



TOURISM TUESDAYS

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#TourismTuesdays

NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION



Inspiring new ways

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we wrap up the eleventh month of 2025, we reflect on the remarkable progress we've made together as a sector. It's been a year defined by partnership, resilience, and a renewed sense of global momentum for South Africa's tourism sector. Now, as we begin to wind down the year and prepare for the festive season, we take stock of and celebrate the milestones that have elevated our destination onto the world stage.

In this edition, we look back at an extraordinary month for Team South Africa. From the successful wrap-up of the G20 engagements, to our vibrant presence at WTM London and IBTM World Barcelona, November has demonstrated the strength of our collective effort and the growing international appetite for South Africa's diverse tourism offering.

One of the standout highlights, of course, is the global recognition our country received in London. Accolades like this reaffirm South Africa's standing as one of the world's most inspiring travel destinations.

We also bring you exciting organisational news, including the appointment of Corné Koch as the new Chief Convention Bureau Officer at the South African National Convention Bureau (SANCB), an important leadership milestone as we gear up for Meetings Africa 2026 and Africa's Travel Indaba 2026.

This month's edition spotlights our expanding reach into priority markets. We hosted influential Mexican media and trade partners. You'll also find updates on the 50th Selectour Congress taking place in Cape Town. There's also an invitation to apply for certification from the Event Greening Forum. Lastly, we celebrate the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa's (TGCSA) Premium and Benchmark properties that are setting the bar for tourism excellence.

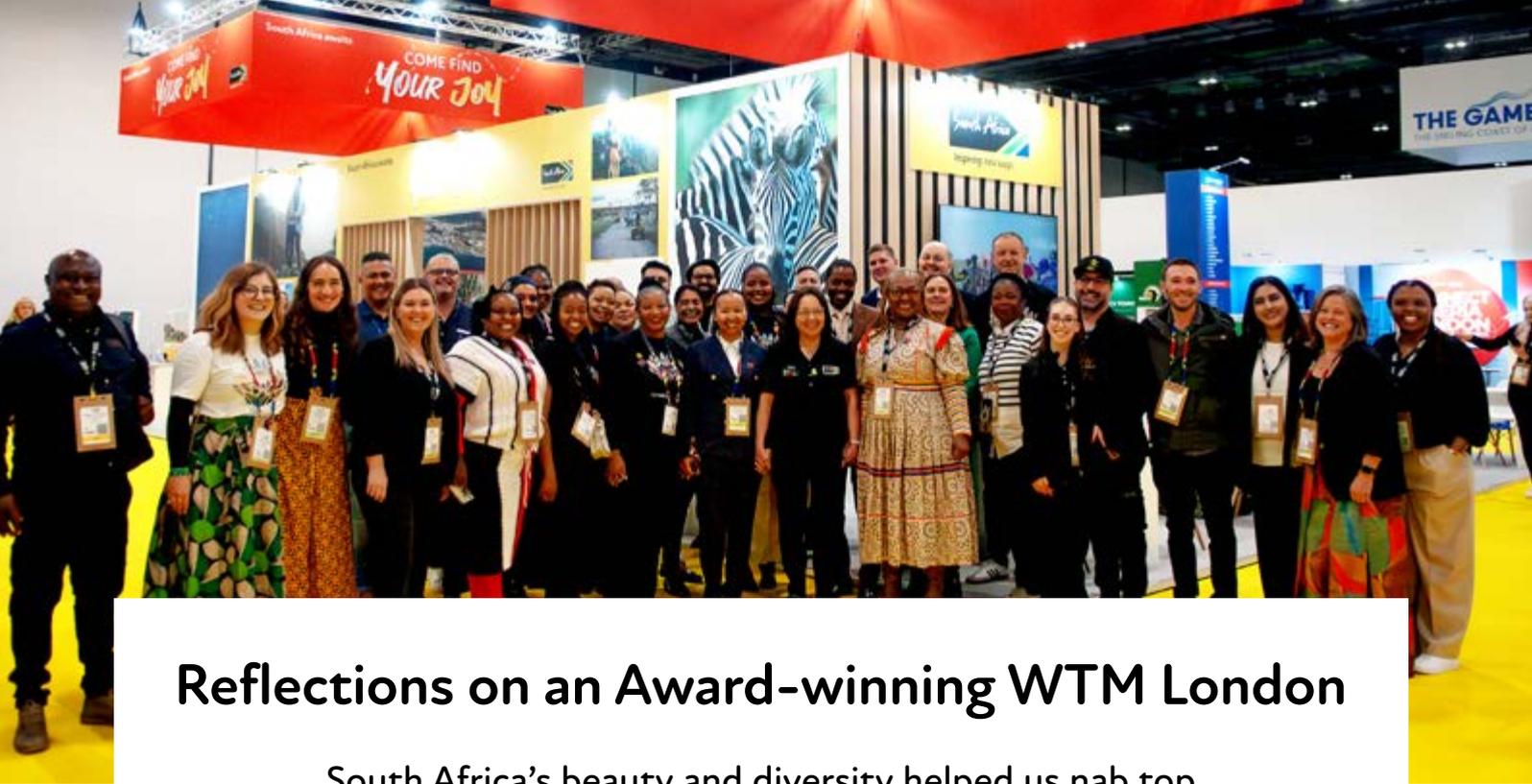
For travellers and for those who share our passion for storytelling, you'll enjoy a journey through South Africa's unparalleled golf landscapes, an exploration of our archaeological heritage, and a look at innovative travel options for the LGBTQIA+ community.

As we look ahead to the final month of the year, we're proud of all we have achieved. We're energised by the partnerships that drive us forward, and confident in the bright horizon that awaits South African Tourism.

South Africa Awaits. Come Find Your Joy!

**Regards,
Tourism Tuesdays Team**





Reflections on an Award-winning WTM London

South Africa's beauty and diversity helped us nab top global honours at the recent WTM held in London, in the UK.

As we look back at WTM London, which took place from 4-6 November, South Africa enjoyed an energising and impactful start to a month marked by strong global engagement and major international recognition.

A vibrant South African presence

The South Africa stand was a dynamic hub throughout the show, with 22 stand sharers engaging trade partners, media, and key stakeholders from around the world. The country's rich and diverse tourism offering, from immersive wildlife and adventure experiences to vibrant culture, cuisine, and heritage, was showcased with pride.

This year's WTM continued to reflect a growing interest in South Africa as a top holiday destination, supported by ongoing positive growth in international arrivals, up 17% from January to September 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.

