870; upper fl; ☎ 9am-10pm); Rosebank Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-447 3028; level 3, the Zone; ☎ 011-883 1010; lower level; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Sat, 9am-7pm Sun) This chain is the best in town, with the widest range of local press, travel guides and international newspapers. You'll have to fork out for international bestsellers, most of which are imported.

## Emergency

**AIDS line** (☎ 0800-012 322)

**Cellphone emergency** (☎ MTN 112; Vodacom 147)

**Fire** (☎ 10111)

**Lifeline** (☎ 011-728 1347)

**Metro Emergency Rescue Service** (☎ 10177)

**Police** (Map p402; ☎ 10111; Headquarters, Main Rd)

**Rape Crisis Line** (☎ 011-806 1888)

## Internet Access

Most hostels and hotels have Internet facilities, charging anything from R20 to R60 per hour. Alternatively, most Jo'burg malls and suburbs have an Internet café and wi-fi hotspots are popping up everywhere. **Out of Print Books** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 6026; 78 4th Ave, Melville; per min R1; ☎ 10am-9pm), in the centre of Melville, is pricey but open later than most.

## Medical Services

Medical services are of a high standard but they are expensive, so make sure you're insured.

**Johannesburg General Hospital** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-488 4911; M1/Jubilee Rd, Parktown) Jo'burg's main public hospital.

**Rosebank Clinic** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-328 0500; 14 Sturdee Ave, Rosebank; ☎ 7am-10pm) A private hospital in the northern suburbs, with casualty, GP and specialist services.

## Money

There are banks with ATMs and change facilities at every commercial centre. American Express and Rennies Travel (an agent for Thomas Cook) have branches at the airport and in major malls.

**American Express** Jo'burg International Airport (☎ 011-390 1233; ☎ 5am-9pm); Sandton City Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-883 9009; Shop B36c, level 5; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun)

**Rennies Travel** Jo'burg International Airport (☎ 011-390 1040; ☎ 5.30am-9pm); Sandton City Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-884 4035; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat, 10am-1pm Sun)

## Post

There's a poste restante service at the **main post office** (Map p402; ☎ 0800 110 226; Jeppe St; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-noon Sat), but be careful about having valuables sent here.

## Tourist Information

Different offices provide information depending on whether you are interested

in Jo'burg, Gauteng or South Africa as a whole. The following organisations have a monopoly on most of the best information available.

**Gauteng Tourism Authority** (Map p402; ☎ 011-639 1600; www.gauteng.net; 1 Central Pl, cnr Jeppe & Henry Nxumalo Sts, Newtown; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) The tourist body's glistening new headquarters is in the middle of the Newtown Cultural Precinct, with ample parking. Staff members are eager but woefully undertrained, so check details with locals or your accommodation.

**Jo'burg Tourism Company** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-214 0700; deon@joburgtourism.com; ground fl, Grosvenor Cnr, 195 Jan Smuts Ave, Parktown North; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) A private endeavour; covers the city of Jo'burg.

**SA Tourism** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-895 3000; fax 895 3001; 90 Protea Rd, Sandton; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) Can be contacted for general South Africa information.

## Travel Agencies

There are dozens of agencies in Jo'burg, and many hotels and hostels also arrange bookings. For flight bargains, check the *Saturday Star* newspaper's travel supplement.

**Flight Centre** (☎ Central Bookings 0860 400 747; Eastgate Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-616 7008; Shop L3; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat); Fourways Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-467 0050; Shop G43; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2.30pm Sat); Sandton City Mall (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-784 1571; Shop L80; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Specialises in discounted flights and has branches in most major malls. It promises to beat any genuine quote from another agency.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Crime is a big problem in Jo'burg, but it is important to put things in perspective. Remember that most travellers come and go without incident and that much of the crime afflicts suburbs you would have little reason to stray into. The secret to success is quite simple: seek local advice, listen to it and remain aware of what's going on around you.

You are really very unlikely to become the victim of a violent crime (even criminals understand that assault and murder attract far more attention from the authorities than robbery alone), but it's when using ATMs that you're most vulnerable. See p614 for advice on avoiding scams and safely using ATMs.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES City Centre & Newtown CITY CENTRE

The city centre choked and largely died in the mid-1990s, with many white businesses fleeing to the northern suburbs, leaving the district to vanish under a mountain of none-too-promising crime statistics and buildings to turn 'bad'. The area retains its edgy atmosphere today, but regeneration projects in Newtown to the south and university-oriented Braamfontein to the north are gradually helping to boost confidence once more in the heart of the city.

Jo'burg was once an Art Deco showpiece, but few good examples remain. There are plenty of colonial-era buildings that are worth a look: the defunct **Rissik St Post Office** (Map p402; Rissik St) and **City Hall** (Map p402; cnr Rissik & Market Sts), now a sometime concert venue, are among the finest. Sights aside, the thousands of hawkers and the smells of corn and beef being cooked at street-side stalls give the centre an urban atmosphere that you won't find in the northern suburbs, and that alone makes it worth a well-planned visit.

You might also like to pass by the building that housed the former **Mandela & Tambo Law Offices** (Map p402; Chancellor House, 25 Fox St) where, in the 1950s, these two famous men set up this pioneering law firm. There's not much in the way of tourist facilities here, but moves are being made to set something up. Contact the Gauteng Tourism Authority for the latest.

On the Noord St side of Joubert Park (itself a no-go area) is the **Johannesburg Art Gallery** (Map p402; ☎ 011-725 3130; Joubert Park; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). This place has a reputable collection of European and South African landscape and figurative paintings, and several exhibitions featuring more-adventurous contemporary work and long-overdue retrospectives of black artists.

To get an overview of the hub of Jo'burg, take the lift to the **Top of Africa** (Map p402; ☎ 011-308 1331; 50th fl, Carlton Centre, 152 Commissioner St; adult/child R10/8; ☎ 9am-7pm). From the quiet remoteness of the observation deck, the sprawling city seems positively serene. The entrance is via a special lift one floor below street level and you can admire the views over lunch at the Marung restaurant.

## BRAAMFONTEIN

The suburb of Braamfontein's focus is the **University of Witwatersrand** (Map p402; ☎ 011-717 1000; Jan Smuts Ave), more commonly known as Wits (pronounced wits) University, and there are plans to transform this currently quiet area into a lively student ghetto. Wits University is the largest English-language university in the country, with more than 20,000 students. It's an attractive campus and you can visit the worthwhile **Gertrude Posel Gallery** (Map p402; ☎ 011-717 1365; gallery@atlas.wits.ac.za; ground fl, Senate House; admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Tue-Fri); the **Standard Bank Foundation Collection of African Tribal Art**, which includes masks, Ndebele fertility dolls and beadwork; **Jan Smuts House** (Map p402) to see Smuts' study; the **Planetarium** (Map p402; ☎ 011-717 1390; Yale Rd; shows adult/concession R25/10; ☎ 8.30am-4pm), which you can look around for free, or attend shows on Friday (8pm), Saturday (3pm) and Sunday (4pm). You can get a cheap café meal at the **Student Union Building**.

## NEWTOWN

Known as Brickfields at the turn of the 20th century, Newtown was once the centre of a thriving brick-making industry, booming on the back of the area's rich clay deposits. In April 1904, the fire brigade unceremoniously torched most of the buildings to combat an outbreak of bubonic plague and it was subsequently renamed Newtown. Today, Newtown is at the centre of efforts to rejuvenate the downtown area. In recognition of this, in 2005 the new headquarters of the Gauteng Tourism Authority was opened here.

Surrounded by museums and cafés, Newtown's cultural precinct, which occupies the brushed-up **Mary Fitzgerald Sq** (named after South Africa's first female trade unionist), is a good place to start a tour of central Jo'burg. As well as being the staging ground for a number of annual events – check Jo'burg City's website (www.joburg.org.za for details) – it's also simply a good place to watch the city drift past. The square is decorated with an array of heads carved by Newtown artists from old railway sleepers.

Situated at the heart of the cultural precinct, **Museum Africa** (Map p402; ☎ 011-833 5624; museumafrica@joburg.org.za; 121 Bree St; adult/child R8/4;

## CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG

	A	B	C	D
<b>1</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b> Botswana Consulate..... 1 B4 Department of Home Affairs..... 2 B5 Gauteng Tourism Authority..... 3 A6 Main Post Office..... 4 C5 Map Office..... 5 A4 SA Police Headquarters..... 6 A6 Swaziland Consulate..... 7 A4 Zimbabwe Consulate..... 8 B6			
<b>2</b>	<b>SIGHTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> Bus Factory..... 9 A6 City Hall..... 10 C6 Constitution Hill..... 11 C3 Drum Café..... 12 A4 Getrude Posel Gallery..... 12 A4 Jan Smuts House..... (see 12) Johannesburg Art Gallery..... 13 D4 Mandela & Tambo Law Offices..... 14 C6 Mary Fitzgerald Sq..... 15 A5 Museum Africa..... 16 A5 Nelson Mandela Bridge..... 17 B5 Planetarium..... (see 12) Rissik St Post Office (closed)..... 18 C6 SAB Centenary Centre..... 19 A6 St Mary's Anglican Cathedral..... 20 C5			
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9am-5pm Tue-Sun) is housed in the impressive old Bree St fruit market, next to the Market Theatre complex. The superb exhibition on the Treason Trials (1956-61), which featured most of the important figures in the 'new' South Africa, is a must-see for anyone looking for a better understanding of the country's more recent history. The Transformations exhibition details the evolution of Jo'burg and includes a simulated descent into one of the gold mines. The Sophiatown display is outstanding. There's also a large collection of rock art, a geological museum, a display on Gandhi's time in Jo'burg and the Bensusan Museum of Photography, which charts the history of photography and has regular exhibitions by famous South African snappers.

The nearby **Market Theatre** complex (p415), with its shows, bars and restaurants, is an excellent place to while away a few hours between museum visits.

Looming over Newtown is the **Nelson Mandela Bridge** (Map p402; www.blueiq.co.za). Officially opened by Nelson Mandela on 20 July 2003 (two days after his 85th birthday), the 295m, cable-stayed bridge is the longest of its kind in Southern Africa. It isn't the most impressive structure in Jo'burg, but it is an enduring symbol of efforts to resurrect long-forgotten sections of the city and an ongoing source of pride.

The **SAB Centenary Centre** (Map p402; ☎ 011-836 4900; 15 President St; admission R10; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sat) delves into that other great South African pursuit: beer drinking. It unlocks the secrets of the country's brewing industries and there is a re-creation of a 1965 Soweto *shebeen* (unlicensed bar), which is all heavenly for appreciators of liquid amber.

The small but significant **Soweto Art Gallery** (Map p402; ☎ 011-492 1109; Suite 34, 2nd fl, Victory House, cnr Commissioner & Harrison Sts; admission free; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) is directed by well-known Sowetan artist Peter Sibeko and is one of the few places contemporary black artists from the townships can exhibit their paintings and sculptures. All works are for sale and offer a worthwhile insight into life in the townships.

Much of the area around Mary Fitzgerald Sq was once taken up by a giant power station – builders keep running into the foundations of the colossal cooling towers. The huge **Turbine Hall** (Map p402; cnr Jeppe & Bezuidenhout

Sts), next to the SAB World of Beer, is one of the city's more impressive buildings – a kind of Battersea Power Station for Jo'burg. Although derelict, the fantastic interior was used to launch the New Mini and there are several, tentative plans in the pipeline to transform the space into something more user-friendly. If you hear of an event being hosted here, scramble to get a ticket.

In the Electric Workshop building, you'll find the **Sci-Bono Discovery Centre** (Map p402; ☎ 082-575 6688; www.sci-bono.co.za; Bezuidenhout St; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri). The space includes a science museum and an interactive learning experience, and is an excellent way to keep the kids occupied for a couple of hours.

In the restored Electricity Department's compound you'll find the **Workers' Museum** (Map p402; ☎ 011-832 2447; 52 Jeppe St; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat). It was built in 1910 for 300-plus municipal workers and has been declared a national monument, but is not particularly inspiring. There is a Workers' Library, a resource centre and a display of the living conditions of migrant workers.

South of the cultural precinct, you will find the refurbished **Bus Factory** (Map p402; 2 President St), which includes Beautiful Things (p415), a new initiative exhibiting and selling crafts from across South Africa, and the **Drum Café** (Map p402; ☎ 011-834 4464; www.drumcafe.com; ☎ 9am-4pm), which has a free drum museum and stages regular drumming events.

### HILLBROW & CONSTITUTION HILL

Crowned by the looming, 269m **Telkom Tower** (Map pp398-9; Goldreich St), Hillbrow was once among the liveliest and most interesting suburbs in the city, becoming one of the first districts in Jo'burg to witness the cracks opening in the shell of apartheid when it was designated the nation's first 'Grey Area' – a zone where blacks and whites could live side by side. These days, however, it also has a reputation for very real lawlessness and a trip into its guts, without an extremely savvy guide (see p405), is not recommended.

At a time when high-profile developments are being erected in washed-out areas throughout the city, however, it is no accident that the ever-egalitarian Rainbow Nation chose to build its new Constitutional Court on the very edge of Hillbrow. With

any luck the court and the surrounding Constitutional Hill development – and the investment they will attract – will improve this suburb's fortunes.

Inspiring, impressive **Constitution Hill** (Map p402; ☎ 011-381 3100; www.constitutionhill.co.za; Kotze St; adult/child R20/10; ☎ 9am–5pm Wed–Mon) is slowly becoming one of the city's – if not the country's – chief tourist attractions. Built within the ramparts of the **Old Fort**, which dates from 1892 and was once a notorious prison, the development focuses on South Africa's new **Constitutional Court**. Ruling on constitutional and human-rights matters, the court itself is a very real symbol of the changing South Africa: a *lekgotla* (place of gathering) rising from the ashes of one of the city's most poignant apartheid-system monuments, with cases heard in all 11 official languages. The modern structure incorporates sections of the old prison walls, plus large windows that allow visitors to watch proceedings. Not unlike the symbolism of Sir Norman Foster's glass Reichstag dome in Berlin, it underlines the sense of transparency at the heart of the country's political ethos.

As well as gaining access to the court, visitors will also be able to take tours of the Old Fort's various sections, including the Awaiting Trial Block, which held the 156 treason trialists – led by Nelson Mandela – of 1956; the notorious Number Four section, which held black male prisoners; and the Women's Gaol, where female offenders (their offence was often simply failing to produce an identity card) were incarcerated.

### Northern Suburbs

**Montecasino** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-510 7777; www.montecasino.co.za; William Nicol Dr, Fourways) consistently draws more visitors than perhaps any other attraction in Jo'burg. Based around a large casino, this spectacularly cheesy development features an entire 'Tuscan village under one roof, with a menagerie of concrete doves, restaurants, shops, bars, the **Pieter Toerien Theatre** (p415) and the pleasant **Montecasino Bird Gardens** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-511 1864; adult/child R10/5; ☎ 9am–5pm), where you can get a blast of country air in the heart of the city. The designers of the 'Tuscan village' left authenticity at the door (even the wall cracks are painted on), but it makes a

unique change from the sparkling floors and muzak of many of the city's shopping malls.

Perhaps it's South Africa's fascination with guns, or maybe it's the country's bloody history, but every year the **South African National Museum of Military History** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-646 5513; www.militarymuseum.co.za; 22 Erlswold Way, Saxonwold; adult/child R10/5; ☎ 9am–4.30pm) is one of Jo'burg's most popular museums. If warfare is your thing you'll find this museum fascinating. You can see artefacts and implements of destruction from the 1899–1902 Anglo-Boer War through to WWII. The museum is at the eastern end of the grounds of the Jo'burg Zoo.

The **Johannesburg Zoo** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-646 2000; www.jhbzoo.org.za; Jan Smuts Ave, Westcliff; adult/child R24/16; ☎ 8.30am–5.30pm) has a reasonable array of the fierce and the furry. It seems rather bizarre going to a zoo in Africa but it has a particularly interesting wild-dog enclosure and kids love it. There are also night tours (R60) three times a week (no children); book through the zoo.

Also worth checking out are the **Bernberg Fashion Museum** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-646 0716; cnr Duncombe Rd & Jan Smuts Ave, Forest Town; admission free; ☎ 9am–5pm Tue–Sat), which has a variety of fashions from yesteryear on display; and the **AECI Dynamite Factory Museum** (☎ 011-309 4700; 2 Main St, Modderfontein; ☎ 10am–2pm Mon & Fri, 2–4.30pm Wed), which is housed in an original 1895 homestead 16km northeast of the city centre, and charts the development of South Africa's explosives industry (a crucial factor in Jo'burg's development as a mining centre).

### Southern Suburbs

In stark contrast to the nearby Gold Reef City theme park, the **Apartheid Museum** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-309 4700; www.apartheidmuseum.org; cnr Gold Reef Rd & Northern Parkway; adult/child R25/12; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun) details South Africa's era of segregation with chilling accuracy. With plenty of attention to detail and an unsparring emphasis on the inhuman philosophy of apartheid – visitors are handed a card stating their race when they arrive and are required to enter the exhibit through their allotted gate – this remains one of South Africa's most evocative museums. Charting the course of several South Africans through the apartheid era, the museum

uses film, text, audio and live accounts to provide a colourful insight into the architecture, implementation and eventual unravelling of the apartheid system. It's an overwhelming experience; sensibly there's a garden at the exit for you to feel the value of freedom. If you are on your way to Soweto, where the excellent Hector Pieterson Museum pads out the story, this is an absolute must. It is 8km south of the city centre, just off the M1 freeway.

Nearby, **Gold Reef City** (Map pp398–9; ☎ 011-248 6800; www.goldreefcity.co.za; Gold Reef Rd; admission R70, children under 120cm free; ☎ 9.30am–5pm Tue–Sun) also has one foot in the past, but this time provides a light-hearted and reasonably rip-roaring take on gold-rush Jo'burg. Ninety per cent Disneyland clone, this theme park only offers a token nod to historical authenticity, but provides ample means for filling a spare afternoon, especially if you have kids in tow.

It features scary rides, a Victorian fun fair and various reconstructions, including a bank, brewery, pub and newspaper office. Visitors can go 220m down a shaft to see a gold mine from the inside (an extra R50), watch a gold pour and see an entertaining programme of 'gumboot' dancing, a traditional miners' choreographed dance.

There are numerous places to eat and drink, plus the Gold Reef City Arts & Crafts Centre and an expensive craft/souvenir shop. There are often special programmes on the weekend, sometimes with live music performed in an open-sided amphitheatre, and fireworks. Check the entertainment section in the *Star*.

If you want to stay over, there's the rock-solid Protea Hotel Gold Reef City and a **casino** (☎ 011-248 5000; ☎ 24hr). The attached Gold Reef City Casino Hotel also has rooms.

### TOURS

All Jo'burg budget hostels should have information on cheap packages to Kruger National Park and on the best (and cheapest) travel links to Cape Town, Durban, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Almost all can book Soweto tours as well. If you phone ahead, the following tour companies will arrange a pick-up or tell you how to get to the rendezvous.

**Imbizo Tours** (☎ 011-838 2667) Specialises in tours to Jo'burg's gritty townships, including half-day tours to Alexandra (R300 per person), perhaps the city's grimmest township, and Soweto (R310 per person). Also evening Soweto *shebeen* tours (R600 per person), where you get to eat and drink it up with the locals.

**KDR Sports & Adventure Travel** (☎ 011-326 1700; www.soweto.co.za) A well-connected outfit that can book accommodation in Soweto.

**Parktown and Westcliff Heritage Trust** (☎ 011-482 3349; per person from R150) Leads several tours through the more salubrious sections of town.

**Queer Johannesburg Tours** (☎ bookings 011-717 1963; anonym@library.wits.ac.za) Run on the first Sunday of the month by the Gay & Lesbian Archives of South Africa (☎ 011-717 4239; www.gala.wits.ac.za) at Wits University. Gay or straight, the tours offer a fascinating insight into gay Jo'burg, taking you deep into the heart of Hillbrow and Soweto, and providing plenty of background on the role homosexuality played in the gold mines and the struggle against apartheid. Tours start at 9am, last four hours and cost R300 per person.

**Take-A-Tour** (☎ 011-624 1676; www.takeatour.info) Tours of Soweto (R280 per person), as well as trips through Jo'burg's city centre and heritage sites (R280 per person).

