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Johannesburg

Photo: kool_skatkat

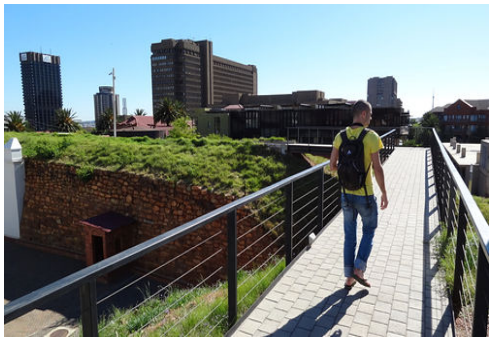

Photo: Martijn.Munneke

Vibrant, ever-changing, fabulously wealthy, desperately poor, vast, multi-faceted Johannesburg flings contrasts at you from every angle. Trees line streets where houses hide their manicured gardens and pristine blue swimming pools behind high white walls, miles of shacks tell of the effects of the apartheid years – still to be overcome. The air of Africa's most dynamic city vibrates with music and buzzes with business while its stylish restaurants, elegant shops, art galleries and theatres delight the international visitor.

Photo: jit bag

Photo: George M. Groutas

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Top 5

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The site of an infamous prison reborn as the superb Constitutional Court, art gallery and museum. The history of Constitut...

Museum Africa
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Soweto
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Market Theatre Complex
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THE CITY

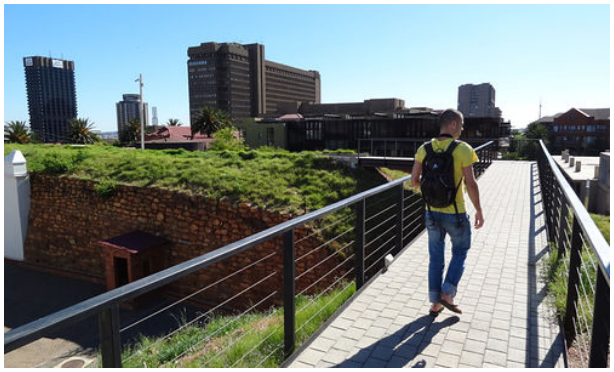


Photo: Martijn.Munneke

Cosmopolitan Johannesburg (also known as Jo'burg or Jozi) sprawls for miles, sprouting upper-income suburbs like satellite towns – one of them, sophisticated Sandton, is the business and economic capital of South Africa. Soweto, home to most of Johannesburg's black population, lies to the southwest, a 20 square km conglomeration of townships with homes that range from millionaire mansions and neat middle-income housing to the tin shacks of squatter camps.

The city built on gold has seen its landmark yellow mine dumps recycled and replaced by skyrise buildings and glitzy shopping malls, and its recent apartheid history remembered in superb new museums. Soaring chrome and glass buildings, housing opulent international hotels and corporate giants, pepper the leafy streets of a string of exclusive northern suburbs – among them, rich Rosebank, elite Sandhurst, bohemian Melrose Village and foody Greenside. Across a canopy of green, the horizon is spiked by the outline of downtown Johannesburg, slowly stirring from its no-go dilapidation. Six-lane highways and swirling freeways indicate the importance of the car.

DO & SEE

Photo: jit bag

Old Fort And Constitution Hill

The site of an infamous prison reborn as the superb Constitutional Court, art gallery and museum.

The history of Constitution Hill dates back to 1892, at first a prison, then turned into military defence post, during the South African War. These buildings were known as "the Fort" and through the years it has incarcerated famous people like for example Indian Mahatma Gandhi.

In 1964 the Fort was declared a National Monument, and in the late 90's it was chosen the new Constitutional Court.

Address: 1 Kotze Street, Braamfontein
Phone: +27 11 381 3100
Internet: www.constitutionhill.org.za

Museum Africa

From rock art to the struggle against apartheid, Africa's history is well presented in this journey through the creation of the first civilizations and places like Kemet (Egypt), Punt (Somalia), Kush (Sudan) and Nubia (southern Egypt).

Address: 121 Bree Street
Phone: +27 11 833 5624
Internet: www.museumafrica.org

Apartheid Museum

Visually stunning multi-media displays and personal accounts reveal the reality of South Africa's recent history. Powerful and unforgettable.

