

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF GAUTENG

Gauteng, the “Jacaranda City” (Pretoria), the “City of Gold”, (Johannesburg/Egoli/Jozi) and the “Township life and vibe” have been the themes for many a song, both good and bad, humorous and sad, rich. (*Listen to a few clips to get the drift and feel for the province*).

Gauteng, was previously part of the old **Transvaal province**. It was initially named **Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging** (shortened as **PWV**) and in December 1994, it was renamed to **Gauteng**.

It is surrounded by four other provinces, Limpopo, North West, Free State and Mpumalanga. Gauteng is the only landlocked province of South Africa without a foreign border.

The name **Gauteng** is the Sesotho word meaning “**Place of Gold**”. This is the historical Sesotho name for Johannesburg and its surrounding areas, referring to the flourishing gold industry in the province. The Sesotho word in turn is derived from the Afrikaans word "goud" (“gold”), as well as the Sesotho locative suffix, "-ng".

The smallest of South Africa’s provinces, consisting of only 1.4% of land area, yet it is the most densely populated and urbanised .

The **discovery of gold** (1886) was not the only contributor to the economy of this region. Vast coal and iron deposits were also discovered, boosting the mining and industrial sectors. The **largest diamond** ever found at Cullinan, also added to the “claims to fame” of the province.

The “spirit of gold” refers to the struggle for freedom. How people suffered to achieve liberation, justice and equality for all South Africans. The pain and suffering took them through the fire, shaping and forming them, making people stronger and more determined. Their story is told in many places in Gauteng, such as Soweto, Alexandra, Constitutional Hill, the Apartheids Museum and Freedom Park. The latter is unique, in that it celebrates **all South Africans struggle for freedom**, also including the Anglo-Zulu -, the Anglo-Boer - and the two World Wars.

Gauteng also has **evidence of our human origin**, and the people who lived here long before the discovery of gold. The “**Cradle of Humankind**” is a World Heritage Site and home to the world renowned, **Mrs. Ples** (*Australopithecus Africanus*).

COAT OF ARMS



DEMOGRAPHICS

The following data was compiled from the Census 2001, the General Household Survey (2004), 2004 and others, conducted by

- Different cultural backgrounds, from all around South Africa, as well as from other countries, lives in the province.
- On the night of October 10, 2001, the City of Johannesburg (metropole) had 37% of the provinces population, while the Metsweding District had the least at 1%.

Area	17,010 km ²
Population (Mid-year Estimates, 2006)	9 526 200
Languages (SA yearbook 06/07)	isiZulu (21.5%) Afrikaans (14.4%) Sesotho (13.1%) English (12.5%)
Races	Black (73.8%) White (19.9%) Coloured (3.8%) Asian (2.5%)
Unemployment	According to the <i>Labour Force Survey</i> , unemployment in Gauteng declined from 28,2% in March 2001 to 23,3% in March 2006.
Capital	Johannesburg
Largest city	Johannesburg
Premier	Mbhazima Shilowa (ANC)

MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS

Gauteng Province is divided into 3 metropolitan municipalities, and 3 district municipalities (which are further divided into 8 local municipalities).

