

# INDABA Daily News

Issue No.3 11 May 2015

## 100 new establishments graded every month

"On average 100 new establishments join the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa's grading system every month," says South African Tourism Chief Executive Officer, Thulani Nzima.

Speaking at the sixth annual Tourism Grading Council of South Africa stakeholder event at the Tourism Indaba last night, Nzima said considering it is voluntary, it is a great achievement.

"South Africa has almost 5 500 graded establishments and 115 000 graded rooms across all categories. The number of the graded establishments ensures that the country's global reputation for quality and value for money and its global competitiveness will grow.

"The fact that there are so many establishments on board is evidence that this industry sees the value in securing star grading.

"There is a groundswell of support for star grading, thanks in no small part to the enormous effort that the grading council has made to market the system, to make it accessible to the industry, to support the industry in its quest for quality, and to offer star graded establishments excellent service and a number of great value adds that advance their own businesses and profitability," he said.

To entice tourism establishments and encourage those not registered to do so, the council has a range of

benefits that are exclusive to graded establishments, the most recent being the Basket of Benefits launched in September last year. This benefit provides graded establishments with unique offers and discounts on a wide variety of items and services critical to the day-to-day operations and administrations of the establishments.

The evidence of an establishment's commitment to excellence, through the star grading plaque, positions businesses to access the support from government departments who are mandated to use star graded establishments.

"Star graded establishments also receive market

access support, such as participation at Indaba and other trade shows. This heightened profile will attract visitors and with that create jobs contributing to infrastructure and community development and ultimately, the growth of businesses.

"The council cements South Africa's tourism offering and is critical to assuring visitors that the country's product delivers what it markets.

"We have a beautiful destination offering all things imaginable. Star grading gives visitors a promise that regardless of the type of establishments they stay in, quality and service excellence is guaranteed," said Nzima.

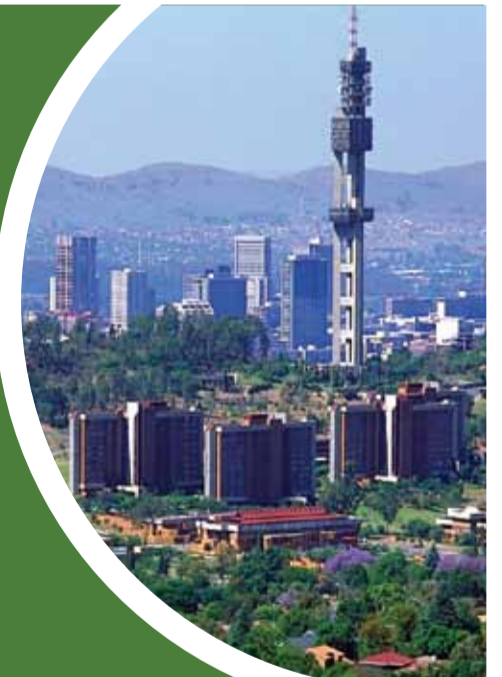


"There is a groundswell of support for star grading" - SA Tourism CEO Thulani Nzima.



South African Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom (left) and Tourism Grading Council Chairperson Graham Wood (right) also addressed stakeholders on the importance of grading. It was Hanekom's first address to this stakeholder group.

### Name the South African city that's the third-largest in the world



At 6 298 km<sup>2</sup>, Tshwane is behind only New York and Tokyo\*. To learn more amazing facts about South Africa's capital, visit our stall here at INDABA

Destination Tshwane: It's unforgettable

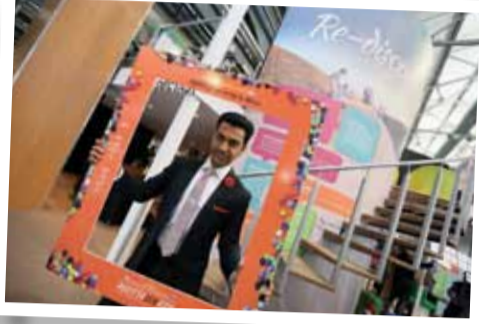
\* Measured by land area



# Selfies tell Indaba stories

Social media has revolutionised the way brands market themselves globally and the tourism industry is no exception. With Selfies on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, visitors to any destination can instantly share experiences with their loved one. Tourism KZN and Free State Tourism have taken advantage of the selfie-craze at Indaba by asking visitors to their stand to take a selfie and share it.