"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others"

- Nelson Mandela, June 1999

Address: Gold Reef Road, Ormonde
Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 09.00 to 17.00
Phone: +27 11 309 4700
Internet: www.apartheidmuseum.org

Soweto

A guided tour of the townships is a must. Major sights include Vilakasi Street, where the Mandelas once lived (their little house is a museum). Arch bishop Tutu has a home, the Hector Pieterson Museum, dedicated to the 1976 student uprisings, and Regina Mundi church, which also bears its resistance scars. Eat at Sakhumzi's, the Italian-style Nambitha, or trendy Wandi's Place. An overnight stay in one of the excellent B&Bs could prove the highlight of your trip.

Address: 124 Main Street
Phone: +27 11 639 1600 (Tourist Office)
Internet: www.gauteng.net

Market Theatre Complex

The cultural heartbeat of the city in the revitalised Newtown area downtown. The mission of the Market Theatre Foundation is to provide an authentic South African cultural experience.

In 1995 the theatre was given the American Jujamcyn Award, an acknowledgement of their fight against apartheid, showing how powerful true courage and conviction can be.

Address: 56 Margaret Mcingana Street
Phone: +27 11 832 1641
Internet: www.markettheatre.co.za

Gold Reef City

Gold Reef City is a theme park with casino, rides and giant rollercoaster, on a former gold mine. Museums, craft and curio shops are housed in replica buildings of the 1890 gold rush days, tours go deep into the tunnels around the Number 14 shaft. See traditional miners' gumboot dancing in the theatre.

Address: Ormonde
Phone: +27 11 248 6800
Internet: www.goldreefcity.co.za

Goodman Gallery

Goodman Gallery displays works by contemporary South African artists as well as artists from the greater African Continent. Linda Goodman was the one who started the gallery in 1966 and supported artists despite the ongoing apartheid.

Address: 163 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood
Phone: +27 11 788 1113
Internet: www.goodman-gallery.com

EATING

Photo: George M. Groutas

In this cosmopolitan city of myriad cuisines you'll find traditional Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Indian and Chinese through to authentic Thai and Argentinean. South Africans are great meat eaters, so steak houses flourish. Greenside is packed with smart restaurants, but all the northern suburbs have their stars. Melville, Parktown North, Melrose Arch and trendy Parkhurst are particularly good locations.

La Belle Terrasse And The Loggia

La Belle Terrasse offers fantastic views – including elephants in the zoo below – opulent colonial decor and terrific food. They're famed for their Sunday brunch.

Address: 67 Jan Smuts Avenue, Westcliff
Phone: +27 11 481 6000
Internet: www.westcliff.co.za
More Info: The Westcliff Hotel

Le Canard

Award winning Le Canard is elegant and romantic with flower-filled courtyards and timeless dishes served with style. Le Canard has been around since the late 80's and has improved over the years into a restaurant striving for nothing less than excellence.

Address: 163 Rivonia Road, Morningside
Phone: +27 11 884 4597
Internet: www.lecanard.co.za

Linger Longer

Linger Longer is situated in a mining magnate's converted mansion, featuring classic décor and top-class cuisine and service. Linger Longer served its first guests in the early 60's as a tea room and today the restaurant is a fine dining success.

Address: 58 Wierda Road, Wierda Valley, Sandton
Phone: +27 11 884 0465 /+27 11 884 0466
Internet: www.lingerlongerrestaurant.co.za

Carnivore

Ravenous meat eaters sit around a big open fire and tuck into wild game – eland, zebra, springbok, kudu and crocodile – carved off Masai spears. The Carnivore in Johannesburg is a franchise of the equally famous counter part in Nairobi, and it has received awards such as Best Restaurant to Take Tourists To and Best Traditional Restaurant.

Even if you're not a carnivore, you can still come here and dine fish and veggie dishes, and either way have your dinner accompanied by fine wine.

Address: Drift Boulevard, Muldersdrift
Phone: +27 11 950 6000
Internet: www.carnivore.co.za

Moyo Melrose Arch

"moyo is the realisation of one man's passion for all things African - from art and design to music, cuisine and crafts."

moyo was started in Johannesburg, and today there are no less than seven establishments under that very name. All of them serve urban African cuisine in a soulful environment.

