

# Johannesburg 101 Tidbits To Expand Your Knowledge When Visiting South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa's sprawling economic and cultural hub, is a city brimming with captivating history, diverse cultures, and modern allure. Embark on a journey to uncover 101 enthralling tidbits about Johannesburg that will illuminate your visit and enrich your understanding of this vibrant metropolis.



## Johannesburg 101 tidbits to expand your knowledge when visiting South Africa by Erin Hunter

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 160 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 15 pages



1. **The City of Gold:** Johannesburg's origins are entwined with the discovery of gold in 1886, transforming it from a quiet mining settlement to a burgeoning metropolis known as the "City of Gold."
2. **Apartheid Legacy:** Johannesburg played a pivotal role in the struggle against apartheid, with iconic landmarks such as the Apartheid Museum and Soweto bearing witness to the city's past.

3. **Vibrant Arts Scene:** Johannesburg boasts a thriving arts scene, with world-renowned museums, galleries, theaters, and performance venues showcasing diverse local and international talent.
4. **Maboneng Precinct:** Once a neglected industrial area, Maboneng Precinct has been revitalized into a trendy urban hub, featuring restored warehouses, hip cafes, and art galleries.
5. **Constitution Hill:** This historic site houses the Constitutional Court, South Africa's highest court, and the infamous Old Fort Prison, where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were once incarcerated.
6. **Carlton Centre:** As the tallest building in Africa, Carlton Centre offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city from its rooftop observation deck.
7. **Origins of Mandela's Name:** Mandela's birth name was Rolihlahla, which means "tree shaker" in his native Xhosa language. The name "Nelson" was given to him by a teacher at his missionary school.
8. **The "Blue Train":** The luxurious Blue Train, known as "the world's most luxurious train," offers a once-in-a-lifetime journey between Johannesburg and Cape Town.
9. **FNB Stadium:** The iconic FNB Stadium, also known as Soccer City, was the main venue for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and can accommodate over 94,000 spectators.
10. **Cradle of Humankind:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site located approximately 30 miles northwest of Johannesburg, the Cradle of Humankind is renowned for its fossil discoveries, including those of *Australopithecus africanus*.

11. **Soccer Enthusiasm:** Johannesburg is home to some of South Africa's most passionate soccer fans, with the city's two major teams, Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs, enjoying a fierce rivalry.
12. **Johannesburg Zoo:** One of the largest zoos in Africa, Johannesburg Zoo is home to over 3,000 animals representing over 350 species.
13. **"Egoli":** The Zulu name for Johannesburg, "Egoli," translates to "place of gold."
14. **"Jozi":** A popular nickname for Johannesburg, "Jozi," is a shortened version of the city's former name, Johannesburg-Zion.
15. **Randburg:** A wealthy suburb of Johannesburg, Randburg is known for its high-end shopping centers, luxury homes, and leafy streets.
16. **Turbine Hall:** The Turbine Hall, located in the Maboneng Precinct, is a former power station that has been converted into an innovative arts and cultural space.
17. **Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden:** Located on the northern outskirts of Johannesburg, the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden features over 600 hectares of indigenous vegetation.
18. **Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit:** A historic motorsport venue, Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit hosted Formula One races in the 1970s and 1980s and has recently undergone renovations.
19. **Apartheid Museum:** One of Johannesburg's most visited museums, the Apartheid Museum provides a comprehensive overview of the apartheid era and its impact on South African society.
20. **Gold Reef City:** A theme park located on the site of an old gold mine, Gold Reef City offers a blend of history, entertainment, and mining-

themed attractions.

21. **Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra:** Founded in 1947, the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra is considered one of South Africa's leading classical music ensembles.
22. **Sandton:** The financial and business hub of Johannesburg, Sandton is home to sleek skyscrapers, upscale shopping malls, and trendy restaurants.
23. **Nelson Mandela Square:** Named after South Africa's first democratically elected president, Nelson Mandela Square is a bustling public square located in the heart of Sandton.
24. **Johannesburg Art Gallery:** Established in 1910, the Johannesburg Art Gallery houses a significant collection of South African and international art.
25. **Hector Pieterse Museum:** Dedicated to the memory of the 13-year-old Hector Pieterse, who was killed during the Soweto Uprising, this museum tells the story of the struggle against apartheid.
26. **Soweto:** The largest township in South Africa, Soweto is a vibrant hub of culture, history, and political activism, and was once home to Nelson Mandela.
27. **Vilakazi Street:** Located in Soweto, Vilakazi Street is the only street in the world to have been home to two Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.
28. **Orlando Towers:** These iconic cooling towers, once part of a power station, have been transformed into a bungee jumping and zip-lining adventure destination.