**Taste of Africa** (☎ 082-565 2520) Offers something different from the zoo-like township tours, with a cheap shuttle (R60) from Melville to Soweto. There you can hire a guide (R50) or just cruise around using minibuses. It also offers tours where you can meet locals, drink in a *shebeen*, watch backyard theatre, milk a cow, listen to jazz and even visit a local healer. There is also shack accommodation (R100 per night).

**Walks Tours** (☎ 011-444 1639; www.walktours.co.za; per person from R120) Offers regular weekend walking tours around parts of Jo'burg as diverse as the city centre, Sandton, Troyeville, Parktown and Alexandra township. The walks go for between three and six hours and are led by well-informed guides. The only downside is that unless you can get enough people together for a private tour, you might have to wait weeks for the walk you want.

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**Chinese New Year** At Wemmer Pan, south of the centre.

**Rand Easter Show** During April at the National Exhibition Centre.

**Joy of Jazz Festival** (☎ 011-832 1641; www.joyofjazz.co.za) Staged in venues across Newtown in late August.

**Arts Alive Festival** (☎ 011-549 2315; www.artsalive.co.za) Held in September. A strong element in the festival is the workshops that reveal the continent's rich cultures, denigrated for so long by the Eurocentrism of the apartheid years. The festival is a particularly good time to hear excellent music, on and off the official programme. Most events are staged in Newtown.

**Gay Pride March** (☎ 082-547 2486; www.saprider.org) Held on the last Saturday every September.

## SLEEPING

Hotels and hostels are scattered across Jo'burg with the only pattern being a steady drift north. The range of quality is broad, from the bare basics of some hostels to the opulence and perma-smile service of the many five-star hotels. Some Jo'burg hostels will allow you to pitch a tent, but it's wise to check before you arrive. (If backyards are not to your liking, the best caravan parks that permit camping are in the far south of the province.)

The agency **Portfolio** (☎ 011-880 3414; www.portfoliocollection.com) lists a number of top B&Bs, mainly in the northern suburbs; they're upmarket and reasonably expensive, with singles from R250 to R450, and doubles from R400 to anything approaching R1000.

If you're looking to party, a bed near Melville or Norwood would be handy if you can find one. Otherwise the Rosebank and, increasingly, Fourways areas have decent after-hours entertainment. Places in the northern suburbs tend to be quite spread out, with few obvious accommodation ghettos. In fact, many suburbs are served by a single hotel in each range, meaning that visiting a number of places before you settle on your favourite is the privilege of those with a car.

There are a few sleeping options in the city centre and prices can be very reasonable, but standards tend to be lower and the streets considerably less secure.

Yeoville was for years a backpacker favourite but is no longer. All hostels have either closed or relocated to safer areas.

When you arrive in Jo'burg most hostels offer free pick-up from the airport or Park Station. If a car doesn't show up, call the hostel or get a taxi. Nearly all of the hostels are on the route of the Baz Bus (see p633). Internet and satellite TV facilities are standard and most hotels will organise tours to Soweto, Kruger National Park and elsewhere.

## City Centre & Newtown

In terms of accommodation, central Jo'burg can't touch the smarter suburbs. That said, if you are keen on hanging around New-

town and the Market Theatre complex, these places will save you in taxi fares.

Most of the budget hotels in the city centre, Berea and Hillbrow are run-down and depressing. You can't really go out at night on foot and you can get a backpackers double somewhere safer for the same price as a double room here, so there's not much argument for staying. Some of the better hotels in this area are good value, as the crime rate has chased away custom.

**Formule 1 Hotel Park Station** (Map p402; ☎ 011-720 2111; Park Station, Berea; r R189) This place offers anodyne rooms for a standard price. It is near the northeast corner of the huge Park Station complex and might appeal if you arrive late. It's a short walk from the main bus and train arrivals hall, and you can sleep up to three people in the room for the same price.

**Orion Hotel Devonshire** (Map p402; ☎ 011-339 5611; www.oriongroup.co.za; cnr Melle & Jorissen Sts, Braamfontein; s/d incl breakfast R360/545; Ⓟ) On the doorstep of Wits University (p401), this midranger in a former office building has all the mod cons and clean rooms.

**Protea Hotel Parktonian** (Map p402; ☎ 011-403 5741; www.proteahotels.com; 120 De Korte St, Braamfontein; s/d incl breakfast R750/910; Ⓟ) The Parktonian is the best hotel in the central Jo'burg area and draws visiting business types.

## Melville

**Pension Idube** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 4055; idube@mail.com; 11 Walton Ave, Auckland Park; d with/without bathroom incl breakfast R330/270; Ⓟ) This positively unpretentious place – bedecked in zebra motifs, to which its name refers – can't be beaten for its combination of comfort, price and location: walking distance to Melville and only 5km from the city centre. It serves inexpensive meals and has a patio that is the launch pad for some excellent braais (open-fire barbecue).

**Tulani Lodge** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 1106; www.tulani lodge.co.za; 85 3rd Ave; s/d incl breakfast R400/500; Ⓟ) Despite its top location just metres from Melville's nightlife, Tulani lives up to its name, offering 'peace and quiet' in a series of small, neat rooms clustered intimately around a sparkling swimming pool.

**Die Agterplaas** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 8452; agterplaas@icon.co.za; 66 Sixth Ave; s/d incl breakfast R420/530; Ⓟ) Oozing with 'old' Melville grace, this

colonial-era villa has lashings of comfy class, with Oregon pine flooring, a sun terrace and plenty of old-school bric-a-brac for décor.

## Norwood

**Garden Place** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-485 3800; 53 Garden Rd, Orchards; s/d incl breakfast R445/750; Ⓟ) It's slightly away from Grant Ave, but offers clean and comfortable rooms, superior service and facilities for overnighters, longer stayers, business people and newlyweds – a remarkably versatile and relaxing place to stay.

## Northern Suburbs

### BUDGET

**Inchanga Ranch Resort** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-708 2505; www.inchangaresort.co.za; 51 Inchanga Rd, Craighall; camp sites R40, dm/s/d R75/200/250, cabins from R160; Ⓟ) A wonderful country retreat just minutes from the shops and casino of Montecasino. Accommodation is in cute private A-frame huts with animal-print linens, and there are enough activities and privacy here for backpackers and families alike.

**Gemini Backpackers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-882 6845; www.geminibackpackers.com; 1 Van Gelder Rd, Crystal Gardens; camp sites R50, dm/s/d with shared bathroom R65/150/190; Ⓟ) Readers are divided about the merits of this place, but we think it's okay. Certainly there are many amenities, including a pizza oven, travel desk, volleyball and tennis courts, a gym and a video library for film buffs. It's a bit out of the way, but staff will pick you up from the airport and there's a daily shuttle to the shops. Ask about tours of nearby township Alexandra.

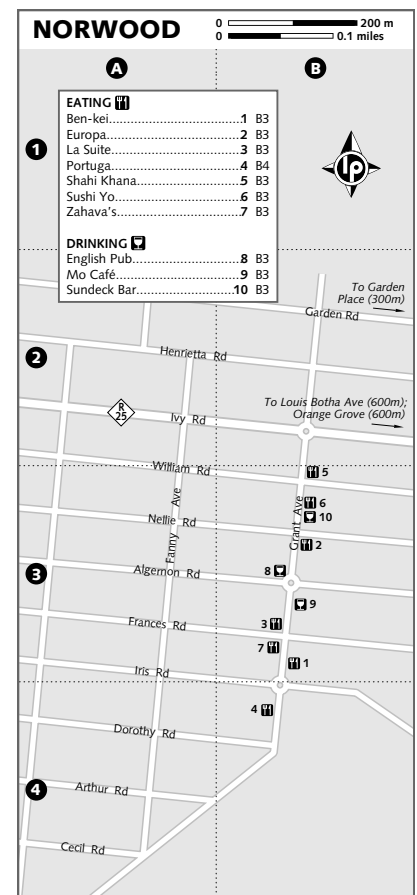
**Sleek Backpackers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-787 8070; www.sleekhostel.150m.com; 477 Jan Smuts Ave, Randburg; dm/s/d with shared bathroom R85/100/200; Ⓟ) A converted house is now a small hostel run with a personal touch. Dorms and doubles are basic but clean. It's in a handy location about halfway between the city centre and Fourways.

**Backpackers Ritz** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-325 7125; www.backpackers-ritz.co.za; 1A North Rd, Dunkeld West; dm/s/d with shared bathroom R85/175/260; Ⓟ) Some readers love the 'Ritz', but we're not convinced. Certainly, you'll be sacrificing luxury, cleanliness and quiet for a great location (it's a safe hop-and-a-skip from Hyde Park Mall, and plenty of bars and

restaurants), but it's lots of fun: there's a crypt-like bar and sunset braais with stunning views. It's in a characterful old mansion, yet curiously the dorm rooms are very large and the doubles a bit cramped. A real curate's egg: judge for yourself.

## MIDRANGE

**Craighall House** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-326 0326; craighallhouse@mweb.co.za; 10 Alexandra Ave, Craighall; s/d incl breakfast R300/500; Ⓟ) A purpose-built guesthouse with neatly designed rooms each with private entrance and patio, a beautiful garden, pergola and swimming pool. It's also in a good, secure location more or less halfway between Rosebank and Sandton.





**Don Suites Apartments at Rosebank** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-880 1666; fax 880 3366; 10 Tyrwhitt Ave, Rosebank; s/d incl breakfast R530/655; (P) (♿)) This is the only black-owned hotel chain in the land and it offers excellent rooms. This place is no exception.

**Kosher B&B** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-485 5006; www.kosherbandb.co.za; 124 3rd Ave, Fairmount; s/d incl breakfast from R550/750; (P) (♿)) The only B&B under the supervision of the Johannesburg Beth Din, it offers clean, good-sized if uninspiring rooms and an onsite restaurant that's open to the public (but closed on Saturdays). Ask for the kosher sushi.

**Quatermain Hotel** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-290 0900; www.quatermain.co.za; 137 West Rd South, Morningside; s/d incl breakfast R765/1055; (P) (♿)) Named for the colonial Ryder Haggard creation but much more politically correct, this is one of Jo'burg's best midrange options, with stylish fittings, excellent service and a great location near (but not consumed by) the glitz of Sandton. Its award-winning restaurant, The Courier, is another huge bonus.

**Protea Hotel Wanderers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-770 5500; www.proteahotels.com; cnr Rudd Rd & Corlett Dr, Melrose; s/d incl breakfast R915/1050; (P) (♿)) Being near Wanderers Stadium, this is the perfect spot for cricket aficionados, and straddles the midrange and top-end divide.

## TOP END

**Liliesleaf** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-803 3787; liliesleaf@ilt.co.za; 8 Winston Ave, Rivonia; s/d incl breakfast R600/1200; (P) (♿)) This stylishly appointed guesthouse may be a tad out of the way and therefore overpriced, but its history makes it priceless. It was here that Nelson Mandela met with the African National Congress to plot the overthrow of the Nationalist government before a police raid in 1963 led ultimately to his long incarceration.

**Park Hyatt** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-280 1234; www.johannesburg.hyatt.com; 191 Oxford Rd, Rosebank; s/d R1250/1450; (P) (♿)) With a great spot in the heart of the northern suburbs, this reliable place offers plenty of five-star, chain-hotel luxury. It is the staple of the city's visiting business travellers and boasts an excellent wine cellar.

**Palazzo Inter-Continental Montecasino** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-510 3000; www.southern.sun.com; Montecasino Blvd, Fourways; r incl breakfast R1600; (P) (♿)) Another victim of Jo'burg's much-favoured faux Tuscan styling, this glossy

number mixes Mediterranean charm with superslick service and all the usual five-star trimmings. The adjacent Montecasino development provides plenty to do without having to jump in a car.

**Melrose Arch Hotel** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-214 6666; 1 Melrose Sq, Melrose Arch; s/d incl breakfast from R1750/2900; (P) (♿)) While it has none of the old Jo'burg charm of suburban B&Bs, nor the homespun urban African chic of Soweto's guesthouses, this spare, slick, ultramodern masterpiece is as good a symbol of Jo'burg's confidence as you're likely to find. Charming features include a restaurant whose layout encourages you to engage with fellow diners, a soundproof room fitted with top-of-the-range audiovisual equipment, and a heated swimming pool where you can dine in the water. Its tasteful, unconventional styling and thoroughly mixed staff and clientele hint at a future South Africa of integration and prosperity. Dare to dream...

**Intercontinental Sandton Sun & Towers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-780 5000; www.southern.sun.com; cnr Fifth & Alice Sts, Sandton; r incl breakfast from R2200; (P) (♿)) Just across the road from the Sandton City and Nelson Mandela Sq malls, this place is the pride of the Southern Sun Group. The Sandton Sun caters for the wealthy, while the Towers pampers the megarich.

**Michelangelo** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-282 7000; www.michelangelo.co.za; Nelson Mandela Sq, 135 West St; s/d incl breakfast from R2200/2450; (P) (♿)) A six-storey hotel housing every imaginable amenity, including a spa and gym. All 242 rooms overlook a large atrium, and are tastefully designed in a muted version of the painted-on shutters and flamingo-pink porticoes of the surrounding building.

**Grace in Rosebank** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-280 7200; www.thegrace.co.za; 54 Bath Ave, Rosebank; d incl breakfast from R2400; (P) (♿)) Offering a distinctly personal big-city experience, this stylish boutique hotel places an emphasis on service and keeps a galaxy of stars, honeymooners and well-heeled business travellers coming back for more.

**Ten Bompas** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-341 0282; www.tenbompas.com; 10 Bompas Rd, Dunkeld West; r incl breakfast R2400; (P) (♿)) A true original, with 10 individually styled, five-star suites, a restaurant with an excellent wine list and floor-mounted televisions in its unisex lobby toilet.

**Westcliff** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-481 6000; www.orient-expresshotels.com; 67 Jan Smuts Ave, Westcliff; d from R2470; (P) (♿)) A favourite among visiting celebrities, this is a sprawling, stylish and very pink hotel with apartment block-style privacy and a majestic setting above the zoo. Luxuries are laid on with a trowel, including instant hot water and impeccable service.

**Saxon** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-292 6000; www.the-saxon.com; 36 Saxon Rd, Sandhurst; r incl breakfast from R4250; (P) (♿)) The *ne plus ultra* of impossibly opulent Jo'burg, this gorgeous, all-suite boutique hotel offers no-holds-barred luxury. In the 1990s, Nelson Mandela spent six months in the peace and comfort here as he finished off his autobiography; it's not difficult to see why. Now, there is a series of images on the corridor walls of the great man in various real and imagined settings.

## Eastern Suburbs

### BUDGET

**Brown Sugar Backpackers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-648 7397; www.brownsugar.web.za; 75 Observatory Ave, Observatory East; camp sites R45, dm/d with shared bathroom R70/170; (P) (♿)) In a large, somewhat grotty old mansion is this lively backpackers with enthusiastic staff and excellent views from its sunny braai deck.

**Airport Backpackers** (☎ 011-394 0485; airportbackpacker@hotmail.com; 3 Mohawk St, Rhodesfield; camp sites R60, dm/s/d with shared bathroom R80/190/240; (P) (♿)) Just 2km from the airport (free pick-ups and drop-offs), this so-so place is best used for coming off the jet lag, but not really for long stays. There's a pleasant *lapa* bar (a low-walled building with a thatched roof) and decent pool.

**Bruma Backpackers** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-616 2741; egatebp@netactive.co.za; 41 Hans Pirow Rd, Bruma; dm R60, s/d with shared bathroom R140/160; (P) (♿)) Within walking distance of Chinatown and Bruma Lake Market World (p415), this two-storey house feels more like a cheap B&B than a hostel, which means it's low on atmosphere but high on comfort.

**Diamond Digger's Lodge** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-624 1676; www.oneandonly.co.za; 36 Doris St, Kensington; dm/d with shared bathroom R70/180; (P) (♿)) An excellent backpackers, with every imaginable amenity, including a Jacuzzi, sauna, a big-screen home cinema and a pub for post-tour frolics. It's set on a rambling conglomeration of properties so privacy is

also possible, and there are a few en suite doubles (R250).

**Purple Palms** (☎ 011-393 4393; info@purplepalms.co.za; 1 Boompeiper Ave, Kempton Park; d with/without shared bathroom R260/220 tr R330; (P) (♿)) Twinned with Pretoria's North South Backpackers, and in a quiet suburb 2km from the airport, this is a friendly, well-run way station for backpackers passing through Gauteng.

## MIDRANGE

**Emerald Guest House** (☎ 011-394 1198; 19 Halifax St, Rhodesfield, Kempton Park; s/d R275/400; (P) (♿)) We've been getting very good reports about this guesthouse, which boasts a good location within easy striking distance of the airport and plenty of home comforts and decent rooms. It makes a convenient stop-over if you have an early flight; airport transfers are offered.

**Duneden Hotel** (☎/fax 011-453 2002; 46 Van Riebeeck Ave, Edenvale; s/d R340/450; (P) (♿)) Another option close to the airport, this passable midranger has a bar, tennis courts and a gym. Again, it's worth considering if you are flying in or out in the early hours.

## Southern Suburbs

**Gold Reef City Casino Hotel** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-248 5025; www.threecities.co.za; cnr Northern Parkway & Data Cres, Ormonde; s/d R780/1050; (P) (♿)) You are likely to spend as much again in the casino, but the opulent rooms are quite good value at this place, 8km south of the city centre by Gold Reef City.

**Protea Hotel Gold Reef City** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-248 5700; www.proteahotels.com; Northern Parkway, Ormonde; s/d incl breakfast R900/1010; (P) (♿)) Cleverly designed in old Jo'burg memorabilia, this excellent place has charming rooms and bags of upmarket Wild West character. Eight kilometres south of the city centre, and actually inside the theme-park gates, it is also probably the most secure hotel in Jo'burg.

## EATING

Jo'burg is stacked with places to eat, satisfying every whim, craving, occasion and budget. Unfortunately for visitors, especially those without cars, most of the best places are scattered around the northern suburbs and they can be difficult to find. The big hotels have restaurants and in

shopping centres you'll find franchised steakhouses such as Spur Ranch and Italian places such as Panarotti's.

For self-caterers, head to the glitzy supermarkets in the bowels of every shopping mall for the widest range of produce.

### City Centre & Newtown

There is a clutch of excellent restaurants around the cultural precinct in Newtown; alternatively, for a cheap meal of mealie pap (maize stew) and braaied meat, try the stalls on and nearby Diagonal St – just follow your nose.

**Kapitan's** (Map p402; ☎ 011-834 8048; 11A Kort St; mains R30-60; ☺ lunch & dinner) Jo'burg is awash with award-winning restaurants offering just about every world cuisine, but for a taste of the new city in surroundings that reflect its past, there's nothing quite like Kapitan's. Don't let the grubby stairwell put you off – this is a Jo'burg institution, with authentic Indian food and eccentric décor that's been attracting luminaries for years (Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo used to eat here in the 1950s). It is positively unpretentious and one of the few places in town where you'll see young lions black and white drinking with hepcats and grizzly city stalwarts groaning about how it's all gone to the dogs.

**Guildhall Bar & Restaurant** (Map p402; ☎ 011-833 1770; 88 Market St, Marshalltown; mains R35-50; ☺ lunch & dinner) Established way back in 1888, this was one of the city's first bars and makes you wish the nicotine-stained, wood-pannelled walls could talk. You can while away the day in the dark English-style pub below, or sit out on the upstairs balcony and watch the City of Gold pass you by over a pie and chips.

**Gramadoela's** (Map p402; ☎ 011-838 6960; Bree St, Newtown; mains R40-90; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Full of curios and character, this gay-friendly Newtown classic in the Market Theatre complex whips up a mean mix of African and Asian cuisine, blending recipes that range from the Cape to Cairo and adding a distinctly Malay twist. Diners include Hillary Clinton, Denzel Washington and Nelson Mandela.

**Moyo's** (www.moyo.co.za; mains R50-100; ☺) Newtown (Map p402; ☎ 011-838 1715; Bree St; ☺ lunch & dinner); Melrose Arch (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-684 1477; 5 Melrose Sq; ☺ lunch & dinner); Parkview (Map pp398-9;

☎ 011-646 0058; Zoo Lake; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Oozing chi-chi African charm, this busy chain offers a wide range of contemporary African eats. Each has a stylish cigar bar and fresh, herb-packed cooking forms the backbone of the innovative menu. There's also a top-notch wine list for vinophiles. Thanks to its waterside setting, our favourite is the Zoo Lake branch (though it's not open for dinner).

