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# A word from the editor

Dear Industry Partner,

Welcome to the month of June. In South Africa, June is Youth month, and it is Pride Month around the world. During this month, we honour the brave young people who took to the streets to protest against the apartheid government's decision to introduce Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in schools. The protests were met with brutal force from the police, resulting in the deaths of many young people.

The significance of Youth Month is to acknowledge the role that these young students played in the struggle for freedom and to celebrate their contribution to the development of the South Africa we have come to live in and enjoy. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that young people face today, including high rates of unemployment and poverty. June 16 is a very important day in our history and we continue to invite the world to come to our country to learn about this and other historic events that make our country's history and heritage so rich.

The month is marked by various activities, such as educational events, cultural performances, and community service initiatives, aimed at empowering and inspiring young people to become active citizens and leaders in their communities.

Pride Month on the other hand, is also celebrated in June every year in many countries around the world, including South Africa, to recognise and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. The month commemorates the Stonewall riots that took place in New York City in June 1969, when members of the LGBTQIA+ community protested against police brutality and harassment.

The significance of Pride Month is to promote equality, acceptance, and visibility of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is also a time to raise awareness of the ongoing struggles faced by the community, such as discrimination, violence, and stigma. The month is marked by various events, such as parades, marches, festivals, and educational workshops, aimed at promoting LGBTQIA+ rights and fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Inclusivity is very important for us at South African Tourism and that is why we had our fist inclusivity panel discussion and pledge signing at the recent Africa's Travel Indaba held in Durban, last month.

In celebrating and recognising the spirit of the New York Protestors in 1969 and the Youth in Soweto in 1976, the upcoming editions of Tourism Tuesday newsletter, during the month of June, will feature content that honours and celebrates them.

**[Please click here for a message from our Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille.](#)**

Best regards,

Tourism Tuesday Team



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# South Africa ranks 11th among the top 20 best LGBTQIA+ travel destinations in the world

According to a recent study by mydatingadviser.com, South Africa is ranked among the top 20 best LGBTQIA+ travel destinations in the world.

The key factors determining the most gay-friendly travel destinations included:

- 1. Social acceptance
- 2. Sexual activity rights
- 3. Civil union rights
- 4. Marriage rights
- 5. Adoption rights
- 6. Military service rights
- 7. Existence of anti-discrimination laws
- 8. Existence of gender identity laws

This study comes a few weeks after South African Tourism unveiled its commitments to inclusivity at the SATSA Conference which took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre. By pledging to create a more inclusive sector, tourism stakeholders, partners and industry demonstrated a more inclusive sector embracing the diverse needs of all visitors.

The study identified these 20 best countries for LGBTQIA+ travel:

- 1. Sweden (98,2 points)
- 2. Netherlands (97,6 points)
- 3. Spain (96,7 points)
- 4. France (95,8 points)
- 5. United Kingdom (96,7 points)
- 6. Germany (95,6 points)
- 7. Canada (95,5 points)
- 8. Australia (94,3 points)
- 9. Brazil (90,1 points)
- 10. Argentina (87,8 points)
- 11. South Africa (86,2 points)
- 12. Italy (82,5 points)
- 13. Israel (79,1 points)
- 14. United States (76,6 points)
- 15. Czech Republic (67,7 points)
- 16. Mexico (65,7 points)
- 17. Greece (64,4 points)
- 18. Poland (59,1 points)
- 19. Slovakia (58,2 points)
- 20. Philippines (56,9 points)



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

Bronwen Auret (SAT), Shama Nathoo (UATA), Thami Dish, Nishan Bolton (Ahmed Kathrada Foundation), Debbie Damant (SAT) Hannelie Du Toit (SATSA)



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# South Africa's youth leading on a global stage

Sakhile Ndhlovu, Business Development Coordinator at the South Africa National Convention Bureau, a business unit of South African Tourism, attended this year's IMEX Frankfurt knowing that he has positively contributed to the global business events industry. At this year's IMEX Frankfurt, which took place from the 23 to 25 May, Sakhile concluded his term as an ICCA council member following a year at the seat at ICCA's Future Leaders Council table.

ICCA stands for International Congress and Convention Association and is a global organisation that represents the international meetings, conferences, and events industry. Established in 1963, ICCA serves as a leading platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and business development in the field. ICCA supports the worldwide meetings sector by connecting experts, encouraging knowledge exchange, and promoting the value of meetings as a driver of economic and social progress.

"It is very special to me that I have been able to represent my country on such a global stage. Being part of the ICCA FLC afforded me an opportunity to develop and improve my leadership skills and contribute to shaping the global business events industry's future. I had the opportunity to engage in strategic discussions, collaborate on projects with young professionals from other countries and continents, and gain hands-on experience in shaping the direction of ICCA and the global business events industry. I will always value the access to a network of peers from around the world that I gained as this created opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional growth," said Sakhile.

Part of the work he has done over the last year includes participating in the "The Association of the Future" project elaborating on trends and changes with regard to associations, their membership models and structure as well as engagement opportunities in order to ensure strong, valuable associations in the future.

