

The Royal Bafokeng

The Bafokeng people trace their history back to the year 1140. Kgosi (King) Sekete III, who ruled in the early 1700s, was the first in the line of kings, of which the current Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi is the 15th direct descendant. Sekete III was followed by kings Diale, Ramorwa, Sekete IV, and Thethe. Then came arguably the most influential king in Bafokeng history: Kgosi August Mokgathe, who reigned from 1834 to 1891. Pooling community resources, he started buying land the Bafokeng had occupied for centuries. Mokgathe died 33 years before the world's largest deposits of platinum group metals were discovered under Bafokeng land. But his actions enabled his people to lease their mineral rights and eventually to claim royalties, which have been invested to establish a competent administration, civil service and infrastructure.

Today, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi is the monarch. He is the 36th King of the Bafokeng and the 15th direct descendant of the lineage of the Bafokeng kings.

Royal Bafokeng sports and the national Basketball Association introduce basketball to the north west.

n o r t h w e s t o p e r a t i n g u n i t



Bakgatla Ba Kgafela

The Bakgatla-Ba-Kgafela is a community of about 350 000 people mostly residing in the Moruleng area, in the Pienarberg region of the North West Province. The tribe can trace its history back to the 17th century.

Recently it became known in South Africa for its contribution towards tourism and mining development in the region – most notably the establishment of the Pienarberg National Park and the developments around Sun City. In July 2009 it was in the spotlight because of its partnership in Platmin, a multinational mining company that listed on the JSE.

Kgosi Nyalala M J Pilane, King of the Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela tribe is the last-born of 11 children. Kgosi's strong, loving family unit raised him with a sense of unshakable stability in body, mind and soul.

As a visionary, Kgosi is very much concerned with the future. His aim is to build a strong community in the Moruleng district. From bulk services and first-rate health care to education and a host of shops, malls and sports facilities. With the immediate goal of reducing poverty and unemployment in mind, Kgosi also wants to bring investment to this mineral-rich, agriculturally fertile region.