29. **Lesedi Cultural Village:** Located on the outskirts of Johannesburg, Lesedi Cultural Village offers an immersive experience into different South African cultures through live performances and traditional cuisine.
30. **James Hall Transport Museum:** This museum showcases the history of transportation in South Africa, with a collection of vintage cars, locomotives, and airplanes.
31. **Johannesburg Botanical Garden:** Established in 1892, the Johannesburg Botanical Garden features a diverse collection of indigenous and exotic plants, including a rose garden and Japanese garden.
32. **Brixton Market Theatre:** A vibrant cultural hub in the Brixton neighborhood, the Brixton Market Theatre is known for its innovative and socially conscious productions.
33. **Rosebank:** A trendy shopping and entertainment district, Rosebank offers a mix of high-end boutiques, restaurants, and art galleries.
34. **Gauteng:** Johannesburg is the capital city of Gauteng, South Africa's most populous province, also known as the "economic powerhouse" of the country.
35. **City of Lights:** During the gold rush era, Johannesburg earned the nickname "City of Lights" due to the abundance of electric lights illuminating the bustling city.
36. **Mining Museum:** The Mining Museum, located in the Maboneng Precinct, offers a glimpse into the gold mining history of Johannesburg and the lives of the miners.

37. **Soccer City:** The official name of FNB Stadium, Soccer City was built for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and has a capacity of over 94,000 spectators.
38. **The Wilds:** A private nature reserve located within the city limits, The Wilds provides a sanctuary for wildlife such as lions, leopards, and giraffe.
39. **Johannesburg Stock Exchange:** As the largest stock exchange in Africa, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange plays a vital role in the South African economy.
40. **Metro Centre:** Located in the heart of Braamfontein, Metro Centre is a multi-purpose venue that hosts conferences, exhibitions, and entertainment events.
41. **SAB World of Beer:** A popular tourist attraction, SAB World of Beer offers guided tours of the South African Breweries plant and interactive exhibits on the history and production of beer.
42. **Emmarentia Dam:** This artificial lake is a popular spot for recreational activities such as boating, fishing, and birdwatching.
43. **Rand Steam Engine Museum:** Located in Ormonde, the Rand Steam Engine Museum showcases a collection of historic steam engines and locomotives.
44. **Ellis Park Stadium:** A historic sports venue, Ellis Park Stadium has hosted numerous rugby and soccer matches, including the 1995 Rugby World Cup final.
45. **Wits University:** The University of the Witwatersrand, commonly known as Wits, is a leading research and teaching institution in South

Africa.

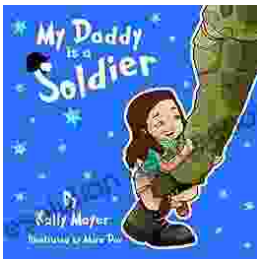
## 46. The Star Newspaper: The Star



### Johannesburg 101 tidbits to expand your knowledge when visiting South Africa by Erin Hunter

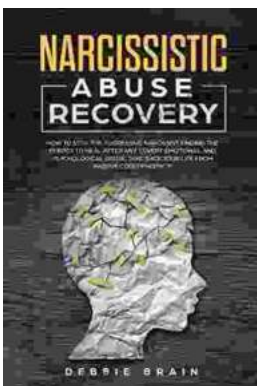
★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 160 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 15 pages



### The Bedtime Story of Love Between Daughter and Daddy

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Lily who loved her daddy very much. Every night, before she went to bed, Lily and...



### How to Stop the Aggressive Narcissist: Finding the Energy to Heal After Any

Understanding the Aggressive Narcissist Aggressive narcissists are individuals with a heightened sense of entitlement and superiority....

