



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

TOURISM TUESDAYS

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#TourismTuesdays

A word from the editor

Dear industry partner,

This week's edition of Tourism Tuesdays, looks at the arrival of Air China and Eswatini Air into South Africa. Air China touched down in South Africa last week, this is the first time that the airline has landed since COVID-19 travel restrictions were announced in March 2020. The return of Air China to South Africa is a significant step toward post-pandemic tourism sector recovery. In the same breath, Eswatini Air has also announced its planned operating schedule, fares and notice of reservations systems going live. This marks and brings an end to the long wait for the commencement date of Eswatini Air flights.

The direct flights bring phenomenal business opportunities and benefits of increased trade and investment between China and South Africa, as well as Swaziland and South Africa as the routes will make it easier for business travel between the two countries and South Africa. We also look at OR Tambo's plans to refurbishments and upgrade its infrastructure to remain a world-class international airport.

In this edition, we also look at highlights from the launch of Africa's Travel Indaba, which was officially launched by the new Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille; at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in the city of Durban, last week Wednesday.

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.

Have a great week.

Tourism Tuesdays Team



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Air China touches down in South Africa after 3 years

Air China touched down in South Africa last Wednesday for the first time since COVID-19 travel restrictions were announced in March 2020. The return of Air China to South Africa is a significant step toward post-pandemic tourism sector recovery.

Speaking at the event to welcome the direct flight, South African Tourism's Chief Operations Officer, Nomasonto Ndlovu said "We are thrilled to welcome Air China back to South Africa, China is one of our most promising source market for South Africa. Just before the pandemic, South Africa received nearly 100,000 visitors from China. Based on how the sector is recovering and the confidence shown in our destination by airline partners such as Air China, we believe it is possible to push the number to 1,000,000 by 2030. If we reach this target, more than R100bn in Chinese tourist spend could be generated over five years, reducing unemployment significantly."

Based on projections, South African Tourism expects to reach monthly pre-pandemic passenger numbers from China of approximately 8000 by September 2023. The resumption of this flight affords South Africa an opportunity to market and promote the destination with the comfort of knowing that our destination is indeed accessible to tourists from this market.

The direct flight also brings phenomenal business opportunities and benefits of increased trade and investment between China and South Africa, as the route will make it easier for business travel between the two countries.



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Africa's Travel Indaba 2023: towards Africa's tourism sector growth!

A new look Africa's Travel Indaba is set to re-energise delegates from across the world when the show takes place in Durban from the 8th to the 11th of May.

Last week, the new Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille; tourism role players and members of the media gathered at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in the city of Durban, to officially start the countdown to Africa's Travel Indaba 2023.

With about five weeks to go before Africa's Travel Indaba 2023 doors open, the trade show will not only have a new look but also promises a packed schedule with an even stronger emphasis on networking for optimising business opportunities for both exhibitors and buyers alike. Also joined by some virtual participants during the launch event, Minister de Lille highlighted the role Africa's Travel Indaba plays in contributing to Africa's tourism sector recovery and growth post the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our projections indicate that Africa's Travel Indaba for 2023 will contribute over R130 million to the city's GDP and create over 250 job opportunities. We anticipate a hotel occupancy rate of 90% which will be a major boost for the hospitality sector, said Councillor Phili Mbatha-Ndlovu; EThekwini Deputy Chairperson for Economic Development and Planning Committee. She added that the City is ready to roll-out a red carpet for all the delegates attending Indaba”.

Commenting on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) state of readiness to host the Africa's Travel Indaba 2023, Acting CEO of Tourism KZN, Mr Nhlanhla Khumalo said that “KwaZulu-Natal has more than 20 years' experience in hosting Africa's Travel Indaba together with a number of world class events and we are confident that this year will be no different. The province has adequate accommodation establishments within a reasonable travel distance to the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. With a number of airlines that fly directly to King Shaka International Airport (KSIA), domestic and international delegates should travel with ease to the province.”



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Eswatini Air introduces its operating schedule and fares in four phases

Eswatini Air is pleased to announce its planned operating schedule, fares and notice of reservations systems going live. This marks and brings an end to the long wait for the commencement date of Eswatini Air flights.'

Eswatini Air has deemed it proper to introduce its service in phases as follows:

In the first phase, the airline launched King Mswati III International (SHO) to Johannesburg (JNB) flights, operating two flights per day (an early morning rotation and a late afternoon rotation) effective 26th March 2023.