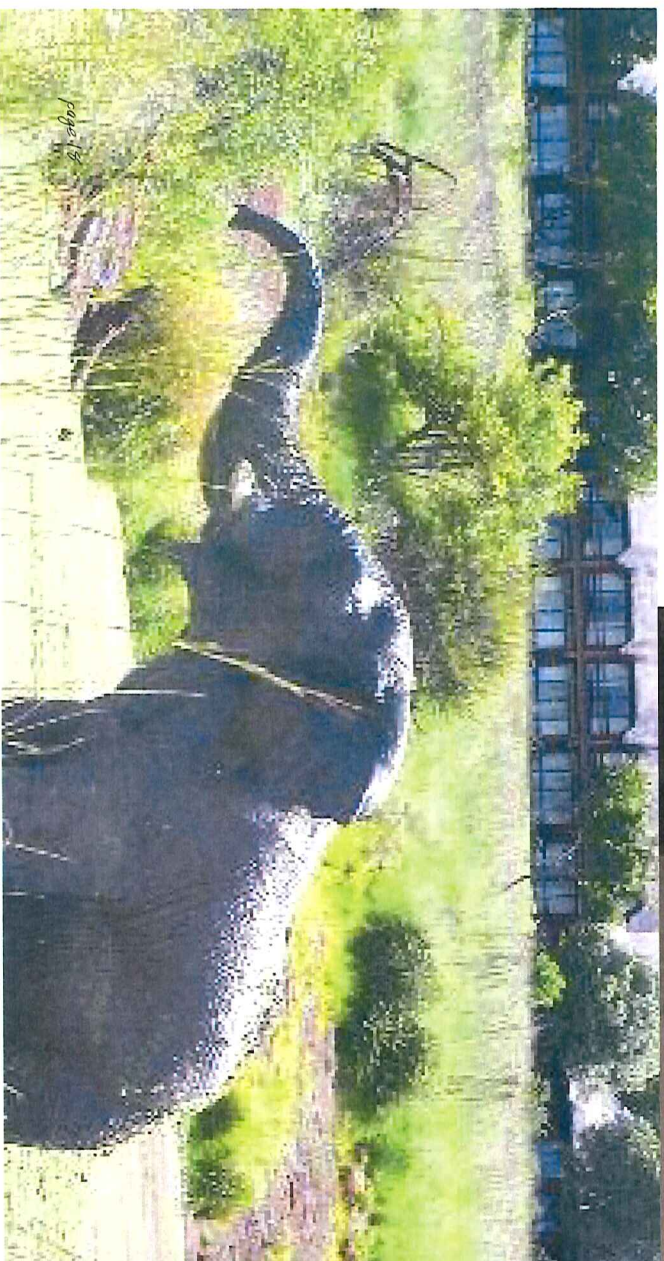
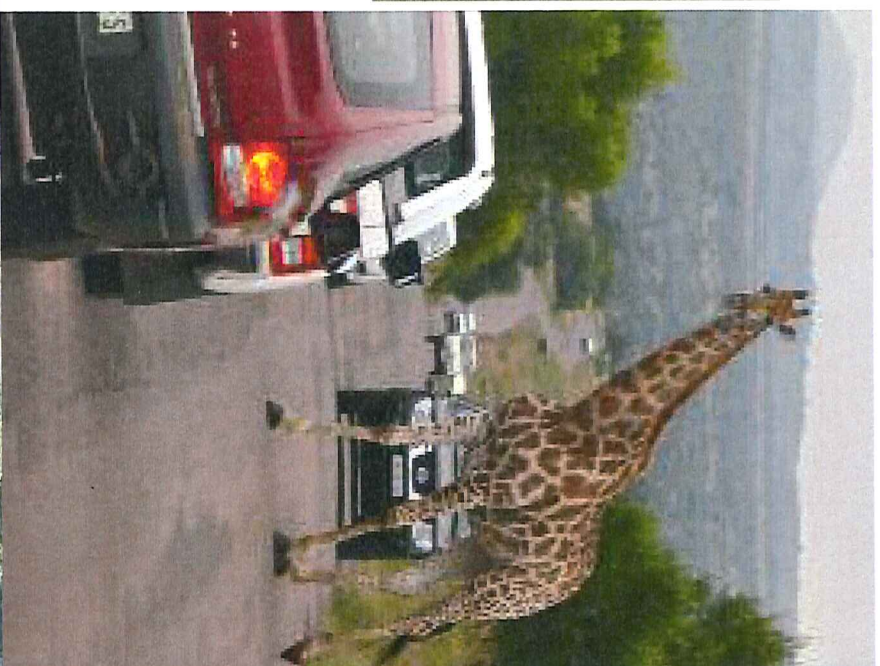


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Bakgatla Ba Kgafela Cultural Museum

Tourist attractions: Parks and Reserves

*Right: Tour visitors waiting for a giraffe to cross the road.
Below: A young elephant wallows in the water hollow at Beesonia Bush Lodge in the Pilanesberg National Park.*



Pilanesberg National Park

Pilanesberg National Park is in the Bojanala Region of the North West Province, adjacent to Sun City. Set in the crater of a long extinct volcano it is one of the largest volcanic complexes of its type in the world, the rare rocks and formations make it a unique geological feature. The Park ranks among the largest of the parks in South Africa (it is in fact the fifth largest park) and covers an area of 55 000 hectares.

The beauty of Pilanesberg is reflected in a large central lake, the Mankwe Dam.

Scattered throughout the park are various sites that originate from the Iron age and Stone age and show the presence of man from those periods in these areas.

Pilanesberg National Park accommodates virtually every mammal of southern Africa. It's home to the Big Five and luxurious and budget accommodation can be found in and around the Park.

The park is open to the public and viewing the game from a hot air balloon is a popular activity.



Hot air balloon ride over the Pilanesberg National Park.

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Madikwe Private Game Reserve

The Malaria free Madikwe Game Reserve, situated against the Botswana border is just four hours' drive from both Johannesburg and Pretoria, is now one of South Africa's prime safari destinations.

