



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

# TOURISM TUESDAYS

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# A word from the editor

Dear Industry Partner,

We have all put much effort and worked hard this year but now with the full festive and holiday season having kicked off we can take some time to reflect on the year that was while we make our way to exploring various parts of South Africa's nine provinces. Air and road traffic has no doubt increased and our ports of entry have also become busier with increased footfall. It is full Summer season and we are loving it!

In this week's edition of Tourism Tuesdays, our journey starts across the Atlantic, where the SA Tourism North America team has been making waves at the United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) Conference, showcasing South Africa's diverse offering and strengthening our country's ties with the international travel community.

In the bustling metropolis of New York, SA Tourism North America also recently hosted a media networking luncheon with the New York Travel Writers Association. This gathering served as a platform to foster meaningful connections and share the unique narratives that make South Africa an irresistible destination. It is through such engagements that we advance a positive narrative on the global stage.

South Africa has no shortage of wonderful products to explore. From cultural festivities to breathtaking landscapes, we invite you to explore the wonders of South Africa through the selection of amazing products and experiences that we feature this week. Explore any of these and you are guaranteed to add a touch of magic to your celebrations.

Wishing you a fun-filled summer season and may you soak in the soothing South African sun!

Festive Season regards,

Tourism Tuesdays Team



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# SA Tourism North America hosts market access luncheon ahead of USTOA Conference

SA Tourism's North America team recently conducted a market access and trade advocacy luncheon to bring together local travel agents and tour operators with South African suppliers who were visiting Los Angeles for the annual United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) Conference.

The event included a luncheon showcasing South Africa's decor, music, wine, and culture with destination updates shared by the SA Tourism team. Round table meetings with over 40 Los Angeles-based travel agents and tour operators were then conducted to share product updates and exchange contact information.

The products represented hotels, safari lodges, Destination management Companies (DMCs) and airlines in South Africa. Following the luncheon, the SA Tourism team and SA suppliers attended the USTOA Conference. This year's conference brought together over 1,000 members, and the North America team conducted 45 meetings with tour operators and key associate members including airlines, product, consortia, and trade media.



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# SA Tourism North America hosts media networking luncheon with New York Travel Writers Association

SA Tourism North America presented a networking luncheon with members of the New York Travel Writers (NYTW) Association in early December. NYTW members are leaders in American travel journalism and are important contributors to a broad range of media, including major consumer and trade magazines, newspapers, guidebooks, digital platforms, radio, and television.

SA Tourism delivered a destination update presentation that noted that 2023 US arrivals to South Africa (Jan - Oct) represent 94% of arrivals in the same period (Jan - Oct) in 2019, with this year-to-date result making the US the top overseas market for South Africa. The team also discussed media opportunities for Africa's Travel Indaba 2024 and shared the new Trevor Noah video created by TBCSA in association with TOMSA with the 65 guests in attendance.



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# Fly to Gqeberha with SAA

Holidaymakers and business travellers can now fly to South Africa’s ‘friendly city’, Gqeberha, in the Eastern Cape with South African Airways (SAA). The first flight from Johannesburg to Gqeberha departed on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 11h25.

With December and January being some of the busiest travel periods in South Africa, customers can now take advantage of SAA’s flights to Gqeberha, which links the two economic hubs of Gauteng and the Eastern Cape. This route provides much needed connectivity for business and connecting families and friends.

SAA offers two return flights per day, seven days a week - between OR Tambo International Airport and Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport in Gqeberha - for the duration of the festive season (see daily flight schedule below).

Flight Number	Origin	ETD	Destination	
SA405	JNB	11:25	PLZ	13:00
SA410	PLZ	13:30	JNB	15:05
SA419	JNB	16:00	PLZ	17:35
SA422	PLZ	18:05	JNB	19:40

The Gqeberha route is a special seasonal route and forms part of SAA’s plans to continue expanding its routes in the months to come. It aims to provide customers with greater options and more seamless travel during the peak festive season.

