City of Matlosana

MATLOSANA HERITAGE GEMS

Discover the roots of olden gold diggers or tread the trails of the Hottentots. Join our HERITAGE JOURNEY that will reflect the brilliance of Matlosana... City of people on the move.

ONE TEAM ONE VISION

DISCOVER our CHEST of TREASURES

city of people on the move

Matlosana

Potchefstroom

Maquassi Hills

Ventersdorp
Matlosana is a buzzing nucleus, which cuts directly into the heart of legacy, wealth of historical landmarks, entertainment, cultures and plentiful wildlife. Matlosana is a prime destination for seekers sights, with a treasury of heritage and historical battle sites.

Matlosana (Klerksdorp): Today, Matlosana is a throbbing and trendsetting centre for a large mining and agricultural economy. Combined with the added value of quaint historical features, the City of People is indeed a choice destination. On the vibrant N12 Treasure Route, the City of Matlosana (Klerksdorp) boasts a vast array of scenic historical sites, depicting many years of man’s quest for survival. From rock engravings, gold, mine shafts and architectural attractions to life in prison, the City of Matlosana is worth exploring. A pleasure to discerning art and history lovers, tourists seek out the City of People, yielding to the charm of its historical splendour.

Meander through the Oudorp Hiking Trail, glimpsing prehistoric Tswana kraals. Complete your journey at another North West gem, Faan Meintjies Nature Reserve, a mere 5km from the N12 Treasure Route.

Orkney: A mining town proclaimed in 1940 on the farm Witkoppen, where owner Simon Fraser (from the Orkney Islands off the Scotland coast) delved for gold. (“Orkn” is ancient Islandic for sea lion, the town emblem).

Stilfontein: Some 5km from Matlosana, was established in 1949. A persevering Jack Scott discovered and developed an outcropping gold reef, hence the legacy of mining here. Hartbeesfontein, a traditionally mining and farming community lies some 25km from Matlosana.
1. **GOUDKOPPIE**
Visitors can transport themselves back to a time when prehistoric people inhabited this koppie (hill) - now a heritage site – by paying a visit to the charming Goudkoppie Museum. Remnants of the Late Stone Age from 3000 million years ago were discovered here and artefacts are on display. This site is right on the N12 which passes through Klerksdorp. Old mining shafts dating back to the 18th century give evidence of man’s insatiable quest for gold, and rock inscriptions of Anglo-Boer War British regiments tell the story of a war waged. Tel: +27 (0)18 464 2229.

2. **FAAN MEINTJES NATURE RESERVE**
To conserve the Bankenveld, this small reserve (1000 hectares) had been established to protect an interesting ecosystem, inhabited by 17 species of game of which the white rhino is the largest, 196 species of birds and 17 types of snakes. Faan Meintjes is a popular getaway for day visitors, game lovers, picnickers and caravaners. Barbecue facilities, swimming pool and ample space ensure that guests enjoy relaxing as well as game viewing and bird-watching. Located a mere 13km north of Matlosana, the price of the visit includes a 28km game drive during which all the animals can be viewed in an hour and a half. Tel: +27 (0)18 464 2229.

3. **WATER FESTIVAL**
The Johan Nesser Dam (commonly known to residents as Klerksdorp Dam) usually offers recreational facilities, but once a year it becomes the hotspot where an important event on the national power boating calendar attracts competitors and spectators from far and wide. On an exciting weekend in April/May, all interested flock to the venue for the third last leg of the Formula 1 Powerboat Championships. This Matlosana/Kwik Fit Water Festival is a community event of which the proceeds are donated to deserving charities. Cell: +27 (0)82 468 6333.

4. **AIR SHOW**
PC Pelser Airport just outside Matlosana annually hosts an air show which showcases military and civilian aircraft as well as demonstrating the finesse it demands to pilot a craft in an aerobatic display. The show attracts a bevy of spectators where families and enthusiasts watch with bated breath when the mirage or cheetah fighter jets fly past – an annual highlight. Visitors then browse among the interesting product and food stalls. This President Air Race was hosted at PC Pelser May 2006. Cell: +27 (0)82 855 5550.

5. **TUSK RIO CASINO**
Gold glistens and coins clang at the casino, luring visitors to the thrill of triumph and glamour, while a wealth of talent is showcased at the Escapades Theater. Tel: +27 (0)18 469 9100.

6. **MARGARET SHAFT**
“Explore” the echoing depths of the earth where men had to reach deep to find a gleam of gold. At Margaret Shaft of Simmer and Jack Gold Mine, miners have descended into the bowels of the earth for years. The mine is one of the oldest in the KOSH area. Margaret Shaft was the first in the country to have concrete headgear erected. It also had a covered amphitheatre, serving as a multipurpose centre where employees of the old mine congregated for sports or social events. The infrastructure is being developed into an integrated tourism-oriented package to be linked with other KOSH tourism initiatives. Tel: +27 (0)18 484 5911.