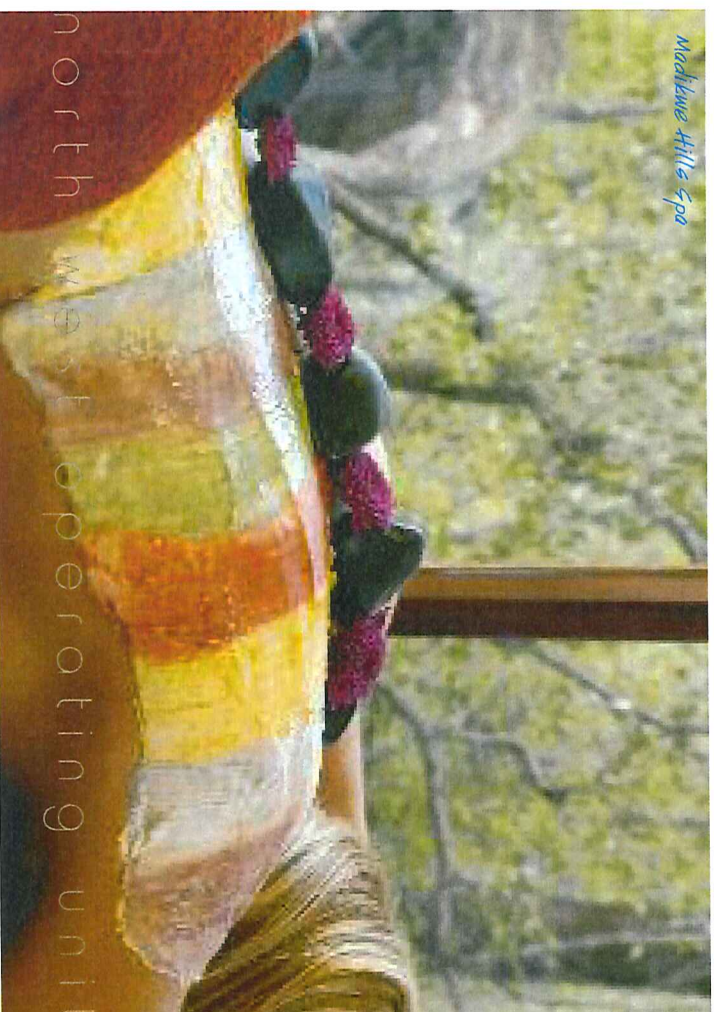
Madikwe is a Big Five game reserve covering some 75,000 hectare. It is one of the largest game reserves in South Africa. The rich diversity of vegetation

ensures a wide range of game and the topography offers ideal game viewing opportunities.

A special feature of Madikwe lies in its unique location, a transition zone on the edges of the Kalahari, where a number of rare species occur naturally, and the bushveld. Over 350 species of birds have been recorded at Madikwe and it is the only place in Africa where

Springbok and Kalahari Gemsbok meet naturally. The reserve consists of vast plains of open woodlands and grasslands, dissected by the rugged Rant van Tweedepoort and bordered in the south by the Dwarzberg Mountains.

It is the perfect family-friendly safari destination, as it has many 5-star lodges that welcome children and offer children's activities.

