



World Conference of Science Journalists 2025

Bid Proposal

Pretoria | Tshwane | South Africa



Contents

1. About Your Hosts

- 1.1. Letter of invitation 4
- 1.2. Bidding Association Consortium..... 6
- 1.3. Organising Structure/LOC 7
- 1.4. Local Conference Organising
Capacity 8
- 1.5. Letters of Support 9

2. About the Conference

- 2.1. Proposed Main Theme 20
- 2.2. Proposed Conference Programme 21
 - 2.2.1. Programme Grid 21
 - 2.2.2. Sub-themes/Panels..... 22
 - 2.2.3. Session formats..... 23
 - 2.2.4. Key Speakers 24
 - 2.2.5. Pre-event Workshops..... 25
 - 2.2.6. Side Sessions 26
 - 2.2.7. Media Hub..... 27
 - 2.2.8. Proposed Legacy
Programme 28
 - 2.2.9. Knowledge Management ... 29
 - 2.2.10. Marketing and
Communication plan 33
 - 2.2.11. Pre & post tours 34

3. CSIR International Convention Centre – the Proposed Conference Venue

- 3.1. CSIR Overview 48
- 3.2. Auditoriums 48
- 3.3. Outdoor facilities 48
- 3.4. Venue capacity grid..... 49
- 3.5. In-venue experiences available 51
- 3.6. Venue Accessibility 52

4. Proposed Side Event Venues..... 53

5. South Africa! Host Country Information .. 56

6. Pretoria, Tshwane! Host City Information

- 6.1 Travel 63
 - 6.1.1. Air Travel 63
 - 6.1.2. Ground Transport 64
 - 6.1.3. Uber 64
 - 6.1.4. Gautrain..... 64
 - 6.1.5. Venue shuttles..... 64

6.2 Hotels 67

6.3. Leisure activities 70

- 6.3.1. Leisure day tours 70
- 6.3.2. Leisure pre & post tours 72

7. Proposed Conference Budget and Finances 82

Proud bidding partners:



We are grateful for in-kind support during the bidding phase from:



If Pretoria, Tshwane is chosen to host the WCSJ 2025 we will benefit from support of partners such as the following who have already pledged their support:



Letter of invitation

Dear board members of the World Federation of Science Journalists,

It's a great privilege to present our bid to host the World Conference of Science Journalists 2025 – and those are not just glib words: if our bid is successful, this would be the first time the conference has ever been held on African soil. A privilege indeed if South Africa is the pioneer!

We look forward to welcoming the science journalists of the world to our home; we are sure it will be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. Our beautiful country has a lot to share, and that includes some fascinating scientific experiences, from the Square Kilometre Array, to cutting edge genomic sequencing, to the Cradle of Humankind for journalists covering paleontology.

We are brewing plans for a tempting combination: an engaging, relevant and stimulating programme of content which will offer opportunities for both inspiration and growth, and a bouquet of day trips and longer options to explore our science and the natural and cultural glories of our country.

It's our pleasure to invite you to read more about our plans!



Mandi Smallhorne
President: South African Science Journalists Association (Safrea special interest group)
Vice-president: World Federation of Science Journalists
Tel: +27 11 6723555
Cell: +27 828818270
mandiwrite@icon.co.za



Image courtesy of City of Tshwane

Bidding Association Consortium

Hosts of WCSJ25 in Tshwane

South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA)



SASJA has been advocating for science journalism and representing science journalists at home and on the world stage for close on two decades. A long-time member of the World Federation of Science Journalists, this small organisation gained leverage and clout by partnering with the Southern African Freelancers Association (safrea) and is now a safrea Special Interest Group. SASJA's president is current vice-president of the World Federation of Science Journalists.

Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA)



The SDCfA, an initiative of South Africa's Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), promotes science collaboration across Africa and beyond towards leveraging and connecting technology innovation with humanity. Tshwane is the executive capital of South Africa, and the city was selected to be the home of the SDCfA because most of the 196 foreign embassies and mission in South Africa are based here, with 46 representing countries in Africa, also, the city is home to the highest number of universities and research institutes in the country. Many international agencies, South African Science Councils, as well as a thriving community of private sector entities involved in science, research, development, and industrialisation call Tshwane their home.

The symbiotic location in Tshwane of these role-players makes the City the ideal place for the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa – with the CSIR International Convention Centre, as its physical hub.

www.africasciencediplomacy.org

Organising Structure/LOC

The Conference Directorate in South Africa will be drawn from the South African Science Journalists association (SASJA) and its co-host, the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA). SASJA will be responsible for shaping the content and managing matters such as travel grants, while SDCfA will bring to bear its wealth of experience in planning and running conferences.

WCSJ Conference Director (CD) and Committees

The Conference Director or Team (Directorate) will be the key point of contact for the World Federation's Board and will take overall responsible of the delivery and execution of the WCSJ.

The CD will be responsible, alongside the host association and the WFSJ, for managing the team of executive directors or any Professional Conference Organizers (PCO) appointed. The Conference Directorate will appoint and work with the various conference committees to keep the conference planning on track.

Organising Committee (OC)

The Organising Committee is the host organizer's team in charge of coordinating the WCSJ's fundraising, communication, logistics, events and special projects, field trips, etc.

The OC's team is made up of local members assisted by international contributors as well as WFSJ Board. It is headed by the Conference Directorate.

Programme Committee (PC)

The Programme Committee organises the call for proposals, selects panels and shapes the official programme. The PC is composed of a group of local and international science journalists. For example, at the San Francisco (2017), Lausanne (2019) and Medellín (2023) Conferences each PC had up to 16 local and international members.

Field Trips and Social Events Committee

These committees oversee the selection, funding and organisation of field trips and other social events.

Travel Grants Committee

This committee will be tasked with calling for applications for such travel grants as may be made available, assessing and selecting successful applicants.

The committee will be drawn from local and international journalists who are members of WFSJ member associations.

Spokespersons

The WCSJ Conference Directorate is the contact and the spokesperson for the Conference supported by the WFSJ's Board and the President.

Local Conference Organising Capacity

South Africa / Gauteng / Tshwane / Pretoria has skilled entities experienced at managing, and providing services for, international conferences should this be required. The country has a formalised sector in this regard represented by the Southern African Association of the Conference Industry (SAACI) <https://www.saaci.org/>, the Association of African Exhibition Organisers (AAXO) <https://www.aaxo.co.za/> and other related private sector associations together with our national, regional and local Convention Bureaus.

In the case of this bid the bidding consortium and supporting partners have the experience and capacity to manage the organization of the WCSJ 2025 in Tshwane however, if required, skilled local independent companies, who have vast experience and expertise in planning and executing conferences on behalf of academics,

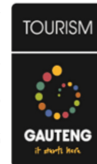
researchers and associations, are available to provide full or in-part service management for conferences. Such services available include conference design, abstract management, program development, pre & onsite registration, audio-visuals, IT support, logistics, leisure management, marketing, printing and web services, funding, sponsorship and exhibitor sales, financial management and budget control, travel logistics, and public relations companies.

Should we win the bid to host WCSJ 2025 we will conduct a gap analysis and feasibility study to determine which, if any of the above, services we may consider outsourcing.

Gauteng
South Africa
Tshwane
Pretoria

Letters of Support

GAUTENG TOURISM AUTHORITY
124 Main Street, Marshalltown, 2001
PO Box 155, Newtown, 2113
JOHANNESBURG



07 July 2023

Milica Momcilovic

President

World Federation of Science Journalists

Headquarters: Montréal (Canada)

Dear Ms. Milica Momcilovic

ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR THE 13th WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE JOURNALIST 2025

As the head of Gauteng Convention and Events Bureau, a division at the Gauteng Tourism Authority, It gives me great pleasure to endorse and support the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists 2025. We are happy to host the conference in Gauteng, South Africa in 2025.

South Africa is an extra ordinary country with a fascination culture mix, a powerful history of reconciliation and nation building and some of the world's greatest experience to offer.

South Africa has the most advances economy and infrastructure in Africa offering a wide variety of excellent transformation, logistics, communication and financial services. This is supported by international standard accommodation and facilities to suit every requirement for the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists 2025.

Gauteng province is well equipped with meetings and events related infrastructure and offers easy access to various amenities within the region. Based on the country and province's extensive experience in hosting numerous major conferences and events. We have no doubt that with our support, the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists 2025 will be an unparalleled success.

As part of our support towards the successful hosting of the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists 2025, Gauteng Conventions and Events Bureau within GTA will work closely with the organisers to secure support from relevant government departments and agencies nationally and provincially. We will also offer other logistics support such as welcoming delegates at the airport and showcasing the province's tourism offerings.

We look forward to welcoming your delegates to the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in our province.

Yours Sincerely

Ms. Nonnie Kubeka

HEAD: Gauteng Convention & Events Bureau

Date: 07 July2023

+27 11 085 2500 // E-Mail: info@gauteng.net // Web: www.gauteng.net // Twitter: [@visitgauteng](https://twitter.com/visitgauteng) // FB: [ilovegauteng](https://www.facebook.com/ilovegauteng)

Board: J Nwokedi (Chairperson), T Ratshitanga (Deputy Chairperson), S Koaho, E Magerman, C Mpyane, G Nkabinde, M Ramawela, L Seeco, S Dlamini (Chief Executive Officer)



Tshwane Tourism Division

First Floor 13 | Middestraat Building | 252 Thabo Sehume | Pretoria | 0002
 PO Box 440 | Pretoria | 0001
 Tel: +27 (0) 12 358 6349
 Email: HulisaniT@tshwane.gov.za | www.tshwane.gov.za | www.facebook.com/CityOfTshwane

10 July 2023

LETTER OF INTENT TO SUPPORT THE 13TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE JOURNALISTS 2025 BID

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express our enthusiasm and support for the bid to host the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025. The City of Tshwane stands ready to be the perfect destination for this prestigious global conference.

As South Africa's capital city, Tshwane is an important knowledge hub on the African continent. Our city proudly hosts key government scientific departments, renowned universities, and esteemed research institutions, including the University of Pretoria, the University of South Africa, and the Council for Geoscience.