### Melville

Northwest of Braamfontein, Melville has become the trendiest eating strip in Jo'burg. Restaurants and cafés have sprung up in the area around 7th St, known as 'Old Melville', and around the busier Main Rd about 1km away, known as 'New Melville'.

The best food is in Old Melville, where a Bohemian, youthful atmosphere prevails. Most of the cafés have outdoor seating – a rarity in Jo'burg – and in the warmer months 7th St takes on a Parisian ambience, with patrons sipping drinks and watching the world go by from pavement tables.

### RESTAURANTS

**Ant Café** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 2614; 11 7th St; mains R30-45; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) This hole-in-the-wall Italian eatery has a distinctly Bohemian edge and whips up tasty pizzas in snug surrounds. Note that only cash is accepted.

**Soulsa** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 5572; 16 7th St; mains R35-90; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Funky décor, differing day and night menus featuring fusion South African cooking, and outdoor sofas have made Soulsa a Melville favourite among media types. Breakfast is served on weekends.

**Paros Taverna** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 4781; cnr 7th St & 3rd Ave; mains R40-75; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) With fresh, white-and-blue taverna décor and tasty Greek eats, this little piece of the Mediterranean gets lively on the weekends. On Saturday morning, they're still sweeping up the smashed plates from the night before.

**Soi** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 5775; cnr 7th St & 3rd Ave; mains R45-90; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Flash, oh-so-trendy Asian décor gives this place a hip, stylish edge. The Thai and Vietnamese food is fresh and zesty, and there's a bar full of beautiful people attached.

**Melville Grill** (Map p411; ☎ 011-727 2890; cnr 7th St & 3rd Ave; mains R50-120; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) The only place for a hardcore meat feast, this upmarket steakhouse serves sublime aged cuts in modern surrounds. It also claims to cater for vegetarians.

**Chaplin's** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 4657; 85 4th Ave; mains R80-110; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) This twee little bistro whips up some legendary food and, in an area where new places come and go in a flash, remains a true veteran. European meat and fish dishes predominate.

Eateries in New Melville are generally not as good as those around 7th St – this is where you will find the usual chain eateries – but they are generally easier on the pocket. The **Catz Pyjamas** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-726 8596; cnr Main Rd & 3rd Ave) can be a little sterile, but it is open 24 hours and the cheap food is welcome if you've had a long night out.

### CAFÉS & QUICK EATS

**Ish Caffé** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 4320; cnr 7th St & 4th Ave; light meals R25; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Chic design, scrumptious breakfasts, great cap-

puccinos and gorgeous staff – what more could you ask for?

**De La Creme** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 7716; cnr 7th St & 4th Ave; mains R40-55; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) One of Jo'burg's best patisseries, with a daily selection of freshly baked delicious sweet treats such as homemade gateaux, and a full meal menu. It's closed on Monday nights.

**Spiro's Cafe** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 1162; cnr 7th St & 2nd Ave; mains R40-70; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) With terrace seating outside and huge, comfy sofas inside, this place heaves at breakfast time. Come nightfall, it serves up some tasty restaurant tucker before slowly transforming into a bar.

### Norwood

This enclave of restaurants has grown and matured into an east Jo'burg version of Melville's 7th St. There are more than 20 bars, restaurants and cafés along Grant Ave, most of which are open every day.

### RESTAURANTS

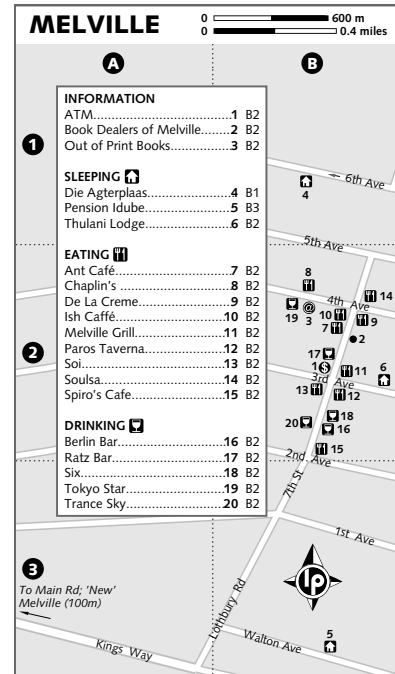
**Portuga** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 0451; 37 Grant Ave; mains R25-45 ☺ lunch & dinner) This place brings all the flavours of Mozambique to its seafood menu. The setting is quite basic, but the food's good value.

**Shahi Khana** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 8157; 80 Grant Ave; mains R30-60; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Promising the 'top 40 curries of India', this is the place to try a hot dish and weep over your naan bread for the respite of a sweet lassi.

**Sushi Yo** (Map p407; ☎ 011-483 0293; 74 Grant Ave; mains R35-55; ☺ lunch & dinner) This on-the-hop Japanese place has a rotating sushi counter and does deliveries.

**Ben-kei** (Map p407; ☎ 011-483 3296; 48 Grant Ave; mains R40-70; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) This jazzy Japanese place attracts Norwood's young trendies with its fashionable styling and authentic cooking. If you have had enough red meat, the sushi offers welcome reprieve from the braai, and it's the best in town at these prices. Try the all-you-can-eat sushi platter (R110).

**La Suite** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 9262; cnr Grant Ave & Francis Rd; mains R40-80; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) This is one of Norwood's plusher eateries, with wicker chairs on the pavement and coffee-and-cream décor inside. There's a wide range of local and European dishes on the menu, or you can dig into the lunchtime buffet.



**CAFÉS & QUICK EATS**

**Zahava's** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 6511; 47A Grant Ave; snacks R15-30; ☺ breakfast & lunch; ☺) A cute coffee shop and hookah bar specialising in Middle Eastern snacks, including *zivas* (Yemenite flatbread) and *latkes* (Yiddish potato fritters).

**Europa** (Map p407; ☎ 011-483 0799; 66 Grant Ave; mains R20-50; ☺ breakfast & lunch) This open-fronted café heaves on the weekend, when the Norwood set congregates here to tuck into their weekly omelette.

**Northern Suburbs**

The many eating options in these affluent suburbs are centred on the huge shopping malls that form the core of northern-suburbs society; these are completely lacking in atmosphere once the shops have closed.

Not far from Melville, the suburb of Greenside also boasts a clutch of decent eateries. The area is rather more middle-aged – this is not a party zone – but a few of the restaurants draw punters from across the city. The restaurants are in a little cluster on Gleneagles Rd and Greenway, just off Barry Hertzog Ave.

**Vida e Caffé** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-646 1340; 24 Gleneagles Rd, Greenside; light meals R15-25; ☺ breakfast & lunch; ☺) Considered by many the best coffee fix in town, with tasty snacks and beautiful people moving in and out all day. Come just *after* closing time (5pm) and score a free leftover muffin; they're huge.

**Cranks** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-880 3442; Shop 52, Rosebank Mall; mains R35-55; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Still going after almost 20 years, Cranks was one of the first Thai-Vietnamese places in Jo'burg. Among the tried-and-tested favourites is fish fillet with lemongrass (R45).

**Gaia** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-912 7879; cnr 4th Ave & 7th St, Linden; mains R35-70; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) The basement level of the former Linden Hotel is now an Afro-Mediterranean restaurant designed in earthy tones and with a suitably health-oriented menu to match. It's a bit out of the way, but worth the trip.

**Ove Flo** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-486 4576; 116 Greenway, Greenside; mains R40-60; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) This Continental-style bistro is a good spot for romantic dining, with an atmospheric, womb-red interior, plenty of gold-edged mirrors for checking your hair, and a menu offering everything from snail pizza to freshly ground coffee.

**Karma** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-646 8555; cnr Barry Hertzog Ave & Gleneagles Rd, Greenside; mains R40-70; ☺ lunch & dinner) Bringing traditional Indian cooking into the 21st century, this stylish place puts a contemporary spin on the old favourites and offers a smorgasbord of tasty vegetarian dishes for those sick of the South African meat obsession.

**Yum** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-486 1645; www.yum.co.za; 26 Gleneagles Rd, Greenside; mains R40-200; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) A small restaurant with a big reputation. One of the city's most celebrated dining rooms – it has even published its own cookbook – Yum specialises in innovative fusion cooking, with an emphasis on top-notch ingredients and lashings of culinary flair. It closes for most of the month of January.

**Bite** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-486 0449; 137 Greenway, Greenside; mains R50-80; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) Asian food is served in this slick eatery, whose clean lines and muted tones recall a Japanese Zen garden. Try the fresh line fish steamed in banana leaves.

**Circle** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-646 3744; 141 Greenway, Greenside; mains R90-120; ☺ lunch & dinner; ☺) With an emphasis on real ingredients, this informal, popular place is a restaurant for all seasons, with something on the menu to suit every fancy and appetite.

**Eastern Suburbs**

Near Bruma Lake is Derrick Ave, Cyrildene, off Observatory Rd, and there's an established Chinatown (Map pp398-9) with a number of cheap restaurants. Represented are Taiwanese, Korean, Sichuan, Shanghai and Hong Kong styles served in those lifeless places with Formica-top tables and plastic chairs; most close at about 9.30pm.

**Radium Beerhall** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-728 3866; 282 Louis Botha Ave, Orange Grove; mains R40-60; ☺ lunch & dinner) It's a tad crummy and the food (filling Portuguese fare) is nothing to write home about. But the draught beer is always cold, the crowd always festive and, as this was Jo'burg first ever-licensed pub, it has an atmosphere of the city's gold-rush days rich enough to have theme parks green with envy.

**Adega do Monge** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-614 3041; 32 Roberts Ave, Kensington; mains R60-80; ☺ lunch & dinner) A heaving, tastefully designed Luso-South African joint close to Diamond Digger's Lodge that draws in Eastern Suburbs

locals and folks from further afield – bookings are highly advised. Portions are huge and waitrons are Portuguese-speaking. The real thing.

**DRINKING**

Party-loving Jo'burg has a constantly changing mix of bars, pubs and clubs, ranging from the outrageous to the downright conservative; whatever you prefer, you'll find somewhere to feel comfortable. Much of the nightlife is in the northern suburbs, particularly around Melville, Norwood and Rosebank – just ask around. The area around the cultural precinct in Newtown also has a few decent places for a tipple.

For a listing of live music venues and nightclubs, see (p414).

**City Centre & Newtown**

**Horror Café** (Map p402; ☎ 011-838 6735; 5 Becker St, Newtown) The neon-green décor is indeed a horror, but big crowds, and its proximity to the SAB World of Beer, ensure that this venue is never short of action. It's reggae on Thursdays, while Saturday is gay and lesbian night.

**Guildhall Bar & Restaurant** (Map p402; ☎ 011-833 1770; 88 Market St) A great place to soak up some history while stoking the fires with a pint or two of lager. There's an upstairs terrace for city-centre people-watching and food available.

**Melville**

**Berlin Bar** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 9345; 6 7th St) With an ultracool design recalling the Black Forest and Jo'burg's most tortured artists lounging on its retro furniture, this was definitely Melville's hippest hangout when we swung through town.

**Six** (Map p411; ☎ 011-482 8306; 7th St) They haven't pulled out many stops decorating this place – the generous might call it 'industrial chic' – but it stays open later than most during the week, there are some decent cocktails on show, and punters come for the vibrant, unpretentious atmosphere.

**Ratz Bar** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 2019; 9B 7th St) This cosy place has rats daubed on the walls rather than running across the floors and is only for over-24s. Try one of its tasty and well-priced cocktails (R18).

**Trance Sky** (Map p411; ☎ 011-726 2241; 7 7th St) The pun itself deserves a few brownie

points, but the whirly décor and trance-style tunes set the pace at this lively, late-night joint.

**Tokyo Star** (Map p411; ☎ 011-834 9187; 78 4th Ave) Anime chic and loads of plastic characterise this trendy, noisy Tokyo-style bar where young people nightly learn the rules of seduction and break the laws of attraction. Asian snacks such as tempura (R22) are served.

**Cool Runnings** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-482 4786; 27A 4th Ave) Reggae is a perennial favourite in Jo'burg, so it is no surprise that this franchise of Jamaican-style bars is popular. A relaxed atmosphere, thumping bass-lines and late, lively nights are a sure thing.

**Norwood**

**Sundeck Bar** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 2279; 72 Grant Ave) Popular with pathological people-watchers, the upstairs terrace bar at this place is the perfect spot to sip a cocktail and watch Norwood drift by.

**Mo Café** (Map p407; ☎ 011-728 8256; Grant Ave) This camp, retro-style affair offers beautiful people, stacks of irony and lashings of orange décor. Fashionable facial hair is a must. There's a full food menu for late-night munchies.

**English Pub** (Map p407; ☎ 011-483 1101; cnr Algernon Rd & Grant Ave) Offering plenty of rough-and-tumble action and an English pub-style ambience, this is a good spot on the weekends for determined drinking and lively banter.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

The best entertainment guide is in Friday's *Mail & Guardian*. 'Tonight' in the daily *Star* is also good. For entertainment bookings by credit card, contact **Computicket** (☎ 011-915 8000; www.computicket.com), which can arrange seats for almost every theatre, cinema and sports venue. For parties and get-togethers, check out the following: www.jhblive.co.za or www.joburg.org.za.

**Cinemas**

Huge cinema centres can be found across Jo'burg, with almost every shopping centre boasting one. **Ster-Kinekor** (☎ central bookings 082 16789; www.sterkinetor.co.za) has the widest distribution of multiplexes, with screens in the Fourways, Westgate, Eastgate, Sandton and Rosebank malls.

If it's a large screen that you're seeking, the grandest addition to Jo'burg's entertainment scene is the **Imax Theatre** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-325 6182; Hyde Park Mall, Jan Smuts Ave, Hyde Park).

### Live Music & Nightclubs

Jo'burg is home to a thriving live-music scene, and on any given night you can see rock, pop, kwaito, jungle, jazz and hip-hop acts, and all manner of house and techno (see p62 for more on kwaito and other local sounds). On weekends Jo'burgers really come out to play and regularly hold enormous raves. There's little pattern to the spread of venues, but you'd be safe to assume that in most cases the further north you go the tamer they become.

If you want to get a sense of what central Jo'burg has to offer, the area around the Newtown cultural precinct (Map p402), with its bars, eateries, theatres and music venues, is the best place to kick off an evening.

### CLASSICAL

**Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra** (☎ 011-789 2733; www.jpo.co.za) The city's budding orchestra stages a regular circuit of concerts, utilising venues from Wits University to City Hall. Call or check its website for the latest programme.

### CONTEMPORARY

The suburban venues tend to cater to a wealthier crowd, so prices also tend to be a little higher – and watch what you wear as dress codes apply.

**Carfax** (Map p402; ☎ 011-834 9187; 39 Pim St, Newtown; admission R70) This industrial space symbolises integrated Jo'burg and is one of the hottest club tickets in town, with weekend DJs and a house-oriented music scene. It's

big, loud and a tons of fun – just watch out for pickpockets.

**Kippie's Jazz International** (Map p402; ☎ 011-833 3316; www.kippies.co.za; Bree St, Newtown; admission R50) Kippie's, named after the great Kippie 'Morolong' Moeketsi, is a 'must do' in Jo'burg as it's one of the best places to see South African jazz talent, which happens to be exceptional. Gigs and events kick off on Friday and Saturday nights at around 9.30pm.

**Mix** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-214 4300; 17 High St, Melrose Arch, Melrose; admission R80) Extremely slick (there's a 'smart-casual' policy and the bouncers mean it) and packed with the beautiful set, this glossy suburban number plays everything from African tribal rhythms to hard-core techno. Cocktails (from R26) are the drink of choice.

**206 Live** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-728 5333; 206 Louis Botha Ave, Orange Grove) Garage, ragga, drum 'n' bass and rock tracks keep the feet tapping here. Next door, 208 keeps the flag flying over the local hip-hop crowd.

### Sport

South Africans love their sport. Their inability to prove themselves against the world's best (thanks to international boycotts) arguably contributed to the dismantling of apartheid.

### CRICKET

The most important cricket venue is the impressive **Wanderers Cricket Ground** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-788 1008; Corlett Dr, Illovo), just off the M1 freeway to Pretoria. Either watch from the stands or head to the grassy banks and braai yourself a steak while you watch a local limited-overs match or see South Africa's best take on an international team.

### SOCCER

The Rand Stadium (Map pp398-9), near Turffontein; FNB Stadium (Map p422), also known as Soccer City, further east on Baragwanath Rd near Soweto; and Ellis Park (pp398-9) are the major venues for soccer, the country's most-supported sport (no, rugby is not the most popular; see the boxed text, p423). The most popular teams are also the greatest rivals: Soweto teams the Orlando Pirates (known as the 'Bucs') and the 'mighty, all conquering' Kaizer Chiefs, or 'Amakhosi'. The annual league derby between the two teams is a highlight, simultaneously dividing and uniting communities across the city. Dates change every year depending on league fixtures. Following in the footsteps of marketing-savvy European superclubs, there's now a **Kaizer Chiefs store** (Map p402; ☎ 011-838 6477; Gandhi Sq; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri).

### RUGBY

The spiritual home of Jo'burg – some would argue South African – rugby is **Ellis Park** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-402 8644; www.sarugby.net; Doornfontein), just east of the city centre. It's the headquarters of SA Rugby and was the scene of one of the new nation's proudest moments – victory in the 1995 World Cup. Rugby supporters are fanatical, and Ellis Park can hold 70,000: a Saturday afternoon at the rugby can be an almost religious experience. During the winter months, the stadium hosts some of the well-supported Super 14 matches.

### OTHER SPORTS

**Kyalami** (☎ 011-466 2800), off the M1 between Jo'burg and Pretoria, is the venue for motor sports.

There are several horse-racing tracks, but the best known is **Turffontein Race Course** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-681 1500), 3km south of the city. There are race meetings most weeks.

### Theatres

**Market Theatre** (Map p402; ☎ 011-832 1641; www.markettheatre.co.za; Bree St) The Market Theatre is the most important venue for live theatre. There are three live-theatre spaces – the Main, Laager and Barney Simon Theatres – as well as galleries, a café and the excellent Kippie's Jazz International (opposite). There is always some interesting theatre, ranging

from sharply critical contemporary plays to musicals and stand-up comedy – check the programme in the *Mail & Guardian* entertainment section. Other theatres:

**Civic Theatre** (Map p402; ☎ 011-877 6800;

www.showbusiness.co.za; Loveday St, Braamfontein)

**Laboratory** (Map p402; ☎ 011-836 0516; Bezuidenhout St) An offshoot of the Market Theatre that acts as a showcase for community talent, with free local-theatre shows every Saturday at 1pm.

**Pieter Toerien Theatre** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-511 1818; Montecasino, William Nicol Dr, Fourways)

**Windybrow Centre for the Arts** (Map p402; ☎ 011-720 7009; cnr Nugget & Pietersen Sts, Hillbrow)

A good testing ground for emerging black playwrights.

**Wits Theatre Complex** (Map p402; ☎ 011-717 1381; Jorissen St, Braamfontein)

### SHOPPING

#### Arts & Crafts

For decent-quality African curios, you can head just over the border into North-West Province for the Welwitschia Country Market at Hartbeespoort Dam. See the boxed text, p514 for details.

**Rosebank Rooftop Market** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-788 5530) One of the most convenient places to shop for traditional carvings, beadwork, jewellery, books and fertility dolls. Held every Sunday in Rosebank Mall's multilevel car park.

**Beautiful Things** (Map p402; ☎ 011-492 3696; Bus Factory, 2 President St, Newtown; ☎ 10am-4pm) A community-run initiative selling arts and crafts from across the country.

**Bruma Lake Market World** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-622 9648; Observatory Rd) By Bruma Lake, this place sells a wide range of crafts and lots of kitsch.

**Faraday Market** (Map p402; cnr Eloff St & N2) This is an interesting place to wander around, with plenty of *muti* (traditional medicine) stalls.

**Market Sq Market** (Map p402; Bree St) Held on Saturday mornings in the car park opposite the Market Theatre, there's a lively, cheerful atmosphere (with buskers), and although most of the stalls sell flea-market rubbish, there are also some reasonable crafts amid the dross.