Check out some of the fun pics they generated here.



Girls just wanna have fun!  
Why not in the Free State?

Proving that Indaba draws not only tourism trade but celebrities of every kind, MoMagic, Durban's gift to the world of magic, made an appearance at the Tourism KZN stand.

Other famous visitors to the show included International Olympic Committee member Sam Ramsamy and Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom.



THE two Sams - new Free State Tourism MEC Sam Mashinini with Sam Ramsamy, International Olympic Committee member on the Free State stand.



Sam Mashinini, MEC for Economic Development, Small Business, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and Derek Hanekom, South African Tourism Minister.

## Today's programme – Monday 11 May 2015

### Exhibition times: 09:00 – 17:30

- 08:00 - 09:00 China research presentation
- 08:00 - 11:00 NTCE breakfast
- 09:00 - 10:00 Techtalks: making technology work for tourism - Anthon Muller
- 10:30 - 11:30 Techtalks: wayn.com and South African Tourism - Jerome Touze
- 11:30 - 12:30 Techtalks: #stellenblog - Mariette du Toit-Helmbold and Keith Jenkins
- 12:30 - 13:30 Techtalks: panel discussion - working better with travel trade
- 15:00 - 16:30 Photography workshop - Andy Carrie and Dane Forman

## Indaba Daily News

# 65th edition

The Indaba Daily News, official newspaper of Indaba, is published by Junxion Communications.

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We would like to hear from you ...

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Also read Indaba Daily News on [www.indaba-southafrica.net](http://www.indaba-southafrica.net).

Printed on environmentally friendly Sappi Tripple Green gloss 115g/m<sup>2</sup>.



## Durban's Eye to Eye campaign launched

The Deputy Mayor of Durban, Councillor Nomvuzo Shabalala, launched Durban Tourism's Eye to Eye campaign at Indaba last night. The campaign is aimed at increasing the number of visitors to the city to five million a year, one million being international tourists. This will translate into R10 billion in tourism revenue annually and create at least 75 000 jobs. For more information visit DEC 1A37.



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# Indaba journalists meet South Africa

Yesterday afternoon 150 hosted travel and trade journalists were treated to a day out to experience the beautiful host city of Indaba 2015, Durban, in a truly South African way.

Journalists were split into four groups, each experiencing a different facet of the city of Durban and its surrounds, with activities ranging from shark cage diving to a luxury yacht cruise, a culture and heritage

immersion, a mangrove forest walk and a rickshaw ride on Durban's famous beachfront.

The adrenalin-filled bungee jumping off the arch at the Moses Mabhida stadium saw South African Tourism Chief Executive Officer, Thulani Nzima, lead the way when he strapped himself into the harness and jumped off into Durban's remarkably blue, clear and sunny sky.

Everybody convened in the late afternoon at the Kwa Muhle Museum when the City of Durban treated journalists to an entertainment-filled afternoon of traditional song and dance while guests dined on typically South African delicacies ranging from melktert to dombolo.