Our centres of innovation and research - the Innovation Hub and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - have fostered innovation in sectors such as ICT, bioscience, electronics, green technology, and industrial development, establishing Tshwane as a leader in scientific advancements.

With world-class infrastructure, including international banking systems, high-speed digital connectivity, and rapid rail linking it to the OR Tambo International Airport, Tshwane is easily accessible. We offer state-of-the-art conference venues and accommodation options from city hotels to country lodges and safari lodges in the African bush. Our rich cultural diversity and iconic tourism attractions make it an enticing destination for business and leisure tourists.

We have a successful track record of hosting international events, and we will work closely with our partners at the Department of Science & Innovation, CSIR ICC, South African Science Journalists Association and Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa to ensure a memorable and successful conference.

Kantoro ya Molaodi wa Toropokgolo • Kantoer van die Adjunkstadbestuurder • Kantoro ya Motlatsamotsamaisatororopo
 Hofisi ya Xlandla xa Mufambisi wa Dorobankulu • IHhovisi Lesekela Lemenenja YoMkhandludolobha
 Office of the Deputy City Manager

We are prepared to provide event marketing, destination marketing material, on-site tourism services, site inspections, venue negotiation, city tours, and transportation services to support the conference.

Thank you for considering the City of Tshwane as the host destination for the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025. We are confident that our exceptional offerings, warm hospitality, and commitment to excellence will create the ideal setting for your conference.

Yours sincerely,

Hulisani Thabela

Acting Divisional Head: Tourism



Dr. Nico Elema
Director: Centre for Collaboration in Africa
Stellenbosch University International
Stellenbosch, South Africa

13 July 2023

**Bid to host the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists
in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa, 2025**

Subject: Letter of Support for the Bid to Host the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in Tshwane, South Africa in 2025

Dear Ms Momcilovic,

In my capacity as Director of the Centre for Collaboration in Africa at Stellenbosch University International, and in the framework of the AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for your bid to host the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in Tshwane, South Africa in 2025.

Stellenbosch University is a leading research and academic institution in Africa, dedicated to advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and promoting collaboration across various disciplines. Through our various initiatives, we have witnessed the transformative power of science journalism in bridging the gap between scientific research and the general public. Our institution recognizes the critical role played by science journalists in disseminating accurate and accessible information, thereby enabling informed decision-making and societal progress.

By hosting the World Conference of Science Journalists in Tshwane, South Africa, we have a unique opportunity to bring together professionals from diverse backgrounds and geographical regions to engage in meaningful discussions, share best practices, and explore innovative approaches in science communication. The conference will provide a platform for journalists, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to collaborate, learn from one another, and collectively address the challenges and opportunities in science journalism today.

Stellenbosch University is further committed to actively participating in and supporting the conference. We are eager to contribute to the program through organizing and participating in panel discussions, workshops, and presentations that highlight the importance of science journalism in promoting evidence-based decision-making, fostering public engagement with science, and addressing global challenges, should available funding be mobilised. Furthermore, we are ready to offer our expertise to ensure the success of the conference.

In conclusion, Stellenbosch University wholeheartedly supports your bid to host the 13th World Conference of Science Journalists in Tshwane, South Africa in 2025. We are excited about the opportunity to welcome science journalists from around the world to our beautiful country, and

FROM: Dr Dinesh Balliah
Director, WCJ
Dinesh.balliah@wits.ac.za

TO: Selection Committee, World Conference of Science Journalism 2025

DATE: 12 July 2023

RE: **South African bid for the World Conference of Science Journalism 2025**

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to lend the support of the Wits Centre for Journalism (WCJ), to the bid of the South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA) in association with the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA), to host the World Conference of Science Journalism in Tshwane in March 2025.

As the leading journalism school on the continent, the WCJ, based at Wits University, is keenly aware of the desperate need for a conference of this nature on the African continent. Urgent social challenges combined with the immediate threats of climate change and disinformation require expert journalistic skills to effectively address these complex and intersectional issues. I have no doubt that hosting this conference in South Africa will have a lasting effect on the quality of science journalism on the continent and in SADC specifically.

The Wits Centre for Journalism not only supports this bid but also considers itself a partner to assist with programming and other aspects of the conference.

We hope that the selection committee will consider this bid favourably.

Best wishes,



Dr Dinesh Balliah.



Rhodes University Biotechnology Innovation Centre (RUBIC)
Biological Sciences Building, Grahamstown, 6139, South Africa
PO Box 94, Grahamstown, 6140,
South Africa
t: +27 (0) 46 603 8972
e: rubic@ru.ac.za

www.ru.ac.za/biotech

10 July 2023

Board, World Federation of Science Journalists

Bid to host the World Conference of Science Journalists in South Africa in 2025

As one of South Africa's Research Chairs in science engagement and communication, I wish to express my support for the bid by the South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA) and the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA) to bring the **World Conference of Science Journalists to South Africa in 2025**.

South Africa has a rich history of science journalism and engagement thanks to excellence in training at several academic institutions, private and public entities, as well as through the immense contribution of the South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA) to the sector.

Rhodes University, where the Research Chair is based, is home to the African Media Matrix (AMM) housing the Rhodes University School of Journalism which is renowned for its training of new generations of students and its thought leadership in journalism. Most notably it plays host to the acclaimed Highway Africa conference. Based at Rhodes University's Biotechnology Innovation Centre, the South African Research Chair in science engagement and communication (Biotechnology Innovation & Engagement) works closely with the School of Journalism to lead research on the role of journalists in mediating the engagements around science that are critical to the development of science and scientific solutions, for the advancement of society and social justice.

Bringing the **World Conference of Science Journalists to South Africa** will help unlock newer opportunities for science journalism training, academic and thought leadership on the continent and beyond.

I strongly support SASJA's bid to host the **World Conference of Science Journalists in South Africa in 2025**.

Sincerely,

Prof Janice Limson (PhD, PGDHE, MASSAf)

Professor of Biotechnology

South African Research Chair in Biotechnology Innovation & Engagement

Director, Biotechnology Innovation Centre (RUBIC)

t: +27 (0) 46 603 8263 f: +27 (0) 46 603 7639

Email: j.limson@ru.ac.za



July 12, 2023

World Federation of Science Journalists
1195 Wellington Street, Suite 301 | Montreal (QC) | H3C
1W1
Canada

Dear Sir/Madam,

MALAWI'S AEJ SUPPORT BID TO HOST WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENCE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Association of Environment Journalists in Malawi writes to inform the World Federation of Science Journalists that we support the bid for South African Science Journalists Association to host the conference of science journalists in South Africa.

We looking forward to a more positive bid for South Africa to host this important event.

Sincerely,

Charles Mkoka
AEJ Secretary General
Tel: +265-88-885-2469

Physical Address: CISONECC Premises Area 49 Opposite Good Hope
Clinic, LILONGWE

South African Science Journalists Association
Mandi Smallhorne

12 July, 2023

Nature Africa’s Support for South African World Conference of Science Journalists 2025

Ms. Smallhorne,

As the publisher of *Nature Africa* and *Nature Middle East*, Springer Nature would like to support the SASJA’s bid to hold the World Conference of Science Journalists in South Africa in 2025. *Nature Africa* is dedicated to the honest and fair coverage of research and research policy in the region with the same editorial integrity of our parent journal, *Nature*. Our readers come from across Africa and the world, and we pride ourselves on advancing scientific discourse throughout the region.

If your bid is accepted, it will be the first time that the prestigious WCSJ is held in Africa. Africa holds solutions to many of the world’s most pressing problems, and every day our editors cover the many efforts to advance them. Holding the WCSJ in Africa would be an opportunity to celebrate African research, raising the perception of the region and highlighting success stories.

Nature Africa and *Nature Middle East* are also in the process of mentoring and training the next generation of science journalists in those respective regions. The WCSJ would offer an opportunity to bring the community together to learn and grow.

Nature has been sharing the greatest advances in science for more than 150 years, for the benefit of researchers and the wider public. We firmly believe that holding the WCSJ in South Africa will further accelerate public understanding of science on the continent.

Sincerely,



Cliff Ransom
Editorial Director
Community & Partnership Editorial
Springer Nature

12 July 2023

The board of the World Federation of Science Journalists,

It is a very great pleasure to declare our full commitment and support to the South African bid for the World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025.

This bid proposes that the WCSJ is hosted by the South African Science Journalists Association, which is associated with the Southern African Freelancers Association as a Special Interest Group, along with the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA), from 10-14 March 2025.

We believe that hosting this conference in Africa – and we understand this would be the first time a WCSJ has been held on African soil – would galvanise and energise science journalism, not only here in our own country of South Africa, but across the continent, and we look forward to seeing the ripple effect from what is sure to be an exciting and inspiring event.

H Naidoo

Hush Naidoo
Safrea Chairperson



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22 August 2023

Ms Milica Momčilović
President
World Federation of Science Journalists
1195 Wellington Street, Suite 301 | Montreal (QC) | H3C
1W1
Canada

Letter of support

World Conference of Science Journalists 2025
In Tshwane, South Africa

Dear Ms Milica Momčilović

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, a business unit of the National Research Foundation, write to express our full support for the bid to host the 13 World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025. We are happy to support the hosting of the conference for the first time on the African continent in Pretoria, carrying the theme “Science Journalism and Social Justice – our role in promoting resilience”.

The programme proposed for the conference will provide a unique opportunity for the science journalism community to come together and explore vital questions such as can science journalists play a role in democratising science and bringing science, scientific findings and applied science to people in meaningful ways that enable them to engage with it.

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement has collaborated with the South African National Editor's Forum and the Media Development and Diversity Agency to implement a Science Journalism Internship Programme and Science Journalism Community Service Project to support science journalism in the country. The aim of this programme is to make science and technology information and dialogues accessible in all the South African indigenous languages and to promote science engagement amongst citizens.

SAASTA aims to be the leading science advancement agency in South Africa by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology, and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering, and technology (SET) human resource base.

We hope that the conference will have positive spin-offs for the science journalism community in South Africa and the continent. We look forward to the ripple effects and the momentum generated by this conference, which will have a positive impact to the science journalism community locally and worldwide.