Celebrating global accolades in London

Adding to the excitement, South Africa won two prestigious international travel awards in London:

- **Top Destination for 2026:**
Kruger National Park
Lonely Planet Best in Travel Awards
Recognised for its breathtaking landscapes, iconic wildlife encounters, and warm hospitality, the Kruger National Park was named *Lonely Planet's* Top Destination for 2026 during a ceremony at London's National Portrait Gallery.
- **Gold Winner: Most Desirable Destination for Nature and Wildlife**
Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards 2025
Thousands of *Wanderlust* readers voted South Africa as the Gold Award recipient, reaffirming our reputation as a leading destination for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

“This kind of recognition reaffirms South Africa's position as one of the world's most inspiring and sought-after travel destinations,” said Darryl Erasmus, Acting CEO of South African Tourism. “We're immensely proud of our teams and partners, who continue to showcase South Africa's beauty and diversity on the global stage.”



South Africa's Bold Showing at IBTM World

South African Tourism leveraged every opportunity at this year's IBTM World conference to cement our global MICE leadership, while accelerating economic inclusion and SMME growth.

South Africa showcased its innovation, competitiveness, and long-term growth ambition at IBTM World 2025, where South African Tourism and its business unit, the South Africa National Convention Bureau (SANCB), represented the country in Barcelona.

As one of the world's leading global gatherings for the business events industry, IBTM World gave South Africa a prime platform to reaffirm its position as Africa's business events powerhouse and a competitive, inclusive, world-class MICE destination.

The event brought together thousands of global event professionals, decision-makers, and suppliers for three days of dealmaking, networking, knowledge exchange, and innovation showcases. Our involvement aligned with our tourism sector growth agenda, the Government of National Unity's focus on economic inclusion, and the industry's ongoing commitment to transforming and diversifying the business events value chain.

Driving global competitiveness and economic impact

In the first half of 2025, the SANCB submitted 64 bids, with the potential to generate R1.12-billion for the national economy. Of these, 35 international events had already been secured, projected to attract 15 975 delegates and inject R415-million into South Africa's economic pipeline.

These achievements reflect the strength of South Africa's integrated business events strategy and the

country's ongoing efforts to attract high-impact meetings, conventions, and exhibitions aligned with key national economic sectors, including life sciences, manufacturing, agriculture, and medical sciences.

At IBTM World, South Africa strengthened its appeal to global buyers with strong infrastructure, authentic culture, competitive pricing, and an evolving MICE ecosystem.

Positioning for growth in a trillion-dollar sector

This year's participation carried extra significance as South Africa began building towards the 20th anniversary of Meetings Africa 2026, a milestone moment for the continent's MICE sector. With the global industry's attention fixed on Barcelona, IBTM World offered an ideal moment to elevate South Africa and Africa's collective business events narrative.



The South African Tourism stand at IBTM World 2025 showcased our country's tourism and meetings capabilities.

“South Africa’s business events industry continues to demonstrate a deep commitment to economic transformation,” said Darryl Erasmus, Acting CEO of South African Tourism.

The global MICE industry is valued at more than US\$1.1-trillion in 2024 and is forecast to grow steadily until 2032. It continues to offer major opportunities for destinations like South Africa, which combine infrastructure, innovation, and authentic cultural identity.

Our interactions at IBTM World reflected the country's readiness to harness this momentum, where engagements with international buyers focused on themes of growth, transformation, and regional collaboration, showing we are future-fit and investment-ready.

Building SMME pathways through purposeful partnerships

A defining feature of South Africa's IBTM World 2025 showcase was its emphasis on SMME development and inclusion. Strategic partnerships with the Small

Tourism Enterprise Association (STEA), the South African Township and Village Tourism Association (SATOVITO), and the Southern African Association for the Conference Industry (SAACI) helped build sustainable market access for emerging businesses.

“Partnerships are vital for strengthening our position as a competitive, inclusive MICE destination,” said Glenton de Kock, CEO of SAACI. “Strategic events such as IBTM World continue to provide a platform for the next generation of South African MICE professionals to grow and succeed on the global stage as we engage directly with global stakeholders,”

As Erasmus noted, “Together with our partners, South Africa is building a bridge from local talent to global markets. This is how the sector grows to become a leading business events destination.”



MEETINGS AFRICA

Meetings Africa 2026 Registrations Are Open

Media professionals, exhibitors and buyers can now secure their place at Meetings Africa 2026, with registrations officially open for the landmark 20th edition of this leading Pan-African business event.

Registrations for Meetings Africa 2026 are officially open, and this 20-year milestone edition is set to take place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg from 24 to 25 February 2026, with BOND^{ay} kicking things off on 23 February. Meetings Africa 2026 is a platform built to spotlight Africa's world-class business events capacity, and it is shaping up to be its most compelling yet.

Every year, Meetings Africa gathers delegates from the industry and interested media parties to showcase what the continent has to offer across the Meetings Incentives Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) sector. The show brings together conference venues and accommodation providers, as well as

local, provincial and national convention bureaus, destination marketing companies, professional conference organisers, and the many support services that keep business events running smoothly. The event is designed to demonstrate Africa's depth and readiness to compete globally, while giving the industry a central meeting point to connect, collaborate and grow.

For media and tourism professionals, this is where the continent's MICE sector gathers and destinations introduce what's new. Meetings Africa is where key players unpack the shifts shaping the industry and where the conversations that matter most unfold in real time. Meetings Africa isn't just a trade show, it's a connections ecosystem that gives a panoramic view



MEETINGS AFRICA

**REGISTRATIONS
ARE OPEN!**

Now's the time to
secure your place!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

of South Africa and the continent's capacity to be generous, capable, world-class host destinations, all under one roof.

A milestone year powered by growth

Meetings Africa 2025 brought together 371 buyers and 382 exhibitors from 22 African countries, and the 2026 edition is expected to build on this momentum by placing African success stories firmly in the spotlight and demonstrating how far the industry has come in two decades.

The event will also show how South Africa and the continent have become more co-ordinated, confident and intentional about showcasing our capacity as a competitive and credible, world-class business events destination. Nowhere was this more evident than in our successful hosting of the recent G20 Summit. These achievements, plus Africa's increased global role, highlighted our relevance as a world-class MICE destination.



SA Tourism appoints Corné Koch to lead the SANCB

With more than 20 years' experience in the sector, Corné Koch takes the reins as the new Chief Convention Bureau Officer from 1 December 2025.



“The appointment of Corné as our new Chief Convention Bureau Officer demonstrates our commitment to building a strong, capable, and visionary executive team,” said Darryl Erasmus, Acting CEO and COO of South African Tourism. “Strengthening leadership within our organisation is vital as we move into a defining era for South African Tourism.”