### Malls

Jo'burg prides itself on its shops, and the city's malls are up there with the best. Jammed with Western consumer goods of

### GAY & LESBIAN GAUTENG

Gauteng has a thriving gay scene and, since the liberalisation of the constitution in 1994, the twin metropolises have become a centre for gays and lesbians from across Africa. Gays are well organised and increasingly accepted – a far cry from the puritanical attitudes of the past.

The annual **Gay Pride March** (☎ 011-717 4239; www.gala.wits.ac.za), held in Johannesburg on the last weekend of September, is the focal point, but by no means the only organised activity. In fact, one of the highlights is taking a Queer Johannesburg Tour (p405).

A number of websites provide information on the province's gay scene: www.togs.co.za, www.mask.org.za and www.heavensgate.co.za are all packed with useful material. Also check out the monthly *Gay Times* magazine.

For more information you can also contact **Out in Pretoria** (☎ 012-344 5108).

every description, it sometimes seems like they are as much a wealthy white habitat as a place to go shopping.

A short walk from Newtown, you'll find **Oriental Plaza** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-838 6752; Bree St, Fordsburg; ☞ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-3pm Sat). This is our favourite mall in the city. It's unmissable for a look at the real Jo'burg in all its diversity, and the surrounding area of Fordsburg is historically and culturally fascinating. The centre itself is the place to come for cheap shoes, by-the-metre haberdashery and fresh samosas. Other malls:

**Eastgate** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-616 2209) Off the N12 just east of Bruma Lake. Boasts of being Africa's largest mall.

**Fourways Mall** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-465 6095; William Nicol Dr)

**Hyde Park Mall** (Map pp398-9; William Nicol Dr)

**Nelson Mandela Square** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-784 2750; Rivonia Rd) Adjoining and similar to Sandton City Mall, it's designed like an Italian piazza, with a large (and rather unflattering) statue of Nelson Mandela.

**Rosebank Mall** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-788 5530; Cradock Ave) If you're after serious retail therapy, head to this interlocking series of malls, with central parking on the corner of Cradock Ave and Baker St.

**Sandton City Mall** (Map pp398-9; ☎ 011-883 2011; Rivonia Rd) Very plush.

## Music

You can get most titles in chain stores in the big malls. **Kohinoor** (Map p402; ☎ 011-834 1361; 54 Market St) is one of the best sources of ethnic/African music, and sells everything from kwaito to jazz.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

South Africa's major international and domestic airport is **Johannesburg International Airport** (JIA; ☎ 011-921 6262; www.acsa.co.za). For more information, including international flight connections, see p622.

Be warned that you may be bombarded by several offers of travel, accommodation or even ATM help as you emerge from customs. If the person you deal with is not properly accredited as an Airports Company employee, odds-on he's a tout, dodgy porter or crook. A polite 'no, thank you' should be your response.

Distances in South Africa are large, so if you're in a hurry, some domestic flights

are definitely worth considering. For regular flights to national and regional destinations try **South African Airways** (SAA; ☎ 0861 359 722; www.flysaa.com), **South African Airlink** (SAAirlink; ☎ 011-961 1700; www.saaairlink.co.za) and **South African Express** (☎ 011-978 5577; www.saeexpress.co.za). All flights can be booked through SAA, which also has offices in the domestic and international terminals of JIA. It's worth checking and potentially booking fares online, but often prices don't differ tremendously.

Services include the following (prices are the average, one-way, one-week advance purchase fares). Note that fares tend to be determined more by route popularity rather than destination distance, so sometimes it might be cheaper and easier to go by bus.

Destination	One-way fare incl airport taxes (R)
-------------	--

Cape Town	790
Durban	650
East London	710
Kimberley	550
Manzini (Swaziland)	820
Maseru (Lesotho)	765
Nelspruit	750
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	805
Port Elizabeth	740
Upington	1300

Smaller budget airlines, including Comair, Kulula, 1time and Nationwide, also link Jo'burg with major destinations and often offer much cheapest fares. For contact details and details of other airline offices in Jo'burg, see p632.

## Bus

There are a number of international bus services that leave Jo'burg from the Park Station complex (Map p402) for Mozambique (p629), Lesotho (p629), Botswana (p629), Namibia (p630), Swaziland (p630) and Zimbabwe (p631).

The main long-distance bus lines (national and international) also depart from and arrive at the Park Station transit centre, in the northwest corner of the site, where you will also find their respective booking offices. There is also a **Jo'burg information desk** (☎ 011-337 6650).

## BAZ BUS

Backpackers can now be connected from Jo'burg to the most popular parts of the region (Swaziland, Durban, Garden Route and Cape Town) by **Baz Bus** (☎ 021-439 2323; www.bazbus.com), which picks up at hostels in Jo'burg and Pretoria, saving you the hassle of going into the city to arrange transport. All hostels have current timetables and prices. For more, see p633.

## OTHER BUS COMPANIES

The most comprehensive range of services to/from Jo'burg is provided by government-owned lines **Translux** (☎ 0861-589 282; www.translux.co.za) and **City to City** (☎ 0861-589 282). For more information on these, plus the other major bus lines – **Greyhound** (☎ 012-323 1154; www.greyhound.co.za), **SA Roadlink** (☎ 011-333 2223; www.saroadlink.co.za) and **Intercape** (☎ 0861-287 287; www.intercape.co.za) – see p633.

With the exception of City to City buses, which commence in Jo'burg, all services that are not heading north commence in Pretoria at the Pretoria station.

## TO CAPE TOWN

Translux has at least one bus running daily to Cape Town (R380, 19 hours) via Bloemfontein (R180, five hours). There are also less frequent services via Kimberley (R185, seven hours).

Greyhound has daily buses to Cape Town (R470, 18½ hours) via Bloemfontein (R200, six hours) and Kimberley (R210, seven hours).

Intercape also runs to Cape Town (R440, 19 hours) via Upington (R260, 10 hours). From Upington, you can also get an Intercape bus to Windhoek, Namibia (R250, 12 hours), but there isn't a direct connection.

SA Roadlink, the newest bus company, offers highly competitive rates from Jo'burg to Cape Town (R250, 19 hours). Buses depart daily.

## TO DURBAN & KWAZULU-NATAL

Greyhound has four daily buses to Durban (R205, eight hours), including slower services via Newcastle (R195, five hours), Lady-smith (R175, 6½ hours) and Estcourt (R180, 7½ hours), and then to Richard's Bay (R220, eight hours). Translux has at least one bus a day to Durban (R170, eight hours), as does Intercape (R125, eight hours).

## TO MPUMALANGA & KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

The nearest large town to Kruger National Park is Nelspruit. Greyhound runs there daily (R185, five hours). Note that this service starts in Jo'burg and picks up in Pretoria an hour later. Translux runs to Maputo, Mozambique, daily (R160, nine hours) via Nelspruit (R100, five hours).

City to City has some slow, cheap services from Jo'burg to Nelspruit (R80, seven hours) and Hazyview (R75, eight hours). Hazyview is closer to Kruger than Nelspruit, and has backpacker hostels that can arrange trips into the park.

Translux also has daily buses running to Phalaborwa (R150, 7½ hours), which is a good option if you're staying at a more northerly Kruger National Park camp such as Olifants.

## TO THE NORTH

Several bus services run north up the N1. However, at the time of writing, no bus companies were offering services to Zimbabwe, largely because of the fuel shortages. Call to find out the current state of play. Most now only go as far as Polokwane (Pietersburg). From there you will have to catch a local bus or minibus taxi to get to the border.

Translux does have a daily service as far as Makhado (Louis Trichardt; R130, 6½ hours), but this strangely arrives at 2am! It goes via Mokopane (Potgietersrus; R125, four hours) and Polokwane (Pietersburg; R130, 4½ hours). It also has services that head east through Limpopo, stopping in Tzaneen (R125, 6½ hours) and Phalaborwa (R150, 7½ hours).

Greyhound has daily services to Polokwane (Pietersburg; R145, five hours). Intercape also heads north to Gaborone, Botswana (R150, seven hours).

There are daily City to City services to Sibasa, in Limpopo's Venda region (R100, 8½ hours). These services, which wind north through townships and ex-homelands, also stop in major towns on the N1.

**North Link Tours** (☎ 015-291 1867) runs buses between Jo'burg and Polokwane (Pietersburg; R120, 4½ hours) via Pretoria, and the smaller towns en route. From Polokwane, there are connections to Tzaneen and Phalaborwa.

**TO THE SOUTH**

Translux operates a daily service to East London (R320, 15 hours) via Bloemfontein (R150, seven hours). Translux also has five services a week (not on Sunday and Tuesday) from Jo'burg to Port Elizabeth (R350, 14½ hours) via Bloemfontein (R220, 10 hours) and Graaff-Reinet (R295, 14½ hours), and a Tuesday and Sunday service via Cradock (R300, 14½ hours).

Intercape has daily services to Port Elizabeth via Cradock (R300, 15 hours) and on to Plettenberg Bay (R385, 18 hours).

Greyhound has daily buses that travel overnight from Jo'burg to Port Elizabeth (R310, 15 hours) and East London (R270, 13 hours).

Translux runs to Knysna (R270) via Kimberley three times weekly or Bloemfontein four times weekly, then Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay and George (all R285 from Jo'burg); the trip takes 17 hours. Intercape also operates to Knysna for the same price.

City to City runs to Mthatha (R115), the closest large town to Port St Johns and Coffee Bay, daily at 7pm. There are daily City to City services to Lusikisiki via Pietermaritzburg (R110) and to Dutywa via Queenstown (R95); call for times as they can vary substantially. Translux and Greyhound both run to Mthatha (R200, 12½ hours); Translux runs on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and Greyhound runs daily except Saturday.

**Car**

All the major rental operators have counters at JIA and at various locations around the city. It is well worth calculating the length of your planned journey before you settle for a deal though. With many of the main operators offering a limited number of free kilometres, and distances in South Africa piling on the miles, you may end up with a nasty bill when it comes to returning the car.

Note that if you are paying with an international credit card, you may be asked for your passport and/or flight details. You will also need to produce a valid driver's licence (in English) or an International Driving Permit. Whichever you have, by law you must have it on your person at all times when at the wheel. For more about renting and listings of major rental agencies, see p636.

**Hitching**

We say don't hitch – especially here – but people do. Rather than hitching, ask about share-drives. These are often advertised in the weekly newspaper *Junk Mail*, and most hostels have notice boards with details of free or shared-cost lifts. But don't expect the hostel to take responsibility – remember it's up to you to check out the lift-giver and to decide whether or not you wish to travel with that person.

**Minibus Taxi**

The majority of minibuses taxis already use the new road-transport interchange in Park Station over the train tracks between the Metro Concourse and Wanderers St, but taxi ranks are still being chopped and changed. The best bet is to head to the Park Station concourse first, where taxi marshals can point you in the right direction. Because of the risk of mugging, it isn't a good idea to go searching for a taxi while carrying your luggage. Go down and collect information, then return in a taxi, luggage and all.

You can also find minibus taxis going in the direction of Kimberley, Cape Town and Upington on Wanderers St near Leyds St; Bulawayo taxis at the northern end of King George St; Pretoria taxis on Noord St; Lesotho, Bloemfontein (and other Free State destinations) on Noord St, east of Joubert Park; and Durban taxis near the corner of Wanderers and Noord Sts. Fares tend to fluctuate in line with petrol prices, but rates for trips from Jo'burg include:

Destination	Fare (R)
Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)	280
Cape Town	350
Durban	190
Gaborone (Botswana)	140
Harrismith	95
Kimberley	170
Komatipoort	160
Manzini (Swaziland)	135
Maputo (Mozambique)	220
Nelspruit	170
Polokwane (Pietersburg)	105
Pretoria	30
Thohoyandou (Venda)	130
Tzaneen	130

As well as these taxis, which only leave when they're full, there are a few door-to-door services you can book through hostels.

**Train**

For information on train services to/from Jo'burg and elsewhere in the country, see p641. Tickets can be booked at the **Spoornet** (☎ 0860-008 888) kiosk on the main concourse at Jo'burg's Park Station.

**GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport**

JIA is about 25km east of central Johannesburg in Kempton Park. Between 5am and 10pm, buses run every half-hour between JIA and Park Station (R80, 45 minutes); contact **Metropolitan Bus Services** (Metrobus; ☎ 011-375 5555; www.mbus.co.za) for details. The area immediately around Park Station is confusing and known for muggings, so heading straight here is not to be advised if you are carrying your bags.

The **Airport Link** (☎ 011-884 3957) is another reputable airport shuttle.

Taxis are expensive at around R320 one way to the northern suburbs. Meters will generally be used, otherwise agree on a price before you get into the cab. Most hostels will collect you from the airport, and some still 'tout' there.

**Bus**

**Metropolitan Bus Services** (Metrobus; Map p402; ☎ 011-375 5555; www.mbus.co.za; Gandhi Sq) runs services covering 108 routes in the Greater Jo'burg area, though waiting for a bus in the car-dominated Northern Suburbs can be a bit like waiting for Godot. The main

bus terminal is at Gandhi Sq, two blocks west of the Carlton Centre, and fares work on a zonal system ranging from zone one (R3.60) to zone eight (R10). Metrobus prefers you to use their tag (starter tag R42) system. Travellers buy tags from the bus terminal or **Computicket** (☎ 011-915 8000; www.computicket.com), and the cost of the journey is automatically deducted each time you travel, as with a prepaid phonecard. Normal, adult tags are green and come in denominations of 52 trips monthly, 44 trips monthly, 14 trips weekly, 12 trips weekly and 10 trips weekly. The monthly tags must be used within 35 days, while the other tags have an expiry date of 10 days. You can still pay for journeys with cash, but Metrobus does its best to discourage this.

The following routes are useful (and there is a handy, interactive route-finder map at www.mbus.co.za).

Rte No	Destinations
5	Parktown, Houghton, Rosebank & Illovo
22	Yeoville & Bruma Lake
75	Braamfontein, Auckland Park & Melville
80	Rosebank & Dunkeld via Jan Smuts Ave

**Minibus Taxi**

Fares differ depending on routes, but Rte 5 will get you around the inner suburbs and the city centre and Rte 9 will get you almost anywhere (try to make sure you have small change before boarding).

It's easy enough to catch a minibus taxi into the city and, if you're waiting at a bus stop, the chances are a taxi will show up before the bus does. If you do take a minibus taxi into central Jo'burg, be sure to get

**THE GAUTRAIN**

One of the first things you might notice when driving on the M1 highway connecting Johannesburg and Pretoria is that you're not moving very fast. The tremendous growth of the province, along with South Africans' ongoing love affair with the car, have meant finding alternative transport has become a matter of urgency. The largest-scale solution is the Gautrain commuter train, a massive R120 billion project slated for completion in time for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The proposed route is from Johannesburg International Airport to Park Station, through Rosebank and Sandton, then up to Pretoria before terminating in Hatfield, a trip of approximately 95km that this zippy piece of high-tech clackety-clack should be able to eat up in under an hour. At the time of writing, construction of the line had begun in earnest, but, thanks to legal wrangling and bitter fighting between consortia over tender awards, if you're planning to use it come footy time, be prepared for delays to your service.

off before it reaches the end of the route and avoid the taxi rank – it's a mugging zone. Getting a minibus taxi home from the city is a more difficult proposition. Even locals often give up and take the bus. Minibus taxis do not generally run at night – if you do see one it's probably better not to take it.

There's a complex system of hand/finger signals to tell a passing taxi where you want to go, so it's best to look like you know where you're going and raise a confident index finger (drivers will stop if they are going the same way). You'll probably squeeze into an improbably small space, and money is passed forward row by row; change returned the same way. Shout out your desired stop when you get in, or just say 'Short left' or 'Short right' when you see your stop approaching. It's polite to thank the driver upon disembarking.

### Taxi

Taxis are an expensive but necessary evil in this city. They all operate meters, which unfortunately seem to vary markedly in their assessment, if they work at all. Consequently, it's wise to ask a local the likely price and agree on a fare at the outset. From Park Station to Rosebank should cost around R75, and significantly more to Sandton. **International taxi** (☎ 011-390 1502), **Maxi Taxi Cabs** (☎ 011-648 1212) and **Rose's Radio Taxis** (☎ 011-403 9625) are three reputable firms.

### Train

For inquiries about **Metro** (☎ 011-773 5878) train services call, or visit the helpful information office in the Park Station concourse. There has been a very serious problem with violent crime on the Metro system, mostly on those lines connecting with black townships. The Jo'burg–Pretoria Metro line should also be avoided.

### SOWETO

☎ 011 / pop 2.3 million

No township in South Africa, even the world, has as much political and historical meaning as Soweto, born of an idea as simple and soulless as the acronym devised for its name – South-Western Townships. This sprawling conurbation of the country's migrant labour force and their descendants

is the biggest, most political, troubled and dynamic township too, and has of late embarked on a journey of self-discovery that is as much about the future as the past.

Tourists now flood into the area, attracted by some of the most poignant landmarks in South Africa's narrative and, after an initial exodus, local blacks are also returning, intent on forging a new identity for their community.

And so the face of this sprawling community – anything from 2.3 million (the latest official figure) to 4 million (local estimates) people live in Soweto – is changing. Large sections of the township are still characterised by desperate poverty, while others, such as Diepkloof Extension and Orlando West, are indicative of the growth of a new moneyed class. Against the Western media's beloved image of Soweto as a crime-ridden wasteland, the sprinkler-fed lawns of these middle-class suburbs are pleasant stereotype squashers.

The best place to start your visit is Vilakazi St, which may be the only street in the world to boast two Nobel peace laureates (Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu), both struggle heroes. Now that apartheid has been dismantled, new heroes will have to emerge in the battle against poverty, HIV/AIDS and crime. A resolution will be a long time coming, but Soweto remains a fascinating, living example of all that is good and bad in South Africa, suffering from the nation's devastating social problems, but also riding high on a community's determination to put them right.

### History

Soweto's role in South Africa's recent history is unrivalled. As African National Congress (ANC) stalwart and long-time Soweto resident Walter Sisulu once said, the history of South Africa cannot be understood outside the history of Soweto.

Using the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1904 as an excuse, the Jo'burg City Council (JCC) moved 1358 Indians and 600 Africans from a Jo'burg slum to Klipspruit, 18km by road from the city centre (Klipspruit was, and still is, a long way from sources of employment).

It was a slow beginning, and by 1919 fewer than 4000 people called Klipspruit home. It wasn't until the late 1930s, after

the suburb of Orlando had been built and cynically marketed by the JCC as 'Somewhat of a paradise', that the population began its astonishing growth.

By the end of WWII, Jo'burg's black population had risen by more than 400,000, and by 1958 more than 20 new suburbs had appeared around Orlando, each filled with row upon row of identical houses.

During the 1950s, organisations such as the ANC took a bigger role in opposing apartheid and before long Soweto (as it was officially named in 1961) would be recognised as the centre of resistance. Confirmation of this came in 1955 when 3000 delegates from around the country gathered in Kliptown Sq (known today as Freedom Sq) at the Congress of the People. The result was the Freedom Charter, which is the pillar of ANC philosophy and integral to the new constitution.

The demands of the charter were not unreasonable, but the response was less than sympathetic and the movement was forced underground in 1960 after the Sharpeville Massacre (see p41). Sowetans spent the next 15 years in a state of definite uncertainty – definite they wanted change but uncertain as to how and when it would come.

While the struggle continued at a slower pace, it was not the only change taking place here. The demographics of the townships were changing, and as second-generation Sowetans matured, so did Soweto style. New forms of music (see p59) emerged and the youth led the developments of a unique urban culture. Football also offered an escape, and massive support for teams such as Moroka Swallows, Orlando Pirates and (after they split from Pirates) Kaizer Chiefs, reflected the development of an urban black identity.

The development of this new identity only served to strengthen the desire to be treated as equals. Resistance eventually spilled over on 16 June 1976, when students organised a peaceful protest against the introduction of Afrikaans as a language of instruction in secondary schools. The students marched to the Orlando West Secondary School on Vilakazi St. When they arrived and refused to disburse, police fired tear gas into the crowd.

The chain of events that followed would eventually be seen as the turning point

in the liberation struggle. In the resulting chaos police opened fire and a 13-year-old boy, Hector Pieterse, was shot dead. The ensuing hours and days saw students fight running battles with the security forces in what would become known as the Soweto Uprising. Dozens of government buildings were torched, but the euphoria of fighting the oppressor was tempered by the frightening human cost. On the first day alone, the official toll put two white policemen and 23 students as dead, but in reality closer to 200 teenage protesters had perished.