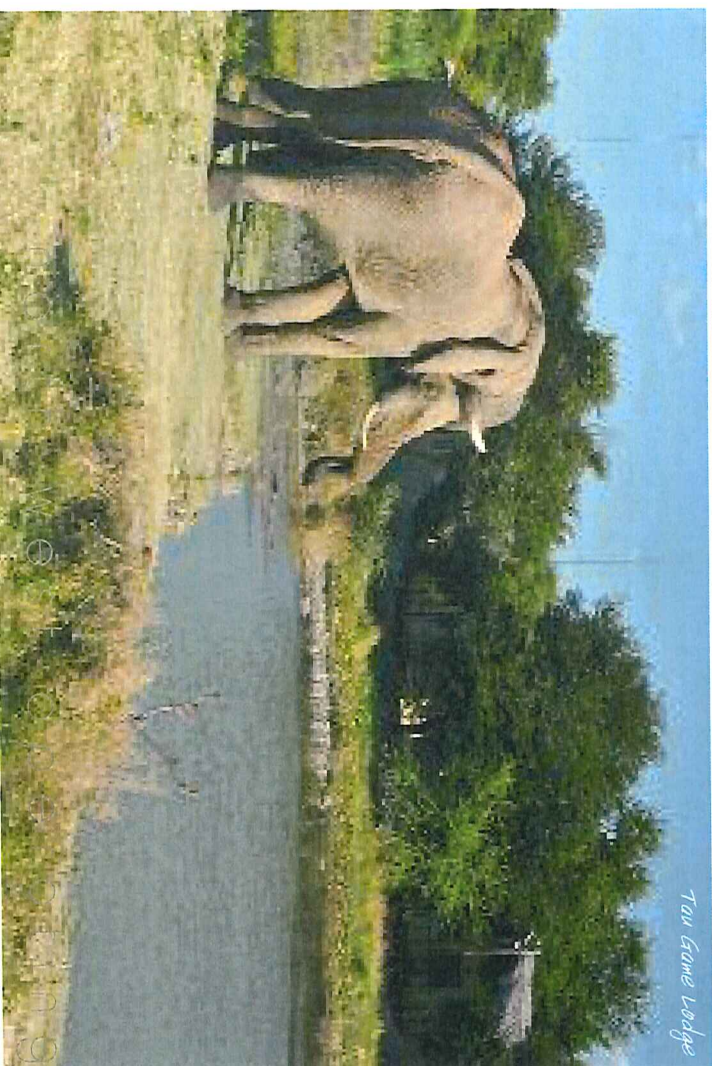


Children's Safaris are popular in Madikwe Game Reserve.