Koch joins the team bringing more than 20 years' experience in tourism destination marketing and promotion across South Africa. Most recently, she served as Head of the Cape Town and Western Cape Convention Bureau at Wesgro, where she led a high-performing team responsible for positioning the Western Cape as Africa's top business-events destination.

Commenting on her appointment, Koch said: “I'm honoured to join the South African National Convention Bureau and to continue its role in strengthening South Africa as the continent's premier home for business events. Business events are powerful drivers of economic and knowledge growth for a destination, extending far beyond tourism. Our industry thrives because of its passionate professionals across government, academia and industry who contribute to the growth of this sector.”

Her leadership comes at an ideal time as we prepare for the 20th edition of Meetings Africa in February 2026 and Africa's Travel Indaba in May 2026, two flagship events that showcase the best of Africa's tourism and business events sectors.



“ Business events are powerful drivers of economic and knowledge growth for a destination, extending far beyond tourism. Our industry thrives because of its passionate professionals.”
- Corné Koch, Chief Convention Bureau Officer

Be Our Guest

South African Tourism recently hosted an influential Mexican delegation as part of a focussed strategy to unlock one of Latin America's most promising outbound travel markets.



Mexico already ranks among South Africa's top five watchlist markets, recording 2 969 arrivals between January and July 2025.

With clear growth potential and a mature travelling audience, the market requires targeted interventions to strengthen familiarity, diversify itineraries, and inspire return travel.

This hosting activation, spanning Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, aimed to amplify South Africa's unparalleled tourism offerings to a well-travelled, experience-driven Mexican audience through high-value media coverage and trade engagement.

Why Golf Tourism?

Mexico has more than 200 000 active golfers and a rapidly expanding community of golf travellers seeking new, exotic destinations beyond traditional favourites like the United States and Spain.



A unique South African proposition

South Africa offers an unmatched blend of championship golf courses and breathtaking landscapes, creating golf experiences you won't find anywhere else. Courses such as Leopard Creek, Fancourt, and the Gary Player Country Club at Sun City are globally recognised, but remain largely undiscovered in Latin America, which is why hosting this delegation was so important.

Localised, Spanish-language exposure through trusted Mexican media channels provides an opportunity to unlock an entirely new inbound market.

Unlocking the Mexican market: a strategic priority

Mexican travellers already possess a positive awareness of South Africa, yet there remains significant opportunity to grow arrivals by showcasing experiences that go beyond traditional routes. By curating encounters that blend culture, wildlife, adventure, gastronomy, and city lifestyle, South African Tourism sought to demonstrate the country's depth and diversity.

Key insights driving this golf focus include how:

Mexican golf travellers spend approximately US\$8 000 per international trip.

Their itineraries typically include seven to 10 nights of high-end accommodation, fine dining, luxury experiences, and premium green fees.

This segment provides substantial value per visitor and aligns with South Africa's world-class golf and leisure offerings.



Tourism Takes the Limelight in G20 Summit Success

In our hosting of global delegates for the G20 Summit, South Africa showed the world exactly how tourism can anchor a nation's confidence just as much as its economy.



South Africa's successful conclusion of the 2025 G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg marked a watershed moment for the country's tourism sector. As the summit drew to a close, South African Tourism's hand in clearly positioning South Africa as a world-class host destination to delegates from around the world helped them to Come Find Their Joy.

Ahead of the summit, South African Tourism noted that, in the first half of the year, the National Convention Bureau had submitted 64 bids with an economic potential of R1.12 billion and secured 35 international events, attracting 15 975 delegates and contributing approximately R415 million to the economy.

Darryl Erasmus, Acting CEO of South African Tourism said: "South Africa is proud to host the G20 and we've been looking forward to offering delegates an exceptional stay that blends world-class business excellence with unforgettable discovery."

Enabling policy and infrastructure in action

Parallel to the destination platform, the Department of Tourism and industry stakeholders delivered facilitation and infrastructure enhancements ahead of the summit. For example, the Department launched the Smart Visitors' Information Centre at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, described by Minister Patricia de Lille as "modern, digital, accessible and globally competitive" and a key step in readiness for the summit.

In her remarks during the G20 Tourism Minister's Meeting in Mpumalanga, the Minister stated that South Africa's G20 presidency must deliver "real opportunities that you can see and feel in your daily life". Additionally, the Department went on to emphasise that the value of the summit for tourism extends into SMMEs and encourages local economic inclusion.

Tourism elevated within the summit

framework

While many socioeconomic issues took centre stage, tourism was not sidelined but an integral part of the summit's overall success. The G20 theme of 'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability' tied directly into the tourism sector's inclusion and transformation agenda.

South Africa's first-ever hosting of the G20 put our hospitality, service standards and destination readiness under global scrutiny, giving the country and our capabilities as a world-class host, a major profile boost.

Meanwhile, Minister De Lille outlined strategic operational priorities: digital innovation, investment, air connectivity and resilience for tourism. She said: "We must increase regional and international air links, streamlined visa and border procedures, and cleaner aviation technologies to boost tourism, stimulate trade and co-operation."

An holistic view of the partnership

South African Tourism's destination readiness narrative and the Department's inclusive, enabling policy agenda complemented one another. South African Tourism's welcoming message to delegates emphasised the country's breadth and warmth. At the same time, the Department's programmes extended benefits into communities and tech-enabled tourism models. The partnership between the two reflects a holistic approach that spans marketing, infrastructure, digitalisation and inclusion.



With the summit behind us, the task for the industry is clear: to translate the global spotlight into sustained visitation, investment and inclusive growth. Meanwhile, Minister De Lille reminded the sector that tourism is not just about leisure travel, but also about jobs, transformation and inclusive growth. Let's unite as the private and public sector, and keep the momentum going, so that the surge in profile and demand becomes a durable advantage for South African tourism long into the future.

What the summit means for travel industry stakeholders

For the travel and tourism sector, the outcomes of the G20 could potentially mean more in the future than at the time of the event itself:

- **Accommodation, hospitality and experiential operators** benefitted from elevated global attention and demand, but were also tested on standards, logistics and service consistency.
- **Tour-operators and regional experiences** had the opportunity to show visitors and delegates the depth of our way of life, from city, coast and nature, to heritage and community-based tourism.
- **Business-events (MICE)** suppliers now have a stronger platform. The scaling of bids and the pipeline secured ahead of the summit and our ability as a host destination give long-term prospects.
- **SMMs and local tourism entrepreneurs** gained visibility, as the Department's outreach and inclusion strategy meant local community enterprises, craft makers, guides and accommodation businesses were part of the economy of the summit.
- **Policy, facilitation and connectivity partners** will benefit from momentum in smoother arrivals, upgraded infrastructure, upgraded visitor information and digital platforms enabled ahead of the summit.