Address: 5 Melrose Square, Melrose Arch, Melrose
Phone: +27 11 684 1477
Internet: www.moyo.co.za

The Butcher Shop & Grill

The Butcher Shop & Grill boasts some of the best steaks in town – game, ostrich, pork, lamb and beef. The atmosphere is laid back and inviting and booking is absolutely essential if you want a table.

Address: Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton
Phone: +27 11 784 8676
Internet: www.thebutchershop.co.za

Al Dente

Al Dente is a family-friendly restaurant serving Italian favourites and homemade desserts. It is a place that is especially poopular on Sundays when whole families gather here for a peaceful brunch.

-"At Al Dente we don't eat to live, we live to eat"

Address: 173 Rochester Place, Rivonia Road
Phone: +27 11 783 9989
Internet: www.aldente.co.za

Sakhumzi's Restaurant

Sakhumzi Restaurant has traditional African food served by trestle tables on the grass. The restaurant is located in a historic area, where Nelson Mandela once had his original home.

Address: Vilakazi Street, Orlando West, Soweto
Phone: +27 11 536 1379
Internet: www.sakhumzi.co.za

CAFES

Photo: thomas_sly

Tortellino d´Oro

This deli is a great place for Italian specialties such as Parma ham, salami, antipasta, home made pasta and of course, delicious Italian ice cream. You can choose from hazelnut, amaretto, pistachio and stracciatella.

Address: Pretoria Str, Oaklands
Phone: +27 11 483 1249
Internet: www.tortellino.co.za
More Info: Oaklands Shopping Centre
C/o Pretoria Str & Victoria Rd
Oaklands

Lattélicious

Lattélicious might not be for you if you're looking for a quick caffeine fix, they take their coffee seriously and it should be enjoyed accordingly. The atmosphere is inviting and the venue is small and charming.

Address: Smith Road, Bedfordview
Internet: www.lattelicious.co.za
More Info: Beford Centre
Corner of Smith Road and Van de Linde Road

Fournos Bakery

In case you're out and about on your own, and find that absolutely delish pastry that you want to share with your sweetheart, take it with you! Seize the moment to try their freshly squeezed orange juice.

Address: Benmore

Phone: +27 11 883 7194
Internet: www.fournos.co.za
More Info: Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre

Fresh @ Hands On Retreat

The Hands On Retreat offers tranquil surroundings in the middle of Craighall, with a river running straight through the area. Peacefulness permeates the entire venue, and the coffee shop gives you an excellent opportunity to savour some of this harmony.

Address: 30 Alexandra Ave, Craighall, Sandton
Phone: +27 11 022 8700
Internet: www.handsonretreat.co.za

Café del Sol

Café del Sol was started by a passionate Italian family, with a focus on finding peace and love in a hectic everyday life. This Olivedale café has an inviting and correct feng shui to make you reconnect with your inner energy. They invite you to:

"EAT awakening food, DRINK soulful, thirst quenching beverages & BE INSPIRED on any level you feel drawn too".

Address: Olivedale
Phone: +27 11 704 6493
Internet: www.cafedelsol.co.za
More Info: Corner Olive & President Fouche Roads

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Photo: Prasad Pillai

From the sleek bars of top hotels to shebeens (informal drinking places, usually in someone's front room) in Soweto, whatever you're looking for, you'll find it in Jozi.

Jozi has a very lively nightlife. Melville's Seventh Street is popular with night owls, while Rosebank, Rivonia, Norwood and Orange Grove attract the more affluent party crowd. Soweto has crowded bars and live jazz, but it is only advisable to go there on an organised tour.

Radium Beer Hall

Radium Beer Hall is one of the city's oldest pubs, noisy and full of character. The history makes itself known through the striking memorabilia adorning the walls. They serve authentic food, a myriad of beers and there is live jazz filling the air.

Address: 282 Louis Botha Avenue, Orange Grove
Phone: +27 11 728 3866
Internet: www.theradium.co.za

Beach Blanket Bohemia

Beach Blanket Bohemia is a bar and restaurant with a Mediterraanean menu and a sun filled terrace. The lounge area provides a relaxed venue with live music or a skilled DJ.

Address: Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill
Phone: +27 11 234 2714
Internet: www.beachblanketbohemia.co.za
More Info: Corner Maxwell Drive and Edison Street

Montecasino

This is a replica of a Tuscan village with restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs and a casino. Montecacsino has been given many awards including Best Casino, Best place to take out-of-towners and Best Entertainment Complex.