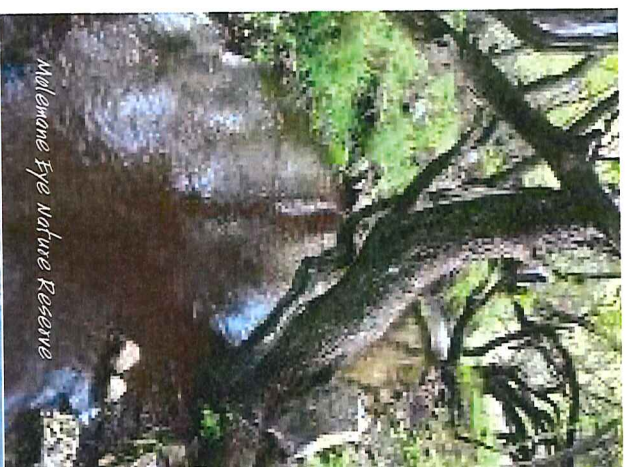




Jacki's Tree Lodge



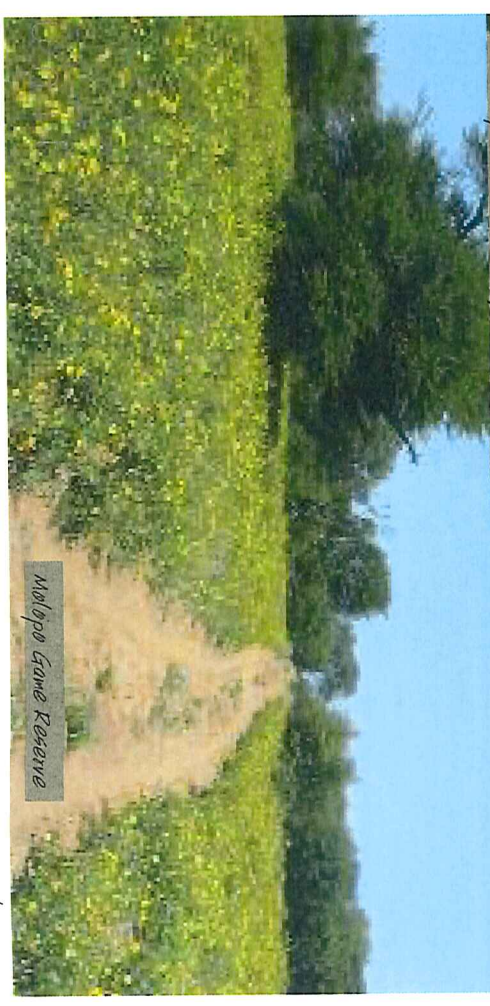
Tau Game Lodge



Molemane Eye Nature Reserve



Barberspan Bird Sanctuary



Molopo Game Reserve

Reserves and Sanctuary's

- Barberspan Bird Sanctuary**
- Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve**
- Botsalano Game Reserve**
- Madikwe Game Reserve**
- Matikeng Game Reserve**
- Molemane Eye Nature Reserve**
- Molopo Game Reserve**
- S A Lombard Nature Reserve**
- Wolwespruit Nature Reserve**
- Borakalalo National Park**
- Boskop Dam Nature Reserve**
- Highveld National Park**
- Kgaswane Mountain Reserve**
- Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve**

Groot Marico

It took only six months for Herman Charles Bosman to fall in love with the Groot Marico, the small town in the North West province that inspired some of his best-known works – the Oom Schalk Lourens stories and the Voorkamer sketches – “There is no other place I know that is so heavy with atmosphere, so strangely and darkly impregnated with that stuff of life that bears the authentic stamp of South Africa”

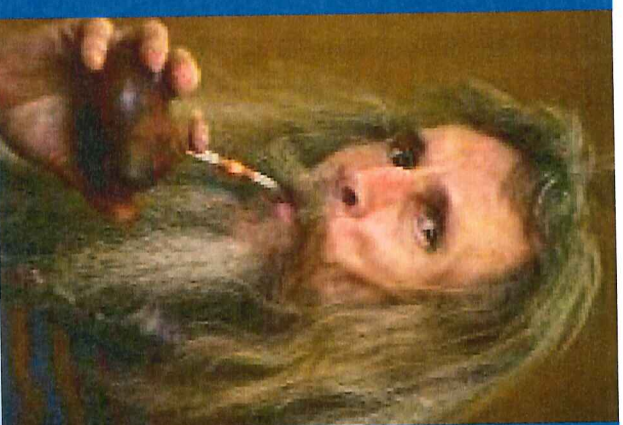
The Groot Marico is a small town with a rich history of people and their stories. Groot Marico is on the N4, 2 hours drive from Pretoria and Johannesburg and also 2 hours drive from Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp. It is 100 km from Rustenburg and 126 km from Mmabatho.