We support this bid with great enthusiasm and look forward to participate in the conference in 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Michael Ellis
Science Communication Manager

Mr Zamuxolo Matiwana
Media Coordinator

Proposed Main Theme

Science Journalism and Social Justice – our role in promoting resilience

They call it the Polycrisis, the intersection between a number of factors affecting the wellbeing of humanity, of living beings on earth, and causing changes to the planet itself.

We call it the Compound Crisis, because each element compounds damage and extends harm as it intersects with the others, from climate crisis to disastrous declines in biodiversity to pandemics emerging from human interference with ecosystems to pollution of air and water... So floods caused by the climate crisis crash into the changes in biogeochemical flows, and the resulting mess is made much worse when it is sideswiped by damage to crops and infrastructure from war...

The Compound Crisis is a social justice issue: those most affected by it are the most vulnerable, the poorest, the least resourced. They are citizens of the Global South, refugees and migrants, the jobless, the elderly, women and children. A planetary perspective on their situations reveals a need to link all the elements of the Crisis with a broad palette of tools to improve their resilience, most science-based: equitable access to healthcare, equitable education, access to clean water and sanitation, affordable clean energy, decent work, gender equality, and knowledge about responsible consumption and production, among others.

Science Journalism
and Social Justice
our role in promoting resilience

Our understanding of and ability to react to every single one of these elements of the Compound Crisis is underpinned by science. In order to understand and react to what is happening in their lives, human beings need to have a grasp of that science. Science journalists have a role that goes way beyond the praise-singers of science and research: it is their job to translate the factors feeding social inequity and harm into language that has meaning and usefulness for the people whose lives are affected. Our work can help people to make well-informed decisions about everything from how to grow food to how to assess medical treatment to who to vote for in the next election.

That's why we have taken the Compound Crisis as our theme for our bid to host the next World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025, in Tshwane, South Africa.

The South African Science Journalists Association is a small group, with a great passion for communicating science and for strengthening science journalism, not only in our own country, but in the Southern African Development Community and across Africa. We recognise clearly that we are living and working at a crucial and dangerous time, with growing crises,

Proposed Conference Programme

Programme Grid

Our initial proposal, which will be refined should we win the bid to host the WCSJ 2025, is to follow a similar format to WCSJ 2023. Exciting field trips and workshops would be available on the Monday, followed by a full three day program

and further field trips and excursions on the Friday. Further optional leisure, and scientific tours will be available prior to, and after, the main conference days.

| Time | Mon | Tue | | Wed | | Thu | | Fri |
|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | | Main | Side | Main | Side | Main | Side | |
| 8:30 | Field Trips | Keynote | | Keynote | | | | Field Trips |
| 9:00 | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | Side Session | Plenary | Side Session | |
| 10:00 | | Coffee Break | | Coffee Break | | | | |
| 11:15 | | Panel | 3 x Parallel Sessions | Panel | 3 x Parallel Sessions | Coffee Break | | |
| 12:30 | | Panel | | Plenary | | Plenary | 3 x Parallel Sessions | |
| 13:00 | Workshops | Lunch | | | Exclusive Lunch Symposium | Lunch | | |
| 14:00 | | | | Lunch | | | 3 x Parallel Sessions | |
| 15:30 | | Plenary | 3 x Parallel Sessions | Panel | 3 x Parallel Sessions | Panel | 3 x Parallel Sessions | |
| 16:00 | | Coffee Break | | Coffee Break | | Coffee Break | | |
| 17:15 | | Plenary | | Plenary | | Plenary | 3 x Parallel Sessions | |
| 18:00 | | | | | | Closing Ceremony Closing Party | | |
| 18:45 | | Opening Ceremony Welcome Reception | | Music & Local Food Experience | | | | |

Sub-themes/Panels

Questions in search of an answer

The World Conference of Science Journalists 2025 in Gauteng, South Africa, would explore all the dimensions of this compound crisis and give the journalists attending a crash course in how to report on it. We'll be asking for proposals for sessions tackling some vital questions, including:

- Can we as science journalists play a role in democratising science, bringing science, scientific findings and applied science to people in meaningful ways that enable them to engage with it?
- How do we do effective science journalism in a rapidly changing digital world?
- How do we explain the elements of the Compound Crisis so that audiences can understand how they affect their lives and take meaningful action around them?
- How do we decolonise science to make it available in indigenous languages and the idiom and culture that people live in, instead of offering them science that seems alien and foreign?
- How do we manage and counter mis- and disinformation? Have journalists had experience of effective methods to do so? How do we deal with the increasing mistrust in science which influences our audiences? How do we cope with growing mistrust of the media itself?
- How can we inform audiences about the positives of science, the opportunities, the things they can do to ameliorate or mitigate their situations and the various elements of

the Compound Crisis?

- Can we assess research critically, to keep scientists accountable and ensure they communicate their findings in ways that count?
- How do we hold governments accountable for their policies around and their response to science? Do we have a role in enabling citizens to hold governments accountable?
- Can we incorporate indigenous and traditional knowledge into our reporting – such as, for example, traditional medicine – and how?
- How do we talk about and explain science in the context of embattled communities facing a myriad crises, when they are deeply embedded in religious and cultural beliefs?
- How do we deal with the crisis facing science journalism? How do we interest young people in pursuing science journalism as a career? Does science journalism have a future – and how do we secure that future?
- The conference would also provide science journalists an opportunity to learn about scientific achievements in Africa and South Africa from the researchers and scientists involved; experience some fascinating science institutions and see local science in



Session formats

Fresh insights

It's normal for conferences to run sessions with a main speaker or several panellists and a moderator, and of course, we plan to follow this model where appropriate, with at least three sessions running in parallel and tracking various themes, to provide choice for delegates.

But we also plan to ask those proposing sessions to be imaginative. Things have changed so much in the world around us in the last five years – not just in terms of pandemics and wars, but also in tech. Who would have predicted the advent and impact of AI apps two years ago, for example?

So, in our call for proposals, we'll be inviting journalists across the world to get creative. Do you want to use music or theatre or visual arts to get the message across? If we think it will add value to the conference, we'll give the green light. We want this conference to be memorable, engaging, and, most important, to have real impact on the work of delegates in years to come.

Should we be selected to host the WCSJ 2025, we will put our heads together as a team consulting our colleagues in neighbouring countries and across the continents to tie down a clear set of ideas to shape the conference which will serve the science journalism community.

memorable
engaging
real impact



Key Speakers

Should South Africa win the bid to host the WCSJ 2025 then local, regional and international keynote speakers will be identified and confirmed by the program committee.

As part of this bid we provide the following examples of keynote speakers envisaged for WCSJ 2025:

Professor Francois Engelbrecht

Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand

Johan Rockström

Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Ex-Stockholm Resilience Centre
(origin of the 9 planetary boundaries concept)

Lee Mwiiti

Editor in Chief - Africa Check

Charles Mkoka

Science and environment journalist, Malawi

Enoch Sithole

Thesis on climate change reporting in South Africa
Wits Centre of Journalism, University of Witwatersrand

Pre-event Workshops

Our plan is to run a selection of half-day to full-day workshops prior to the conference, with topics that will emerge and be refined as we see the ideas coming in from journalists in the WFSJ's member associations.

Topics we suggest are:

Misinformation, disinformation and mistrust

The pandemic hit us at a very hard time for journalism generally, with newsrooms severely pared down and science and health desks vanished. The concatenation of this challenge to journalism with the surge of social media proved a perfect breeding ground for mis- and disinformation, which has now reached pathogenic levels.

Initially many of us tackled this tidal wave with facts: surely, if we offer the facts, explain the data, tell the truth, it will be persuasive? But it wasn't, as it turns out. There were other factors at play.

In these workshop, we will unpack those other factors and, crucially, brainstorm together how we can find and use better ways of countering dangerous lies about health issues, the climate crisis and everything that makes up the Compound Crisis.

Storytelling in science: Going beyond "just the facts"

Africa has a rich and varied cultural heritage that has shaped the world's art, music, fashion, and more over thousands of years of history, traditions, and customs. Storytelling is a well-known method of knowledge transfer among Africans and has long been ingrained in the culture. Storytelling is in our nature. In Africa, stories were used to explain the cosmos, explain natural and physical occurrences, impart moral lessons, uphold cultural norms, and transmit survival techniques.

Through storytelling, we can discover new things about people, and we can develop empathy and understanding for other people and the circumstances they are in. Using narrative strategies in written, spoken, or other forms of

communication is thought to be effective if you want to capture and hold audiences' attention. One way to boost Africans' grasp of science and foster an appreciation for how important it is to daily life is by telling scientific-related stories. In this workshop, we'll hear some of Africa's amazing stories, both ancient and recent, and help each other unearth storytelling skills that we, as science journalists, can harness to boost our impact and effect.



What do you advocate for?

Objectivity is the Holy Grail of journalism – even though it has often been “more honour'd in the breach than the observance”, to name-drop Hamlet. “Media bias” has been one of the commonest phrases to crop up on social media in recent years, and we all react with kneejerk swiftness. And for some, the opposite is “advocacy journalism” – a no-no.

But in a world where there are such urgent needs for understanding and then action, on issues ranging from the food system to our vanishing insect populations to gender-based vulnerabilities to climate change, is it possible to simply report the facts?

“Isn't advocacy on behalf of principles and the public the true test of journalism?” said Jeff Jarvis, Director, Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism at CUNY's Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, a few years ago. “The choices we make about what to cover and how we cover it and what the public needs to know are acts of advocacy on the public's behalf. Don't we believe that we act in their interest?” A critical question in what is increasingly looking like a rather apocalyptic age, where what we are reporting on really, really matters and engages each of us deeply as individuals. Let's wrestle with the issues together, and thrash out some definitions and principles.



Side Sessions

We will be reaching out to a vast fund of knowledge and research across our country and in Gauteng to put together a fascinating and engaging choice of side-sessions and exhibitions.

Some examples:

The genome genies

South Africa really showed its scientific chops during the pandemic, always ahead of the game with genomic results which moved through the scientific community and informed policy and practice worldwide. We'd like to invite the South African Medical Research Council to give some insights into its Genomic Platform which provides next generation genomic sequencing to African scientists. These are skills that will be critical when – not if – the next pandemic strikes.