Address: 230 Witkoppen Road, Fourways
Phone: +27 11 510 7000
Internet: www.montecasino.co.za

Bassline

Bassline is a popular live local jazz club as well as a kwaito and blues band venue. This is the place to go if you want to experience Afro-beat, funk jam sessions and poetry readings in a cozy environment.

Bassline embodies love for music and they're the ones who organize the outdoor Africa Day and concerts in Johannesburg for New Year's Eve.

Address: 10 Henry Nxumalo Street, Newtown
Phone: +27 11 838 914256
Internet: www.bassline.co.za

Tanz Café

Tanz Café is a dance café/bar that mixes European and Argentinean sounds. The dance floor is big, inviting people to dance the night away in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. Get lost in the rhythms of Salsa, Cha Cha, Rumba, Mambo and of course - Tango.

Address: The River Road, Riverside
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday
Phone: +27 11 463 3128
Internet: www.tanzcafe.freeservers.com

SHOPPING

Photo: thomas_sly

From upmarket malls to street markets, via designer fashion, crafts, curios and lovely things for the home, Johannesburg is a paradise for shoppers.

Mall culture distinguishes this city of dedicated shoppers. Sandton City and its adjacent Nelson Mandela Square is one of the largest shopping centres in the southern hemisphere. The packed African Crafts Market lies next to the stylish Mall of Rosebank, which takes on new vibes on Sundays and public holidays when the lively Rooftop Market is in full swing.

Norwood's Grant Avenue is good for antiques and Parkhurst's Fourth Avenue for collectables and interior design. Go to The African Toyshop on Stanley Avenue, Milpark, for toys as works of art Art Africa on Tyrone Avenue in Parkview for a dazzling array of ethnic arts and crafts and Kim Sacks Gallery in Parkwood for excellent tribal African art.

With its bewildering array of stalls and goods, sprawling Bruma Flea Market in Bedfordview is quite an experience. It is open daily, except Monday, from 08.00-18.00. Held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, the Michael Mount Organic Village Market on Bryanston Drive, Sandton, sells only handcrafted goods and organically produced foods, and its tea garden is restful.

Keep all the receipts of your shop purchases, as visitors

can reclaim the tax paid on departure at the airport.

SLEEPING

Photo: Martijn.Munneke

The Saxon

Celebrity favourite, with individually furnished suites reflecting the arts and crafts of Africa. If you want to go all out, you should request a premium Presidential Suite or the fabulous Nelson Mandela Platinum Suite that have professional butlers to cater to you, no matter the hour.

Address: 36 Saxon Road, Sandhurst
Phone: +27 11 292 6000
Internet: www.thesaxon.com

Melrose Arch Hotel

African Pride Deluxe Hotels are part of the Protea Hotels chain. This particular one offers hip 5-star luxury within a lifestyle development of shops and restaurants.

-"African Pride embodies the proud spirit of Africa, combined with a passion for service and a commitment to excellence".

Address: 1 Melrose Arch Square, Melrose Arch
Phone: +27 11 214 6666
Internet: www.africanpridehotels.com

A Room With A View

Spectacular guesthouse in the style of an Italian villa, with 14 individually furnished rooms and great views of the forests of Johannesburg and as far as Magaliesber, 70 km away.

-"The gentle hearts, softness of smiles, the warmness and memorable breakfast's, imbues care to all who have found this home from home".

Address: 1 Tolip Street, Melville
Phone: +27 11 482 5435
Internet: www.aroomwithaview.co.za

Rivonia B&b

Winners of the AA Accommodation Award in 2009, 2010 and 2011! Rivonia B&B has 40 units in peaceful surroundings and there are self-catering facilities available.

Address: 3 River Road, Rivonia, Sandton
Phone: +27 11 803 2790
Internet: www.rivoniabb.co.za

33 On First Bed & Breakfast

A charming guest house with cheerful rooms in a trendy suburb of restaurants and boutiques. All rooms are equipped with ceiling fans, aircondition, telephones, own bathrooms and DSTV.

Address: 33 First Avenue, Melville
Phone: +27 11 726 7172
Internet: www.33onfirst.co.za

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Photo: Kyle Taylor

Airport

OR TAMBO International Airport is Africa's busiest and best airport, and has 24-hour facilities. It lies 25km east of the city.