Access SAA’s updated flight schedule on [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com) for all flights and best fares.



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## New Product: The Shed & Silo

Location: Benoni, Gauteng

The Shed & Silo café stands as a distinctive endeavour, an ongoing project filled with delightful surprises. Visitors are invited to embrace the journey with the Shed & Silo as they explore an unconventional and unique place, offering simple yet delectable food and coffee. Whether you prefer beer, a glass of wine, or a cocktail, this establishment provides an unhurried, tranquil atmosphere with light music—a perfect setting to unwind and let time pass by. The Shed & Silo is a perpetual labour of love, a dynamic venture. They are committed to continually shaping the distinctive ambience that can't be found elsewhere.



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## New Product: Divine Foods at The View Restaurant

Location: Graskop, Mpumalanga

Divine Foods At The View presents an exceptional dining establishment adorned with antique treasures and a captivating view of the Graskop Gorge and mountains. Visitors can experience a heavenly dining journey, where they can immerse themselves in awe-inspiring vistas while savouring a delectable array of pizzas, mouthwatering curries, and exquisite vegetarian dishes. Garnering top ratings on TripAdvisor, this restaurant has become the preferred restaurant for discerning diners. When exploring Graskop, consider Divine Foods at The View as the ultimate choice for an unforgettable dining experience.



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# New Product: Nkuhlu Tented Camp

Location: Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga

Nkuhlu Tented Camp, an undiscovered gem tucked away in the heart of the renowned Kruger National Park, beckons visitors to enter a pristine wilderness for an extraordinary journey filled with wonder and enchantment. Visitors can immerse themselves in the untouched beauty of the surroundings, where the symphony of nature envelops them, while untamed wildlife freely roams in this unfenced tented camp. Strategically located just 25 km east of Skukuza Rest Camp on the H4-1 and 23 km west of Lower Sabie Rest Camp on the H4-1 in the Kruger National Park, Nkuhlu Tented Camp provides an exceptional setting for an unforgettable safari experience. Whether you are a daring adventurer seeking thrilling encounters or a nature enthusiast longing for tranquil solitude, Nkuhlu Tented Camp stands as the ultimate destination.



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# Christmas Market for Families: Momo's magical adventure

Location: Sandton City, Gauteng

“Momo’s Magical Adventure” unfolds as a proudly South African narrative brimming with joy, friendship, and generosity, offering a heartwarming experience akin to sipping hot chocolate. This classic tale takes on a unique Joburg twist, as Momo’s friends embark on summer holidays to the seaside, leaving her as the sole resident of the city. Enter Momo’s imaginative world, where kudus take on the enchanting task of pulling Santa’s hot air balloon. This captivating live performance serves as an ideal holiday entertainment for young families, with four daily shows. Set within a specially crafted tent, the spectacle transforms Sandton City’s centre court (outside Checkers) into a realm of wonder.



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# Staycation Specials : African Pride Irene Country Lodge

Location: Pretoria, Gauteng

For those Gauteng residents, seeking a brief and well-deserved staycation, African Pride Irene Country Lodge, Autograph Collection presents tailored deals to accommodate various purposes. Whether it's a rejuvenating break with the family, an opulent pampering retreat, or a romantic rendezvous with a special someone, the lodge offers an array of options. Positioned as an ideal retreat to relax and unwind, it strikes the perfect balance of a time away and close proximity to home. Explore their selection of special offers and embark on a delightful stay.



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# Staycation Specials: Maslow Time Square

Location: Pretoria, Gauteng

Discover the exquisite Maslow Time Square in Menlyn Maine. Take advantage of the SunScapes Stay package, starting from R2,400 per room per night\*, inclusive of breakfast. Please note that a minimum two-night stay is required over the weekend, and this exclusive package applies solely to South African residents. Rates are based on a per-room, per-night basis for a Standard Twin/Double Room. The Maslow Time Square is within close proximity to the world-class entertainment at the Time Square Casino as well as amazing restaurants, and lots of shopping opportunities at Menlyn Mall!



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