Bye bye malaria

With the new RTS,S vaccine rolling out across Africa, there's real hope humankind will vanquish an age-old enemy – and just in time, as the climate crisis causes changes in weather patterns which bring malaria to areas it's never been in before. We'd like to get the World Health Organisation experts to tell us the long, long story (going back to the 80s) of this new hope for health.

Mountains matter

Montane science sounds like a very niche field, and it is. But it also feeds our information about how our world is changing in critical ways, from mountains as watersheds and rainmakers and blockers, to mountains as havens for bats which might carry the next pandemic if their little worlds on mountain slopes are rendered precarious by human activity. Some exceptional montane scientists work at universities in South Africa and research deep into neighbouring countries – because mountain ranges know no borders! We'll invite these scientists to show us interactively what their unsung work means to every member of the public.

Media Hub



A key objective of this conference is to improve reporting about science, innovation and technology to the average media consumer. To seamlessly enable the activation of all types of media on site, during the conference, and drive-up media engagement during the conference, we propose setting up a media hub, branching out across the various side venues and including travelling media on the scientific trips.

We plan to form partnerships with various public broadcasters and topic specific publications, journals, and channels to ensure that skilled local journalists will be present and ensure a multipronged media campaign is successfully conducted in the run up to, during, and post the conference.

Connectivity

The CSIR ICC provides high-speed, wireless internet connectivity and regularly installs custom satellite links to facilitate outside broadcast. Outside broadcast vehicles are also accommodated with dedicated space and links to inside the building.

Media booths

The CSIR ICC already provides media booths in some of its venues, soundproof and easy to connect to outside broadcast vehicles. These booths can be used for interviews and reporting with conference proceedings taking place in the background.

Interview pods

We propose setting up a number of interview pods in key areas of the CSIR ICC from where interviews can be conducted demonstrating backgrounds such as the busy exhibition hall, refreshment areas and the like.

Studio

We plan to engage a media partner to set up a studio at the conference venue and make this facility available to journalists to produce broadcasts.

Live streaming and remote engagement

We plan to broadcast parts of the program live from the venue and include remote engagement opportunities using dynamic online technology for other parts of the program where relevant, this will ensure a truly global reach for the conference and allow for inputs from key individuals around the world who may not be able to travel to the conference in person.

Participation

We will encourage and promote media broadcasting by all participants and stakeholders through a carefully crafted campaign covering all types of media platforms, enabling a seamless environment for easy broadcasting from, and about, the conference.

Proposed Legacy Programme

A Lasting Legacy

We plan for WCSJ25 in South Africa to create a footprint that will start with a heel impression long before the actual conference, and see the toes reaching for a landing long, long afterwards!

One of the major aims of a WCSJ should be capacitating science journalists in the region, so we will be collaborating with a number of local organisations, institutions and universities, as well as the Department of Science and Innovation in South Africa, making plans for effective training that will not have a sell-by date but will continue to grow and evolve and make an impact way into coming years.

We plan to engage science journalists and institutions beyond the borders of South Africa, too; this conference's legacy must not be confined to South Africa. "I am because you are"; we are all intertwined, and good science journalism in our neighbouring countries and beyond can only be of value to all of us.

But we need somewhere for that good journalism to be published; and excellent science journalists need to be paid, to make a living from their work. So we will also be calling on stakeholders to recognise the crucial role of science journalism in this world of Compound Crisis; we'll be asking editors to see the science in the news; we'll be calling on everyone we can engage to brainstorm about new ways of funding science journalism and ensuring a future for our profession.

Aluta continua!

World Science Forum (WSF) 2022 Legacy Initiative – Science Journalism Programme

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) as policy maker recognises the importance of policies that can provide a better understanding of science by society.

In December 2022, South Africa hosted the World Science Forum, through the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and its partners, in collaboration with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. As part of the event leading to the Science Forum, a Science Journalist Workshop and programme was facilitated by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and South African Agency for Sciences and Technology Advancement (SAASTA). An extensive content-related programme was created and presented by the University of Stellenbosch, collaborating with the South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA), providing capacity to unemployed journalism graduates, young science journalists, SADC regional media coordinators and science policy makers in science communication. The overall aim of the training programme was to educate and capacitate successive cohorts of journalists in the region and across the African continent on science communication to advance the awareness and importance of science, technology, and innovation for socio-economic development.

With the DSI's role of implementing World Science Forum 2022 legacies and ensuring continuity of recommendations and solutions tabled at the forum in capacitating the continent, the DSI through Africa Multilateral Cooperation will be implementing the Science Journalist Programme as part of its human capital development mandate and plans for 2022/23, whilst cementing its role in fulfilling SADC's objectives for the region.

The training workshop will coincide with the South African Science Forum (SFSA) scheduled for 4-8 December 2023. The three-day training workshop curated by Stellenbosch University and SASJA will be in session 5-7 December 2023. The programme will provide a platform to promote the World Conference of Science Journalists

Knowledge Management

The role of Knowledge Management throughout the conference lifecycle: World Conference of Science Journalist (WCSJ) 2025

The CSIR Information Services (CSIRIS) has committed to providing Knowledge Management Services for the lifecycle of the WCSJ 2025 should South Africa be awarded the hosting of the conference.

During the bidding, planning and execution process for hosting the World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) 2025, knowledge management will play a crucial role in preserving and managing relevant information. By implementing effective knowledge management practices, including records management, organisers can ensure that important documents and data related to the entire process are appropriately stored, organised, and accessible.

Bidding Process

During the bidding process, knowledge management is helping organisers to manage information relevant to the World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) 2025. If the conference organisers require literature or other sources to inform the bidding process and plan for the conference, knowledge management facilitates the gathering and organisation of this information. Additionally, knowledge management will involve capturing and recording valuable information, such as lessons learned and best practices, to inform the bidding process and enable informed decision-making.

Pre-Conference Planning

Knowledge management will be essential in the pre-conference planning phase. The CSIR Document Management systems (SharePoint) will be used to store all information about the conference, including the agenda, speaker profiles, session topics, and abstracts. This knowledge hub/repository will enable effective collaboration among the organising committee, allowing them to efficiently coordinate and make informed decisions.

Knowledge Capture and Retention

The WCSJ 2025 conference will generate a vast amount of knowledge through presentations, poster presentations, panel discussions, and workshop presentations. Knowledge management techniques such as information preservation and documentation will be employed to preserve conference proceedings, this is knowledge for future reference. Conference proceedings can be made available post-conference through the an open access digital repository, contributing to the legacy of the conference and enabling wider dissemination of knowledge to the broader scientific journalism community.

Knowledge management principles will enhance efficiency, collaboration, and knowledge sharing throughout the entire conference lifecycle.



CSIRIS has also committed to playing an integral role in engaging local relevant publications in the conference planning and execution where relevant, being cognizant of the diverse roles of science journalism and science communication. The following is an example of publications and publishers who can be engaged to support, or participate in, WCSJ 2025:

African and South African Scientific and Academic Publishers

African Journals Online (AJOL)

AJOL is a platform that hosts a vast collection of peer-reviewed African journals across various disciplines. It serves as a hub for African research and provides a platform for African scholars to showcase their work. (Recommended)

NISC (National Inquiry Services Centre)

NISC is a publisher that specializes in African research and journals. They cover various fields such as agriculture, environment, health, and natural sciences. (Recommended)

SciELO SA (Scientific Electronic Library Online South Africa)

SciELO SA is an open access platform hosting a collection of South African scholarly journals in various fields. It aims to improve the visibility and accessibility of South African research. (Recommended)

3S Media

A South African media company that specializes in publishing and event management. They focus on industries such as agriculture, forestry, water, mining, and construction. 3S Media operates various publications, websites, and events to provide industry-related information, news, and networking opportunities. (Recommended)

Publications under 3S Media often publish reports on science relevant to their audiences, such as:

Farmer's Weekly: Farmer's Weekly is a well-known agricultural publication in South Africa. It covers a wide range of topics related to farming, agricultural practices, rural development, scientific findings of relevance to agriculture, and agribusiness.

Forestry South Africa: Forestry South Africa is a publication that focuses on the forestry industry in the country. It provides information and news on forestry management, sustainable practices, timber production, and related topics.

Critical organisations that play an important role in respective science fields, supporting professional development, knowledge sharing/science communication, research, and advancing respective industries in Africa and South Africa. These are also publishers of various academic and scientific journals. A selection includes:

South African National Parks (SANParks)

SANParks is a government organization responsible for managing and conserving national parks in South Africa. Their mandate includes biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

South African Institute of Computer Scientists & Information Technologists (SAICSIT)

SAICSIT is a professional body that represents computer scientists and information technologists in South Africa. It promotes research, education, and collaboration in the field of computer science and information technology.

Water Research Commission (WRC)

The WRC is a research organization that focuses on water-related research and innovation in South Africa. It conducts and funds research projects, provides knowledge and information, and supports sustainable water resource management.

The South African Medical Association (SAMA)

SAMA is a professional association that represents medical practitioners in South Africa. It advocates for the interests of healthcare professionals, provides support and resources, and promotes high standards of medical practice.

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

SANBI is a research and knowledge institution that focuses on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity. It conducts scientific research, manages botanical gardens and reserves, provides expertise and guidance on biodiversity-related matters, and promotes public awareness and education on biodiversity conservation.

National Association for Clean Air (NACA)

NACA is an organization that aims to promote clean air and environmental quality in South Africa. It focuses on air pollution control, monitoring, and research. NACA works to raise awareness about air quality issues, advocates for policy and regulatory measures, and supports initiatives for sustainable and clean air practices.

University Press Publishers

University of Cape Town Press

Publishes a number of journals in the humanities and social sciences. UCT Press journals are peer-reviewed and cover a wide range of topics, including African studies, history, and literature.

University of South Africa Press (UNISA) Press

The publishing arm of UNISA. They publish books and academic resources across various disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, education, and law.

University of KwaZulu-Natal Press

Publishes academic books, journals, and digital resources. They cover a wide range of disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and African studies.



Wits University Press

(University of the Witwatersrand)

Publish books, journals, and digital resources across various disciplines, with a focus on African research, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

University of Pretoria Press

Publishes academic books and journals across disciplines such as humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, law, and education.