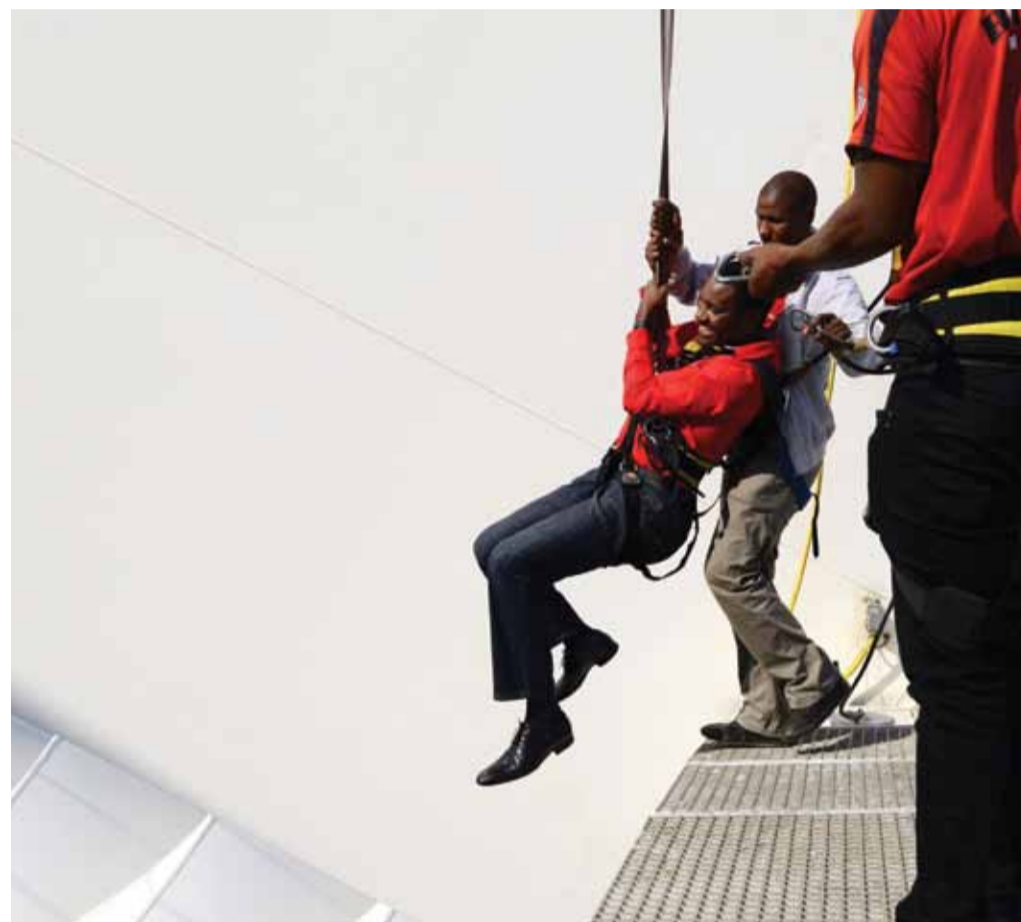
"It's an opportunity that we offer this important stakeholder group – the registered Indaba hosted

journalists – to experience and meet South Africa outside the tradeshow halls.

"Indaba is about marketing and showcasing a destination. It's important for the world's media to experience this amazing city before they head off home. We had a great afternoon," says Nzima.



Travel writers enjoyed adrenalin-filled bungee jumping off the arch at the Moses Mabhida stadium in Durban yesterday afternoon.



Jumping for tourism - we can do it! - SA Tourism CEO Thulani Nzima.

## How to build a tourism business

Spotlighting small and medium tourism businesses at Indaba 2015

We all know the big tourism players - the national and multinational hotel groups and tour operators that are tourism's high profile success stories, and that grab the lion's share of the spotlight.

But what about the Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMMEs)? What about the hungry entrepreneurs working to build successful businesses with scant resources and competing for attention against the big boys with even bigger operational and marketing budgets?

These businesses, and entrepreneurs, were the focus of yesterday's MEDIAtalk at Indaba when the Tourism Enterprise Partnership and Fair Trade Tourism South Africa addressed journalists on the challenges that emerging tourism entrepreneurs contend with as well as the remarkable suite of strengths unique to small and medium businesses in tourism.

Panellists at this MEDIAtalk were Salifou Siddo, Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Enterprise Partnership, Thiofhi Ravele, Business Development Support Manager at Fair Trade Tourism South Africa, Shaheed Ebrahim, former Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner, Peterson Mahlangu, Chief Executive Officer at Fundani Tours, Desiree Bosch, Chief Executive Officer at Mountain Lodge and Desiree Rajoo of Discover Duran Travel and Tours. The discussion was moderated by Akash Singh, president at the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Siddo said that while poverty and unemployment were rampant in South Africa, the tourism industry's barriers to entry were relatively low. The industry

offered an attractive option for entrepreneurs provided. He cautioned that people who decided to build tourism businesses were prepared to be proactive and understand that success would always be a result of hard work and great networks.