AirlinePros Unite!

SA Tourism’s Global Trade Relations team attended the AirlinePros Global Conference in Cape Town for some powerhouse industry sessions.



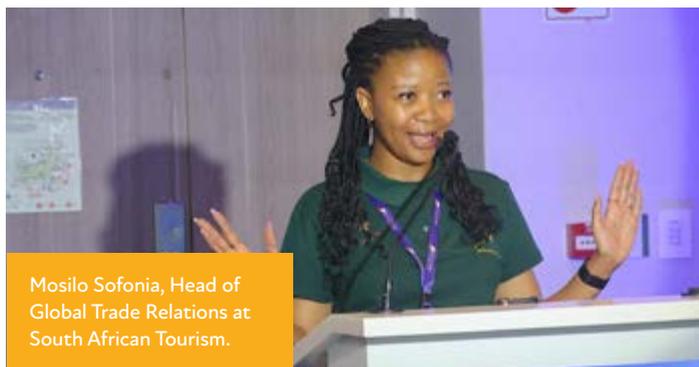
The AirlinePros Global Conference 2025 brought together aviation leaders, tourism authorities, global distribution experts, and trade partners for two powerful days of insights, strategy, and collaboration in Cape Town.

The agenda for the conference covered four main themes:

- **Aviation and travel industry insights:** Market intelligence, global travel trends, distribution transformation, and retail modernisation.
- **Tourism development and sustainability:** Inclusive growth, market competitiveness, and collaboration.
- **AI, digital transformation and personalisation:** How AI, data, and digital tools are reshaping destination management.
- **Global networking and partnerships:** Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, Middle East, and the Americas.

Group photo, above:

From left to right: Achma Asokan Foster, Group CEO, AirlinePros International; Mosilo Sofonia, Head of Global Trade Relations, SA Tourism; Dorine Reinstein, Content Director at Big Ambitions; Elcia Grandcourt, Regional Director for Africa, UN Tourism; Matongo Matamwandi, CEO, Zambia Tourism Agency; Keitumetse Setlang, CEO, Botswana Tourism Organisation; Julia Louw, Chief Tourism Officer, Wesgro; Sebulon Chicalu, CEO, Namibia Tourism Board; Klaus Becker, Business Development Officer at Flying Carpet; and Captain David Savy, Aviation and Tourism expert from Seychelles.



Mosilo Sofonia, Head of Global Trade Relations at South African Tourism.



Above: Mosilo Sofonia, Head of Global Trade Relations, SA Tourism; Achma Asokan Foster, Group CEO, AirlinePros International; Refilwe Fosu-Amoah, Global Trade Relations Officer.



Congress Celebrates Golden Jubilee in Cape Town

From 27 to 28 November, the Cape Town International Convention Centre will host the 50th Selectour Congress.

This landmark edition of the congress will bring together more than 500 practitioners from across the French travel ecosystem, including travel agencies, airlines, tour operators, technology partners, and industry innovators.

As the largest annual gathering of travel professionals in France, the Selectour Congress will be held under the theme '*Cap sur l'avenir*' (meaning, 'setting sail for the future'). Its programme will explore the evolving landscape of the tourism industry and the strategic decisions required to stay ahead in a rapidly changing world.

Organised by France's Selectour Group, which represents more than 1 000 agencies and is one-third of France's travel agents, the conference will showcase the richness of South Africa and how the destination is suited to the expectations of French travellers.

During the event, SA Tourism's South Europe hub will showcase the 2025 global brand campaign: 'South Africa Awaits – Come Find Your Joy!' to the French travel trade.



Patricia de Lille, our Minister of Tourism, will give a keynote address at the congress on 27 November 2025 at 10:00 in the CTICC's Ballroom auditorium.



Making Green Events Count

South Africa's new EGF Certification gives the events industry a credible, measurable way to prove its sustainability efforts.



The launch of the Event Greening Forum's (EGF) Certification label has arrived at the ideal time, since sustainability has become a priority for attendees, sponsors and host destinations, so it makes sense that the sector now has a tool that shows when its efforts are real and not just unsubstantiated hype.

John Arvanitakis, the EGF Chairperson, says the goal is simple: to provide a reliable benchmark that lifts standards and builds trust.

"EGF Certification gives us a measurable, credible way to demonstrate responsible event practices and build confidence in the market," Arvanitakis said. "We hope that it will elevate standards, strengthen stakeholder confidence, and send a clear message that South Africa is committed to global sustainability leadership."

Built on standards and localised best practice

The certification is based on the EGF's Minimum Standards for Sustainable Events, released in 2017 as South Africa's first set of localised guidelines. These standards have since been tested, refined and adopted widely across the country and now form the backbone of the certification's evaluation framework. Launched in October, the system has already been applied to the G20 events in Mpumalanga, hosted by the Department of Tourism and South African Tourism.

Why certification matters and how it works

Instead of a basic box-ticking exercise, EGF

Certification measures how well an event meets each requirement of the standards. It scores performance, awards Gold, Silver or Bronze levels, and withholds certification entirely if minimum standards aren't met. Independent accredited assessors ensure integrity, and the scoring system makes it possible to compare events of different types and sizes.

Greg McManus, Founder of Sustainability Benchmark Solutions (SBS) and co-developer of both the standards and certification, highlights why this practise is so important: "The key strength of this system is its integrity," McManus said.

"It's independent, measurable and transparent, giving the industry a tool that not only avoids greenwashing but also rewards genuine effort and ongoing improvement."

Benefits for Clients, Industry and the Country
EGF Certification strengthens reputations, makes sustainability performance visible and can lead to long-term cost efficiencies. Event owners benefit from clearer community engagement and more meaningful sustainability outcomes.

For organisers and professional conference organisers, it sharpens professional offerings and contributes to a competitive edge in a market where clients increasingly expect credible sustainability action.

For the broader tourism sector, it creates consistency, reduces the risk of greenwashing, and boosts confidence among international buyers and delegates. It also supports South Africa's long-term sustainability and regenerative tourism objectives.

Who can apply for certification?

All event types qualify, from conferences and exhibitions to public gatherings, sporting events, festivals and large-scale corporate events.

Becoming certified

Event owners and organisers first need to implement sustainability practices. Arvanitakis strongly recommends bringing a sustainability consultant on board early.

The process is straightforward: contact the EGF, choose an independent accredited assessor from its database, but only on the proviso that the assessor hasn't consulted for the applying event within the previous two years. If they have not, contact the assessor directly, and wait for their evaluation report. The EGF then reviews the findings and issues the Certification outcome.