Phase 2: Harare (HRE) will be added to the schedule effective 14 April 2023, offering four flights per week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Phase 3: Durban (DUR) will be added to the schedule effective 5 May 2023, offering a flight each day of the week.

Phase 4 also includes introduction of a 3rd daily flight between SHO and JNB to be operated in the afternoon. Timings for this flight are such that departure from SHO is 11:30 arriving at JNB at 12:20, and departure from JNB is 14:10 arriving at SHO 15:00.

Phase 5: This is the final launch phase and entails addition of Cape Town to the route network effective 2nd June 2023. Cape Town will be operated 3 times per week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Reservations and ticketing system is now open for bookings and ticket purchases.

Email: reservations@eswatiniair.co.sz | Telephone: +2518 0100 | Website : www.eswatiniair.co.sz



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OR Tambo upgrades and refurbishments ‘on track’

Domestic and international travellers are in for a treat as OR Tambo gets upgrades. Projects to upgrade OR Tambo International Airport (JNB), which include the replacement of ageing parking equipment and the revamping of important infrastructure, remains on track, according to General Manager Jabulani Khambule.

“We currently have a total of more than 12 000 parking bays available and operational at OR Tambo, and the infrastructure upgrade will ensure that passengers and visitors to our airport can enjoy a seamless and hassle-free experience, whether making use of our short-term or long-term parking facilities.”

The revamped parking system now includes multiple payment options, additional high-tech security elements, round-the-clock surveillance and variable parking fees.

Khambule further noted that the relocation of public transport operators such as e-hailing, shuttles and meter taxis was one of the interventions that the airport had embarked on to ease traffic congestion on the roadways.

Focus projects for 2023

Khambule highlighted the following additional focus projects to be conducted at OR Tambo:

- Refurbishment of the roofs

“Our maintenance and engineering team will be revamping the roofs in a phased approach in the various parts of the airport.”

- Ablution facility revamp

Following concerns from passengers and airport users, Khambule announced that the airport would be revamping its ablution facilities.

“This will be a live project, which means that while the maintenance is taking place we will have to completely close off certain ablution facilities and do the construction, then open it up when the work has been completed. I know this may inconvenience some of our passengers because they will have to walk a little bit further to the next ablutions and we apologise for this. I request that you be patient for us as we improve our service and facilities.”

The ablution facilities’ revamp will be finished around October.

- Development of the intermodular transport facility

Facilities particularly aimed at airport employees will also be developed. “These are areas wherein airport workers can take a taxi in a convenient and safe environment,” Khambule concluded.



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South African Tourism congratulates Ms. Sello on her momentous appointment

The executive management and the entire staff of South African Tourism would like to congratulate Ms. Hapiloe Sello on her appointment as the first female Chief Executive Officer of South African National Parks (SANParks).

This is a special and significant moment for our tourism sector, as there still remains a big underrepresentation of women in executive positions in this sector.

Ms Sello's vast knowledge of the sector, immense business acumen, great insights and her collaborative spirit certainly make her the ideal person to lead this all-important entity that manages our country's national parks system.

Globally, sustainability has become even more important for the travel and tourism sector and the role that SANParks plays continues to make South Africa appealing to many travellers.

Over the years, South African Tourism has worked closely with Ms. Sello and the rest of the SANParks team, as we have partnered in delivering great projects that attracted many visitors to South Africa, helping drive our mandate of contributing to inclusive economic growth.

Ms. Sello's appointment is inspiring and is an acknowledgment of the important role that women play in the advancement of this sector. It also paves the way for many women to take up leadership positions.

We look forward to our continued partnership with SANParks with Ms. Sello at the helm.



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Experience of the week

Pineapple House Boutique Hotel, Cape Town, Western Cape

Pineapple House Boutique Hotel is an enchanting boutique hotel featuring nine beautifully appointed bedrooms; each with its unique character. Pineapples are considered an expression of “welcome” and symbolize assets we are invested in at our hotel – friendship, hospitality and warmth. With quirky fabrics and hugely inspiring artwork, blended effortlessly with delightfully modern, luxurious amenities, this will be a stay to remember. Our social impact partnerships are hugely important to us and will always be at the heart of our family owned business.

Catering to the modern day traveller and showcasing its creativity in its name and decor, Pineapple Boutique House is a whimsical welcoming establishment that will delight guests with its quirky character, artwork, and beautiful bedrooms.

Explore more here: [HYPERLINK THIS https://pineapplehouse.co.za/](https://pineapplehouse.co.za/)

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