INFO CENTRE: City of Matlosana + 27 (0)18 487 8244/45/88 Jafta or Elizabeth • www.matlosana.local.gov.za
Potchefstroom was the first town in the Transvaal to obtain municipal management. Currently it is one of the best-managed city councils in South Africa and has successfully integrated various cultures to strive towards a safe and clean environment. The main aim being a better life for all its residents.

Potchefstroom, the original capital city of De Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek - founded in 1838 - has retained much of its historical appeal, yet developed into a leading city in the North West Province. The city nestles on the Mooi River, has a well established tourism industry with much to offer in the way of attractions and leisure time activities. Being located only 120 kilometres from Gauteng, it has become a popular weekend or day-trip destination for tourists. The local airfield can accommodate larger aircrafts. Today Potchefstroom is known as the City of Expertise, and is home to numerous tertiary institutions and schools, research bureaus and training centres. This city boasts a rich and varied historical and cultural legacy, including many declared national monuments, such as the longest Oak Avenue in the Southern Hemisphere (6.84km Oak Avenue with 700 trees planted in 1910.)

The Botanical Garden and Science Gardens of the North West University as well as the wide variety of sports facilities that justify the motto, “North West, Home of Sports”, present further opportunities for relaxation. The city was also the team base camp of the 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup winning team, Spain.

The city normally receives about 507mm of rain per year, with most rainfall occurring mainly during mid summer. It receives the lowest rainfall in June and the highest (97mm) in January. The average midday temperatures range from 17.9°C in June to 29°C in January. The region is the coldest during July when the mercury drops to 0°C on average during the night.

MAIN EVENTS:
- Voda Super Bowl - May
- Spring Festival - August/September
- The Aardklop Festival - June
- Annual Mayoral Golf Day - November
- Jazz Festival - December
1. CITY OF EXPERTISE
The legacy of education making Potchefstroom the City of Expertise boasting four tertiary centres, dates back to 1869. Founders of the Theological School of the Reformed Churches in SA expanded to include prospective teachers and others to form the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. The PUK reclaimed full status in 1951 and became part of the first real multi-campus and diversified university - the North-West University - in 2004. The beautiful campus boasts two national monuments worth a visit - the main building (first permanent building inaugurated in 1931) and the Heimat Hostel. Tel: +27 (0)18 299 1111.

2. HOME OF SPORTS
Potchefstroom is the North West home of sport as the provincial headquarters of 17 important sports codes are hosted by the city. The public sport facilities are well maintained and easily meet the variety of sporting and recreational needs of its youthful community. Visitors can also do many interesting hikes and trails including the Mooi River Trail. The North West Cricket Association is going from strength to strength since the Sedgars Park Cricket Oval was completed. The stadium is known for the best sporting facilities where numerous international events are held. Academies and clinics for cricketers are held, while development programmes and initiatives are a daily occurrence. The facilities are rented for private and public functions. Visit the cricket museum for some heritage. The Potchefstroom Country Club has an 18-hole golf course of which nine are played across the Mooi River. It was the first grass field in the country’s interior, hosting the South African Open twice. They offer facilities for tennis, bowls and squash. Tel: +27 (0) 18 294 6666/+27 (0) 18 293 0210.

3. VREDEFORT DOME
The Vredefort Dome is the biggest meteorite impact that geologists have yet found on earth. It is the oldest impact crater that has been found on earth. The meteorite impact happened about 2023 million years ago. To make a crater 300km wide, the meteorite must have been about 10km across (as big as table mountain) and travelling more than 10 km per second (36 000 km/h), causing a tremendous shift in the earth’s crust (radius over 300km). The partial ring of hills is visible from the air. The Vaal River forms the southern boundary of the conservancy which has been listed for World Heritage status by UNESCO. Also a prime adventure tourism site, the dome offers white water river-rafting, canoeing, abseiling, rock-climbing, hiking and mountain hiking, while lodges and camping sites provide accommodation. Tel: +27 (0)18 291 1055.

4. NEDERDUITSCHE HERVORMDE KERK
The oldest church building north of the Vaal River is a great site for sore eyes. Humbly starting out as a tent church, the NH Church graduated to a small building enclosed by a ring wall with holes to fire at marauding hordes. In 1842, the church was founded officially. Members would pitch up with their own veld chairs and gather under thatched roofs to worship. Under Rev Dirk van der Hoff’s leadership, a new church was built with 60cm-wide stone walls, taking 6 years to complete. Their pipe organ came from England on a ship to Cape Town, then by train and finally by way of ox wagon to where the organist installed it himself while aided by instruction books. Under Rev J Dreyer the church was declared a historical monument. Tel: +27 (0)18 299 5132.