SUN MeDIA (Stellenbosch University Press)

The publishing division of Stellenbosch University. They publish academic books, journals, and scholarly works in both English and Afrikaans, covering a broad range of disciplines.

University of Johannesburg Press

Publishes scholarly works, monographs, and textbooks across various disciplines.

HSRC Press (Human Sciences Research Council)

The publishing arm of the Human Sciences Research Council, which conducts social science research in South Africa. They publish books and journals on a wide range of topics, including social sciences, public health, education, and development studies.



Nguni Cows

Marketing and Communication plan

This tentative Marketing and Communication plan will kickstart with the creation of a website and announcements to generate publicity in coordination with WFSJ. The website will be supported by a social media campaign—including branded visuals, a hashtag, content sharing on partners' websites and a dedicated HTML newsletter.

Public relations activities

- 1. December 2023 and 2024** - Secure advertising opportunities at the South African Science Forum (SFSF). Organised by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), the SFSF provides a public platform for debating science and society. Intended to ignite conversations about science.
- 2. September 2024** - Secure speaking opportunity and exhibition at the Next Einstein Forum's (NEF) Africa Science Week (ASW), Africa's annual weeklong celebration of science and technology with thousands of individuals – from students to scientists to technologists – actively engaging in co-ordinated science events across the continent.
- 3. February 2024** - A speaking opportunity at African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. The Forum is co-organized with UNESCO, the African Union Commission and the DSI of South Africa.
- 4. June 2024** - The next EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) edition will be hosted on 12 – 15 June 2024 in Katowice, Poland. We plan to secure a speaking opportunity to promote the conference in Europe. ESOF bring together over 4,500 leading thinkers, innovators, policymakers, journalists, and educators from more than 90 countries to discuss current and future breakthroughs in contemporary science.
- 5. July 2024** - Participate at the International Conference on Science and Innovative Engineering (ICSIE)-Cairo, Egypt. The aim is to market the WCSJ 2025 across the continent.

- 6. December 2024** - reserve a speaking slot at the Science Journalism workshop at Stellenbosch University. The event is attended by participants from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Media engagement

- 1. December 2023-** media briefing of South Africa Science journalists under the South Africa Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) Young Journalism Programme. SAASTA young science reporters who are based at various community radio stations across the country.
- 2. January 2024** - media briefing with the National Press Club (NPC). NPC is an association of primarily news journalists but also includes academics, corporates, and members of the public service.
- 3. March 2024** - meeting with the African Federation of Science Journalists (AFSJ) is a pan-African network of journalists who cover science and allied disciplines such as technology, innovation, agriculture, health, and climate change from the perspective of research and development.
- 4. April 2024** - Secure a media briefing with the SA National Editor's Forum (SANEF). SANEF has launched a Science Journalism internship programme to revive science and technology reporting in South Africa.
- 5. June 2024** - media briefing at the West Africa Journalism Innovation Conference (WAJIC2024). WAJIC convenes the largest body of journalists, media professionals, the academic community, policymakers, government institutions, and other relevant stakeholders across West Africa.
- 6. August 2024** - position and profile the conference at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Media Awards competition. The SADC Media Awards are aimed at promoting excellence in the fields of Print, Radio, Television and Photojournalism.

Pre & post tours

Scientific Tours

HartRAO

The Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) is located west of Johannesburg, South Africa. The Observatory began as Deep Space Station 51, built in 1961 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America. An 85 foot = 26 metre diameter antenna was used to get data from, and send commands to, many unmanned US space probes going beyond Earth orbit. These included the Ranger, Surveyor and Lunar Orbiter spacecraft which landed on the Moon or mapped it from orbit, the Mariner missions which explored the planets Venus and Mars and the Pioneers which measured the Sun's winds. The original function of the observatory post-NASA was purely research in radio astronomy, but a new science developed at the SARAO Hartebeesthoek site from the 1980's, namely Space Geodesy, i.e. geodesy using space techniques. The radio telescopes are used for both astronomy and space geodesy, and we have other dedicated space geodesy instrumentation.



Image courtesy of www.hartao.ac.za



SKA-Mid

Travel through the country to visit the remote site for the Square Kilometer Array telescope being constructed around the existing MeerKAT On to Cape Town from where MeerKAT is digitally operated. A new Science Operations Centre will be built outside Cape Town, which will include telescope control and observation execution by the telescope operators. It will also house the Science Processing Centre, a high-performance computing centre with a powerful supercomputer. Rising from the ground in South Africa's Karoo region, the 197 parabolic dishes that form SKA-Mid will represent a new era of radio astronomy. Conducting observations in many exciting areas of science, from timing pulsars and tracking gravitational waves, to searching for the signatures of life elsewhere in the galaxy, SKA-Mid will open up new windows into the Universe.

The existing MeerKAT radio telescope will form part of the array, its 13.5m-diameter dishes

being joined by the slightly larger 15m-diameter SKA dishes, all integrated into one system.

From a central core measuring around 1km across, the antennas will radiate out in three spiral arms covering a vast distance; the two furthest antennas in SKA-Mid will be 150km apart.

Enjoy leisure activities in Cape Town after which a short flight back to Johannesburg for connecting flights home.



Image courtesy of skao.int

*a powerful
supercomputer*



Image courtesy of skao.int

NECSA

NECSA was established as a public company by the republic of South Africa nuclear energy act in 1999 and is wholly owned by the state.

Aim: To develop, utilise and manage nuclear technology for national and regional socio-economic development through:

- Applied Research and Development;
- commercial application of nuclear
- associated technology;
- contributing to the development of skills in science and technology.

NECSA Academy

The NECSA Learning Academy (NLA) is a nationally and internationally recognised skills development provider committed to:

- Equipping participants with specifically focused professional and technical skills
- Providing customer directed training and capacity building courses that comply fully with national and international quality requirements and legislation in the fields of education and training



- Enhancing the skill and competency base of clients to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity

NLA offers skills training in the undermentioned disciplines and statutory courses:

- Apprenticeships
- RPL
- Short courses
- Safety, Health, Environment and Quality
- Radiation protection

The above is designed according to statutory, SETA and/or client specifications.



Image courtesy of Necsa

Sci-Bono Discovery Centre

The Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, Southern Africa's largest science centre, affiliated to the Gauteng Department of Education. It is also supported by various scientific and engineering bodies in industry and by the diplomatic community in South Africa.

The main aim is to support maths, science and technology education and to help build to South Africa's science, engineering and technology capacity.

Sci-Bono is responsible for implementing the Gauteng Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Strategy.

It also offers a broad programme of science and technology related events, activities and programmes for both the general public and the school community. Sci-Bono is now one of the most popular leisure and educational destinations in Gauteng.

Located in the historic Electric Workshop in the cultural precinct of Newtown, Johannesburg, Sci-Bono annually receives hundreds of thousands of visitors to its a large collection of interactive science and technology exhibits and exhibitions. Sci-Bono is a Non-Profit Company funded by its principal, the Gauteng Department of Education, It also benefits from grants and donations from donors in the broader public and private sector.



Image courtesy of Sci-Bono

maths
science
technology
education



South Africa has a wealth of policy advisory bodies, funding agencies, higher education institutions, science and technology performing institutions which paints our country's collective efforts towards fostering technological innovation. The below is a high-level summary of the selected institutions that are well-positioned to provide scientific tours and engagements during the WCSJ 2025.

Funding Agencies, Science and Technology Performing Institutions

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

CSIR is a leading scientific and technology research organisation that conducts multidisciplinary research and technological innovation to accelerate socioeconomic prosperity in South Africa. The organisation's work contributes to industrial development and supports a capable state. The CSIR was established through an Act of Parliament in 1945 and the organisation's executive authority is the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. The CSIR plays a key role in supporting public and private sectors through directed research that is aligned with the country's priorities, the organisation's mandate and its science, engineering and technology capabilities. The CSIR focuses on nine clusters to deliver the desired impact, namely Advanced Agriculture and Food; NextGen Health; Future production: Chemicals; Future production: Mining; Future production: Manufacturing; Defence and Security; NextGen Enterprises and Institutions; Smart Logistics; and Smart Places. Some of CSIR world-class infrastructure that enables researchers to translate their research into outputs with real value for industry and society include, amongst others; Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials, Biomanufacturing Industry Development Centre, Energy Storage Testbed, Photovoltaic Module Quality & Reliability Testing Facility, AeroSwift 3-D Printing Facility, Photonics Prototyping Facility, Hydrogen Storage Facility and Suite of Wind Tunnels.

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Serving South Africa for more than 50 years, the HSRC is the largest research institute in Africa focusing on the social sciences and humanities. HSRC produces and disseminates knowledge that contributes to policies and programmes to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality, and stimulate innovations for employment creation. More than knowledge production, the HSRC works towards the uptake of research for policy and impact. Collaborations and partnerships are critical and include local, regional and international public, private and community entities.



Agricultural Research Council (ARC)

ARC is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and foster innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC was established by the Agricultural Research Act 86 of 1990 (as amended) and is the principal agricultural research institution in South Africa. It provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. Through its wider network of research institutes and experimental farms, the ARC provides a strong scientific base and a broadly distributed technology transfer capacity to the entire agricultural industry in South Africa.

The Council for Geoscience (CGS)

CGS is one of the national science councils of South Africa and is the legal successor of the Geological Survey of South Africa, which was formed in 1912 by the amalgamation of three former surveys, the oldest of which — the Geological Commission of the Cape of Good Hope — was founded in 1895. The Geoscience Act (no. 100 of 1993) established CGS in its present form. The Act was later amended in 2010 to establish the Geoscience Amendment Act (no. 16 of 2010). Today, CGS is a modern institution that boasts excellent facilities and expertise, ranking among the best in Africa. CGS provides the following substantially different professional services: Geophysical airborne and ground surveys, Geophysical data acquisition, processing and interpretation (airborne and ground), Engineering geosciences (including geotechnical services), Mineralisation systems investigations, Water geoscience/hydrological services, Environmental management and rehabilitation, Marine geology including port surveys, Spatial data and GIS services and Regional geological surveys and map compilations including core drilling services.