Districts

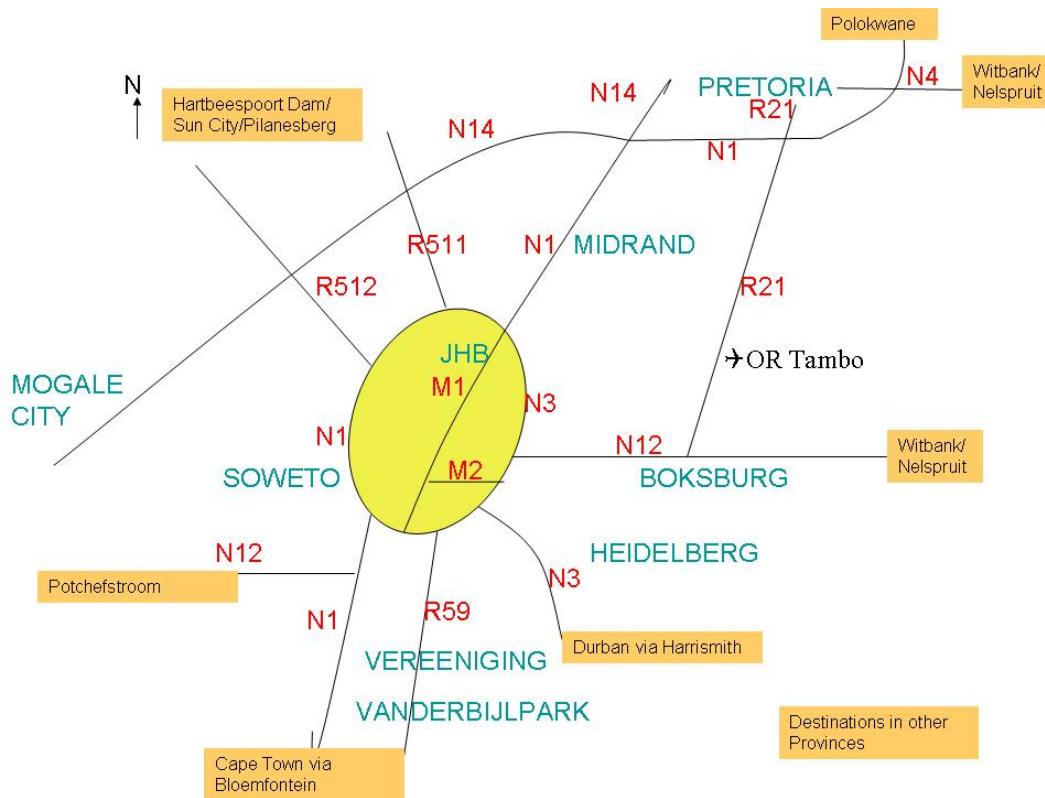
- City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
- City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
- Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
- Metsweding District Municipality
- Sedibeng District Municipality
- West Rand District Municipality

Local municipalities

1. Nokeng tsa Taemane Local Municipality
2. Kungwini Local Municipality
3. District Management Area of the West Rand District Municipality
4. Mogale City Local Municipality
5. Randfontein Local Municipality
6. Westonaria Local Municipality
7. Emfuleni Local Municipality
8. Midvaal Local Municipality
9. Lesedi Local Municipality

ROUTES AND ORIENTATION

The easiest way of finding your way in the province, is to remember that Johannesburg and its suburbs are like an “golden egg” (symbolic of the gold and the economical wealth it brought about). This also represents the ring road around the city. From here it is easy to make connections in all directions. See the *power point presentation* on the next page to follow the routes step-by-step.



The National Roads linking cities and towns in the province, as well as with other province.

The **N1** comes all the way from Cape Town, via Bloemfontein, and after crossing the Vaal River it reaches the town of **Vanderbijlpark**. It passes in close proximity of **Sebokeng**, scene of the Sharpsville uprising and later through the **Grasmere Toll Plaza**. South of Johannesburg, it links with the **N12** (Moroka bypass) coming from Potchefstroom, and soon after, becomes what is known as the “**Western bypass**”. The latter, also known as the “**Cement highway**” due to the fact that it was built with concrete, passes **Soweto**, **Roodepoort**, **Northcliff**, **Randburg** and **Bryanston**. At the

Buccleuch Interchange, where the **N1** connects with the **M1** (*De Villiers Graaf Motorway*) and the **N3**, it swerves northwards and this section is known as the “**Ben Schoeman Highway**”, notorious for being the busiest highway in the country. It is jam packed every working day, and an early start is no guarantee for arriving on time. Always allow at least two hours to get back and through from Johannesburg to Pretoria at these times or use an alternative route (which is not always much better as everyone else has the same idea.)