Though Sakhile's term in the ICC FLA comes to an end this year, he will become part of the become of the formal structures of the alumni of the ICCA Future Leaders Council. Another young South African, Gheeta Plyle will now join the council representing Africa.



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**TOURISM  
TUESDAYS**



# Netball World Cup trophy lands on African soil ahead of trophy tour

Friday, 9 June will mark 50 days before the start of the Vitality Netball World Cup 2023 (VNWC2023). Preparations are in full swing, with the famous tournament trophy having arrived on South African soil ahead of the highly-anticipated event taking place from 28 July to 6 August 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

With the VNWC2023 being the first Netball World Cup to take place on the continent of Africa, it was fitting that the trophy arrived in South Africa on Africa Day, 25th May, a day which is celebrated across the whole continent. The dates for the Trophy Tour are as follows: 4-8 June: Mpumalanga; 9-13 June: Limpopo; 14-18 June: Free State; 19-23 June: North West; 24-28 June: Northern Cape; 29 June - 3 July: Eastern Cape; 4-12 July: Western Cape

The VNWC2023 has always been considered as being more than just about the city of Cape Town and instead one for all of Africa to share, with four of the 16 competing nations African; South Africa, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Speaking on the excitement of the trophy tour, Africa Netball and Netball South Africa President Cecilia Molokwane said: "Let it be an African spectacle, showcasing our culture and our uniqueness as South Africa because we are a rainbow nation and to me showing that Africa can do it and women can do it is the most important thing, we want to leave a legacy".

Pictured at the trophy arrival ceremony is President of Netball South Africa, Cecilia Molokwane holding the trophy and to her left Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Nocawe Mafu, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube and MEC Sport, Arts and Culture, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba. Picture Credit: Rogan Ward



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TUESDAYS





# Zambia Airways launches a Lusaka to Johannesburg route

Zambia Airways officially launched a Lusaka to Johannesburg route on 1 June 2023. The route will rotate twice daily, seven days a week.

This initiative allows for greater market access to support growth and competition. No doubt, this flight will also contribute to the promotion of trade and tourism; increase the contribution to accelerated economic growth; increase the mobility of the regional market, promote a sustainable aviation industry; and environmental responsibility.

The number of visitors from Zambia to Johannesburg continues to increase, and the availability of a direct flight will further contribute to increasing the number of visitors travelling to visit friends, going on holiday and attend events.

The inaugural Zambia Airways flight was welcomed on the tarmac of O. R. Tambo International Airport by Gauteng MEC for Economic Development Tasneem Motara, GTA Chief Executive Officer Sthembiso Dlamini, Gauteng Air Access Technical Advisor Zukisa Ramasia and Gauteng Air Access representative Angela Kays, among others.

The Lusaka to Johannesburg route will increase connectivity between two important destinations in Southern Africa, thus increasing the opportunity for trade, investment, and business and leisure tourism.



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

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TUESDAYS**





## Good luck to all runners who will be running the Comrades Marathon this weekend

To all our amazing athletes who will be participating in the prestigious but grueling Comrades Marathon this year, we wish you all the best.

2023 sees the 96th edition of the Comrades Marathon, which is also known as the Ultimate Human Race and is the world's oldest and greatest ultra-marathon.

Runners from all over the world, will descend upon the Kwa Zulu-Natal province and will get to enjoy beautiful scenery and sites whilst experiencing the friendly cheers of supporters. Trying to complete an ultra-marathon is not only a test of physical strength and endurance but one that is a battle of mind over matter. "Running is a beautiful sport. Not only does one get to take in the beautiful sites, smells and sounds throughout the route, in South Africa, one also gets to experience the warm and welcoming spirit of our people who are always ready and willing to brave the weather just to offer a gesture of support to all runners," says Nomasonto Ndlovu, Acting CEO of South African Tourism



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# TGCSA Benchmark Properties

These are properties that are recommended by the Committee (during pre-screening and viewing) as properties that have exceptional product offerings (irrespective of the category and the star grading level) and which are escalated to the Brand Experience team at SA Tourism who are responsible for seeking new products in order to package itineraries for the use of the South African Tourism hosting needs; and to enable inclusive growth through itineraries that incorporate emerging/transformed businesses, encourage geographic spread across the country and address the misperceptions associated with seasonal travel.

## The following properties were identified as Benchmark properties:

### 1. VynGuest House

Location: Hout Bay, Western Cape

### 2. Future Found Sanctuary

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

### 3. Spioenkop Venue & Guest Farm

Location: Ermelo, Mpumalanga

### 4. Sanbona Game Reserve - Dwyka Tented Lodge

Location: Greater Kruger, Limpopo

### 5. Simola Hotel, Country Club & Spa

Location: Montagu, Western Cape



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

**TOURISM  
TUESDAYS**



# Experience of the week: Twin Ventures: Atlantis Sand Dunes, Cape Town

How 29-year-old identical twins Busi and Gugu decided to start a business offering quad-biking and sand-boarding in the Atlantis dunes, is a story of inspiration. And what more perfect name could they have chosen for their adventure travel company than Twin Venture!

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