5. MADIBA BANQUETING HALLS
Looking for the ideal venue with the right ambiance and ideal setting to accommodate up to 1200 people? The Madiba Banqueting Halls in Potchefstroom offers the space and location, depending on the nature of the function. These TGCSA 3star graded halls are the perfect venue for all kinds of events - from meetings and private functions to the glamour of weddings and matric farewells or even university banquets. Tel: +27 (0) 18 299 5444.
An area brimming with tourist gems, the Maquassi Hills lures the adventurer to explore its exciting past, like the early miners sifting the earth in their feverish quest for riches...

Wolmaransstad: Founded in 1891 due to the discovery of diamonds, the town became an important stop on the old postal route between Johannesburg and Kimberley. Wolmaransstad lies in the valley of the Makwassie Stream, deriving its name from the wild spearmint bushes growing along its banks. Today it serves a large community and is an important diamond trade centre.

Leeudoringstad: Nestling just off the N12, 28km from Wolmaransstad, Leeudoringstad was founded in 1920. The town was named after a particular type of thorn bush that once grew in abundance near the farm Rietkuil, on which the village was established. In 1832, a train loaded with dynamite exploded in the centre of the town.

Makwassie: First inhabited by the San, then the Barolong (Batswana tribe) who named it after their leader Makwassie, before becoming one of the first Boer settlements in the old Transvaal. In 1909, the town was established on the ground which belonged to the widow of Kommandant Potgieter. The spelling of the name was changed to Makwassie.
1. SHOPRITE CENTRE
A contemporary hub of trade and modern amenities, the Maquassi beat of culture. Once a week 30 traditional dancers pulsate to an ancient beat while telling tales through dance. Aged between a tender 9 and 16 years old, these dancers are learners under parental care, but form part of an innovative NGO. The centre which opened in 2005, forms part of the town hall and the library is conveniently incorporated here. It houses Shoprite, Jet, Pep Stores, Ackermans, Standard Bank, Tekkie Town, Q and Q, King Pie, Vodacom, Express Stores and KFC, a one-stop shopping experience. Tel: +27 (0)18 596 9100.

2. DROSTDY VILLAGE
Built in the 1800’s, the buildings served the residence of the Magistrate. In the Anglo-Boer War, the village burnt down, but was rebuilt and used as Drostdy until the late 1980’s. After negotiating for 15 years, Gert en Wilna Jacobs bought the premises in 1999, starting restoration work immediately. They rebuilt at the old Drostdy which now comprises De Wijnwinkel en Deli (only specialist wine cellar in North West) with daily tasting, the deli (biltong, droëwors, jams, dried fruit), Drostdy Guesthouse (Graaff-Reinet style, exquisitely furnished), and Art Gallery. De Hoff Restaurant has superb service where the chef himself will inform you of the delicacies on the menu and even indulge to prepare it in front of guests. Add the Antique Shop, Wagon House Theatre and diamond dealer to create a hub of activity. Call the cellar on +27 (0)83 262 0387 and the restaurant on +27 (0)82 552 8099.

3. DIE GEELHUIS RESTAURANT
More than a restaurant and pub, Die Geelhuis in the old ‘Landroshuis’ offers a vast array for visitors who prefer the tranquillity of farm countryside. Die Geelhuis serves traditional “boerekos” made in the traditional Boer way and has a pub where a plasma television makes it a popular watering hole for sport lovers. Children are accommodated with trampoline jumping and visits to the farm animals. A golf driving range and archery cater for the active guests. Conference facilities for 24 are available for private functions, while the restaurant caters for functions (50 to 60 guests). Tel: +27 (0)18 596 1669  Cell: +27 (0)82 555 0502.

4. BONA BONA GAME LODGE
In Setswana Bona Bona is ‘to look or see’, which is the perfect way to explore the profusion of wildlife - 22 species including rhino, buffalo, sable and roan antelope, endangered wild dogs and the king of beasts, lions. Be infused with the spirit of the African bush, enjoying sundowners while hearing the majestic roar of lions and watching the dramatic sunsets. Bona Bona shares its privileged privacy and tranquillity with luxury thatched en-suite chalets and self-catering bush camp. Conference facilities promise escape from the stresses of the corporate jungle. Romantics can opt for weddings in the chapel with safari banqueting. Game and birds are viewed from an open 4x4 vehicle. Tel: +27 (0)18 451 1005/451 1188.