"SMMEs cannot succeed if they go it alone," said Ravele.

"As much as these businesses need to work together, they also need the support of people in the communities out of which they operate. Fair Trade Tourism South Africa accredits tourism businesses that meet responsible and sustainable parameters of good business practice. This ensures that businesses do not grow at the expense of the people that they employ or the natural environment that attracts tourists to South Africa.

"Fair and sustainable business practices such as paying people in line with legislated wages, bolster a business' chances of success. Our accreditation instils sound business principles from the time a business is born with these principles becoming integral to the business culture as it grows," said Ravele.

Skills training is critical in getting a young business up and on its feet, the panel agreed. Such training, combined with mentorship by established, successful business was the single most valuable resource available to emerging entrepreneurs. It delivers insights, advice, best practice and knowledge to the budding entrepreneur and shortens the learning curve, delivering skills faster and more efficiently than classroom learning alone.

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# Wildlife Conservation hub for Victoria Falls



Santonga conservation, culture and history park in Victoria Falls will be “a force for good” in the region with a strong focus on conservation education and research says Dave Glynn, group chairman of Africa Albida Tourism.

“We want to tap into research, both regionally and globally, and put together a consolidated view of what is threatened and how it is threatened in our area, and then create a force for good in terms of conservation messaging, conservation education and preserving wildlife,” says Glynn.

Santonga, the \$18 million, 80-acre park, scheduled to open in 2017, will tell the story of Victoria Falls from the very beginning, four billion years ago, through its history, people, plants and wildlife.

“Our research revealed incredible stories about Victoria Falls and its surroundings. An example is the story of where the earliest form of life, a stromatolite, was found, not far from the Vic Falls,” says Glynn. “We also have two dinosaur species that are significant in the global dinosaur story.”

“We want to showcase all of that but in a first world multiple film set type of environment because we know this can’t be a museum, it can’t be a zoo, it needs to bombard the senses and it needs to be highly interactive with very powerful audiovisual content throughout.

“And then we can’t tell the story of the Falls without talking about the people. There’s rich history amongst the various tribal groupings around the Falls – their customs, their architecture, their tribal dress and folklore.”

Santonga, is expected to be at least a six-hour experience, drawing 120,000 visitors annually, and boosting the average length tourists stay in Victoria Falls, thereby benefitting the entire economy. It is also expected to create 150 direct jobs, and many more downstream ones.

In addition to Santonga, Africa Albida Tourism, a Zimbabwe-owned company, has a portfolio of hotels and restaurants in Victoria Falls, including its flagship property, the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge.

# First-ever tourism summit for Limpopo

The first-ever tourism summit in Limpopo will be hosted in Tzaneen from 17 to 19 September 2015 to showcase Limpopo – offering excellent content and actual tourism experiences, particularly cultural and agri-tourism experiences.

The summit will bring all stakeholders in the tourism industry together to discuss these growing segments and learn about the Limpopo province’s offering in this regard.

Organised by the Greater Tzaneen Tourism Association, the summit will promote access to Kruger National Park and Mozambique through Limpopo and Tzaneen in particular.

The three-day event is set to become an annual event on the destination marketing calendar to familiarise the tourism industry with the tourism value and rich cultural heritage of the Limpopo province. It will allow ample opportunity for tourism business owners to network and interact with tourism trade intermediaries.

Various government agencies have indicated their support for the initiative, with the Limpopo Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Seaparo Sekoati, expected to address delegates.

Day 1 will be dedicated to cultural tourism, while day 2 will focus on agri- and leisure tourism and on day 3 will have the opportunity to experience the tourism offering of the area through a variety of half-day tours.

Delegates can download the preliminary programme at [www.limptourism.com](http://www.limptourism.com). The delegate registration fee is R1 500 per person, and includes attendance to the three days of the summit, meals, delegate bag and a tour on the last day. The registration fee excludes accommodation and transport to the event.

The venue is the Tzaneen Country Lodge. Delegates can extend their stay for the Spring Festival, which takes place in Haenertsburg and Magoebaskloof from 19 to 27 September.