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA)

SANSA was established in 2010, but South Africa's involvement with space research and activities started many decades earlier with helping early international space efforts in the second half of the 20th century, and observing the Earth's magnetic field at stations around Southern Africa. SANSA was created to promote the use of space and strengthen cooperation in space-related activities while fostering research in space science, advancing scientific engineering through developing human capital, and supporting industrial development in space technologies. The research and work carried out at Much of this work involves monitoring the Earth and our surrounding environment, and using the collected data to ensure that navigation, communication technology and weather

forecasting services function as intended. SANSA's Head Office in Pretoria oversees SANSA operations and management of the Earth Observation programme (currently based in Hartebeesthoek); the Space Operations programme (formerly the Satellite Application Centre, located in Hartebeesthoek); and the Space Science programme (former Hermanus Magnetic Observatory, located in Hermanus); as well as a newly-established Space Engineering programme situated alongside the Head Office.

South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)

The SAMRC was established in 1969 and is dedicated to improving the health of people in South Africa, through research, innovation, development, and technology transfer. The scope of research includes laboratory investigations, clinical research, and public health studies. SAMRC conducts research on South Africa's quadruple burden of disease: maternal, newborn and child health, HIV/AIDS and TB, non-communicable diseases, and interpersonal violence. The work is to acquire evidence-based information to inform health policy and practice and improve the quality and health status of people in South Africa. SAMRC is the largest local funder of health research, medical diagnostics, medical devices, and therapeutics, and pioneers in cutting edge medical innovations focusing on genomic research, the development of novel treatment regimens, vaccine development, diagnostic tools, and developing new drugs and devices. SAMRC partnered with Afrigen Biologics and mRNA Victoria, to facilitate and fast track international collaboration on the development and manufacturing of next generation mRNA vaccines and medicines. The objective of the mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub is to build capacity in low- and middle-income countries to produce mRNA vaccines. The hub is located at Afrigen, Cape



Town, and will work with a network of technology recipients.

Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

TIA is a national public entity that serves as the key institutional intervention to bridge the innovation chasm between research and development from higher education institutions, science councils, public entities, and private sector, and commercialisation. TIA's focus is on technology development; from proof of concept to pre commercialisation. To achieve this, TIA established the following funds: the Seed Fund, the Technology Development Fund, and the Commercialisation Support Fund. To deal with the effective implementation of these funds, TIA implemented pre- and post-investment processes to improve client management, turnaround times and post-approval support to existing and new technology projects within the TIA portfolio.

The National Research Foundation

NRF is an independent statutory body established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No 23 of 1998). As a government mandated research and science development agency the NRF funds research, the development of high-end Human Capacity and critical research infrastructure to promote knowledge production across all disciplinary fields. The goal of the NRF is to create innovative funding instruments, advance research career development, increase public science engagement and to establish leading-edge research platforms that will transform the scientific landscape and inspire a representative research community to aspire to global competitiveness. The NRF promotes South African research and innovation interests across the country and internationally, and together with research institutions, business, industry and international partners we build bridges between research communities for mutual benefit that contributes to National Development.

The South Africa Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)

SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering, innovation and technology in South Africa. Science, through research, has a crucial role to play in the growth of South Africa's economy. Active dialogue and engagement between science and society ensures that scientific research findings are easily translated into relevant, appropriate and beneficial innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities. Research findings should also have an impact on policy and social conditions in a country. This can only be achieved when science becomes a daily dialogue and discourse. The fundamental principles of SAASTA's success in advancing a culture of engagement with science in South Africa lies in its synergistic approach.

iThemba LABS

The South African Laboratories for Accelerator Based Sciences is a multidisciplinary research facility that is based on the development, operation and use of particle accelerators and related research equipment. iThemba LABS operates the only cyclotron facilities in the African continent and the separated sector cyclotron is the largest accelerator facility in the Southern Hemisphere. iThemba LABS have various collaboration agreements and joint training programmes with Higher Education Institutions and research laboratories around the world as a means to contribute to the human capital development mandate of the NRF. The laboratory also provides a platform for SA based researchers and postgraduate students to access global research facilities such as CERN, JINR and GSI/FAIR.

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

SARAO, a facility of the National Research Foundation, is responsible for managing all radio astronomy initiatives and facilities in South Africa, including the MeerKAT Radio Telescope in the Karoo, and the Geodesy and VLBI activities at the HartRAO facility. SARAO also coordinates the African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network (AVN) for the eight SKA partner countries in Africa, as well as South Africa's contribution to the infrastructure and engineering planning for the Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope. To maximise the return on South Africa's investment in radio astronomy, SARAO is managing programmes to create capacity in radio astronomy science and engineering research, and the technical capacity required to support site operations.

The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)

SAAO, South Africa's leading astronomy research institute and home to the Southern African Large Telescope, the largest optical telescope in the southern hemisphere. Founded in 1820, the SAAO is the national centre for optical and infrared astronomy in South Africa. Its primary role is to conduct fundamental research in astronomy and astrophysics by providing a world-class facility to scientists. The SAAO also promotes astronomy and astrophysics in southern Africa, by sharing research findings and discoveries, and participating in outreach activities to enthuse citizens about physics and astronomy. The SAAO is a facility of the National Research Foundation, which operates under the South African Department of Science and Innovation. The SAAO is comprised of headquarters in the eponymous suburb of Observatory in Cape Town, and a dedicated research and observation station with several working telescopes (including SALT) outside the Karoo town of Sutherland in the Northern Cape.

South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)

SAEON is a long-term environmental observation and research facility of the National Research Foundation (NRF). SAEON's three focus areas are environmental observation, data management and education outreach. The Department of Science and Innovation provides core funding for these activities. SAEON has a distributed network of seven nodes, two research infrastructures and a national office. The research network covers the major terrestrial and marine ecosystems in South Africa and supports well over 100 researchers and students a year.

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB)

SAIAB is a national facility of the NRF. The NRF-SAIAB contributes to two National Operation Phakisa Labs through which South Africa has identified the potential to develop the Biodiversity Economy and the Blue Economy. With a significant amount of funding from the Department of Science and Innovation and the NRF, SAIAB has developed several high-level platforms capable of undertaking research in various environments; these have positioned the Institute as an innovative leader in aquatic biodiversity research. All of SAIAB's activities - research, student supervision and platform provision - support the Higher Education sector in the education, training and development of the aquatic managers and researchers of the future.



The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professionals (SACNASP)

SACNASP is the legislated regulatory body for natural science practitioners in South Africa. The natural sciences encompass a wide range of scientific fields covering all of the basic sciences and many of their applied derivatives. The SACNASP mission is to establish, direct, sustain and ensure a high level of professionalism and ethical conscience amongst our scientists. Their conduct should be internationally acceptable and in the broad interest of the community as outlined in the SACNASP Code of Conduct.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

SANBI contributes to South Africa's sustainable development by facilitating access to biodiversity data, generating information and knowledge, building capacity, providing policy advice, showcasing and conserving biodiversity in its national botanical and zoological gardens. SANBI's Conservation Gardens & Tourism Division manages SANBI's network of National Botanical and Zoological Gardens, each with their associated tourism infrastructure and conservation estate, and Interpretation Section.

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

The ICGEB is a unique intergovernmental organisation initially established as a special project of UNIDO. Autonomous since 1994, it runs over 45 state-of-the-art laboratories, in Trieste, Italy, New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa and forms an interactive network with almost 70 Member States, with operations aligned to those of the United Nations System. It plays a key role in Biotechnology promoting Research excellence, Training, and Technology Transfer to industry, to contribute in concrete terms to sustainable global development. Its main pillars of action comprise: Research, Advanced Education through PhD and Postdoctoral Fellowships, International Scientific Meetings

and Courses, competitive Grants for scientists in Member States and Technology Transfer to industry.

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)

AIMS is a pan-African network of Centres of Excellence for post-graduate training in mathematical sciences, research and public engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). AIMS is enabling Africa's talented students to become innovators driving the continent's scientific, educational and economic self-sufficiency.

Biovac

Biovac is a bio-pharmaceutical company based in Cape Town that is the result of a partnership formed with the South African government in 2003 to establish local vaccine manufacturing capability for the provision of vaccines for national health management and security. Biovac started its journey of building manufacturing capability by following a reverse integration approach by importing, exporting, packaging, testing and supplying vaccines. This ensured the delivery of the required vaccines to the children's vaccination program, known as the Expanded Programme on Immunisation and the private sector in South Africa and the region.

NECSA Visitor Centre

The NECSA Visitor Centre is a state of the art exhibition facility build to communicate nuclear science and technology and therefore help to demystify some of the ancient myths or misconception. NECSA Visitor Centre covers 5 major topics about nuclear: Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Science, Radiation, Reactors and Nuclear Waste. The Centre belongs to NECSA, which is a state-owned organisation set up to do research on nuclear science and technology and it also runs SAFARI-1 research reactor. Visitors are taken through the centre on guided tours, there are workshops on

different nuclear topics of interest, holiday programmes during schools holidays. The centre participates in various nationwide exhibitions and has many other programmes within the centre. As such, the centre strives to contribute to the overall improvement of general nuclear knowledge.

Sci-Bono

The Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, Southern Africa's largest science centre, is affiliated to the Gauteng Department of Education to support maths, science and technology education and to help build to South Africa's science, engineering and technology capacity. Sci-Bono is responsible for implementing the Gauteng Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Strategy. Sci-Bono started as a partnership project of the Gauteng Department of Education and various private sector partners. Located in the historic Electric Workshop in the cultural precinct of Newtown, Johannesburg, Sci-Bono annually receives hundreds of thousands of visitors to its large collection of interactive science and technology exhibits and exhibitions. Sci-Bono also offers a broad programme of science and technology related events, activities and programmes for both the general public and the school community. Sci-Bono is now one of the most popular leisure and educational destinations in Gauteng. Sci-Bono is a Non-Profit Company funded by its principal, the Gauteng Department of Education. It also benefits from grants and donations from donors in the broader public and private sector. Sci-Bono is also supported by various scientific and engineering bodies in industry and by the diplomatic community in South Africa.