5. BUISFONTEIN SAFARI LODGE AND WEDDING VENUE
Nestled in the camel thorn trees is a game lodge (some 10km from Wolmaransstad), created with vision to restore the habitat and fauna and flora to offer a special eco-adventure to visitors. View the splendour of nature on game drives from an open game-viewing vehicle. Then relax in chalets (serviced daily) surrounded by glorious gardens with swimming pool, in a home-away-from-home atmosphere. The Wedding Venue creates “forever-memories”, making the couple’s dreams of a magical wedding come true in a chapel exuding charm... The honeymoon starts right there in rooms that welcome the newlyweds with open arms. Tel: +27 (0)18 598 6704.

INFO CENTRE: Thato Phakoe +27 (0)18 596 1067
Ventersdorp is located in the fertile Vaal River Valley. Four roads lead to Ventersdorp. It is 110km from the Witwatersrand or Pretoria on the Tarlton-Ventersdorp road; and 50km from Potchefstroom, 70km from Klerksdorp and 90km from Lichtenburg. The Eye of the Schoonspruit attracted people for hundreds of years to this fertile valley and it still is a never-ending source of life for the people of the town, even during the harshest drought. Some BaTswana groups settled in the Ventersdorp region in the mid 18th century, but fled the area in the early 19th century during an invasion by other groups. Most of them fled to the Free State. They later returned only to find that white farmers had already claimed the land along the Schoonspruit River. The first white people came to the area in 1840, making it one of the first settlements in the old Transvaal Republic.

The first farm in the area was called Sterkstroom (‘strong flowing stream’). The town was established on the farm Roodepoort 22, property of Mr JH Venter. It is believed that Venter allocated stands as early as 1860. With the development of a farming community in the area, more and more people bought property from Venter. The first NG Church parish was established in 1866, and the first church was built in 1889. This building was later used as the church hall, with the completion of a larger red brick church in 1912, which still stands sentinel over the town. More people settled in the town after the discovery of diamonds in the area. Gold was also discovered but turned out not to be worth mining. During the South African Anglo Boer War, most of the men folk joined the Boer commandos. When the British introduced their scorched earth policy, an Irish soldier, G. Shaw, considered the tactic immoral and defected. He stayed with the Engelbrecht family at Ventersdorp. When food ran out he went to a local shop for rations. British soldiers recognised him. After his capture he was tried and executed. He was buried in a far corner of the cemetery, away from both British and Boer soldiers. The site is known as The Grave With Eternal Flowers. The grave is under a tree which stays in bloom for months. In the 1960’s and 1970’s, hundreds of blacks in the town and surrounding areas were forcefully removed under apartheid laws. They were relocated to newly declared townships such as Makgokgwane in the former Bophuthatswana.
1. **Eye of the Schoonspruit River**
   This is one of many river eyes in the area. It is 6km from Ventersdorp on the road to Koster. The town depends on its water for human consumption. The water level stays constant, even during dry seasons. It was from here that the first mineral water was bottled in South Africa, under the label “Schoonspruit”.

2. **Water Mill**
   Is situated in Hendrick Potgieter no. 6. It was built by Mr. Richard Carew Wilson in 1865. The Schoonspruit used to pass here. The mill was used to grind mielies for maize meal. The building was built out of mud and clay bricks and it is still standing now. Mr Wilson was born in 1840 and died in 1916. The 6th generation is still living in the house where the mill was built.

3. **Elandskuil Dam**
   Ideal for a day out in the sun. Only 3km from Ventersdorp on the road to Klerksdorp.

4. **Rietspruit Dam Resort**
   Rietspruit is an angler’s paradise. It is 8km from town on the road to Klerksdorp, 10km from Ventersdorp. A variety of water sports may be enjoyed at this resort.

5. **Kerkskraal Dam**
   Kerkskraal is fed by the Mooi River - a beautiful spot and not to be missed. It is 22km from Ventersdorp on the road to Krugersdorp.

6. **Schoonspruit**
   Originates three kilometers north of the Ventersdorp from the vast dolomite formations and flows through the peat mosses and reed beds to the South. The Schoonspruit Distillers, being in the heart of the highveld grain producing area, obtains its raw products for manufacturing of whisky from the surroundings agricultural community and purchases its wine for the manufacturing of brandy from the wine cellars in South Africa.

   These products are then distilled according to the legally prescribed processes and matured for the manufacturing of malt whisky and pot stilled brandy. The two pot stills and large cellar area offer sufficient production and storage capacity for the next decade’s projected production.
Directory

Matlosana
TOURISM INFO CENTRE:
+27 (0)18 487 8244/45/88

Potchefstroom
TOURISM INFO CENTRE:
+27 (0)18 299 5012 / +27 (0)18 293 1611

Maquassi Hills
TOURISM INFO CENTRE:
+27 (0)18 596 1067

Ventersdorp
TOURISM INFO CENTRE:
+27 (0)18 264 8600