Traditional dances and Indigenous games

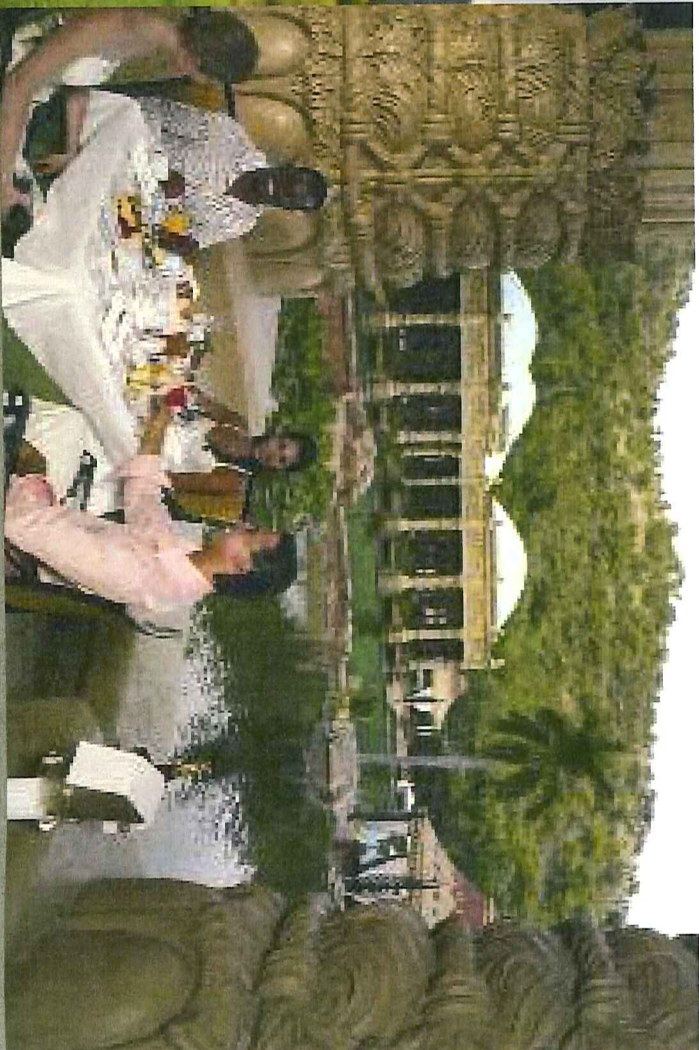
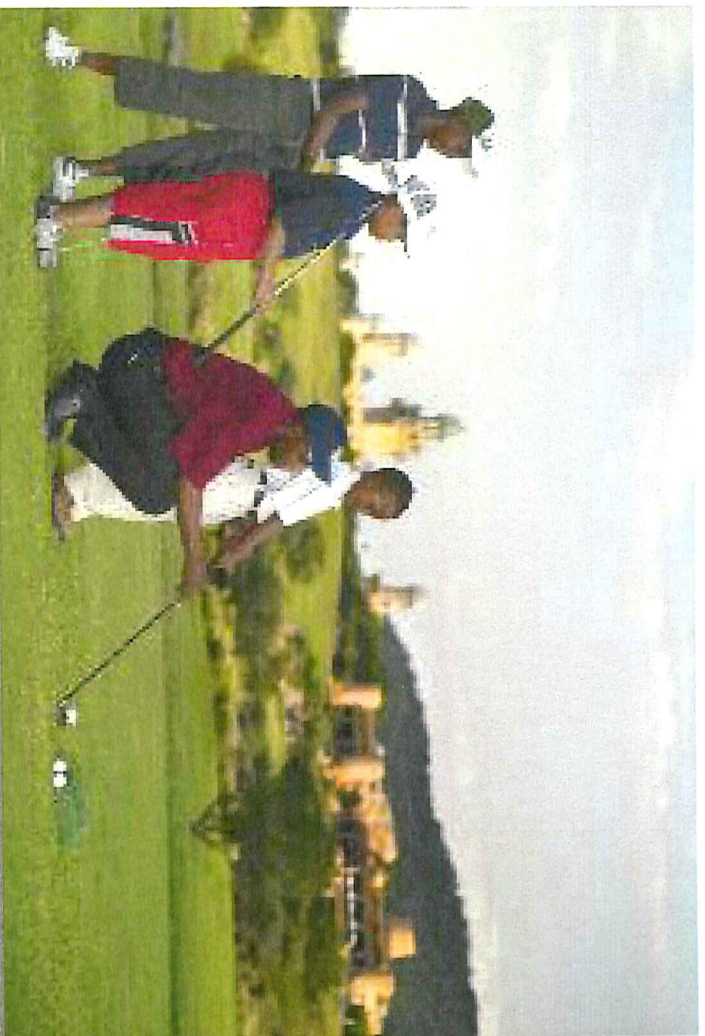
Traditional dance and Indigenous games are making a big comeback in the North West. Not only are they popular tourist attractions but they are also a bid to revive the moral regeneration of young people.

There are six indigenous game codes which are part of an annual South African Indigenous games. Some games like morabaraba and Ncuva are very popular among miners. Dibeke and Juskei even have federations nationwide.