Becoming an accredited assessor

If you're a sustainability professionals who would like to apply to become an EGF assessor, apply by submitting an application form and a portfolio of evidence to the EGF. Once chosen, successful applicants will have to complete training with SBS before getting their assessor accreditation.



Missed the webinar?

The EGF hosted a webinar on 19 November, presented by McManus and titled *The Road to Certification*. You can view it at www.eventgreening.co.za/certification.

For more information, email: info@eventgreening.co.za
or call: +27 82 891 5883.



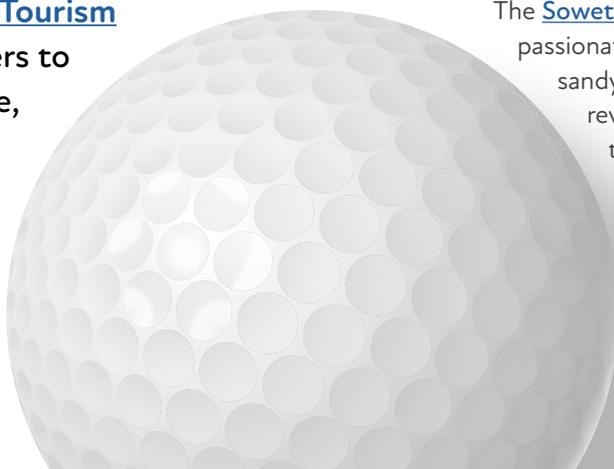
It's Golf Season

South African is a golfer's haven with some of the finest fairways in the world.

To golf in South Africa is to weave the game into memory: sunrise safari drives, vineyard terraces, coastal road trips and nights gathered around the fire, whether you're a solo golfer or out with buddies. This is the golfing experience

[South African Tourism](#)

invites travellers to discover – here, you don't just play, you step into scenery.



GAUTENG

Steyn City

[The Club at Steyn City](#) offers an immaculate 18-hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus's team at Nicklaus Design. It follows the Jukskei River across more than 90 hectares of parkland, with wide fairways, 75 bunkers and sweeping water features.

Soweto

The [Soweto Country Club](#) was founded in 1974 by passionate community golfers who first played on sandy greens. In 2017, the club underwent a full revitalisation thanks to Justice Matshaya and the Sunshine Tour, supported by the City of Johannesburg and private partners. Today, the club stands as an emblem of township enterprise and shared pride.

■ NORTH WEST

Sun City

Sun City offers two of the country's – and Gary Player's – most recognised courses: [the Gary Player Country Club](#) and the [Lost City Golf Course](#). The Country Club is known for its strategic play and immaculate shaping, and is also home to 'Africa's Major,' the iconic, annual Nedbank Golf Challenge, played here since 1981 and welcoming some of golf's greatest players.

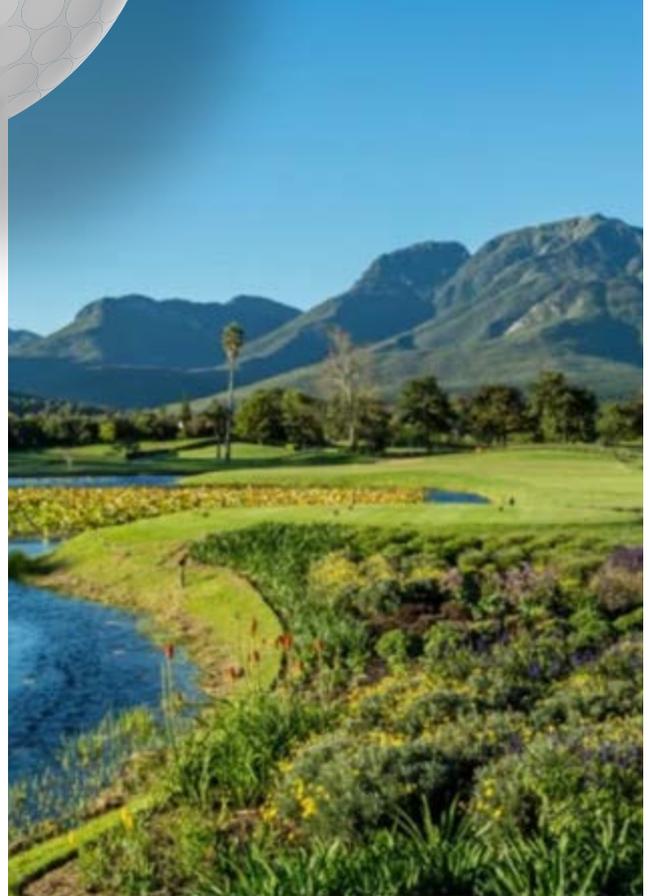
■ WESTERN CAPE & GARDEN ROUTE

Fancourt and Oubaai

If dramatic golf landscapes help your game, [Fancourt](#) offers three acclaimed courses, including The Links, designed by Gary Player and architect Phil Jacobs. It's a fairway that feels sculpted and contours the wild dune systems of the Southern Cape. Alternatively, the course at Oubaai, designed by Ernie Els, unfolds above the ocean at Herolds Bay, with generous lines and calm elegance.