Halfway between Johannesburg is **Midrand**. Soon after the Olifantsfontein off ramp, the **N1** interchange with the **N14** (continuing to Pretoria CBD and to the west to Mogale City) and for a while follows a route east, past **Centurion, Irene** and after connecting with the **R21** (the so called “*Airport Road*” to OR Tambo International and Pretoria CBD), it slowly starts its course in a northwards direction again. The intersection with **N4**, supplies yet another option to get to Pretoria CBD or . The highway west is the N4, on route to Witbank, the Lowveld and the Kruger National Park. After passing the most northern suburbs of Pretoria, “the great north” road (as it is known from here” offers an easy route to Rustenburg, Pilanesberg and Sun City via the N4 or “Platinum Highway” to the east. Soon after the Carousel Casino, the N1 enters Limpopo.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The most important geological event that took place in the province, was the formation of the **Witwatersrand Supergroup**.

- About 3 000 million years ago, an inland **shallow “sea” or lake** was formed due to a depression of the granite crust of the earth.
- On the northern and western **“shores”** of this **“sea”** were **Granite Mountains**, providing the vast volume of sediment that was ultimately deposited in the sea.
- Major rivers flowing into the sea, also contributed sediment, ranging from silt to coarse pebbles, as well as heavy minerals like magnetite, pyrite, uranium oxides and probably much of the gold.
- The fragments that were eroded away, accumulated on the bed of the lake forming the **Witwatersrand Super group**.
- The above led to the formation of sedimentary rock made up of various combinations of black chert or white quartz pebbles, sand and silt.
- Whenever the rocks were reworked, the gold became more and more concentrated in specific layers, called **conglomerates**.
- These consisted of **quartz pebbles** and a **fine sand** matrix with about 10 – 20 grams of gold per ton, resulting in the **largest and richest gold deposits on earth**.

The rocky outcrops of the **“Witwatersrand” (“White River Ridges”)**, prominent around Johannesburg, provides evidence of the quartzite formations during this period

- After the formation of the **Witwatersrand Supergroup**, a period of volcanic activity followed, covering most of the sediments deposited earlier (**Ventersdorp Sequence**).
- The next period was the **Transvaal Sequence**, a period of sedimentation and inter dispersed volcanic activity that covered most of the northern part of the old Kaapvaal Craton.
- The Kaapvaal Craton sank lower than sea level, after thermal became less intense.
- Sedimentary rocks of the Transvaal group then accumulated on this shallow continental shelf.
- At this time also, river drainage systems, were covered by shallow-water marine and beach deposits.
- This brought about the conglomerate, sandstone and mudstone deposits that formed the **Black Reef**.

Over time, the sediments formed the prominent **quartzite hills** and **shale** valleys around Pretoria of which the **Magaliesberg** is the most prominent. A new type of sedimentation by the **Pretoria Group**, tilting through subterranean disturbances (**The Bushveld Igneous Complex formation**) periods of exposure and erosion, as well as glacial abrasion (**The Karoo Sequence – Dwyka Glaciation**), all contributed to the Magaliesberg as we know it today. It is the only mountain range in Gauteng..

MAIN RIVERS

The main river is the Vaal in the south, forming a natural boundary with the Free State.

The Witwatersrand has the largest inland water distribution system in South Africa and rainwater are evenly dispersed across Johannesburg.

The Klip River (“Stone River”) drains the southern suburbs, flowing into the Vaal River, which in turn is a tributary of the Orange River that flows into the Atlantic ocean. The northern suburbs are drained by the Jukskei (“yoke-pin”) River, that joins other tributaries along the way on route to the Limpopo River and the Indian Ocean.

The Apies (“Monkey”) River flows through Pretoria. Winston Churchill, after his escape from the the Staatsmodel (“State model”) School where he was held captive during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) recalled “swimming the mighty Apies”. Today, it is much less of a river since it was canalised.

The Vaal; Rietvlei- and Roodeplaat Dams supply water to the province.

CLIMATE

It is a summer-rainfall area , with hot summers and frequent thunderstorms, sometimes accompanied by hail. The winters are cold, and frost is common in the southern parts. It rarely snows.

The altitude influence the climate in the province. Johannesburg is approximately 1700m above sea level, and usually about 3 °C less than its neighbour, Pretoria (1330m).

Difference in temperatures

Rainfall	Summer		Winter	
	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Johannesburg 713 mm p.a.	26 °C	15 °C	16 °C	4 °C
Pretoria 674 mm p.a.	29 °C	18 °C	19 °C	4 °C

ECONOMY

GDPR at current prices (2004): R462 044 million
 % of total GDP: 33,3%

Gauteng is the financial and economic powerhouse of South Africa.