Minibus shuttles and metered taxis can be booked in the baggage claim area. The hotels of Rosebank and Sandton are a 30-45 minute drive from the airport. Most hotels offer shuttle services.

Phone: Airport helpdesk tel: +27 11 921 6262
Internet: www.airports.co.za

Public transport

Public transport (always jam packed, and the minibuses are frequently un-roadworthy) is not really used by tourists. Metered taxis are the safest way to travel if you are not hiring a car, they are available at major hotels, but otherwise you have to phone for pickup. The fare should be confirmed with the driver at the outset.

Taxi

Rose Radio Taxis

Phone: +27 11 403 0000 / +27 11 403 9625
Internet: www.rosetaxis.com

Post

GPO

Sandton City

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 08.30-16.30 Saturday 08.00-11.30
Phone: +27 11 783 7364
Internet: www.sapo.co.za

Pharmacy

Pharmacies have a rota system for out-of-hours service.

Phone: +27 11 624 2800

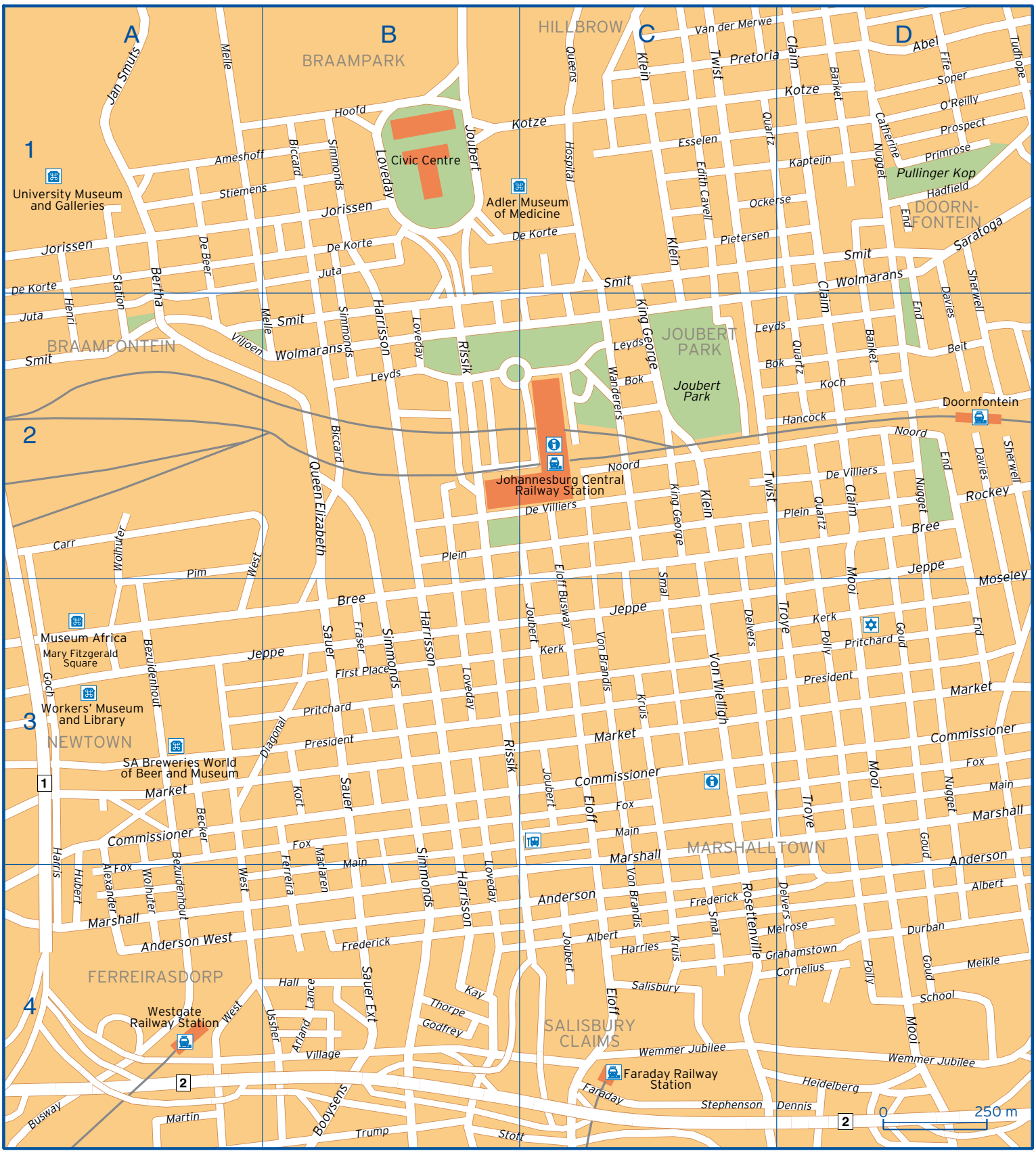
Electricity

220/240v, 50Hz. Round three-pin plugs are standard.

Telephone

Country code: +27

Area code: (0)11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Faraday Railway Station
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Commissioner
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Albert
Durban
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Heidelberg
Frederick
Rosettenville
Melrose
Grahamstown
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Salisbury
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Arlaud
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Albert	C4 D4
Alexander	A3 A4
Ameshoff	A1 B1
Anderson	C4 D3 D4
Anderson West	A4
Arland	B4
Banket	D1 D2