Selected Higher Education Institutions University of Pretoria (UP)

The University of Pretoria is one of Africa's top universities and the largest contact university in South Africa. UP produces socially impactful research to find solutions for the world's most pressing issues. UP has a high quality of

teaching and learning in the classroom, online, or in communities, and have support in place for students to graduate on time as well-rounded, responsible citizens fully prepared for the world beyond university. In 2020, UP officially launched its state-of-the-art Engineering 4.0 facility, which focuses on research on smart transport, cities and infrastructure. Situated on the Innovation Africa@UP campus in Hillcrest, Engineering 4.0 has its home in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology. A first for Africa, it is a collaboration with the South African National Roads Agency, CSIR and York Timbers. UP is also home the new Future Africa campus where Africa's leading scientists and scholars from across the world and from a broad range of disciplines come together to leverage the benefits of transdisciplinary research to address the grand challenges that face Africa and the world. The Future Africa campus provides a dynamic living, learning and research environment where a community of scholars and other societal role players will engage to advance excellence in scholarship, dialogue and impact. Sci-Enza a 'hands-on-science' centre at UP, hosts a variety of science enrichment programmes to complement a child's learning experience. These programmes help learners with their studies and in gaining other important skills such as communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills outside of their normal class environment. A science enrichment programme can be one that is hosted after-school, on Saturdays and during school holidays. These programmes offer kids interactive lessons that relate to their school curriculum, so that they can see and understand the relevance and application of the concepts they do at school. The activities include DIY projects, arts and crafts, treasure hunt and many more tasks that encourage learners to actively participate in them. The centre offers after-school programmes consisting of hands-on workshops and real-life applications of science concepts that they have been exposed to previously.



University of the Witwatersrand

Wits University, as commonly known, is internationally distinguished for research, high academic standards and commitment to social justice in Africa and beyond. The location of the main campus in Johannesburg means that Wits is close to the economic powerhouse of the whole African continent. It was one of the founders of the African Research Universities Alliance and has an active programme of collaborative projects right across Africa and beyond. Highly research-intensive, it has made a major contribution to applied areas such as healthcare and the challenges of deep-level mining but performs strongly in subatomic physics and other fields of fundamental science. Visitors to the Wits Origins Centre follow a path of hominin innovation that began over 2 million years ago. The museum delves into the fascinating beliefs of the San. Opened in 2006, the Origins Centre is dedicated to exploring and celebrating the history of modern humankind. It contains evidence of ancient stone tools, artefacts of symbolic and spiritual significance, and examples of the region's visually striking rock art. It also captures the impact of the colonial front and highlights examples of resistance. The Origins Centre boasts an extensive collection of rock art from the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI) at Wits, affording visitors the opportunity to view some of the richest visual heritage found in South Africa and to learn about its history and meaning.

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COHWHS)

is one of South Africa's leading World Heritage Sites as a 53 000 hectare site of global significance, with over 400 accompanying diverse offerings for visitors. The official visitor centre in the COHWHS is Maropeng, and together with the Sterkfontein Caves site, which is owned by Wits University, these two sites constitute the broader Interpretation Centre of the COHWHS. This architecturally unique centre allows every visitor to embark on a journey of discovery that begins with the birth of our

planet, through the history of humankind, and into the future. Maropeng also has an original fossil display area where fossils are replenished regularly, education and conferencing facilities, a boutique hotel with incredible views, and a restaurant. The world-famous Sterkfontein Caves continue to attract many visitors, and also boasts an exhibition and offers the opportunity for a guided tour of the caves. The World Heritage site is a unique and iconic project that blends science and conservation with community capacitation, local economic development and tourism. The Face-To-Face exhibit at Maropeng puts a face to the name as it combines art and science to showcase reconstructions of Homo naledi and Australopithecus sediba by world-renowned palaeoartist John Gurché. The discovery of *Homo naledi* made headlines around the world in 2015 whilst the first specimen of *Australopithecus sediba* was discovered in 2008. Today, visitors are afforded the opportunity, for the very first time in South Africa, to compare face-to-face the bust reconstructions of these ancient hominins.

University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Vibrant, multicultural and dynamic, UJ shares the pace and energy of cosmopolitan Johannesburg, the city whose name it carries. Recognised as one of the country's strongest brands, UJ offers world-class, internationally recognised academic programmes based on curricula informed by cutting-edge developments in both undergraduate and postgraduate education, and that are designed to prepare students for the world of work and for global citizenship. The curriculum at UJ is increasingly reflective of previously marginalised scholarship that talks to a transformation and decolonisation agenda, with Africa at its core. Given the extensive social housing backlog in the country, the South African government needs to explore delivery options, including 3D printing, to deliver sustainable human settlements effectively and efficiently. A 3D construction printing for sustainable human developments pilot project was officially unveiled at the UJ in 2023. The initiative is funded by the Department

of Science and Innovation and implemented by UJ's Faculty of Civil Engineering and the Built Environment, in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Human Settlements and AfriSam. While it can take months to build a house, the university's 3D printing machine – valued at R6 million – printed a model of the Reconstruction and Development Programme house in eight hours, it was revealed at the event. As a result, the use of 3D printing is now being considered as a cost-saving and fast option to construct government-subsidised houses.

Stellenbosch University (SU)

SU is firmly committed to the pursuit of knowledge, research and innovation, in service of society. It provides a world-class centre for learning and development, which is globally relevant, yet rooted in the upliftment and transformation of our local communities. The main campus in the historical oak-lined university town of Stellenbosch lies nestled amongst the Boland Mountains in the winelands of the Western Cape creates a unique campus atmosphere, which attracts local and international students alike. SU's Department of Viticulture & Oenology & Institute for Wine Biotechnology is the only University-based department in South Africa that offers graduate and postgraduate courses in Viticulture and Oenology. The Department has at its disposal well-equipped research facilities, including experimental and commercial vineyards, a small-scale teaching experimental cellar and an industry-scale research and training cellar. Research projects are supported by competitive grants awarded to the Department by industry or government institutions.

Rhodes University

Rhodes owes its unique character among South African universities to a combination of factors, some historical, some geographical, some cultural and some architectural. The University has earned a world-wide reputation for the high quality of its education and all Rhodes degrees are internationally recognized. Rhodes University is home to Scifest Africa, which has been a doorway into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI) for the people of South Africa. Scifest Africa was established in 1996 to promote the public awareness, understanding and appreciation of STEMI. The project is supported by South Africa's National Department of Science and Innovation and various other cash and in kind sponsors. The project consists of two components, namely the National Science Festival held in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown), Eastern Cape in March every year, as well as regional and national outreach programmes implemented throughout the rest of the year. Scifest Africa identifies and designs unique interactive events and educational resources with scientific integrity to advance science, facilitate learning in an informal and non-threatening way, and provide learners with a great opportunity to discover science outside the classroom. Since its inception, Scifest Africa has hosted hundreds of international speakers and workshop leaders, becoming the largest science event in Africa.





A selection
of mages from the
CSIR International
Convention Centre
venues



CSIR International Convention Centre – the Proposed Conference Venue

CSIR Overview

The CSIR International Convention Centre (CSIR ICC) is situated in Pretoria, the capital city of South Africa, in the greater metropolitan area of Tshwane. Tshwane is renowned for its nature attractions, Big Five Game Reserve and concentration of research and academic institutions – a naturally spectacular city and home to a high concentration of renowned academics, researchers and diplomats from almost all countries around the world.

The CSIR ICC is located in the city's scientific hub, embedded on the campus of the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research, close to the Technology Innovation Agency, the National Research Foundation, the Department of Science and Technology, the Innovation Hub, the University of Pretoria and it's Future Africa Campus, SA National Biodiversity Institute and other research, development and innovation bodies and agencies. The CSIR ICC is part of the fast-emerging, most innovative "Square Mile in Africa" that is comparable internationally with other innovative spaces. This means that the CSIR ICC is ideally located for engagements with the wider scientific society..

This fit-for-purpose venue offers superb facilities and quality service of an international standard. with the CSIR ICC's conference, function and exhibition venues can accommodate groups of up to 1000 in its variety of venues. Seamless end-to-end digital and hybrid event solutions exist to cater for digital events, from simple broadcasting to complex conventions with exhibitions, sponsorships, and parallel sessions.

Auditoriums

The CSIR ICC's two purpose-built auditoriums have interpreting, voting, and queuing technology for 100 to 500 delegates. The auditoriums have raked theatre-style seating with

solid full-length desks. There are also three fitted screens, a speaker's restroom off the podiums, elegantly appointed top tables integrated soundproof interpreter booths and press booth infrastructure supporting live streaming capabilities.

Breakaway venues

Breakaway venues can accommodate groups of between 10 and 450 delegates and function venues can accommodate up to 500 guest banquets and larger groups can be accommodated for cocktail-type events.

A 1000sqm exhibition hall with storage space, floor loading capacity for heavy vehicles, and floor dips with electricity and data points is a feature of the CSIR ICC as is a central registration desk and exhibition space in the main foyer area.

This Centre boasts a spectacular alfresco dining deck set into the convention centre's natural setting- perfect for outdoor, nature and bird-watching enthusiasts seeking a quick reprieve from the business talk. The deck is an ideal venue for an outdoor cocktail function for up to 500 guests.

The exhibition space flows from the main foyer area and is therefore ideally located for high visibility.

Outdoor facilities

The CSIR ICC is well known for curating conference spaces outdoors, enveloped by natural bush and manicured gardens, in its expansive grounds. From large plenary sessions to medium sized workshops and think-tanks and lunches and social functions, the venue can provide a variety of setups outdoors to ensure a fresh and invigorating environment for delegates in-between indoor sessions.