Visit DEC1C09

# Walk in Mandela’s footsteps



In Mandela’s footsteps, a new eight-day cultural guided tour to commemorate 21 years of democracy in South Africa, is the brainchild of Springbok Atlas Tours and Safaris.

Focusing on the life of Nelson Mandela, the lawyer

and political activist, the tour combines visits to historical sites in Soweto, a Big Five safari experience in Pilanesberg National Park and the scenic beauty and cultural diversity of Cape Town.

Visit ICC I13.



# TAKING DURBAN TO THE WORLD

Durban has recently achieved the global status of a New 7 Wonders City of the World. This achievement is a great honour and it clearly shows the commitment and competitive edge of our City as a leading global tourism, events and business destination. The City has also proudly been acclaimed as the Top 10 Cities to Visit in 2015 by *New York Times*, with key attributes reflecting its rich cultural diversity and heritage.

It is a tremendous honour for the City to be recognised as a global destination and to meet with the tourism industry each year at Indaba to showcase itself as a platform for growth and opportunities.

The City has adopted a Visitor Strategy in November 2014 designed to position Durban as the gateway to Africa and as an investment partner of choice. The aim is to attract five million tourists annually to the City and to inject approximately R10-million into the economy, while supporting 74 000 jobs by 2020. It is fundamental that our destination promotion will ultimately become an engine of economic development for the City.

The City is also looking forward to be host City for the prestigious gathering of the World Route Development Forum taking place from 19-22 September 2015. The city is optimistic that the influx of the key aviation industry on our shores, will open new growth opportunities and expansion for Durban.

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# Discover the urban heart of Cape Town



Urban tourism is all the rage in cities like London, New York and Amsterdam. Now Cape Town has joined their ranks. The city's newest collaborative community project, the Big 7 City Walk brings its public spaces to life through story-telling, way-finding signs, public art, walking tours and retail offerings.

Coordinated by the Cape Town Partnership, a non-profit organisation that brings people together around common goals for Cape Town's transformation, the new city walk route starts on Taj Cape Town's doorstep in the Company's Gardens, the city's central park, originally a vegetable garden planted by Jan van Riebeeck. The route continues past the hotel down the leafy pedestrian walkway of St Georges Mall, to Waterkant Street. Waterkant Street was pedestrianised in the lead up to the 2010 World Cup to create a Fan Walk which facilitated access between the station and the stadium. The route ends in St Andrew's Square, a public space for visitors to enjoy street art, street furniture and historic memorials.

Michael Pownall, Taj Cape Town's General Manager and City Walk hospitality spokesperson says: "We are proud to be a partner of this inclusive new urban initiative. Taj Cape Town shares the Cape Town Partnership's passion for inner-city rejuvenation and development and we look forward to celebrating our vibrant city with visitors and Capetonians alike."

Now recognised as the seventh addition to Cape Town's previous Big Six tourist attractions, which include Cape Point, Robben Island, Groot Constantia, Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch and the V&A Waterfront, the new City Walk adds the much-needed urban aspect to the iconic mix of uniquely South African experiences.

In addition to organised walking tours and regular activations on the City Walk route, the Cape Town Partnership will be coordinating a monthly flagship event called City Walk Saturdays, including live entertainment, yoga, dancing, food, giant chess and more.

# Freedom Park fully operational

South Africa's liberation heritage monument in Pretoria is now fully operational.

Launched in June 2000, Freedom Park was established to fulfil the South African public's need for a memorial to fittingly honour those who sacrificed their lives to win freedom. It also celebrates and explores the country's diverse peoples, the common humanity, through compelling stories, performances, exhibits and architecture.

"Now fully operational, Freedom Park is signing agreements with tour operators to bring guests to the liberation heritage product," says acting Chief Executive Officer, Jane Mufamadi.

"The magnitude of international tourists attracted by Freedom Park has never been this high. We are presently hosting two temporary exhibitions – 'History is the home address', showcasing the 1956 Sophia

Town forced removals and EK BEN EEN AFRIKANDER (I am an African) exhibition.

