

# Tourism SMMEs and Township Economy: A focus for Gauteng Tourism at Africa's Travel Indaba 2022

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This year, at Africa's Travel Indaba Trade Show, Gauteng Tourism will lead the largest contingent of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in repositioning and reintroducing destination Gauteng back to the travel, tourism, and hospitality sector following the 2-year pause induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This premiere business-to-business leisure tourism platform is aimed at encouraging dialogue to sell and position South Africa and the African continent as a preferred leisure destination. Of over 250 strong SMMEs at this year's event, the golden province of Gauteng is responsible for 47 making it the largest delegation of small business we have assembled. "Small businesses, especially those found and operating in our townships, suffered tremendously during the height of Covid-19 infections and lockdown. It is our responsibility and priority as the authority to make our tourism sector recovery work SMMEs driven," explained GTA CEO Sthembiso Sthe Dlamini.

Over 8,000 delegates from travel, tourism, and related industries are expected to do business, connect, and shine a focus on shared African stories that inspire travel to our various destinations with a showcase of the widest variety of Africa's best tourism products to attract international and domestic visitors, buyers, and media networks worldwide.

Africa's Travel Indaba comes at an opportune time for us in Gauteng, following the groundbreaking signing of the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act into law recently by Premier David Makhura.

"This piece of legislation will empower the majority of township-based travel and tourism businesses to secure the much needed financial and non-financial assistance from development finance institutions since Gauteng townships business areas are now formally recognised as true business districts enabling products like backyard real estates to legally trade. We will be using the Africa's Travel Indaba and the scheduled business network sessions to socialise the importance of this momentous legislation," reiterated Dlamini.

Gauteng SMMEs in the tourism and travel sector will engage with their counterparts, buyers, and travel trade during the Business Opportunities Network Day (BONDay) to explore emerged and emerging business opportunities in a Covid-19 environment.

The Business Sessions will focus on: SMMEs and Youth business development, business recovery opportunities, intra-Africa market access and connectivity, digital transformation and marketing, niche marketing (gastronomy focus) with all these forming a key mix of destination Gauteng's inclusive sector recovery programme and the Growing Gauteng Together vision 2030.

Central to these sessions will be the exchange of knowledge on trends and insights that can assist businesses to recover, strengthen their growth and thrive in the 'new normal' as we journey together in positioning tourism as a key driver of the broader economic recovery work.

The #VisitGauteng team is at stand DC1 J20 with its SMMEs products ready to do business.

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**" Gauteng launches festive summer Ena'Lanto at hey Neighbour Festival "** 11 Dec 2023

**" Excellent sporting and creative sectors performance pumps Gauteng economy "** 15 Nov 2023

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Gauteng Tourism Authority is a destination marketing organisation based in Gauteng that aims to inspire domestic and international travel to South Africa's richest province.

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