Many of the dead were buried as martyrs in Soweto's vast Avalon Cemetery, and the Hector Pieterse Memorial was built to commemorate all those who died in the struggle.

Within days, world opinion had turned irreversibly against the apartheid regime and Soweto became the most potent symbol of resistance to a racist South Africa.

Scenes of burning cars, 'necklaced' people and mass funerals flowed out of Soweto throughout the 1980s, as the death throes of apartheid could be felt. Mandela was released in 1990 and returned to live in his tiny home in Vilakazi St, just 200m from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu still lives here, while Mandela's old home has been converted into a museum.

However, Mandela's release was no panacea. Encouraged by the government, supporters of rival political parties murdered each other by the hundreds in the run up to the 1994 free elections.

More recently life has been stable, and since 1994 Sowetans have had ownership rights over their properties. The relative calm has been further compounded by a number of redevelopment projects, including the transformation of Hector Pieterse Sq into a memorial and major visitor attraction, along with growing tourist traffic and the return of many middle-class blacks. Indeed, many parts of Soweto are safer and more laid-back than Johannesburg's wealthy, high-security northern suburbs.

For a fabulous insight into Soweto's history, pick up a copy of Peter Magubane's photographic record *Soweto*.

### Information

The new, impressive **Soweto Tourism and Information Centre** (☎ 011-945 3111; Walter Sisulu Sq,

Kliptown; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri) is testament to a growing tourism policy here and a first for any township. It provides information and an accommodation and tour booking service, and there's an onsite Internet café (per hr R40) that also serves light meals (R25).

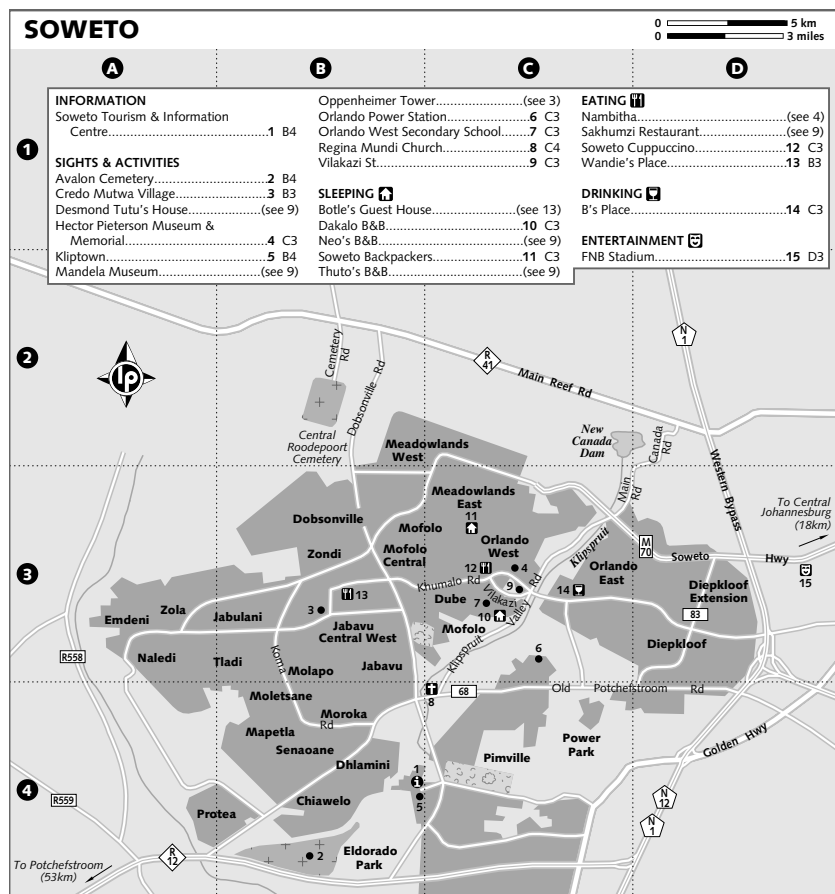
## Sights & Activities

Soweto is by far the most visited township in the country, so don't feel that coming here as a tourist is either unsafe or inappropriate. Most visitors still come on a tour, but moves are being made to improve signposting (a perennial problem), and the infrastructure is now such that a self-guided tour is not out of the question – although heed local advice carefully. If you choose

to do this, stick to the area surrounding Vilakazi St and Hector Pieteron Sq.

If you are on a tour and want extra flexibility while avoiding the aloofness, take a tour as far as Vilakazi St (the greatest danger is getting hopelessly lost on the way into Soweto) and then rely on your guesthouse owner to get you safely between the various attractions, or contact Taste of Africa (p405). However you choose to see Soweto, the following attractions appear on most tour itineraries, or they can be visited on their own.

The first stop on most tours is the **Mandela Museum** (☎ 083-530 1521; 8115 Ngakane St; adult/child R20/10; ☎ 9.30am-5pm), just off Vilakazi St. Nelson Mandela shared this tiny



## IBOLA LETHU: OUR GAME

In 2004 world football governing body FIFA awarded the hosting of the 2010 World Cup to South Africa. This was not merely a proud moment for the African continent; it also marked the remarkable culmination of a journey of survival against the odds for the national game. Soccer has more than any other sport come to symbolise the insanity of apartheid.

In 1892 the whites-only Football Association of South Africa, or FASA, was formed. Similar associations for 'Indians', 'Bantus' and 'coloured' followed. Some games, under the auspices of the cheerily titled Inter Race Soccer Board, did take place during the 1940s, but once apartheid kicked in these were swiftly outlawed. Whites played in their own club competition, while non-whites played separately in underfunded leagues. After FIFA suspended South Africa in 1962, to curry favour FASA sanctioned a landmark inter-racial match between the 'white' Germiston Callies and the 'black' African Pirates. The trick worked and FASA was unbanned, but things turned silly when it released plans to send a white side to the 1966 World Cup in England, and a black team to Mexico in 1970!

After the then Minister of the Interior threatened to deny passports to anyone who attended a mixed-race game, South Africa was expelled from FIFA. The white game petered out at once, but the black game thrived in the townships, as fans poured into venues such as Orlando Stadium in Soweto to watch ball wizards such as Jomo Sono and Kaizer Motaung, now living legends. Soccer, as on so many continents, became the weekly escape from daily drudgery for the masses.

After Mandela's release, everything changed. On 8 December 1991, all separate soccer associations formed the South African Football Association on nonracial, democratic principles. The body was welcomed back into the African and world governing bodies in 1992. South Africa hosted the African Cup of Nations in 1996, and the national team was triumphant.

The 'people's game' is still the number-one sport in South Africa – it has the highest number of registered players (1.8 million), and the highest stadium and TV audiences. While it remains largely a 'black sport' (other races tend to support foreign leagues, particularly the English Premier League), interest is growing as 2010 approaches. If you're in town during the staging of the world-famous **Soweto Derby** (p415) – between local rivals Kaizer Chiefs (black/gold strip) and Orlando Pirates (black/white strip) – when the entire country splits in two and declares 'Up the Bucs!' (Pirates) or 'Amakhosi for life' (Chiefs), become part of South Africa's soccer revolution and head to the match.

## Quick glossary of South African soccer terms

- Vuvuzela – long plastic trumpet-like horn blown at matches.
- Shibobo – getting past an opponent by kicking the ball between his legs (called a nutmeg in the UK).
- Bafana Bafana – the national team; means 'the boys'.
- Amaglug-glug – the under-23 side, named after a petrol-company sponsor.
- Laduuuuuuuma! – meaning 'it's in there'; the cry upon a team scoring, made famous by legendary commentator Zebulon 'Zama' Masedo.

home with his first wife, Evelyn, and it is filled with fascinating photographs and clutter. Among the exhibits is a letter from the State of Michigan asking George Bush Senior to apologise for the role the CIA played in Mandela's 1962 arrest. Needless to say, it never did. Just down Vilakazi St, by Sakhumzi Restaurant, is the home of **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**.

North of Vilakazi St is Soweto's showcase, Hector Pieteron Sq. Named after the 13-year-old who was shot dead in the run-up to the Soweto uprising (see p421), the square now features the poignant **Hector Pieteron Memorial** and the excellent **Hector Pieteron Museum** (☎ 011-536 0611; cnr Khumalo & Pela Sts; adult/child R10/5; ☎ 10am-5pm), which offers an insight into Sowetan life and the



history of the independence struggle. From the square, a line of shrubs leads up Moema St to the site where he was shot outside the school.

South of here, down Klipspruit Valley Rd, is the **Regina Mundi Church** (Mkhize St; admission by donation), which, as a community meeting place, was central to the struggle against apartheid. The police often retaliated and you can still see bullet holes in the ceiling to the right of the main altar. The right-hand 'community' altar rail is also chipped from where the butt of a police rifle smashed it. In recognition of the church's role in the struggle, several hearings of the Truth & Reconciliation Committee were heard here.

Other sights include the **Credo Mutwa Vilage** (Bolani Rd; admission free), which was largely destroyed after the artist who built it made controversial comments about the 1976 uprising; and the **Oppenheimer Tower** (Bolani Rd; admission free), erected in gratitude to the Chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, who in 1956 organised a loan from the Chamber of Mines to build 14,000 homes, improving living standards for thousands of Sowetans. You can also visit **Avalon Cemetery**, where you will find the graves of Hector Pieterse (Plot EC462) and Joe Slovo (Plot B35311), former leader of the South African Communist Party.

**Kliptown**, to the southwest of Orlando West, was established in 1904 and is the oldest settlement in Johannesburg to accommodate all races. It was also the site of the adoption of the Freedom Charter on 26 June 1955.

## Tours

Dozens of companies offer tours of Soweto (see p405 for details); your accommodation should be able to put you in touch with them or offer an inhouse service.

## Sleeping

Staying over in Soweto is the most rewarding way of getting a sense of the place. At last count there were more than 30 functional B&Bs in the township, most in the immediate vicinity of Vilakazi St. Either book through your tour or contact the **Soweto Accommodation Association** (☎ 011-936 8123; nrwaxa@hotmail.com), a community-run enter-

prise operated out of Thuto's B&B that can help find you a room or advise on safety issues.

Most of the following places offer comfortable rooms with private bathrooms in a small, middle-class home. In general, accommodation in Soweto does not come cheap, but remember that tourism has become a major source of income for this area.

**Soweto Backpackers** (☎ 011-326 1700; www.sowetobackpackers.co.za; 10823 A Powe St, Meadowlands East; dm/s/d with shared bathroom R70/85/170) Soweto's first backpackers, this is much recommended by readers. Standards are basic and the location is not ideal, but the beds are cheap and the friendly owner is a great source of information on the township.

**Neo's B&B** (☎ 011-536 0413, 082-629 2284; www.sowetobedandbreakfast.com; 8041 Bocela St, Orlando West; s/d incl breakfast R190/380) In a vintage Sowetan home, this tiny place offers cosy comforts on the doorstep of the township's major attractions. There is a thatched deck outside for evening eating.

**Botle's Guest House** (☎ 011-982 1872, 082-838 1886; 648 Monyane St; d with/without bathroom R350/250; ♿) A good example of Soweto's growing prosperity, the owner of this place demolished her breeze-block bungalow to build a guesthouse. With typically Sowetan, mock-Versace décor, it offers a cash bar, a small restaurant space for breakfast and a TV in every room. It is near Wandie's Place nightspot.

**Dakalo B&B** (☎ 011-936 9328; www.sowetobedandbreakfast.com; 6963 Inhlathi St, Orlando West; s/d R350/500) Oriental rugs compete with chintzy stone walls, and both with rococo collectibles in this eccentric family home that's a superb example of African urban chic. Breakfasts are full English, Soweto-style: mango atchar (pickled), snoek (fish) and soft porridge to go with the expected eggs and toast.

**Thuto's B&B** (☎ 011-936 8123, 072-376 9205; www.sowetobedandbreakfast.com; 8123 Ngakane St, Orlando West; s/d incl breakfast R350/500) Very close to the Mandela Museum, this is Soweto's second-oldest B&B. It's wonderfully kitschy (we love the huge ceramic tigers), and Anastacia – an expert on local accommodation and attractions – is a great host.

## Eating & Drinking

In Soweto you'll find you're never more than a short stagger from a drinking estab-

lishment, usually an informal *shebeen* (unlicensed tavern). With a growing number of tourists and wealthier locals looking for a slicker place to eat and drink, several decent bars and restaurants have sprung up around the township. Some even have a reputation that has spread into the northern suburbs of Jo'burg.

**Wandie's Place** (☎ 011-982 2796; www.wandiesplace.co.za; 618 Makhalemele St, Dube; buffet R45; ♿ lunch & dinner) Soweto's original and most-famous nightspot remains in pole position in the eating and drinking stakes. Fast expanding, it now has several different spaces, each packed to bursting point by 9pm. Cape wineries have even been known to come here to host tastings. The buffet is fabulous.

**Sakhumzi Restaurant** (☎ 011-939 4427; www.sakhumzi.co.za; 6980 Vilakazi St, Orlando West; mains R40; ♿ lunch & dinner) In the very heart of the Vilakazi St area, this excellent little eatery draws a steady stream of tourists and locals alike. The food is tasty, there are sometimes jazz bands playing in the evening, and tours of the area can be arranged.

**Nambitha** (☎ 082-785 7190; 6877 Vilakazi St, Orlando West; mains R40-55; ♿ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Nambitha means 'to taste – expensively' in Zulu and this place represents the township's changing face. Stylish and open-fronted, it serves a delicious combination of contemporary and traditional African fare and a decent selection of drinks.

**Soweto Cupuccino** (☎ 011-936 1998; 11787 Mtipa St, Orlando West Ext; mains R30; ♿ breakfast & lunch) It had to happen, and it has: a fresh brew in the townships. It's close to Winnie Madikizela Mandela's house, and the breakfasts are becoming a local favourite.

**B's Place** (☎ 011-935 4015; 5541 Shuenane St, Orlando East; mains R40; ♿ lunch & dinner) Local types meet up and cook together at this licensed bar and *shebeen* that's already winning the heart of international guests. There's West and South African food on offer, plus a selection of homemade pastries.

## Getting There & Away

Most transport in and out of Soweto is by motor vehicle, usually by one of the minibus taxis (R12 one way) that arrive in Diepkloof or Orlando from the taxi rank (see p402) near Joubert Park in the Jo'burg city centre.

# AROUND JOHANNESBURG

## WESTERN GAUTENG

You wouldn't know to look at it, but this rolling highveld landscape is considered one of the world's most important palaeontological zones, and is a Unesco World Heritage Site, focused around the Sterkfontein hominid fossil fields. The whole area forms part of the **Cradle of Humankind** (www.cradleofhumankind.co.za), but its size (47,000 hectares) and number of facilities (280 businesses and counting) can make navigation a little daunting.

So it is perhaps best to start your exploration at **Maropeng** (Map p394; ☎ 014-577 9000; www.discover-yourself.co.za; off Rte 563 to Hekpoort; adult/child R65/35; ♿ 9am-5pm). Housed in a new building cleverly designed to reflect the progression of man (its façade is covered in grass, its rear modern steel and glass), it's an all-in-one information centre, visitor attraction, entertainment complex and **boutique hotel** (s/d incl breakfast R900/1370; ♿ ♿ ♿ ♿ ♿). Its name is Tswana for 'returning to your origin', an appropriate description of its series of exhibits detailing humanity's progression from those swampy back-in-the-beginning days. There are market stalls, active fossil sites, restaurants, a curio shop and a 5000-seat amphitheatre for outdoor events. Children will love the somewhat cheesy but undeniably impressive boat ride through the four elements, and kids of all ages will love the interactive exhibits that follow.

Your next stop should be the new visitor centre at the **Sterkfontein Caves** (Map p394; ☎ 011-668 3200; Sterkfontein Caves Rd; adult/child R35/20; ♿ 9am-4pm), that includes a permanent hominid exhibit and from where you can book tours of one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world (see the boxed text, p427). Unfortunately, the caves' limestone interiors have been mined out so are not attractive. You can get a tasty light meal at its **restaurant** (mains R18-70; ♿ breakfast & lunch).

Not far away is the **Old Kromdraai Gold Mine** (Map p394; ☎ 011-957 0211; Ibis Ridge Farm, Kromdraai Rd; adult/child R25/10; ♿ 9am-5pm Sat & Sun, Tue-Fri by appointment), the first gold mine on the

Witwatersrand. Guided tours leave the converted shed every hour.

Near the Swartkop Mountains is the **Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve** (Map p394; ☎ 011-957 0106; Kromdraai Rd; adult/child R70/40; 🕒 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat & Sun). It's not exactly the Kruger National Park, but is a good option for those who don't have time to get there. You can see cheetahs, wild dogs (painted wolf), buffaloes, Siberian tigers (!), lions and rhinos close up. There is a vulture hide for keen bird-watchers and huge animal creche and reptile centre for the kiddies. There is a comfortable **chalet** (four people R570) in a camp within the reserve, and **wildlife drives** (R180) are offered. Within the reserve is **Wonder Cave** (adult/child R45/25), nothing more than a commercial tourist cave but some compensation for those that came to Sterkfontein expecting a pristine interior. Tours run on the hour. If you're planning to do both the reserve and the cave, ask at the gate about the combined ticket that gives a 20% discount.

**Krugerdsorp Game Reserve** (Map p394; ☎ 011-665 1735; adult/child R20/10; 🕒 8am-6pm) is a small grassland reserve 7km west of Krugerdsorp on Rte 24 in the direction of Magaliesberg – it has four of the Big Five (no elephant). Within the reserve, **Ngonyama Lion Lodge** (☎ 011-665 4342; Rustenberg Rd; d R350) has a range of accommodation and is a good bet for those wishing to stay out of town.

Near Lanseria airport is a **Lion Park** (Map p394; ☎ 011-460 1814; Old Pretoria Rd/Rte 55; admission R75; 🕒 8.30am-5pm). This place is notable for its 'tree-climbing lions', terrible takeaways and heavy drinkers. If you do go, avoid Sundays at all costs when the crowds descend in legions.

Nearby, the **Lesedi Cultural Village** (Map p394; ☎ 012-205 1394; www.lesedi.com; off Rte 512; 🕒 tours 11.30am & 4.30pm) offers a bit of culture-in-a-can. It's very touristy but gets a lot of good reports from readers. Lesedi means 'Place of Light' and there's much dancing and singing, particularly during the traditional African feasts; Xhosa, Ndebele, Pedi, Zulu and Sotho cultures are all represented. The full 'African Experience' costs R230, or you can opt for lunch or dinner only (R120) or just the show (R155). Kids under 12 eat/watch for half price. It's a good idea to book, especially if you're going for the full meal and show.

About halfway between Pretoria and Johannesburg is the **Cradle Nature Reserve** (Map p394; ☎ 011-659 1622; Kromdraai Rd; admission free; 🕒 8am-10pm), a more upmarket take on the wildlife experience, with wildlife walks/drives and palaeontological tours. Home base here is the **Cradle Restaurant** (mains R50-80; 🕒 breakfast, lunch & dinner), offering international cuisine, a cocktail bar, a log fire in winter and one of the best restaurant views in the country. Accommodation is offered in charming self-catering thatched cottages at the **Forest Camp** (cottages per person R220; 📍).

Just outside the reserve is **Tweefontein Stables & Horse Trails** (☎ 011-957 0263; www.tweefontein.co.za; r R350; 📍 📍), offering terrific horse riding and good quality self-catering accommodation.

## SOUTHERN GAUTENG

This area, with the cities of Vereeniging, Sebokeng and Vanderbijlpark, is bisected by the Vaal River and is very rich in history. The natural barrier of the Vaal River – the *gijlgarib* (tawny) to the San, *lekoa* (erratic) to the Sotho and *vaal* (dirty) to the Afrikaners – has been an important dividing line in Southern African history, separating the 'Transvaal' from the south.

The Treaty of Vereeniging was negotiated near the Vaal, effectively ending the 1899–1902 Anglo-Boer War, and in more recent times southern Gauteng has been an important place in the struggle for freedom. It was at Sharpeville and Evaton, on 21 March 1960, that black civilians protested against the pass laws by publicly burning their passbooks. The police opened fire on the protestors at Sharpeville, killing 69 and wounding about 180; most were shot in the back. Today, 21 March is commemorated in South Africa as Human Rights Day (a public holiday), but there's nothing specific for visitors to do at either township.