"We have a true story to tell, which originated from late president Nelson Mandela when he said 'the day should not be far off, when we shall have a people's shrine, a freedom park, where we shall honor with all the dignity they deserve, those who endured pain so we should experience the joy of freedom,'" she said.

Freedom Park has now inscribed 95 000 names of freedom fighter heroes who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. The eternal flame that burns unceasingly in honour of the unknown fallen heroes, the tranquility of the picnic place, the Uitspanplek for family gatherings, the sacredness and the spirituality place, Isivivane, the Gallery of leaders - all of these make a visit to Freedom Park vital.

Visit ICC07



## PROVIDING FINANCING TO SMALL TOURISM BUSINESSES

*A brand new financing offering has been launched by the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (sefa) and the Tourism Enterprise Partnership (TEP) to provide business loans to SMMEs in the tourism industry.*

The Ikwezi Tourism Facility (ITF) aims to assist the development of SMMEs in the tourism sector by making available a revolving facility providing loans to cover bridging finance, capital and business expansion:

- bridging finance, including short term financing to facilitate up front contractual obligations;
- capital, including equipment and building; and
- business expansion, including construction and asset acquisition.

### + SEFA

Sefa is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Limited (IDC) and envisions itself as the leading catalyst for the development of sustainable survivalist, micro, small and medium enterprises through the provision of finance.

### + TEP

TEP is a not for profit company that has successfully developed entrepreneurs for over a decade. TEP facilitates the growth, development and sustainability of small tourism businesses.

### + FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Bongani Tshabalala (Credit Analyst)

Phone: (011) 880 3790 | Emails: bonganit@tep.co.za, info@ikwezifacility.co.za

Website: [www.ikwezifacility.co.za](http://www.ikwezifacility.co.za)



"Although there is a plethora of development finance institutions in South Africa, access to finance has always been a major challenge to SMME owners as they struggle to develop and grow their businesses. Access to finance has long been the missing link in our SMME development strategy and we have set out to find ways of addressing this challenge. The ITF propels TEP to the next level of innovation by making it the only tourism SMME development organisation in the country which, in addition to normal business development support such as training, mentorship, and market access, is also able to provide access to finance."

TEP CE - Dr Salifou Siddo

## Shark's Board in talks over shark attacks



The KZN MEC, Economic Development, Tourism and Traditional Affairs Mike Mabuyakhulu paid a visit to the Sharks Board stand after a strategic meeting between the Sharks Board's executive team with the Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumzi Somyo and the CEO of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Vuyani Dayimani with a view to providing support to the province following the shark attacks in Port St. Johns. Left to right: Nombuso Msomi, Babalo Mpaka, Debbie Hargreaves, Mike Mabuyakhulu, Ntsiki Ngalo and Precious Shamase.



## Do family fun – do Mauritius



The message from the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority at Indaba 2015 was clear and simple – family, fun and adventure.

Mauritius is an ideal location for a family getaway or vacation. The island experiences year round sunshine and a tropical climate that is perfect for outdoor activity. In addition, the proximity to South Africa means that traveling to Mauritius is a painless trip, even with babies or small children.

The amenities on Mauritius offer a variety of activities and facilities for all members of the family. There are family-friendly resorts with organised activities designed to stimulate all guests, no matter their age. The Island also includes kids clubs and teen clubs, keeping children entertained and giving parents some

relaxing alone time.

The environment of Mauritius provides once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. While on the island, guests can participate in trekking, eco-tourism, diving, water sports, horse riding, under sea walks, sky diving, nature trails, catamaran tours and zip lining, to mention but a few.

During the off-season period – between May and August - tourists can secure discounts of up to 30 percent for a vacation package, as well as various freebies that you may miss out on at other times of the year.

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# Supersonic bloodhound comes to Hakskeenpan



The Bloodhound supersonic car land speed record attempt will take place this September at Hakskeenpan, a dry lake bed about 200km north of Upington in the Northern Cape.

"The car is being built in the UK, but this is a South African event," says Wing Commander Andy Green of the Royal Air Force.