Pearl Valley, Erinvale and De Zalze

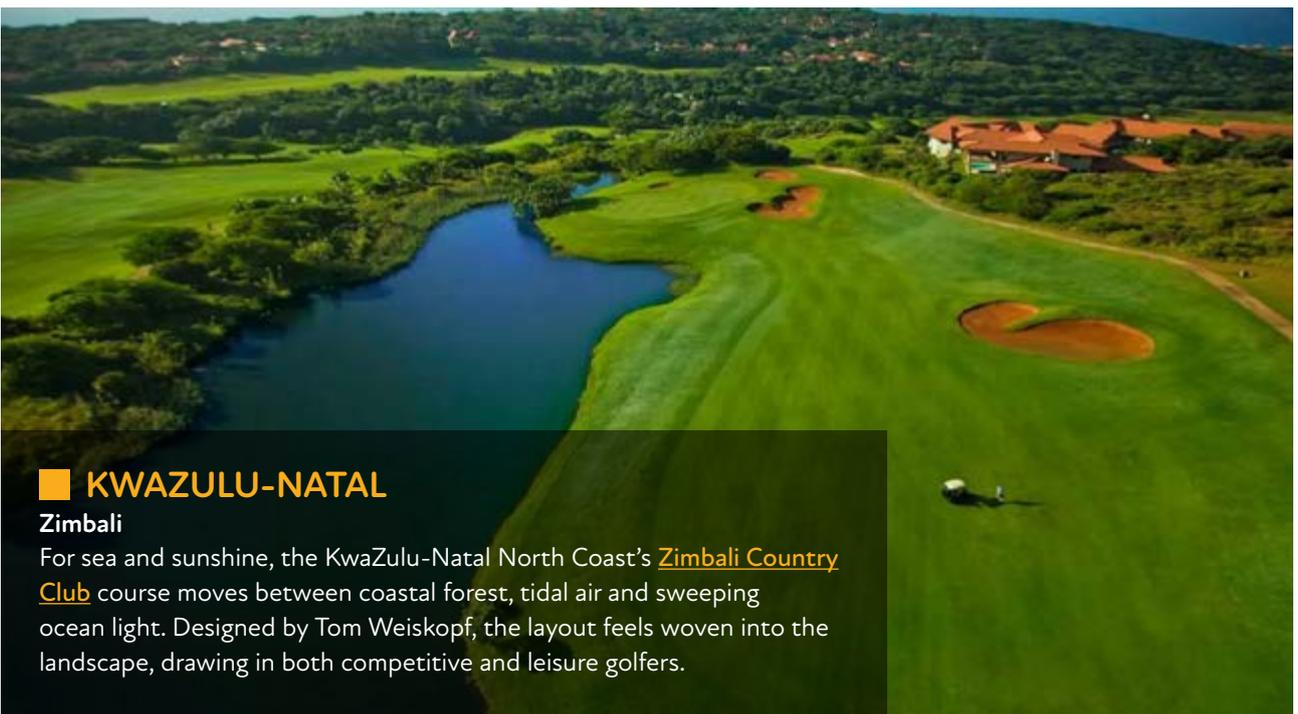
[Pearl Valley](#), a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course in Franschhoek, offers generous fairways and water features set against dramatic ridgelines. Nearby, [Erinvale](#), designed by Gary Player and resting beneath the Helderberg, has tree-lined fairways and soft valley light, while [De Zalze](#) in Stellenbosch was shaped by South African architect Peter Matkovich and moves through orchards and vineyards.



■ MPUMALANGA

Leopard Creek

In the golden bushveld near the Kruger National Park lies [Leopard Creek](#), designed by Gary Player, in partnership with owner Johann Rupert. The course opens out onto the Crocodile River and the wilderness beyond, framing nature so that the horizon runs unbroken into the reserve. It's also not unusual to see giraffes or antelope moving quietly in the distance.



■ KWAZULU-NATAL

Zimbali

For sea and sunshine, the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast's [Zimbali Country Club](#) course moves between coastal forest, tidal air and sweeping ocean light. Designed by Tom Weiskopf, the layout feels woven into the landscape, drawing in both competitive and leisure golfers.



Let's Talk South African Archaeology

From world-renowned fossil sites to rock art, ancient kingdoms and dinosaur remains, South Africa offers some of the richest archaeological experiences on Earth.

Stuck for where to explore this festive holiday season? Let your inner Indiana Jones (or Dora the Explorer) out to play at some of our country's oldest and most historical sites.

[South Africa](#) holds some of humanity's deepest roots. Within its borders lies the [Cradle of Humankind](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site located just northwest of [Johannesburg](#) in Gauteng. The area is home to

the largest concentration of hominin fossils on Earth, including the iconic [Mrs Ples](#) and the near-complete Little Foot skeleton, which have helped rewrite our understanding of human evolution.

A visit to the Sterkfontein Caves or the interactive Maropeng Visitor Centre places travellers at the heart of humanity's origins, while a visit to the [Melville Koppies](#) reveals stone-walled ruins

and Iron Age furnaces linked to vast networks of early settlements.

South Africa's timeline stretches back far beyond humanity. In the [Free State](#), the new [Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre](#) brings the age of dinosaurs vividly to life.

On the [West Coast](#), the [Fossil Park](#) preserves the remains of creatures that roamed five million years ago, including sabre-tooth cats, giant bears, three-toed horses, and four-tusked elephants. These sites remind us that the continent's story begins long before our own.

Along the [Southern Cape](#), the [Blombos Cave](#) has revealed ochre carvings, bone tools and evidence of symbolic thought dating back 100 000 years.

The [Pinnacle Point Site Complex](#) at Mossel Bay has evidence of people harvesting shellfish, crafting tools and using ochre pigments more than 160 000 years ago, while at the [Klasies River Caves](#), fossils and artefacts point to early *Homo sapiens* living and innovating along the coast 125 000 years ago.

The story continues on cliff faces and sandstone walls in the [uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Mountains](#) where more than 40 000 San paintings record their daily life and spiritual connections to nature.



In the Cederberg, the [Bushman's Kloof Wilderness Reserve](#) protects more than 130 sites, some dating back 10 000 years.

In [Mpumalanga](#), [Adam's Calendar](#), a 75 000-year-old stone circle aligned with solstices, is one of the most intriguing and debated sites in the world.

In the [Northern Cape](#), the [Nooitgedacht Glacial Pavements](#) preserve 290-million-year-old ice-age striations later used by humans to etch petroglyphs of circles and spirals.

In the [Kruger National Park](#), the stone city of Thulamela speaks of a community engaged in long-distance trade. Meanwhile, the sprawling [Kweneng Ruins](#) recall a 14th-century Tswana capital, once home to tens of thousands of people. Further north, the [Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape](#), another UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcases the remains of a kingdom that thrived between the 11th and 13th centuries, trading gold, ivory and glass beads across Africa and beyond.

Taken together, these sites form one of the richest tapestries of human and natural history on Earth. South Africa awaits inviting travellers to step into its caves, walk its valleys and stand among its ruins – find your joy, not as passive observers, but as participants in a story that belongs to us all. To journey here is to walk through time itself.





Discover SA Through a Proudly Queer Lens

Two fabulous new LGBTQIA+ travel experiences that celebrate queer joy, local flavour and the welcoming spirit that defines our Rainbow Nation.

South Africa's magic lies in its people and their hospitality. We're a country shaped by countless cultures, identities and languages, all woven together to create something bold, warm and unique. That inclusive spirit is what visitors feel the moment they arrive, and it's why South African Tourism is proudly spotlighting two new LGBTQIA+ travel offerings, brought to life by AfriGay Travel International, that show we're a destination where travel feels like belonging.





The Glitter Trail: An eight-day roadshow of fabulousness

The Glitter Trail 2026, also dreamed up by AfriGay, takes celebration even further. This eight-day hosted journey sees guests travelling aboard the iconic Glitter Bus, where bubbles, laughter and a resident drag queen create an atmosphere overflowing with joy.

With five departures planned for 2026, the itinerary spans Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, the Klein Karoo, the Winelands and Cape Town, combining glamour, adventure and connection. Expect sea kayaking, ziplining through indigenous forest, sampling craft beverages, pedalling between vineyards and a Cape Town finale featuring penguins, panoramic views and vibrant nightlife. Each stop champions genuinely inclusive environments.