On page left: Eibert van Bort on Gow sekhle women (beehive) during the Bosman festival, an old ceramic mopper bottle; Indigenous game of Ukhobu is now played competitively in some North West schools; young maidens learning traditional sekwana dance; the traditional game of intyaga



Kgosi Lerina Molokeng



Sun City and the Palace of the Lost City

The Sun City Resort draws thousands of visitors each year to its four hotels offering magnificent sporting and recreational facilities including two world class golf courses.

Sun City was developed by the hotel magnate Sol Kerzner as part of his Sun International group of properties. It was officially opened on 7 December 1979

while it was still part of the Bantustan, Bophuthatswana. As Bophuthatswana had been declared an independent state by South Africa's apartheid government, it was allowed under the

South African law at the time to provide entertainment such as gambling and topless revue shows, which were banned in South Africa. These factors,

as well as its relatively close location to the large metropolitan areas of Pretoria and Johannesburg, ensured that Sun City soon became (and stayed) a popular holiday and weekend destination.

Surrounded by the imposing mountains of the Pienanesberg, Sun City is well known for hosting international music shows, heavyweight boxing championships and the Nedbank million Dollar Golf championship.

n o r t h w e s t o p e r a t i n g u n i t

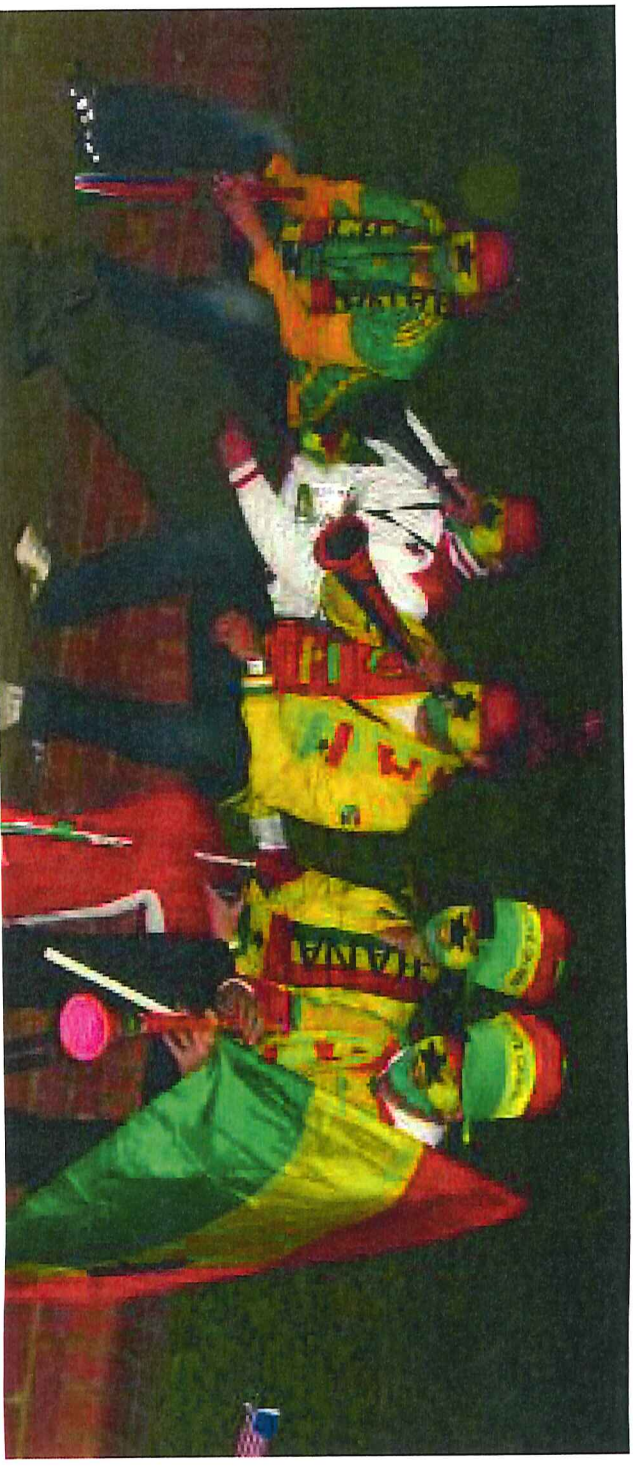


Milestones: FIFA World Cup

Rustenburg was one of the host cities for the much anticipated, exciting and successful show on earth – the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup.