He's the world's fastest man, and driver of the Bloodhound. Oxford mathematics graduate Green was the first and so far, the only person to break the sound barrier on land – in 1997 in Nevada's Black Rock

Desert, driving the Thrust supersonic car, at a speed of 1 228 km/h (763 mph).

The record still stands today – but not for long. If anyone can break Andy Green's record, it's Green himself. Designed by project director Richard Noble, the Bloodhound will reach a top speed of 1 610 km/h or 1 000 mph. The speed of sound on land is generally taken to be around 340 m/s or 1 236 km/h. This does vary with temperature.

"This is faster than any fighter jet can travel at ground level," he Green.

Bloodhound is powered by a borrowed Eurojet EJ200 aircraft engine and a 5 litre 550PS supercharged V8 Jaguar engine to provide hydraulic services to the car and drive the Falcon rocket engine's oxidiser pump. The engines together produce around 135 000 horsepower and will allow the car to cover the 20 km distance in two minutes.

But there's more to the Bloodhound than just mind-boggling speed. The project is aimed at inspiring a new generation of scientists and engineers, and a Northern Cape community is benefiting through job

creation, better communications infrastructure and tourism.

The nearby indigenous community of Mier was responsible for preparing the surface over which the Bloodhound will hurtle.

"The Northern Cape government has employed a workforce over the last three or four years to clear the surface of the pan. Their work has been outstanding," says Green. "They've prepared the world's best race track for the world's fastest car with an attitude of excellence, to show the world that they can do this thing, and do it well."

The 300-strong team has cleared six tons of stone from more than 20-million square metres of the pan's surface, producing a track that's 20 kilometres long and 1,1 kilometres wide.

Using a programme designed by Swansea University to sift through satellite imagery, and after numerous visits to survey potential sites, the pan was selected as the best site out of about 20 000 possibilities around the world.

"The community has completely embraced the Bloodhound," Green says. "When team members visit the site they ask us 'Where's our car?' They're very proud to be involved."

Unemployment in the community stands at about 96 percent, but with increasing interest in the Bloodhound project, it is hoped that tourism in the area will grow, with a knock-on benefit for the people.

The Kalahari Desert Speedweek has already been running since 2012 and has brought hundreds of speed freaks to Hakskeenpan to test their vehicles on a five-kilometre track near the Bloodhound site. The presence of the Bloodhound this September and in 2016 will swell the numbers of visitors significantly, but anyone can visit the pan in the meantime.

For more information visit DEC1B07.

# Choose to win with Kenya

The top six companies that sell trips to Kenya before the end of July will each win a week-long educational trip to the country in October, culminating in a visit to the Magical Kenya Travel Expo.

As part of the Choose Kenya campaign launched in Johannesburg last week, the Kenya Tourism Board is encouraging tour operators to choose Kenya for their clients.

"The Tourism Indaba is especially important for us, as the African market is vital," says the board's Wausi Walaya.

The board has also embarked on a multi-platform brand campaign with CNN International, which was announced at Indaba yesterday.

The long-term campaign to promote the natural beauty and people of Kenya begins this month with digital advertising on the travel section of CNN International's website.

This will be followed by integrated advertising across the CNN International network including two 30

second spot adverts to run on-air and online.

"Strategically, now is the ideal time for Kenya to embark on a careful and measured campaign that reminds the world of what the country offers as a travel destination," said Antonio Canto, Vice President, Advertising Sales, CNN International.

"Kenya has gone through various challenges as a result of various external factors and continued support from key partners, especially the media, is keeping the magic alive. The recent endorsement by the UNWTO Secretary General Dr Taleb Rifai on support from the international community, was a shot in the arm. Kenya remains a first choice tourism destination for many and we encourage tourists to give the country a chance to share with them more of Kenya's rich tourism product experience. We are certain that our partnership with CNN will yield positive results in getting our share of tourists back," said the tourism board's managing director, Muriithi Ndegwa.

So to win with Kenya, simply choose it. Go to stand ICCT05.

## Lusaka Grand – winner announced at 1

The winner of a six-day stay in a suite at the Best Western Plus Lusaka Grand Hotel, including return flights on RwandAir from Johannesburg to Lusaka, will be announced at 13:00 today at stand DEC2C59.