Gauteng is considered the economic hub of South Africa and contributes heavily in the financial, manufacturing, transport, technology and telecommunications sectors, amongst others. It also plays host to a large number of overseas companies requiring a commercial base in and gateway to Africa.

Agriculture

Agricultural activities makes up a small share of the economy in the province and mainly evoloves around providing the cities and towns with daily fresh produce, including dairy products, vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs and flowers. The districts of Heidelberg, Cullinan and Bronkhorstpruit falls within the so-called “Maize Triangle”. They mainly produce ground-nuts, sunflowers, cotton and sorghum.

Industries and manufacturing

Gauteng is an integrated industrial complex with major areas of economic activity in three subregional areas, namely the Vaal Triangle; the East,West and Central Rand; and Pretoria.

The manufacturing sector in Gauteng includes over 9 300 firms, employing more than 600 000 people. The main industries are basic iron and steel; fabricated and metal products; food; machinery, electrical machinery, appliances and electrical supplies; vehicle parts and accessories; and chemical products.

Food, food processing and beverages make up around R9,9 billion of GGP. Roughly half of South Africa’s estimated 4 000 food-processing companies. Are located in Gauteng.

The automotive parts and components industry, with its main center in Rosslyn (Pretoria), employs about 38 000 workers and contributes an estimated 4,3% to the province’s GGP. This equates to an industry worth about R13 billion per year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The traffic congestion on the roads are one of the major problems in this densely populated province. The Gautrain Rapid Rail Link, a high-speed rail between Pretoria, Sandton, Johannesburg and OR Tambo International Airport, is an attempt to address this problem. It is expected to be completed by 2010.

The urban areas are rapidly growing and it is predicted that the population will be nearly around 14.6 million by 2015, making it one of the largest cities in the world. By 2015, the population will be some 14.6 million people, making it one of the largest cities in the world. AIDS may however have a negative impact on the population numbers.

EDUCATION

Gauteng is a centre of learning in South Africa, and it has many universities and other schools of higher learning.

- University of South Africa: Also known as UNISA and incorporating the Technikon South Africa and the distance learning unit of Vista University
- University of Pretoria.
- Tshwane University of Technology (Formed after Technikon Pretoria, Technikon Northern Gauteng, and Technikon North-West merged).
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of Johannesburg (Formed after Rand Afrikaans University, some Johannesburg campuses of Vista University and Technikon Witwatersrand merged)
- Vaal University of Technology: Previously known as Vaal Triangle Technikon

Gauteng Department of Education has embarked on a project to provide fully functional ICT laboratories to all public schools in Gauteng. The name of this project is Gauteng OnLine.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Soccer (football)	Several teams from Gauteng plays in the Premier Soccer League: Teams include Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns.
Rugby	It is a very popular sport as well. Two teams participated in the Southern Hemisphere's Super 14, The lions (previously the cats) and the Bulls (based in Pretoria). The latter was the first South African team to win the competition in 2007. They played the Sharks, another South African team, in the finals
Cricket	Many local and international matches are hosted in the province, mainly at Supersport Park (Centurion) and the Wanderers (Johannesburg).

CONSERVATION

Although Gauteng province is dominated by the urban areas of Johannesburg and Pretoria, it has some beautiful nature reserves. Although the province is highly urbanised and industrialised, it contains wetlands of international importance, such as Blesbokspuit near Springs.

Some of the most popular places:

- Lion and Rhino Park
- Lion Park
- Krugersdorp Game Reserve
- Rietvlei Nature Reserve
- Roodeplaat Dam Nature Reserve.
- Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve

Gauteng is mainly open grassland known as the “highveld”. Many trees have been introduced, some of them exotic and have become invasive. Among these are the wattle (*Australian acacias*) and blue gum (*Eucalyptus*) trees that was introduced to provide support pillars in the mining tunnels. Others, for example the Jacaranda trees, were planted for decoration.