As Michael Gladwin, Managing Director of AfriGay Travel International, explains: “The Glitter Trail isn’t just a tour. It’s a statement. We’re driving visibility, joy and connection across a continent that has long been underrepresented in the global LGBTQIA+ travel conversation. The more we travel openly and proudly, the more we create demand for inclusive spaces.”

Out & About Day Tours: Pride, people and places

Out & About LGBTQIA+ Day Tours, curated by AfriGay, are a vibrant collection of Cape Town and Winelands experiences designed to showcase the city’s pride, personality and irresistible energy.

Travellers can sip their way through Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, cruise the coastline on a retro sidecar or Jeep, explore cultural landmarks or take to the skies for a scenic helicopter flip.

Each tour blends beauty, adventure and culture with a proudly queer lens. Guests can choose small-group departures or bespoke experiences, all guided by LGBTQIA-inclusive hosts. Working with partners committed to inclusive training, the tours ensure warm, respectful hospitality from start to finish.

These launches show how South Africa continues shaping a tourism landscape where representation is central, belonging is non-negotiable and joy is essential. So come be seen, celebrated and welcomed with open arms. South Africa Awaits – Come Find Your Joy!



Do these tours sound like fun? Fabulous!

Book your Out & About Day Tours, or any of the five Glitter Trail 2026 departures here, via email or online.

Click on the links below for info:

[EMAIL](#)

[WEBSITE](#)



25
YEARS OF
QUALITY ASSURANCE



TOURISM GRADING COUNCIL SA

TGCSA CORNER

NOVEMBER

Premium Properties

The properties in this month's showcase are exceptional and well worth a visit!

The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa's 5-Star Premium classification recognises the country's most exclusive accommodation: establishments offering exceptional quality, personalised service, and unforgettable experiences that exceed standard 5-star expectations



The Saxon Hotel, Villas & Spa

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

The Saxon Hotel epitomises luxury living. This distinguished property seamlessly weaves together rich historical character with contemporary five-star service standards. Spread across 10 acres of meticulously landscaped indigenous gardens, the hotel provides guests with an intimate sanctuary that offers tranquillity and sophistication in equal measure within South Africa's economic capital.

Contact: Email reservations@saxon.co.za, call +27 11 292 6000 or +27 87 375 7777, or visit: www.saxon.co.za.



NOVEMBER

Benchmark Properties

An array of outstanding properties that make every visit a pleasure.

Benchmark properties are handpicked by the TGCSA Property Approvals Committee for their outstanding offerings, regardless of category or grading. They are referred to South African Tourism's Brand Experience team to support inclusive growth and geographic diversity.

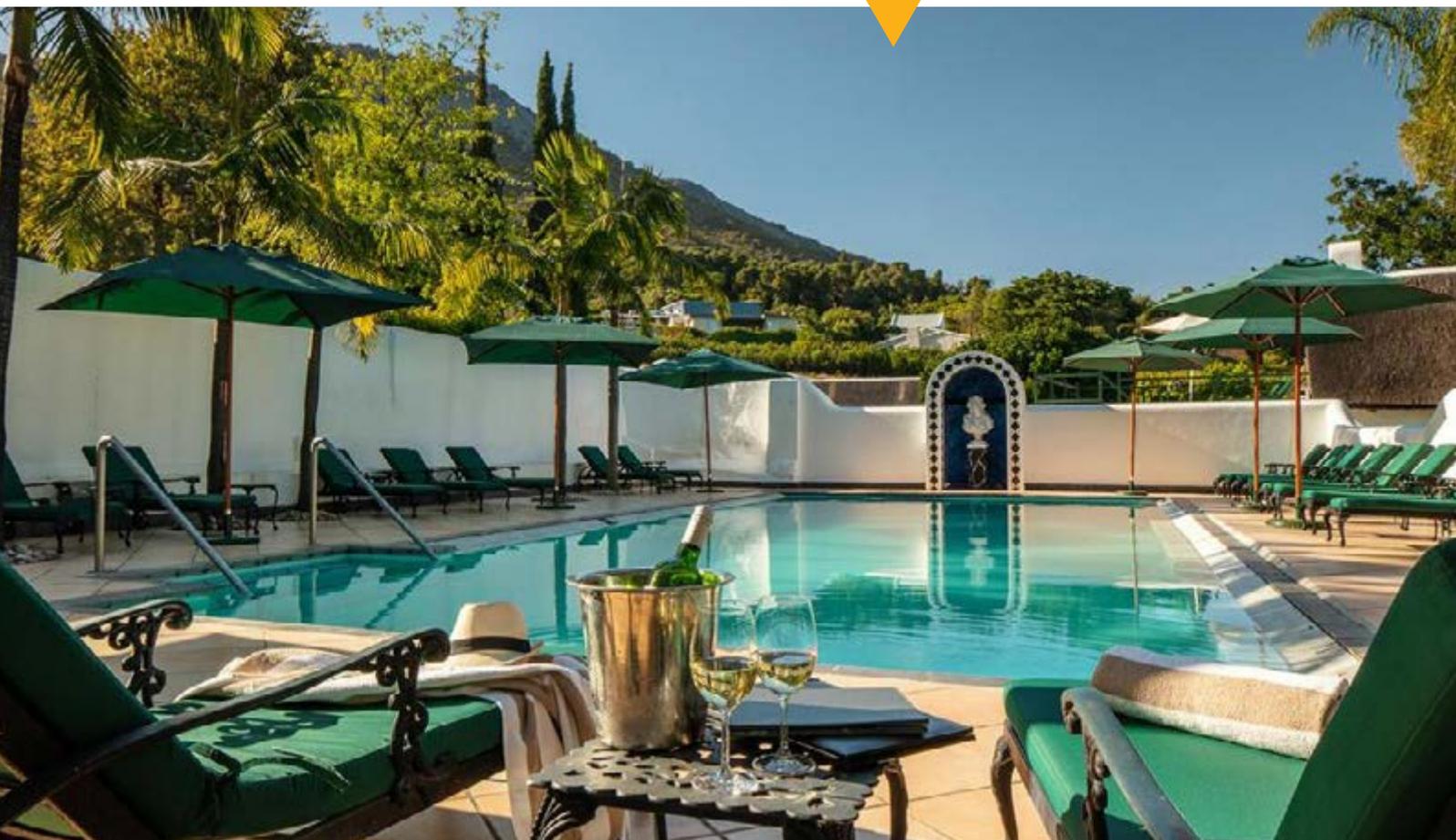


Grande Roche Hotel

Location: Paarl, Western Cape

Nestled at the foot of Paarl's iconic rock formation, this elegant boutique property was originally a protected heritage monument. The estate has been carefully transformed into a luxury hotel, with lush gardens and celebrated cuisine served at the historic Manor House. Surrounded by vineyards and mountain views, Grande Roche offers an ideal retreat for exploring the Western Cape's renowned wine region

Contact: Email: info@granderoche.co.za, call: +27 21 863 5100, or visit: <https://granderoche.com>.