If you have not yet done so, enter the competition on [www.LusakaGrand.com](http://www.LusakaGrand.com) before 12:00 to stand a chance to win this fantastic prize!



DEC2C44

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# Are Yeng Bokone Bophirima

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## Tourism is big business in KZN

KwaZulu-Natal is loosely regarded as South Africa's playground, with good reason. The province is well remembered by many for its warm sunshine, family hotels and the charm of seaside resorts.

But the province also mean business. Both the private and public sector have stepped up investment in tourism products around the province. The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Michael Mabyakhulu, announced enhancements to the Nelson Mandela Capture site outside Howick and recently five properties have collectively invested over R110 million into refurbishments and growth of new products, ranging between three and five star establishments.

The Blue Marlin Hotel in Scottburgh on KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast, was officially re-opened in April, following the completion of a R35 million renovation programme. Umthunzi Hotel in Umtentweni has added 19 rooms and family lounges, bringing its total offering to 49 rooms, with the highly popular 30 degree south restaurant and Lantern Bar added to the mix.

Earlier in 2015, the four-star DesRoches Hotel and Conference Centre opened in Margate. The hotel offers upmarket stylish accommodation ranging from luxury studio rooms to 2 bedroom family suites, private

dining rooms, the glorious rooftop Skybar, spas and kid friendly areas.

Built in the 1960's, the Ingeli Forest Lodge, nestled below the Ingeli Mountain range near Kokstad, has undergone extensive renovations to its log cabins, deluxe and comfort rooms. And five-star The Gorge Private Lodge and Game Spa (2014 World Luxury Hotel Awards winner) in Oribi Gorge – recently added a breathtaking wine cellar, conference room and a few new rooms. With only eight villas and rooms, this sought-after property offers an exclusive getaway.

At the tourism Indaba Michael Mabyakhulu unveiled a model of the new multi-purpose centre and exhibition hall that will open for business at the Mandela Capture Site in Howick at the end of August.

"The multi-purpose centre and exhibition hall come at a critical time in our democracy, as we celebrate 21 years of freedom and this is the time that we begin to appreciate all the history and the journey we have gone through as a country to get here. The exhibition will be another exciting and informative product for our visitors to enjoy. This will put the Capture Site into an entirely new league, worthy of its importance and its new iconic status," said Mabyakhulu.

The centre will explore the story of the struggle against apartheid, specifically related to the historical events that took place in KZN, the people involved and the footsteps of Mandela walking through this turbulent landscape. To ensure that the stories curated are authentic, the department has been in contact with the individuals involved in the Freedom Trial

and representatives from other heritage and tourism initiatives.

The Capture Site has already captured the hearts of many local and international visitors who come to see the intricate sculpture by South African artist Marco Cianfinelli.



MEC Mike Mabyakhulu unveils the Mandela Capture site model.

## Indaba 2015 best stand awards

### TOUR OPERATOR

- 1st Wilderness Safaris
- 2nd Cullinan Transport Division
- 3rd Ilios Travel (Pty) Ltd

### ACCOMMODATION

- 1st Sun International Management Limited
- 2nd Faircity Hotels
- 3rd Hilton Worldwide

### DMC

- 1st Tourvest Destination Management
- 2nd Classic Portfolio
- 3rd Thompsons Africa

### TRANSPORT

- 1st The Blue Train
- 2nd South African Airways
- 3rd Cullinan Transport Division

### AFRICA

- 1st Uganda Tourism Board
- 2nd Rwanda Development Board
- 3rd Kenya Tourism Board

### PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

- 1st North West Parks and Tourism Board
- 2nd Tourism KZN
- 3rd Free State Tourism Authority

### PROVISIONAL PRODUCTS

- 1st Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- 2nd Kwazulu-Natal Sharks Board
- 3rd Robben Island Museum

### SADC

- 1st Seychelles Tourism Board
- 2nd Botswana Tourism Organisation
- 3rd

### OUTDOOR

- 1st andBeyond
- 2nd Intercap
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