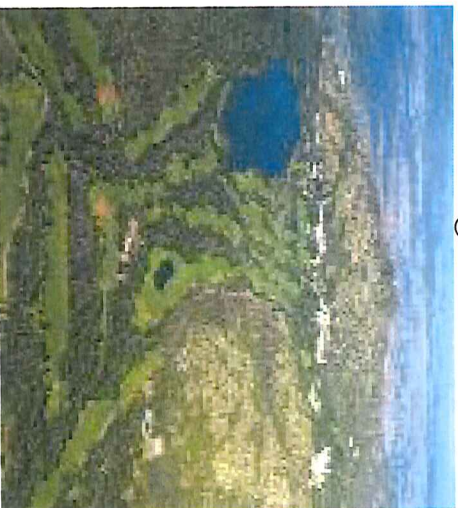
During this spectacular tournament, Rustenburg and Potchefstroom hosted three foreign national football teams the United Kingdom, Spain and Hungary who chose to set up base camps for the duration of the tournament.

Many international visitors to Rustenburg and the Royal Bafokeng Stadium witnessed heart-stopping football. Local taverns and restaurants recorded record sales during this time and of course the crowned champions Spain celebrated in true style in Potchefstroom where they were staying.



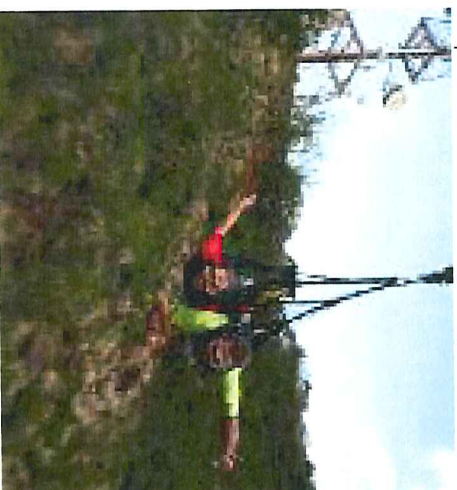
Adventure:
All you can do

Golfing



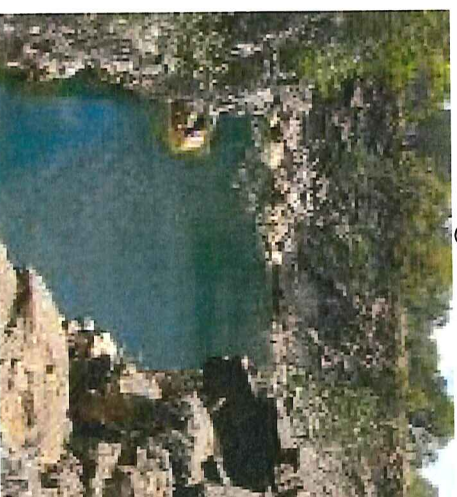
The North West has a particularly high number of fantastic courses, including arguably the best of them all, The Gary Player Country Club.

Zip slide



Unlike a canopy tour this is pure adrenalin. You don't sit, you glide, it's the closest you'll ever feel to flying. The PRONUTRO ZIP 2000, at Sun City is the longest zip slide in the world – 280 meters high, two kilometers long, – and reaches speeds of 140 kilometers per hour.

Cave diving



Approximately 60km from Lichtenburg and 30km from Mafikeng at an altitude of approximately 1440m above sea level, is an unbelievable natural dolomite sinkhole called Wondergat – the deepest natural hole in the interior of South Africa.

Elephant safari



Getting to know the elephants at Plianesberg Elephant Back Safaris on a personal level is a rare and humbling experience.

n o r t h w e s t o p e r a t i n g u n i t