In 1984 in Sebokeng, the security forces violently reacted to a black boycott of rent and service tariffs, tearing apart townships looking for activists. About 95 people were killed. These slaughters galvanised the black population into a more unified force, and ultimately hastened the fall of apartheid.

Named after the sugar bush *Protea caffra*, the **Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve** (Map p394; ☎ 011-904 3930; Klip River Rd; adult/child R20/10, vehicle R10; 🕒 7.15am-6pm Mon-Fri, 7am-6pm Sat & Sun)

## THE STERKFRONTEIN CAVES

The Sterkfontein Caves were formed by the solution of dolomite beneath the water table, a process that began about 2.5 billion years ago. But it is that which was washed in much later (3.5 million years ago) that has spurred latter-day interest: deposits rich with bones.

In August 1936, Dr Robert Broom visited the caves after learning that extinct baboon fossils had been found in the dumps left from crude lime quarrying. A week after arriving in the area he had found the first adult skull of an 'ape-man', believed to be 2.6 to three million years old – he named it *Australopithecus africanus*. In 1947 the cranium of 'Mrs Ples' was blasted out of the debris and almost 10 years later, in 1956, Dr CK Brain discovered much younger stone tools. In 1997 the significance of the articulating foot bones of 'Little Foot' was revealed – their relationship to an ankle bone indicated that this 'ape-man', our ancestor, walked upright. In all, Sterkfontein has so far given up more than 600 hominid fossils, making it one of the world's most bountiful palaeontological sites.

Sterkfontein is significant as it indicates that erect walking creatures (hominids) roamed and hunted across this landscape more than three million years ago, side by side with several other now-extinct species (eg giant leaf-eating monkeys, hunting hyena and sabre-toothed cats).

is between the N3 freeway and Rte 59, and can be reached by either. There are 66km of walking trails, several drives and the historic **Diepkloof Farm Museum** (☎ 011-904 3964; admission R5), originally built in 1850 by Voortrekker Gabriel Marais, and renovated in the 1970s after being burnt during the Anglo-Boer War. Its opening hours are the same as for the reserve.

About the best accommodation in the area is at **Protea Hotel Suikerbosrand** (☎ 016-365 5334; www.proteahotels.com/suikerbosrand; camp sites only R95, per person R35, 4-/6-/8-person chalet R840/1150/1400; 📍 📍). Located 15km from Meyerton, it covers a large area and is ideal for families, as kids can occupy themselves with the putt-putt (miniature golf) course, play park or horse riding (R30). Look for signs from Meyerton or call for directions before setting off.

## PRETORIA

☎ 012 / pop 1.65 million

At once the 'Afrikaner Jerusalem', former headquarters of the apartheid state and site of the presidential inauguration of Nelson Mandela, the pretty, laid-back city of Pretoria – the administrative capital – carries a remarkable amount of history for its age.

Built with great care on an extinct volcanic bed in the Apies River Valley as a Boer capital free from both British domination and clashes with indigenous tribes, it is now home to a growing number of black civil

servants, importing the multiculturalism that had previously been resisted by rule of law. Against many other parts of the country, stately Pretoria is also proof positive that affluence is no longer an entirely white state of being.

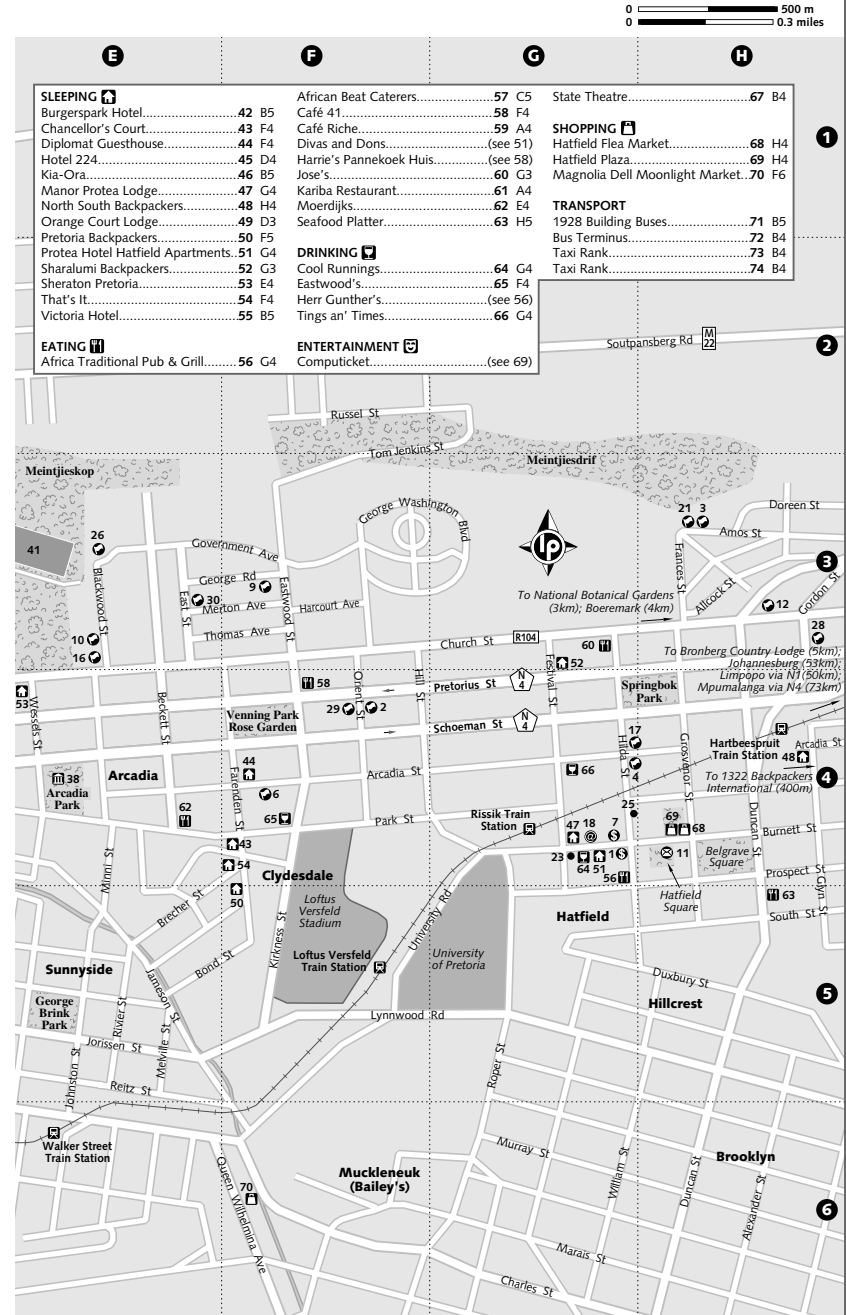
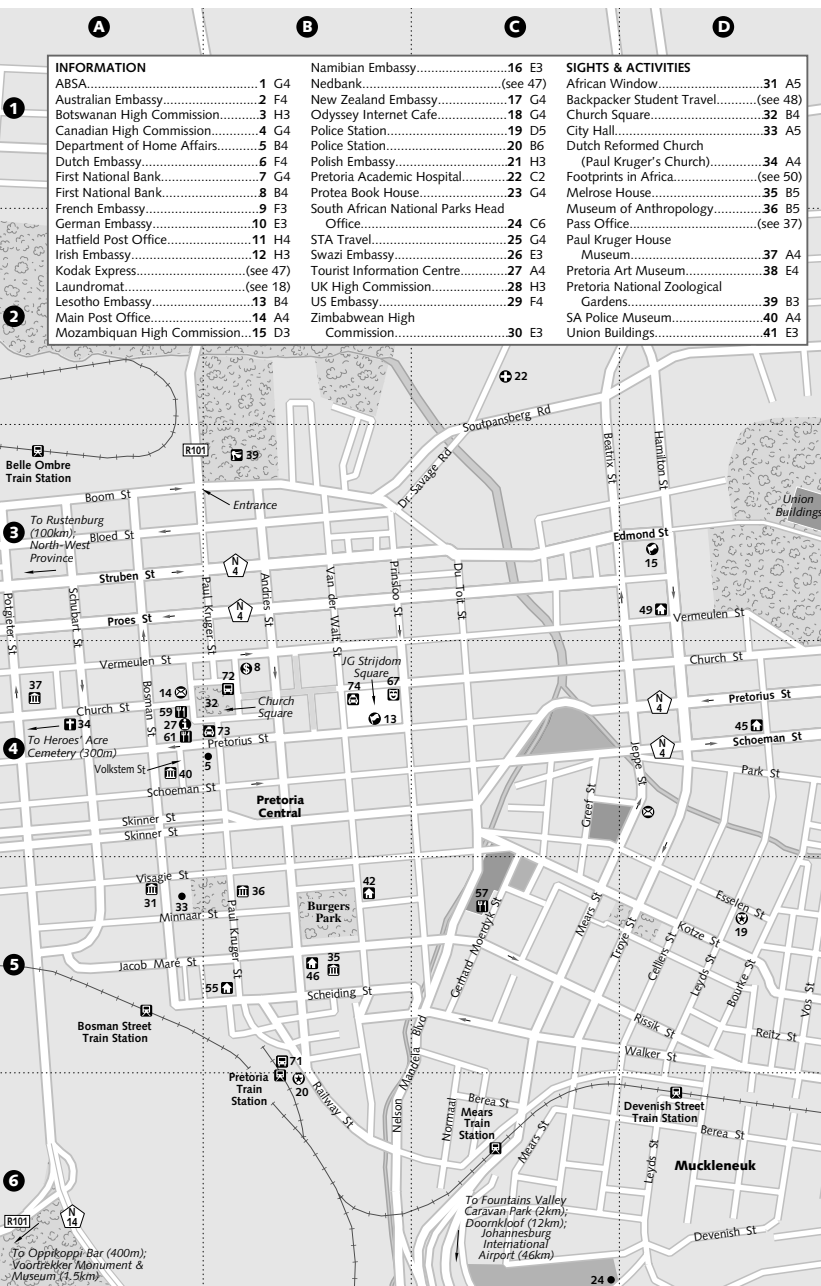
It's just 50km from Jo'burg, and is expected within 15 years to form part of a megalopolis of 20 million people. Yet it is very different from Jo'burg in look, character and feel.

Pretoria remains Afrikaans culturally, and the bump-and-grind of downtown Jo'burg here gives way to a slower-paced, more reserved way of life. Jacarandas bring colour to the streets in October and November, and the city retains a faint whiff of the old school, with fewer skyscrapers and a flush of latter-day buildings.

Majority rule has brought scores of embassies back to the leafy suburbs of Arcadia and Hatfield, but not everything has changed – the military and educational institutions associated with the capital are still here. The universities are huge and tens of thousands of students drive Pretoria's vibrant nightlife.

There are several sights that must be visited. The looming Voortrekker Monument and Herbert Baker-designed Union Buildings are impressive, while the charm of Church Sq is best appreciated from the benches of Café Riche. Burgers Park, an English garden, is a midcity oasis and a relaxing spot for lunch. After dark, the music and cuisine centres of Hatfield and Brooklyn

**PRETORIA**



To Oppikoppi Bar (400m); Voortrekkers Monument & Museum (1.5km)

To Fountains Valley Caravan Park (2km); Doornkloof (12km); Johannesburg International Airport (46km)

To National Botanical Gardens (3km); Boeremark (4km); To Bronberg Country Ledge (5km); Johannesburg (53km); Limpopo via N1 (50km); Mpumalanga via N4 (73km)

are buzzing; meanwhile jazz is played in the township *shebeens*.

This is a far more relaxed place than Jo'burg, but there has been a sharp rise in crime in recent years, with the city centre and Sunnyside coping most of the flak. The majority of the city is safe by day, but things change quickly so take all the usual precautions and a large dose of local advice.

## HISTORY

The area around the Apies River was well watered and fertile, so it supported a large population of cattle farmers for hundreds of years. These were Nguni-speaking peoples (from the same origin as the Zulus and Swazis), who came to be known as the Ndebele by the Sotho people of the Transvaal, and as the Matabele by the Europeans.

However, the disruption caused by the Zulu wars resulted in massive dislocation. Much of the black population was slaughtered and most of the remaining people fled north into present-day Zimbabwe. In 1841 the first Boers trekked into a temporary vacuum. With no-one around, they laid claim to the land that would become their capital.

By the time the British granted independence to the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) in the early 1850s, there were estimated to be 15,000 whites and 100,000 blacks living between the Vaal and Limpopo Rivers. The whites were widely scattered, and in 1853 two farms on the Apies River were bought as the site for the republic's capital. The ZAR was a shaky institution. There were ongoing wars with the black tribes, and violent disputes among the Boers themselves. Pretoria, which was named after Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River (see the Voortrekker Monument & Museum, p432), was the scene of fighting during the Boer civil war (1863–69).

Pretoria was nothing more than a tiny frontier village with a grandiose title, but the servants of the British Empire were watching it with growing misgivings. They acted in 1877, annexing the republic; the Boers went to war (Pretoria came under siege at the beginning of 1881) and won back their independence.

The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in the late 1880s revolutionised the

situation and within 20 years the Boers would again be at war with the British. President Paul Kruger and the Boer forces abandoned Pretoria in June 1900, but the war ground on until 31 May 1902, when the Treaty of Vereeniging was signed at Melrose House (p433).

With the British making efforts towards reconciliation, self-government was again granted to the Transvaal in 1906, and through an unwieldy compromise Pretoria was made the administrative capital. The Union of South Africa came into being in 1910, but Pretoria was not to regain its status until 1961, when the Republic of South Africa came into existence under the leadership of Hendrik Verwoerd.

Ironically, the city that for so long was a byword for white domination is now home to the liberated country's black president. Thabo Mbeki has his office in the Union Buildings, while a black mayor and a black-dominated council hold seat in the less grandiose local-government buildings.

## ORIENTATION

You'll likely arrive in Pretoria by road from Jo'burg or Johannesburg International Airport. From Jo'burg, the M1 freeway quietens suddenly, and you'll notice the University of South Africa (Unisa) building, looking like a grounded spaceship. A couple of kilometres on is the city proper, spreading west to east below a long kopie (hill), on the northern side of which stand the Union Buildings.

If you come from the airport, you should hit the eastern edge of Church St or Charles St, which run through the main nightlife and restaurant zones of Hatfield, Menlyn, Brooklyn and Arcadia, before heading west to Church Sq, the historic centre of the city and home to hotels, embassies and the Union Buildings to the northeast. At 26km, Church St is claimed to be one of the longest straight streets in the world.

Pretoria is also a good launch-pad for trips north to Nelspruit, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

Most of the malls have branches of Exclusive Books and CNA. The **Protea Book House** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 5683; 1067 Burnett St;

☎ 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) also sells second-hand titles.

## Emergency

**Fire** (☎ 10111)

**Metro Emergency Rescue Service** (☎ 10177)

**Police** (☎ 10111) There are police stations on Railway St (Map pp428-9) and on the corner of Leyds and Esselen Sts (Map pp428-9).

## Internet Access

Most hostels and hotels offer Internet facilities, but cheaper alternatives are also available. **Odyssey Internet Cafe** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 2467; Hatfield Galleries, Burnett St; per 30min R15; ☎ 9am-11pm) is a good bet.

## Laundry

If you aren't staying in a hostel, **Laundromat** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 072-329 8222; Hatfield Galleries, Burnett St; ☎ 7am-9pm) will clean your kit for a decent price.

## Medical services

**Hatfield Clinic** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 7180; 454 Hilda St) A well-known suburban clinic.

**Pretoria Academic Hospital** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 011-354 1000; Dr Savage Rd) The place to head for in a medical emergency.

## Money

There are banks with ATMs and change facilities across town.

**ABSA** (Map pp428-9; Hilda St)

**American Express** (Map p438; ☎ 012-346 2599;

Brooklyn Mall; ☎ 9am-5pm)

**First National Bank** (Church Sq (Map pp428-9);

Burnett St (Map pp428-9)

**Nedbank** (Map pp428-9; cnr Burnett & Festival Sts) Next to Hatfield Galleries.

## Photography

**Kodak Express** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 0678; cnr Burnett & Festival Sts; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) Offers a one-hour developing service and full digital studio.

## Post

**Hatfield post office** (Map pp428-9; Hatfield Sq;

☎ 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat) Most commonly used post office, particularly by backpackers.

**Main post office** (Map pp428-9; cnr Church St & Church Sq; ☎ 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat) In a historic building on the main square.

## Tourist Information

The **Tourist Information Centre** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-358 1430; www.tshwane.gov.za; Old Nederlandse Bank Bldg, Church Sq; ☎ 7.30am-4pm Mon-Fri) is pretty useless and, astonishingly for a city this size, closes on weekends. You can still get maps and brochures when it's closed, but you're better off asking your hotel or locals for advice.

Also in Pretoria is the national head-office of **South African National Parks** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-428 9111; www.sanparks.org; 643 Leyds St, New Muckleneuk; ☎ offices 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat, call centre 7.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-2pm Sat) for all your wildlife-reserve bookings and inquiries. You can also purchase a Wild Card (see p85) here.

## Travel Agencies

**STA Travel** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-342 5292; Hilda St;

☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat)

### WHAT'S IN A NAME: PRETORIA

If you're in Pretoria and finding yourself a little perplexed by what seems like several names for the area, or road signs that contradict your atlas, you've become the latest victim of a name change policy that's been confusing locals for years. Initially, the government sought to get rid of names deemed offensive or racially insensitive. Now, there's a clear policy of name change geared principally to meet two ends: the conglomeration of urban administrations for commercial reasons, and to make city names 'more African'. It's a policy that has faced fierce criticism from all races and classes, largely because of the phenomenal costs involved: many feel the money could be better spent on fixing the country's ills. Given its political significance, one of the most contentious actions has been Pretoria's name change to Tshwane. To be accurate, 'Pretoria' still exists, but merely as the central zone of the City of Tshwane (pronounced tswah-neh and named for the son of Chief Mushi, who settled here in the early 1800s), an area covering the entire conurbation. Still confused? Don't fret, most people have at least the memory of what names used to be, so try your best.

**Student Flights** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 9889; Brooklyn Mall; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat)

### Visa Extensions

Apply for visa extensions at the **Department of Home Affairs** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-324 1860; Sentraker Bldg; Pretorius St; 🕒 8am-3pm Mon-Fri).

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Rated South Africa's 'happiest city' in a recent poll, with the best quality of life in the country, Pretoria is certainly safer and more relaxed than Jo'burg. That said, crime is a problem, particularly in the city centre and Sunnyside, with restaurants and other businesses moving to the safer Hatfield and Brooklyn areas. The square roughly formed by Vermeulen, Du Toit, Boom and Schubart Sts has a bad reputation.

It's important to remember that people in Pretoria live regular lives, so don't be scared into never leaving your lodgings. At the same time, things change quickly in South Africa, and Pretoria is no exception – always seek local advice before venturing into the unknown, and take all the usual precautions; see p608 for further information.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

### Freedom Park

One of the most exciting undertakings in Gauteng is **Freedom Park** (Map p441; ☎ 012-470 7400, 012-361 0021; Koch St, Salvokop; admission free; 🕒 tours 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri). The site chosen for this massive project, on a kopje (hill) facing the Voortrekker Monument, provoked an outcry from those who saw this as politically motivated, but this is hardly a self-important ode to nationalism. Rather, it's a sombre memorial to those people, local and international, who have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. It's earmarked for completion only in 2009, but you can still visit Hlapho, where the names of heroes have been inscribed, and the peaceful Isivivane Garden of Remembrance, which has a small kiosk and great views. Visitor numbers are strictly controlled, so calling beforehand is essential as you will not gain access if you merely turn up.

### Voortrekker Monument & Museum

The looming **Voortrekker Monument & Museum** (Map p441; ☎ 012-323 0682; Eeufees Rd; adult/child

R25/10, vehicle R10; 🕒 8am-6pm) is hallowed turf for many Afrikaners. Built between 1938 and 1949 to commemorate the achievements of the Voortrekkers, who trekked north over the coastal mountains of the Cape into the heart of the African veld, the structure remains a testament to the Boers' pioneering and independent spirit. In particular, it commemorates the Battle of Blood River on 16 December 1838, during which 470 Boers, under the command of Andries Pretorius, defeated approximately 12,000 Zulus.