Benchmark Properties



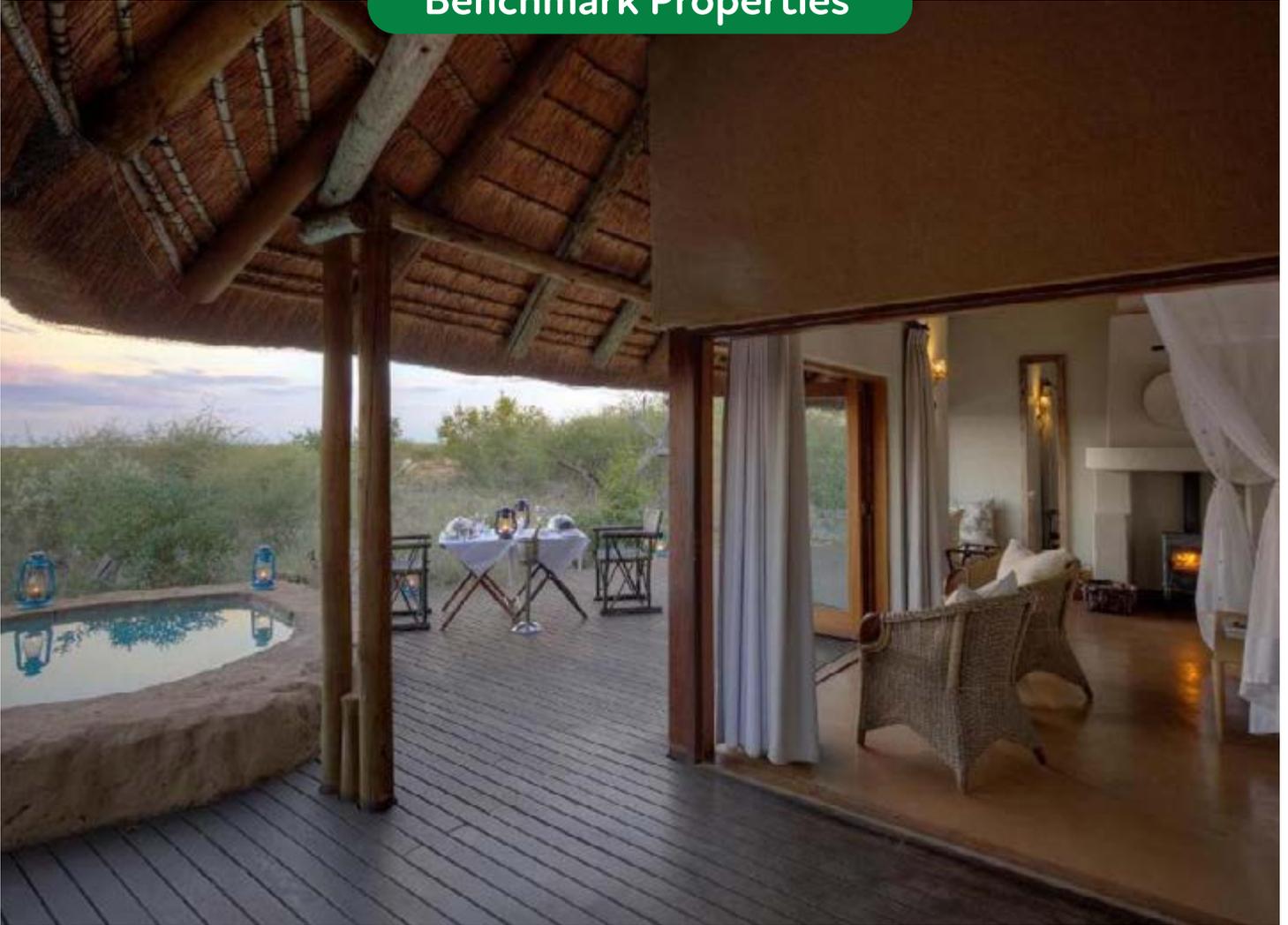
Ivory Tree Game Lodge

Location: Pilanesberg National Park, North West

Ivory Tree Lodge offers refined safari luxury in one of South Africa's most accessible game reserves. The lodge is situated within an ancient volcanic crater formation with archaeological significance. Guests can enjoy a variety of accommodation options, as well as the peaceful Amani African Spa, outdoor dining experiences, remarkable wildlife sightings, and exciting activities like quad biking and archery.

Contact: Email: ivory.shepherds@aha.co.za, call: +27 14 556 8100, or visit: www.ivorytreegamelodge.com.

Benchmark Properties



Rhulani Safari Lodge

Location: Madikwe Game Reserve, North West

True to its name, meaning 'relax', Rhulani Safari Lodge welcomes guests into the heart of the Madikwe Game Reserve with authentic African hospitality. Seven luxury private chalets, each with its own plunge pool and uninterrupted views of the Madikwe Game Reserve, welcome guests to this fine African experience

Contact: Email: reservations@rhulani.com, call: +27 14 553 3981, or visit: www.rhulani.com

Benchmark Properties



Impodimo Game Lodge

Location: Madikwe Game Reserve, North West

Impodimo Game Reserve is set on a rocky ridge that overlooks the Madikwe Game Reserve, with eight luxury chalets carved from the hillside and one deluxe suite. The property showcases the region's extraordinary landscapes and biodiversity

Contact: Email: reservations@impodimo.com, call: +27 18 350 9400, or visit: www.impodimo.com

Benchmark Properties



Royal Madikwe Game Lodge

Location: Madikwe Game Reserve, North West

The Royal Madikwe Game Lodge centres around a private waterhole that attracts abundant wildlife. The lodge maintains strong commitments to sustainable tourism and community partnerships that give every stay a meaningful purpose.

Contact: Email: reservations@royalmadikwe.com, call: +27 82 787 1314, or visit: www.royalmadikwe.com

Upcoming Events

EVENT NAME	DATES	LOCATION
50 th Selectour Congress	27 – 28 November 2025	Western Cape
2025 Surf Expo Africa	28 – 30 November 2025	Western Cape
Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra Performances	10 – 11 December 2025	Linder Auditorium, Gauteng
	13 December 2025	Playhouse Opera Theatre, KwaZulu-Natal
	16 December 2025	Cape Town City Hall, Western Cape