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Bree	B3 D2
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Carr	A2
Catherine	D1
Claim	D1 D2
Commissioner	A3 C3 D3
Cornelius	D4
Davies	D1 D2
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De Korte	A1 A2 B1 C1
De Villiers	C2 D2
Delvers	C3 D4
Dennis	D4
Diagonal	B3
Durban	D4
Edith Cavell	C1
Eloff	C3 C4
Eloff Busway	C2 C3
End	D1 D2 D3
Esselen	C1
Faraday	C4
Ferreira	B3 B4
Fife	D1
First Place	B3
Fox	A4 B3 C3 D3
Fraser	B3
Frederick	B4 C4
Goch	A3
Godfrey	B4
Goud	D3 D4
Grahamstown	C4 D4
Hadfield	D1
Hall	B4
Hancock	D2
Harries	C4
Harris	A3 A4
Harrisson	B2 B3 B4
Heidelberg	D4
Henri	A2
Hoofd	B1
Hospital	C1
Hubert	A4
Jan Smuts	A1
Jeppe	A3 B3 C3 D2
Jorissen	A1 B1
Joubert	B1 C3 C4
Juta	A2 B1
Kapteijn	D1
Kay	B4
Kerk	C3 D3
King George	C2
Klein	C1 C2
Koch	D2
Kort	B3
Kotze	B1 C1 D1
Kruis	C3 C4
Lance	B4
Leyds	B2 C2 D2
Loveday	B1 B2 B3 B4
Maclaren	B3 B4
Main	B4 C3 D3
Market	A3 C3 D3
Marshall	A4 C3 C4 D3
Martin	A4
Mary Fitzgerald Square	A3
Meikle	D4
Melle	A1 B2
Melrose	C4 D4
Mooi	D2 D3 D4
Moseley	D3
Noord	C2 D2
Nugget	D1 D2 D3
Ockerse	C1 D1
O'Reilly	D1
Pietersen	C1
Pim	A2 A3
Plein	B2 D2
Polly	D3 D4
President	B3 D3
Pretoria	C1 D1
Primrose	D1
Pritchard	B3 D3
Prospect	D1
Quartz	C1 D2
Queen Elizabeth	B2
Queens	C1
Rissik	B2 B3
Rockey	D2
Rosettenville	C4
Salisbury	C4
Saratoga	D1
Sauer	B3
Sauer Ext	B4
School	D4
Sherwell	D1 D2
Simmonds	B1 B2 B3 B4
Smal	C2 C3 C4
Smit	A2 B2 C1 D1
Soper	D1
Station	A1 A2
Stephenson	C4
Stiemens	A1 B1
Stott	B4 C4
Thorpe	B4
Troye	D3
Trump	B4
Tudhope	D1
Twist	C1 C2
Ussher	B4
Van der Merwe	C1
Viljoen	A2
Village	B4
Von Brandis	C3 C4
Von Wielligh	C3
Wanderers	C2
Wemmer Jubilee	C4 D4
West	A3 A4 B2
Wolhuter	A2 A4
Wolmarans	B2 D1