The 'trekkers went on to found independent republics that in many ways form the genesis of modern South Africa. In terms of drama, determination, courage, vision and tragedy, their story surpasses the history of European colonists. Some Afrikaners go one step further, saying that the trek parallels the biblical Exodus, and that the Battle of Blood River was divine intervention: proof that the 'trekkers were a chosen people.

The monument was built at the time of great Afrikaner nationalism, with the scars of defeat in the Anglo-Boer War still fresh. The building's inauguration in 1949 was attended by 250,000 people and remains a powerful symbol of the 'white tribe of Africa' and its historical relationship to South Africa.

The edifice is surrounded by a stone wall carved with 64 wagons in a traditional defensive *laager* (circle). The building itself is a huge stone cube inspired by the ruins of Great Zimbabwe. Inside, a highly impressive bas-relief tells the story of the trek (not exactly the whole story – everyone appears to be white) and of the Battle of Blood River. On 16 December a shaft of light falls on the words *Ons vir jou, Suid Afrika* (We for thee, South Africa). A staircase and elevator lead to the roof and a great panoramic view of Pretoria and the highveld.

In the basement there is a small museum that reconstructs the lives of the 'trekkers, and a magnificent tapestry of naive artistry and tub-thumping chauvinism.

The monument is 3km south of the city and is clearly signposted from the N1 freeway. It is possible to catch the Voortrekkerhoogte or Valhalla bus from Kruger St near the corner of Church Sq. Ask the driver to let you off at the entrance road to the

monument, from where it's a 10-minute walk uphill.

### Church Square

At the heart of Pretoria, imposing public buildings surround Church Sq (Map pp428-9). These include the **Ou Raadsaal (Old Government) building** on the southern side; the **Old Capitol Theatre** in the northwestern corner; **First National Bank** in the northeast; the **Palace of Justice**, where the Rivonia Trial that sentenced Nelson Mandela to life imprisonment was held, on the northern side; the **Old Nederlandsche Bank building**, which adjoins the Café Riche and houses the Tourist Information Centre; and the **main post office** at the western side. Look for the **clock**, surrounded by nude figures by Anton van Wouw, above the Church Sq entrance to the post office.

In the centre, the '**Old Lion**', Paul Kruger, looks disapprovingly at office workers lounging on the grass. The bronze figures of Kruger and the sentries, also by Van Wouw, were cast in Italy at the turn of the century, but lay in storage until 1954. In the early days, Boers from the surrounding countryside would gather in the square every three months for *nagmaal* (communion).

### Paul Kruger House Museum

A short walk west from Church Sq, the former residence of Paul Kruger is now the **Paul Kruger House Museum** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-326 9172; 60 Church St; adult/child R10/5; 🕒 8am-4.30pm Mon-Fri). It's interesting but, partly due to its setting right on a busy street, it's difficult to get a feeling for the man (unlike at Smuts' House Museum; see p441), despite the fact that he was undoubtedly an extraordinary human being. There are clues, however. The house is unpretentious, although there would have been few grander homes when it was built in 1883. Among all sorts of bric-a-brac there's the knife that Kruger used to amputate his thumb after a shooting accident. The **Dutch Reformed Church**, where he worshipped and preached, is just across the road.

Immediately left of the house is the neo-Georgian 1932 **Pass Office**. Hated by blacks for its function of economic and racial segregation, the building was nevertheless known to them as GaMothle, 'Beautiful Place', because the friezes and tableaux

decorating it represented black African peoples. Sadly it's now falling into disrepair and is not open to the public, but there are interesting explanations of its history outside.

### Melrose House

Opposite Burgers Park is **Melrose House** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-322 2805; 275 Jacob Maré St; adult/child R5/3; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). This neobaroque mansion, a national monument, was built in 1886 for George Heys, and it's a somewhat fanciful cross between English Victorian and Cape Dutch styles.

During the 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer War, Lords Roberts and Kitchener (both British commanders) lived here. On 31 May 1902 the Treaty of Vereeniging, which marked the end of the war, was signed in the dining room.

### Museum of Anthropology

Opposite City Hall, this **museum** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-322 7632; Paul Kruger St; adult/child R10/6; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) has dioramas of various indigenous animals and birds. It's not exactly the Kruger, but you can't get malaria either. The most dramatic exhibit is the enormous whale skeleton outside the building.

### South African Police Museum

The **police museum** (Map pp428-9; 021-321 1678; cnr Pretorius & Volkstem Sts; adult/child R10/6; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) is one of the city's better museums, with scores of exhibits covering the turbulent history of the nation's police force. Many of the items date back to the apartheid era, when South Africa was a de facto police state.

### African Window

Concentrating on the archaeological and anthropological records of Southern Africa, **African Window** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-324 6082; 102 Visagie St; adult/child R8/5; 🕒 8am-4pm) focuses on the tribes of Gauteng, incorporating some San engravings, a traditional restaurant and regular dance and art exhibitions.

### Pretoria Art Museum

Off Schoeman St, this **art museum** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 1807; Arcadia Park; adult/child R5/3; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue & Thu-Sat, 10am-8pm Wed, noon-5pm Sun) has displays of South African art from

### THE FABULOUS BAKER BUILDINGS

The day after a mob of rail commuters vented their frustration by burning down Pretoria station in February 2001, the gutted shell of the building seemed destined to be pulled down. It's a measure of the respect that South Africans have for its architect Sir Herbert Baker that by the following day money had been found to rebuild the station, and talk of demolition was a distant memory.

Born in Kent, Baker arrived in South Africa in 1891 and formed a friendship with the colony's richest and most powerful man, Cecil John Rhodes, who commissioned Baker to redesign his home. The young architect took the radical step of using the vernacular Cape gable on a double-storey building. The result was the timeless magnificence that is Groote Schuur in Cape Town (see p122); Rhodes was delighted.

Baker was prolific and designed an eclectic mix of homes and public buildings for the colony's wealthiest citizens, many of whom made their fortunes on the Witwatersrand goldfields. His credits include a raft of mansions in Johannesburg's Parktown district, the South African Institute for Medical Research in Braamfontein, St George's Cathedral in Cape Town, the Sunnyside and Arcadia cathedrals in Pretoria and the work for which he is best remembered, the classical lines of the imposing Union Buildings (below).

Baker left for India in 1913, eventually returning to England where he worked on South Africa House in London's Trafalgar Sq. He died in 1946 and is buried in Westminster Cathedral.

many periods of the country's history. It's a good place to get a feel for the contrasting influences that make up modern South Africa.

### Pretoria National Zoological Gardens

About 1km north of the city centre are the **zoological gardens** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-328 3265; cnr Paul Kruger & Boom Sts; adult/child R35/22; 🕒 8am-6pm). The national zoo is an impressive and pleasant enough spot to while away an afternoon. There is an aquarium here, as well as a decent cafeteria and some areas of lawn. The highlight is probably the cable car that runs up to the top of a hill that overlooks the city. There are regular guided evening trips (R30 per person).

### Heroes' Acre Cemetery

Around 1.5km west of Church Sq you'll find this **cemetery** (Map p441; Church St; 🕒 8am-6pm), the burial place of a number of historical figures including Andries Pretorius, Paul Kruger and Hendrik Verwoerd. Henry H 'Breaker' Morant, the Australian Boer War antihero executed by the British for war crimes, is also buried here – look for the low sign pointing to the grave stone from one of the north-south avenues. If you miss this, you'll never find it.

To get here by bus, take the West Park No 2 or Danville service from Church Sq.

### Union Buildings

These buildings (Map pp428-9) are the headquarters of government. The impressive red sandstone structures (with a self-conscious imperial grandeur) are surrounded by expansive gardens and are home to the presidential offices.

The buildings, designed by Sir Herbert Baker (see the boxed text, above), are quite a long walk from the city centre; alternatively catch just about any bus heading east on Church St, and walk up through the gardens. There are no tours here, but access to the expansive grounds and public areas of the building is free and self-guided seven days a week.

### TOURS

**Backpacker Student Travel** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 0989; info@northsouthbackpackers.com), at North South Backpackers hostel, runs a large range of tours to destinations including a local diamond mine (R250 per person), Pretoria city (R200), Soweto (R350) and to the popular Apartheid Museum (R330) in Johannesburg.

**Footprints in Africa** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 083-302 1976; info@footprintsinafrica.com), at Pretoria Backpackers, organises airport shuttles and township tours, among its many services. Ask about the excellent-value trips to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe (two-day fly-ins from R2900 per person).

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**Oppikoppi Music Festival** (www.oppikoppi.co.za)

A Woodstock-type bash, where local and international rock bands congregate in a celebration of peace, love and music. It is staged once or twice a year – visit the website for the latest programme details.

**Pretoria Show** This immensely popular event is held during the third week of August at the showgrounds.

### SLEEPING

Pretoria has plenty of hostels and hotels of every description. Hatfield, with its bars and restaurants, has developed into something of a backpacker's ghetto and some of the best cheap places to stay are in this area. The well-to-do streets of Hatfield, Brooklyn and New Muckleneuk are the best places to start looking for midrange B&B options.

The city also has its fair share of upmarket business and boutique hotels. Again, these tend to be east of the centre, out towards the wealthier suburbs.

If you want to explore a Gauteng city centre, it makes more sense to do it here than in crime-ridden (and much bigger), inner-city Jo'burg. But Pretoria Central can have similar criminal dangers, particularly after dark. There are some decent places to stay in town, particularly those near centrally located museums, but if you do choose to stay here always ask your accommodation before wandering around.

### Budget

**Sharalumi Backpackers** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-342 8196; www.sharalumi.com; 1064 Pretorius St, Hatfield; camp sites/dm R40/60, s/d with shared bathroom R120/140; 📍 🚻 🚿) It's on a busy road, but no matter: the very large garden and pool will keep you occupied at this decent backpackers in a small house. It's also cracking good value at these prices.

**1322 Backpackers International** (Map p441; ☎ 012-362 3905; www.1322backpackers.com; 1322 Arcadia St, Hatfield; camp sites/dm/s/d R45/65/95/150; 📍 🚻 🚿) A friendly hostel cleverly designed to mimic log-cabin accommodation despite its suburban setting. Dorm beds are made of chunky wood and have their own night lights, while the neat thatched outbuildings are very good value.

**North South Backpackers** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 0989; info@northsouthbackpackers.com; 355 Glyn St, Hatfield; camp sites/dm R45/80, s/d with shared bathroom R135/180; 📍 🚻 🚿) This hostel is within easy

walking distance of the high life of Burnett St, but has a tirelessly convivial buzz of its own. Trimmings include tasty dinners and a savvy travel agency. There's a pleasant garden for summer lounging and a cosy sitting room with a real fire for winter warming. There are also private en suite garden cottages that sleep two (R260).

**Fountains Valley Caravan Park** (Map p441; ☎ 012-440 7131; camp sites with/without electricity R58/48; 📍 🚻 🚿) Just off the M18, south of Pretoria, this is a good facility, with plenty of sites, a pool, a restaurant and tennis courts.

**Bronberg Country Lodge** (Map p441; ☎ 012-811 0496; www.bronbergbackpackers.co.za; Plot 207, Lynwood Rd, Tiegerpoort; camp sites/dm/d R55/70/210; 📍 🚻 🚿) On the eastern reaches of Pretoria, this rustic place offers a breath of fresh, country air. After a busy day's sightseeing, this is the perfect spot to escape back into the bush, or reinvigorate weary feet with a soak in the Jacuzzi.

**Kia-Ora** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-322 4803; kia-ora@vakaneo.co.za; 257 Jacob Maré St, Pretoria Central; dm R65, s/d with shared bathroom R170/180) An exceedingly scruffy joint, but it's the best bet if you want to be based in the city centre.

**Pretoria Backpackers** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-343 9754; www.pretoriabackpackers.net; 425 Farenden St, Clydesdale; dm R80, s/d with shared bathroom R150/220; 📍 🚻 🚿) This is a large converted home with a pleasant garden and fish pond, open-plan chilling area and spacious, wood-floored rooms. It's close to the Hatfield good-time zone (and very close to the rugby stadium). There's also a salon offering massages, aromatherapy and other invigorating treatments.

### Midrange

If you are looking for homey, B&B-style accommodation, it is well worth contacting the **Bed & Breakfast Association of Pretoria** (☎ 083-212 1989; www.accommodationinpretoria.co.za).

**Hotel 224** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-440 5281; www.hotel224.com; cnr Schoeman & Leyds Sts, Arcadia; s/d R295/380; 📍 🚻 🚿) This high-rise hotel sells itself as Pretoria's premier budget location but is really just a faded remnant of the hotelier age. The amenities just about slip it into the midrange category, and while things are now looking a little worn, it remains pretty good value for money.

**That's It** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 3404; www.that's.it.co.za; 5 Brecher St, Clydesdale; s/d incl breakfast R310/410;

(P) (🚗) (🚻) Near the corner of Farenden St, this is a guesthouse in a leafy suburb, not far from Loftus Versfeld Stadium. It's a pleasant house with good-sized rooms, if not a tremendous amount of atmosphere.

**Chancellor's Court** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 1404; www.chancellorscourt.co.za; 797 Park St, Clydesdale; s/d R350/400; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) A well-located, reader-recommended guesthouse with spacious (if somewhat old-fashioned) rooms. It's a very good option for groups or families, who might like to stay in the four-sleeper, self-catering family unit (R500).

**Crane's Nest Guesthouse** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 7223; cranesnest@absamail.co.za; 212 Boshoff St, New Muckleneuk; s/d R400/650; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) This salubriously suburban B&B sits in the chi-chi section of New Muckleneuk, right next to the bird sanctuary – a big bonus in itself. It is a flick overpriced, but the rooms, overlooking a pleasant garden (with bunnies), are very comfortable.

**Orange Court Lodge** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-326 6346; orangecourt@absamail.co.za; 540 Vermeulen St, Arcadia; 1-2-/3-bedroom apt R400/800/1200; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) On the corner of Hamilton St and not far from the Union Buildings, this oasis among concrete blocks is an excellent option. It offers serviced apartments, with phone, TV, kitchen and linen.

## Top End

**Victoria Hotel** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-323 6054; fax 012-324 2426; 200 Scheiding St, Pretoria Central; s/d incl breakfast R450/615; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) Built in 1894, this gracious, historic place has 10 Victorian-style rooms with all the creature comforts. It is a great place to stay if you want a whiff of old Pretoria and offers a more idiosyncratic brand of top-end experience.

**Burgerspark Hotel** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-322 7500; hotel@burgerspark.co.za; cnr Van der Walt & Minnaar Sts; s/d R480/550; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) Opposite the well-manicured Burgers Park, this place is big, efficient and central.

**Manor Protea Hotel** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 7077; mphotel@satis.co.za; cnr Burnett & Festival Sts, Hatfield; s/d R557/616; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) Up an escalator from Burnett St, this hotel beats the Sheraton on location, but for the price fails to compete on any other level. It's plain, but perennially reliable.

**Diplomat Guesthouse** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 3131; www.thediplomat.co.za; 822 Arcadia St, Arcadia; s/d incl breakfast R580/760; (P) (🚗) (🚻) (🚻)) An early-

20th-century home and its beautiful garden are the setting for this immaculately designed four-star guesthouse filled with important-looking furniture. It's very much part of this century, however, with wireless Internet onsite and, for those arriving by GPS, provides exact coordinates (25°44'54"S, 28°13'16"E).

**Protea Hotel Hatfield Apartments** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 6105; www.proteahotels.com/hatfieldapartments; 1080 Prospect St, Hatfield; r R662/736; (P) (🚗) (🚻)) One of the few self-catering options in the eastern suburbs, it's a tad overpriced, but it's secure, clean and well-serviced. If you don't feel like cooking, it's within walking distance of dozens of restaurants.

**Sheraton Pretoria** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-429 9999; www.sheraton.com; cnr Church & Wessels Sts, Arcadia; r from R759; (P) (🚗) (🚻) (🚻)) Pretoria's glitziest offering, this classy place saw Britain's Queen Liz shun the official guest residence in favour of one (or a whole floor) of the sparkling rooms. It offers all the reliable, spic-and-span Sheraton trimmings and top-notch service.

## EATING

Food in Pretoria is generally of a high standard and prices are lower than Jo'burg's. There are a few places in the city centre but most people head to Hatfield, Brooklyn and New Muckleneuk. Most eateries seem to be concentrated along a few streets, so if there's nothing that appeals to you here, just choose a street and cruise. There are few eating recommendations in the city centre because of safety considerations.

## City Centre

**Kariba Restaurant** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-326 5654; 1 Parliament St; mains R20-40; 🍴 breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat) Based improbably in the beautiful former Capitol Theatre next door to the Tshwane Cultural Centre, this efficient restaurant is a lunchtime favourite with local business types, thanks largely to its selection of hearty West and South African dishes.

**Café Riche** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-328 3173; 2 Church St; mains R30-60; 🍴 lunch & dinner) This is one of Pretoria's more historic eateries, enjoying a choice spot right in the heart of the city's Church Sq. The passing action, which you can view over a beer from the terrace outside, is the chief selling point, but the food isn't bad either. Don't be surprised if you

bump into other travellers planning their Pretoria visit from here.

## Hatfield & Arcadia

Hatfield and Arcadia are full of restaurants, cafés and bars, and are safe at any hour. If you're out for a drink and a feed, bustling Hatfield Sq on Burnett St is a good a place as any to start.

**Seafood Platter** (☎ 012-362 1144; Duncan Walk, Duncan St; mains R25-80; 🍴 lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat; 🍴) You guessed it: heaps of garlic-laden seafood is served up in convivial surroundings designed to make you forget you're in a landlocked province. Live musicians do their thing on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Harrie's Pannekoek Huis** (Harry's Pancake House; Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-342 3613; Eastwood Sq, Eastwood Rd; mains R30-40; 🍴 breakfast, lunch & dinner) A slick outfit offering something different for the palate – savoury and sweet pancakes with extremely imaginative fillings. We tried the pickled fish and sultana chutney variant, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Work off your selection at the adjacent curio shop, one of Pretoria's best.

**Divas and Dons** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 1674; Hatfield Sq, Burnett St; mains R30-50; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) Good solid fare is served in this plush eatery, with dark wood panelling and built-in leather sofas giving it an upmarket hotel-lounge feel.

**Café 41** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-342 8914; Eastwood Sq, Eastwood St; mains R35-95; 🍴 breakfast, lunch & dinner) A beautifully designed bistro-style restaurant meant to appeal to casual and business diners alike, with a massive menu and swift service. There's a large outdoor deck, and hidden section that makes you forget you're in a shopping village.

**Africa Traditional Pub & Grill** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 1604; cnr Prospect & Hilda Sts; mains R40; 🍴 lunch & dinner) An outdoor deck, good vibes and traditional African beats make this one of the more upbeat, laid-back options in distinctly bourgeois Hatfield. The food's good, too.

**Jose's** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-430 7778; 235 Hilda St; mains R60; 🍴 lunch & dinner) Platters of delicious Mediterranean foods mean you'll understand why this quality eatery is a local favourite. When it's plate-breaking nights (Fridays and Saturdays), you'll understand why there's so much outdoor seating. It's all great fun.

## Brooklyn & New Muckleneuk

As the dining and nightlife has moved eastwards, the area around Middle and Fehrsen Sts has become home to a host of good restaurants. The food is generally better and more expensive than in Hatfield. Apart from the following places, you will find all of the staple, cheap-and-cheerful takeaways in the adjoining shopping malls.

**Crawdaddy's** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 0589; Shop 3, Brooklyn Piazza, cnr Middle & Dey Sts; mains R40-60; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) With faux-Louisiana-swamp styling, this surf-and-turf place has a jumping, bar-style atmosphere and non-sense steak and seafood tucker.

**Blue Crane** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 7615; Melk St; mains R40-80; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) The Blue Crane is part of the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary – the Roberts of the famous bird books. The restaurant overlooks a lake that is the breeding site for the endangered blue crane, South Africa's national bird. It does Afrikaner *potjiekos* (meat and vegetables stewed in an iron pot) and the pub is great at sundown. The entrance to the restaurant is off Melk St, which is a right turn off Middle St as you head west.