Some **common indigenous trees** and plants that are found today : Mountain cabbage; Karee; Sweet – and common hookthorn; White stinkwood; Candelabra; Wild Olive; Aloes (*Aloe marlothii*); Plumbago etc.

Some common birds in Gauteng: Hadedda Ibis; Go-away bird; Cape- and House Sparrow; Black-masked weaver; Long-tailed widow (flap); Black-eyed Bulbul; Laughing- and Cape Turtle Dove; Egyptian Goose; Indian Myna; Cape Wagtail; Helmetted Guineefowl; Crowned Plover.

Prospects for Big Five reserve to be established in **Dinokeng** also in the pipeline for the province, which will really make it

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

1. ORIGINS OF HUMANS

Gauteng is now widely thought to be the actual cradle of humankind and possibly one of the places where human kind first started walking upright.

- Charles Darwin was the first person to articulate the theory of ‘*evolution by descent*’ through modification.
- A theory (first suggested by Raymond Dart) exists that humans originated in Africa.
- Numerous archaeological discoveries in East Africa and Southern Africa support this theory.

Australopithecines

- The “**Taung child**” uncovered in 1924, triggered the belief that **humankind had its earliest origins in Africa** (and not in Europe/Asia as previously believed.)
- A year later, **Professor Raymond Dart** who was immediately struck by the ape like head and human dentitions of the little skull, then suggested that it was a previously unknown species located biologically somewhere between ape and human.
- It was named *Australopithecus africanus*
- Twenty years later, *Australopithecus africanus* was finally declared part of the human family tree.
- This recognition was largely due to Scottish born Dr. Robert Broom.
- **In 1947, Dr. Robert Broom**, found an adult version of the Taung child while working at Sterkfontein.
- It was named Mrs. Ples, which was derived from the initial name given, *Plesianthropus transvaalensis* (“Near man of Transvaal”).

- Later it was classified as *Australopithecus africanus*, believed to have lived approximately **2.5- 2.8 million** years ago.
- The discovery of “**Little Foot**” at Sterkfontein in 1995, suggested that Australopithecines apparently lived in the Johannesburg area as far back as **3.3 million years**.

Early Stone-Age

- Evidence exists that the valley (where the Apies river flows through the Magaliesberg) at Wonderboom poort in Pretoria, was inhabited by early humans as far back as 100 000 years.

Duncanville

- Pre-historic man collected pebbles from river to make tools.

Middle – and Late Stone Age

- The Magaliesberg was inhabited 40 000-10 000 years ago.
- The **Klip River Terrace**, in the Vereeniging area, **revealed** a wealth of Stone Age Implements.
- The San (descendents of the late Stone Age people) were also present in small numbers in Gauteng i.e. the **Redan rock engravings** (close to Vereeniging).
- Pieces of broken bow and arrow points were found at a Cave that is visible from Beyers Naude Drive. These are indicative of the San’s presence nearly 1000 years ago.

2. IMMIGRATION

Early Iron-Age

- The first Iron-Age people immigrated into the area south of the Limpopo about 1800 years ago.
- A few scattered groups lived in the Gauteng area as well.
- Evidence was found at a site at Broederstroom (although in North West, it is in close proximity to Gauteng), indicating that a few scattered groups lived in the area.

Middle and Late Iron-Age

- In the early 1960s, Professor Revil Mason (former head of archaeology at Wits University), discovered an Iron furnace at **Melville Koppies** (Johannesburg), now a national monument.
- The site was found to be dating back to around 1060AD.
- Three more furnaces have also been found on the ridge, as well as others at Honeydew (about 8km from Melville), Lonehill and Bruma Lake.
- The stone walls in the Magaliesberg dates from the 1600s, and evidence found in the **Groenkloof-Reserve** (Pretoria) and a **cave in the Magaliesberg** to the east of the Wonderboompoort, all point to the presence of early Western-Sotho inhabitants.

3. UPHEAVAL AND DISPLACEMENT

- In the early 1800s a period of upheaval and displacement took place in Gauteng.
- This was known as the Difaqane (or Mfecane).
- Tswana and Ndebele people, staying in Gauteng, were terrorized and scattered by Mzilikazi.
- The First Voortrekkers entered the region by the 1840s.
- In 1852, the Transvaal Republic (ZAR) was granted independence at the Sand River Convention.
- In 1860 Pretoria became the new capital of the ZAR.
(For more information see Module 3, Component 1, Pretoria origins and history).

4. GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN WARS AND UNION

- In 1877, the Transvaal was annexed by Britain without much resistance from the Boers.
- However, in 1880, the first Anglo Boer War commenced after a decision taken by the Boers at Paardekraal.
- 1881, 27 February – the Boers defeated Britain at Battle of Majuba and regained their independence.
- 1886, gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand. This triggered an influx of foreigners and black migrant workers into the ZAR. Many disputes over claims resulted and the diggers attempted to exclude African claim-holders.
- The British government tried to weaken the Transvaal by encirclement. Confrontation between Kruger and Rhodes (the Cape Colony's Premier) was inevitable.
- 1895, the unsuccessful Jameson Raid was organized by Rhodes. He was conspiring with the foreigners to revolt against the ZAR, hoping that if it coincided with the raid, they get the upper hand.
- 1899 -1902, the Second War of Independence (Anglo-Boer War II). Initial Boer success, but then a guerrilla phase followed, lasting another two years resulting in the defeat of the Boers. During the war many women and children were sent to concentration camps and others joined the commando life in the veld. Some African ex-miners and farm labourers were also sent to concentration camps or forced into labour by the British Army.
- 1902, the Treaty of Vereeniging was reluctantly signed by the Boers at Melrose house (Pretoria), thus losing their independence.
- 1910, the Union of South came about, incorporating the colonies of the Cape and Natal, the Free State and the Transvaal. General Louis Botha became the first Prime Minister.
(See Pretoria and Johannesburg origins and history for more detail).

5. APARTHEID AND POST APARTHEID

Gauteng is riddled with Struggle history and Apartheid.

- Composition of Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrika, a hymn later sung at ANC meetings and eventually became South Africa's National Anthem, along with "The Stem" /
- 1897 "The Call".
- 1906 Mahatma Gandhi led passive resistance against pass laws for Indians
- 1912 **ANC** was established in Bloemfontein
Native Land Act (also known as the Black land Act) and others were adopted
Generals Louis Botha and Jan Smuts were more liberal, but decided to leave the
- 1913 problem to the next generation.
The **Defiance Campaign** against **Unjust Laws** was launched and more than 8000
- 1952 volunteers arrested.
- 1955 Forced removals and the Congress of the People adopted **the Freedom Charter**.
As a result of the Freedom Charter, 156 Congress Members were arrested and the
- 1956 **Treason Trial** followed.
The **PAC** organised a demonstration against pass laws at Sharpeville, leaving 69
- 1960 people dead after the police started firing on the crowd.
- 1961 Chief Albert Luthuli received Nobel Prize for peace.
The raid on Liliesleaf Farm led to the arrest of the high-ranking officials of
Umkhonto we Sizwe, the militant division of the ANC. At the same time, Nelson
- 1963 Mandela is captured near Howick (KwaZulu-Natal).
- 1964 The Rivonia Trials convicted Nelson Mandela and others to life imprisonment.
- 1976 Soweto uprising – unrest swept throughout the country.
- 1977 Steve Biko died in detention.
PW Botha brought some changes about, a Tri-chamber parliament for Coloured
- 1983 and Indians were initiated.
- 1986 Mass resistance increased.
A tight wing reactionary killed 6 black people on Strijdom Square (now Lillian
- 1988 Ngoyi), Pretoria.
- 1989 FW De Klerk came into power.
The ANC, SACP and other political organizations were unbanned and Nelson
- 1990 Mandela released from prison
- 1991 CODESA started the negotiations for a new Constitution.
- 1992 Boipatong massacre took place and 46 people died.
Chris Hani was assassinated.
- 1993 Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk received the Nobel price for peace.
Panic reigned as South Africa held its first democratic election.
On April 27, Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the first black president of
- 1994 South Africa.
- 1996 On the 4th of December the New constitution was accepted.
- 1999 Thabo Mbeki became the second black president.

Resources and further reading

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