**Taste Emporium** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 7181; 279 Dey St; mains R40-220; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) With a menu divided into sections, including 'From the Garden', 'Out of the Sea' and 'From the Farm', this place believes eating is about good ingredients, cooked simply. Piles of fresh wood and an open front add a rustic twist to the simple, neutral décor. No wonder readers love it.

**Wangthai** (Map p438; ☎ 012-346 6230; 281 Middle St; mains R50-100; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) Offering 'Royal Thai Cuisine', this upmarket eatery is decorated with an array of upper-echelon bric-a-brac, seemingly purchased from an expensive Bangkok souvenir shop. Standards are high, the food is good and it is a favourite of the Thai ambassador.

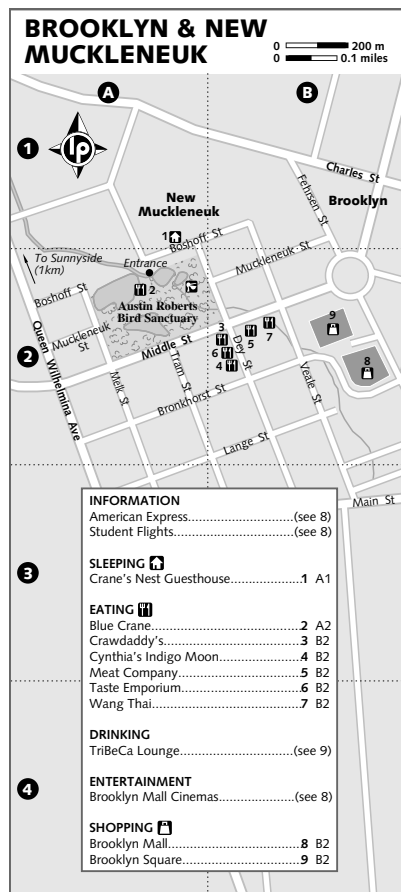
**Cynthia's Indigo Moon** (Map p438; ☎ 012-346 8926; 283 Dey St; mains R50-150; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) Accolades and glowing press reviews galore decorate the entrance hall, while the restaurant itself is surrounded by the colossal wine cellar. A lot of cows laid down their lives to make this menu possible, but the steak is fabulous, the seafood sublime and the atmosphere cosy and stylish.

**Meat Company** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 2515; 273 Middle St; mains R65-120; 🍴 lunch & dinner; 🍴) The

name doesn't lie: heat of every temperature is applied to flesh of every description in this cavernous paean to the carnivorous. The house burger (R42) is becoming a local legend, but vegetarians don't despair: there's an impressive platter of greens (R50), too.

### Sunnyside

A shadow has fallen across Esselen St, Sunnyside, and it's not the eating experience it once was. There's a depressing field of takeaway chains scattered among the pawn and porn shops, with the odd café and restaurant thrown in. However, there are a few places still worth visiting in Sunnyside and the suburban streets of Arcadia to the east.



**Africa Beat Caterers** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 072-276 7357; 115 Gerhard Moerdyk St; mains R15-30; ☎ lunch & dinner) This area is packed with cutesy, historic villas and this vibey little place – popular with *amakwêre-kwêre* (foreign Africans) – is in one of them. There's a sun terrace out front and it serves up a regular mix of cheap, tasty food and live music.

**Moerdijks** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 4856; cnr Park & Beckett St; mains R45-100; ☎ lunch & dinner; ☎) This upmarket place has pride of place in a graceful Dutch villa, with old-school styling, pleasant gardens and the type of food empires were built on.

### DRINKING

There are several bars and nightspots in trendy Hatfield, catering for all types. Yet again, Hatfield Sq is a good place to start, but remember that 'guns, fireworks and motorbikes are strictly prohibited'. Unusually for South Africa, Burnett St offers a high density of bars, eateries and clubs, all cut through with lashings of backpacker bravado and student shenanigans. You can wander between venues easily and safely, saving the endless taxi journeys that usually punctuate a night in a big South African city. It's the easiest pub crawl in the country.

**Cool Runnings** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 0100; 1075 Burnett St) Reggae rules the roost at this perennially popular drinking haunt, but anyone's welcome at the party. Days start slow and lazy, while nights get hot, steamy and really quite drunken after 10pm.

**Herr Gunther's** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 6975; Hatfield Sq, Burnett St) A Germanic answer to the Irish bar, this raucous place serves 2L jugs of beer and sausages to soak them up.

**Maloney's** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 2883; Duncan Walk, Duncan St) As if to prove the old corporate adage that you can never have enough Irish pubs, here's another. And it's worth another night's drinking all to itself.

**Tings an' Times** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-430 3176; 1065 Arcadia St) This laid-back place calls itself a pita bar, but is much more about drinking than eating. It offers great ambience for late-night philosophising or just chilling. If you get the drunken hunger, pizzas are laid on till late.

**TriBeCa Lounge** (Map p438; ☎ 012-460 3068; Brooklyn Sq, Veale St) Coffees and cocktails create the mood at this trendy café-bar named

after the New York City neighbourhood. On weekends, it fills up with the beautiful people, who stop in for a quick loosener, after a hard afternoon at the mall.

**Eastwood's** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-344 0243; cnr Eastwood & Park Sts) This Arcadia institution is packed before, during and after any rugby encounter. It's won the 'best pub in Pretoria' award three years in a row, though clearly not in the integration stakes. Speaking of steaks, try the T-bone with *pap en sous* (maize meal and sauce); it's terrific value (R36). In the summer, a fine mist is sprayed over the beer garden to keep the boozers standing.

**Oppikoppi Bar** (Map p441; ☎ 082-499 7668) On Magasyn Hill (opposite the Voortrekker Monument), this is one of the best-located pubs in Pretoria. The views over the city are great, particularly at sunset, and they offer DIY braais.

### ENTERTAINMENT Cinemas

There are several large cinema complexes in Pretoria. The *Pretoria News* lists screenings daily.

The **Brooklyn Mall Cinemas** (Map p438; ☎ 0860 300 222; tickets R38; Brooklyn Mall, Fehson St, Brooklyn) are among the most popular in Pretoria, but to save yourself time, it might be best to call **Ster-Kinekor** (central bookings ☎ 082 16789; www.ster-kinekor.co.za) for listings and bookings. For other movie-going experiences, grab your car and go to the **Menlyn Park Drive-In** (Map p441; ☎ 012-348 8766; Menlyn Park Shopping Centre) or visit the **Imax Theatre** (Map p441; ☎ 012-368 1168; Menlyn Park Shopping Centre) for big-screen oohs-and-aahs.

### Live Music & Nightclubs

Despite being home to a large student population, Pretoria's live-music scene can be a bit of a damp squib at worst and as fickle as young love at best, with places opening and closing regularly. Check out the *Pretoria News* for the latest listings. If there's nothing that tickles your fancy, ask at your hostel or head to Burnett St in Hatfield and join the nearest queue.

The surrounding townships, especially Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, have plenty of *shebeens*; these are best visited with a black friend or as part of a tour. It's estimated that Gauteng has more than 36,000 *shebeens*.

### Theatres

Most shows can be booked through **Computicket** (☎ 011-915 8000; www.computicket.com; Hatfield Plaza, Burnett St; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Sat).

**State Theatre** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-392 4000; www.statetheatre.co.za; cnr Prinsloo & Church Sts) Designed by Hans and Roelf Botha, this huge theatre complex hosts a range of productions – including opera, music, ballet and theatre – in its five theatres: the Arena, Studio, Opera, Drama and Momentum. You can take guided tours of the building (R20).

**Barnyard Theatre** (Map p441; ☎ 012-368 1555; top fl, Menlyn Park Shopping Centre) It's out of town in Menlyn Park Shopping Centre, and also stages shows.

### SHOPPING

Apart from the big Brooklyn Mall (Map p438), Brooklyn Sq (Map p438) and Menlyn Park (Map pp428-9) shopping centres, where you will find all the usual air-conditioned chain stores, Pretoria is best known for its markets.

**Boeremark** (Map p441; ☎ 082-416 3900; Meiring Naude Rd; ☎ 6-9am Sat) East of the centre, and opposite the CSIR complex, this market is run by the Transvaal Agricultural Union and is the place to find fresh produce and old-style Boers, with traditional food and music.

**Hatfield Flea Market** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-362 5941; Hatfield Plaza car park, Burnett St, Hatfield; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Sun) Peddles the usual flea-market paraphernalia, as well as some African stuff you can't import from China.

**Magnolia Dell Moonlight Market** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-308 8820; Magnolia Dell, Queen Wilhelmina Ave, New Muckleneuk; ☎ 5.30-9.30pm Fri) Staged on the last Friday evening of the month, this is an excellent event and the place to pick up local crafts.

For decent-quality African curios, you can head just over the border into North-West Province for the Welwitschia Country Market at Hartbeespoort Dam. See the boxed text, p514 for details.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY Air

JIA is South Africa's international hub, accepting flights from across the globe. See p622 for details of airlines and flight options, and p440 for information on getting into town from JIA.



**Bus**

Most national and international bus services commence in Pretoria before picking up in Jo'burg, unless the general direction is north. Most long-distance buses leave from the **1928 Building** (Map pp428-9; Railway St) in the Pretoria train-station forecourt. You will also find their booking and information offices here.

Most **Translux** (☎ 0861-589 282; www.translux.co.za), **City to City** (☎ 0861-589 282; www.translux.co.za), **Intercape** (☎ 0861 287 287; www.intercape.co.za), **Greyhound** (☎ 012-323 1154; www.greyhound.co.za) and **SA Roadlink** (☎ 012-323 5105; www.saroadlink.co.za) services running from Jo'burg to Durban, the south coast and Cape Town originate in Pretoria. Services running north up the N1 also stop here – see p417 for full details of these services.

Translux, Greyhound and Intercape fares from Pretoria are identical to those from Jo'burg regardless of the one-hour difference in time. If you only want to go between the two cities, it will cost about R45.

**Baz Bus** (Cape Town ☎ 021-439 2323; www.bazbus.com) will pick up and drop off at Pretoria hostels.

**North Link Tours** (☎ 012-323 0379) also runs from the 1928 Building and heads north to Polokwane (Pietersburg; R100, 3½ hours), Tzaneen (R160, five hours) and Phalaborwa (R195, 6½ hours).

**Car**

Having your own car makes getting around substantially easier, and local car rental agencies can offer good deals. Many larger local and international companies are represented in Pretoria; see p636 for details.

If you're staying for a long time, it might be worth your while to check out the weekly *Junk Mail* newspaper or monthly *Auto Trader* magazine for second-hand car sales.

**Minibus Taxis**

Minibus taxis go from the main terminal by the train station and travel to a host of destinations including Jo'burg (R30), but this is not the place to be wandering around with lots of luggage or after dark. Indeed, many locals would discourage you from using minibus taxis at all; it's worth asking around. See p640 for more information regarding minibus taxi travel.

**Train**

The historic Pretoria train station was rebuilt at a cost of R35 million after it was burned down by angry commuters in February 2001, and things are now back to normal. Despite commuter frustrations, most long-distance trains run on time, which is just as well as they seem to take forever.

**Main Line** (☎ 0860-008 888; www.spoornet.co.za) trains running through Pretoria are the *Trans Karoo* (daily from Pretoria to Cape Town) and the *Komati* (daily from Jo'burg to Komatipoort via Nelspruit). The *Bosveld* runs north via Polokwane (Pietersburg) to Musina, near the Zimbabwe border. The luxury *Blue Train*, which links Pretoria, Jo'burg and Cape Town originates here (see p641 for details of the 'name' train services).

Pretoria train station (Map pp428-9) is about a 20-minute walk from the city centre. Buses run along Paul Kruger St to Church Sq, the main local bus terminal.

**METRO**

Because of a high incidence of crime, we don't recommend travelling between Pretoria and Jo'burg by Metro. For more info about the proposed Gautrain, see the boxed text, p419.

**GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport**

If you call ahead, most hostels, and many hotels, offer free pick-up.

**Get You There** (☎ 012-346 3175) operates shuttle buses between JIA and Pretoria. The company does not have a set timetable but runs day and night about every hour, charging R95 to/from hostels and hotels.

**Bus & Minibus Taxi**

There's an extensive network of local buses. A booklet of timetables and route maps is available from the inquiry office in the main **bus terminus** (Map pp428-9; ☎ 012-308 0839; Church Sq) or from pharmacies. Fares range from R5 to R7, depending on the distance. Some services, including bus 3 to Sunnyside, run until about 10.30pm – unusually late for South Africa. Other handy buses include the 5 and 8, which run between Church Sq and Brooklyn via Burnett St in Hatfield.

Minibus taxis run just about everywhere and the standard fare is about R4. You won't see many white faces on these buses,

but that doesn't mean they're unsafe. Seek local advice before you ride.

**Taxi**

There are taxi ranks on the corner of Church and Van der Walt Sts, and on the corner of Pretorius and Paul Kruger Sts. Or you can get a metered taxi from **Rixi Taxis** (☎ 0800 325 807; per km R8.50).

**AROUND PRETORIA**

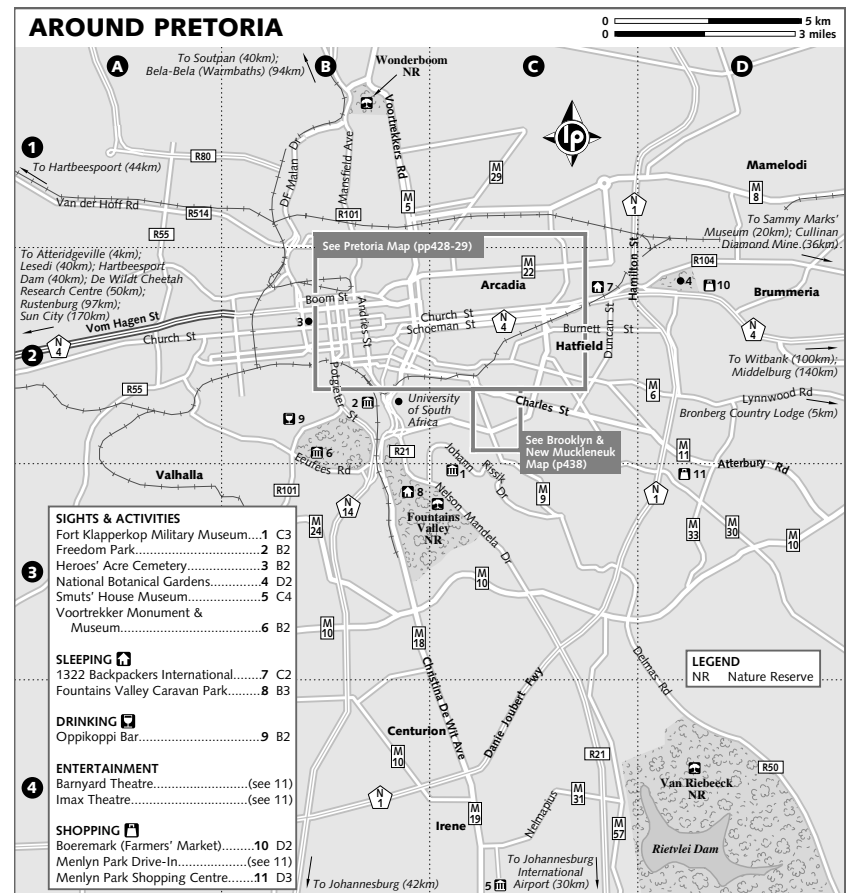
Gauteng is perhaps better known for its cities than its countryside, but there are more than a few gems out in the sticks, if you have had enough urban living. The De

Wildt Cheetah Research Centre is a particular treat.

**SMUTS' HOUSE MUSEUM**

General JC Smuts was a brilliant scholar, Boer general, politician and international statesman. An architect of the Union of South Africa, he was the country's prime minister from 1919 to 1924 and 1939 to 1948.

Smuts' home was once known as Doornkloof and has been turned into an excellent **museum** (Map p441; ☎ 012-667 1941; smuts.house@worldonline.co.za; Nelmapius Rd, Irene; adult/child R5/3, picnic garden per car R5; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat & Sun). It is worth visiting if you have private transport and are travelling to/from Pretoria. The wood-and-iron building



was a British officers' mess at Middelburg but Smuts bought it and re-erected it on his 1600-hectare property at Irene, 16km south of Pretoria. Surrounded by a wide veranda and shaded by trees, it has a family atmosphere, and gives a vivid insight into Smuts' amazing life.

Unfortunately, there is no access by public transport. The house is signposted from both the N14 freeway (Rte 28) and Rte 21. The most direct route from Pretoria is along Louis Botha Ave to Irene.

### FORT KLAPPERKOP MILITARY MUSEUM

This **fort** (Map p441; ☎ 082-807 5278; Johann Rissik Dr, adult/child R10/5; 🕒 10am-3.30pm) is one of the best preserved in South Africa. Located 6km south of the city, a shot was never fired from here in anger, but it now illustrates South Africa's military history from 1852 to the end of the 1899-1902 Anglo-Boer War. There are panoramic views across the city and the region.

### NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Around 9km east of the city centre, these **gardens** (Map p441; ☎ 012-804 3200; Cussonia Ave, Brummeria; adult/child R10/5; 🕒 6am-6pm) cover 77 hectares and are planted with indigenous flora from around the country. The 20,000-odd plant species are labelled and grouped according to their region of origin, so a visit is a must for keen botanists.

By car, head east along Church St (Rte 104) for about 8km, then turn right into Cussonia Rd; the gardens are on the left-hand side. Take the Meyerspark or Murrayfield bus from Church Sq.

### SAMMY MARKS' MUSEUM

This **museum** (Map p394; ☎ 012-803 6158; Rte 104, Old Bronkhorstspuit Rd; adult/child R20/10; 🕒 9am-4pm Tue-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun) is housed in one of South Africa's most splendid Victorian mansions, dating from 1884. Sammy Marks was an English magnate who had his fingers in a lot of pies: industrial, mining and agricultural. It is a good example of the sort of house you can build for yourself if you strike it rich (and an example of the expensive goodies with which you can fill it). To get to the museum, follow signposting off Rte 104, 20km east of Pretoria.

### CULLINAN DIAMOND MINE

After visiting Sammy Marks' Museum, go north to historic Cullinan (Map p394), a pretty 100-year-old village full of quaint Herbert Baker architecture. It is best explored on a sluggish, Sunday afternoon stroll. The village is home to Cullinan Diamond Mine one of the biggest and most productive diamond-bearing kimberlite pipes in the world. It has produced three of the largest diamonds ever found. The largest, the 3106-carat Cullinan, as it was called, was 11cm by 6cm in rough form and was presented to King Edward VII. You can don a tin hat and organise a tour of the mine through **Premier Diamond Tours** (☎ 012-734 0081, 083-261 3550; tours from R30).

To get here, take the N4 east and the Hans Strijdom off-ramp, then turn left and follow the signs.

### DE WILDT CHEETAH RESEARCH CENTRE

Just past Hartbeespoort, about 50km northwest of Pretoria, is the highly impressive **De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre** (Map p394; ☎ 012-504 1921; www.dewildt.org.za; Farm 22, Rte 513 Pretoria North Rd; tours R165, cheetah runs R100; 🕒 tours 8.30am & 1.30pm Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun, cheetah runs summer/winter 7am/8am Tue & Fri), famous for its breeding success of rare and endangered animals.

Work began at De Wildt in the 1960s, when the cheetah was regarded as highly endangered. Seven offspring were successfully bred in captivity – more than at any reserve in the world at the time. To a large degree it's thanks to the work done here that the cheetah is now off the endangered species list.

The king cheetah, with its distinctive black pelt pattern, was successfully bred at De Wildt in 1981; it was previously thought to be extinct. These magnificent animals are very rare and you probably won't see one outside of the reserve, at least not this close up.

As well as cheetahs, visitors can see other animals such as wild dogs, brown hyenas, servals, caracals, honey badgers, meerkats, a few different antelope species, and vultures.

Tours provide a fascinating insight into some of Africa's most endangered predators. In an open truck you'll see cheetah of

different age groups being fed, and learn about their precarious existence in the wild. You can also go on a thrilling cheetah run, but only if you're fit! Professional wildlife photographers can also book special sessions with the cats (R2500). Bookings for

all activities are essential and you should call at least a week in advance.

To get to De Wildt from Pretoria (via Hartbeespoort), take Rte 5131 northwest for 34km – the centre is on the left, about half a kilometre off the main road.

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