*superb facilities
and quality service*

Venue capacity grid

| Venue name | Description | Capacity |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| Diamond Auditorium | Raked theatre style seating with solid full length desks. | 150 - 450 |
| Ruby Auditorium | Raked theatre style seating with solid full length desks. | 50 - 136 |
| Emerald Auditorium | Flat floor auditorium accommodating flexible seating. | 40 - 100 |
| Sapphire Room | Level seating. Executive boardroom with solid teak furnishings. | 5 - 10 |
| Amethyst Room | Level seating. | 40 - 140 |
| Crystal Room | Level seating. Exterior doors leading onto balcony with view. | 10 - 70 |
| Garnet Room | Level seating. Exterior doors leading onto balcony with view. | 10 - 40 |
| Onyx Room | Level seating. Exterior doors leading onto balcony with view. | 10 - 70 |
| Crystal/Garnet | Level seating. Exterior doors leading onto balcony with view. | 40 - 110 |
| Crystal/Garnet/Onyx | Level seating. Exterior doors leading onto balcony with view. | 50 - 180 |
| Jade Banquet Room | Level seating. | 50 - 100 |
| Amber Banquet Room | Level seating. | 150 - 450 |
| Amber I Banquet Room | Level seating. | 100 - 200 |
| Amber II Banquet Room | Level seating. | 50 - 100 |
| Deck | Outdoor, open, leading from building on one level, flexible seating. | 50 - 500 |
| Exhibition Hall | Roof hanging points & electrical and data services in floor and floor loading for heavy vehicles. Exhibitor store cages and exhibition organiser's office. | 10 - 1000 |
| VIP Suite | Executive lounge, boardroom & office with full private bathroom. Dual entrance/exit. | 1 - 6 |
| Central Foyer | Flowing from auditoriums with central registration desk. | 400 |

*where
smart minds
meet*





1



6



5



4

Images of in-venue experiences at the CSIR ICC

1. Welcome marimba and gumboot dancers
2. Menus with local dishes and drinks
3. School choir
4. Local Gin making or Gin tasting experience provided by The Capital Distillery
5. South African wine tasting experience
6. Local craft beer tasting experience provided by Capital Craft



2



3

In-venue experiences available

Welcome marimba and gumboot dancers

A traditional Marimba band will welcome your delegates as they arrive at the CSIR ICC for registration and the first day of the conference. A vibrant and energy-charged start to your event.

Local crafters market

A collection of the best authentic South African crafters display their wares for sale at the CSIR ICC giving delegates a cultural experience and a chance to take mementos home.

Menus with local dishes and drinks

We add traditional South African and African dishes, and cooking methods, to your event menus to add an authentic touch to delegate's culinary experience. Delegates will be presented with a small recipe book of local dishes as a memento.

A Taste of Local

Local Gin making or Gin tasting experience provided by The Capital Distillery

The Capital Distillery, located in Pretoria, ferments their own neutral spirit from scratch and then triple distills it in three different potstills, using only authentic raw materials and traditional distilling processes. Choose from a variety of triple distilled infused spirits to carefully blend and bottle your own unique gin to take home. You will be able to taste, smell, feel and experience botanicals like never before. The tasting experience allows you to taste three different flavours from their flagship range, The Capital Gin.

Local craft beer tasting experience provided by Capital Craft

South African's are great beer drinkers and craft beers form an integral part of our culture. Craft beers are much more than just a refreshing beverage, each beer has a story to tell. Learn about the brewing process, the different types of beer and discover the rich fragrances, aromas and tastes locked away in the variety of South African craft beers on offer.

South African wine tasting experience

South African wine has a history dating back to 1659 with the first bottle being produced in Cape Town by its founder and gouverner Jan van Riebeeck. There are about 60 appellations within the Wine of Origin (WO) system, which was implemented in 1973 with a hierarchy of designated production regions, districts and wards. South Africa is the eighth largest wine producer in the world and the world's sixth largest exporter of wine. Join us for an Estate wine tasting experience from the best the country has to offer.

School choir

Sikhululekile Secondary School is one of the top performing township schools in maths and science with limited resources, located in Hammanskraal an hour's drive north of Pretoria. The choir has won numerous awards and performed at a number of significant events and ceremonies. The choir is available to sing local and traditional songs at the opening or closing of your event.

DNA Ancestry Testing and Experience #FindMyLineage

Did you know that DNA Ancestry Testing data is used to identify which of the 350+ globally distributed regions your ancestors may have lived? In partnership with our academic and scientific conference supporters we can offer conference delegates DNA Ancestry Testing, accompanied by a briefing on genetic ancestry testing, as well as an informative presentation about the origins of man as a side experience at the CSIR ICC.

Total Lunar Eclipse Stargazing Experience

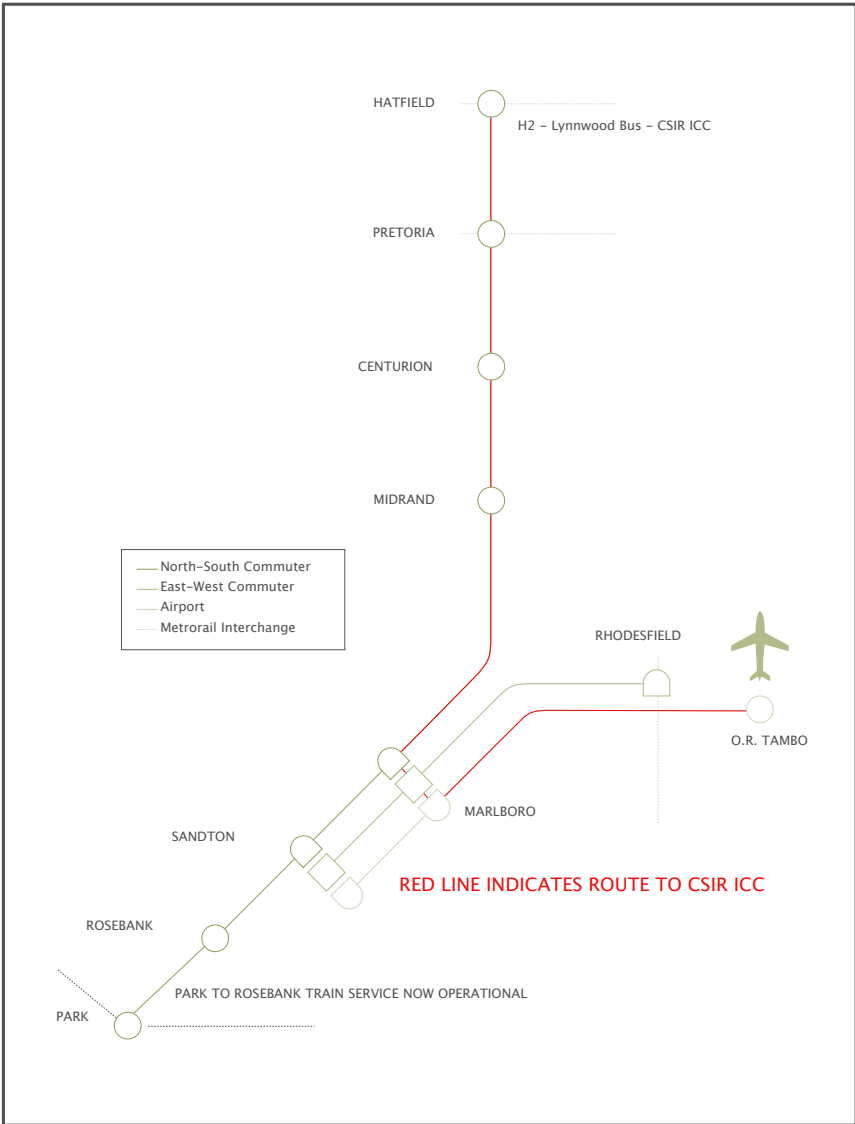
During the proposed conference dates for WCSJ 2025 There will be a total lunar eclipse of the moon. We can offer a chance for delegates to see the magnificent night skies of South Africa with a curated stargazing experience at our venue with professional astronomers are on hand to give talks and entertain groups with information and tales relating to the stars and planets of our universe. For inquiring minds searching for knowledge and a bit of magic, this is one of the most rewarding and fascinating activities on offer, giving delegates a chance to learn more about the universe we live in and the huge cosmos that we are a part of.



Venue Accessibility

The CSIR ICC is as accessible as it gets! Located at the junction of the major Gauteng province highways and on the Gautrain route which links OR Tambo airport directly with the CSIR ICC. Easy to access from any direction, by all modes of transport, the Centre's location outside of the Pretoria city centre ensures that no matter from which direction you approach the CSIR ICC you are always travelling against heavy traffic.

The Gautrain H2 Lynnwood bus, departing from the Gautrain Hatfield Station, offers commuters to the CSIR ICC hassle-free travel around Gauteng stations.



Gautrain Time Table

| | Origin Station Time | Destination Station Time |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| First Train | 05:30 | 06:11 |
| Last Train | 20:30 | 21:12 |

Trains depart and arrive every 6 minutes during rush hour and every 20 minutes at other times of the day.



SCAN ME FOR FULL GAUTRAIN TIME TABLE

Proposed Side Event Venues

Freedom Park

A guided tour of the heritage museum, covering the history of South Africa, will be followed by a banquet or cocktail under the stars within in the spectacular architectural features of the park. Views over the city and the cultural immersion in the history of South Africa will touch the soul of all guests. Traditional African storytelling can also be woven into the evening's program.

"...the day should not be far off, when we shall have a people's shrine, a Freedom Park, where we shall honour with all the dignity they deserve, those who endured pain so we should experience the joy of freedom." - Nelson Mandela

The Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria (Javett-UP)

African Gold! The gold of Mapungubwe was unearthed in 1933 on the summit of Mapungubwe hill. Evidence of extensive international trade and kingship found at this sacred site is manifested in the material found there which includes gold artefacts which are now exhibited in the Javett Art Centre-UP in the imposing Gold of Africa gallery. This gold – carved into different artefacts – and the famous Golden Rhinoceros were lost over a 1 000 years ago in a Mapungubwe royal grave. They represent a largely untold history of sophisticated Southern African civilisations. These artefacts, which were kept hidden for many years, represent evidence of a wealthy, developed, and civilised African kingdom that already existed in the 1200s. A curated tour of the Mapungubwe gold collection as well as the rest of this spectacular, modern, African art museum will be followed by cocktails and drinks accompanied by an introduction to the architecture of the museum by the architect himself.

Haywards Safaris

An evening event with the world's most luxurious mobile safari operation - completely South African, proudly world class and definitely first class. This exclusive-use, custom designed, mobile tented venue can be set up on the grounds of the CSIR ICC with all the bells and whistles or delegates can be transported (a mere 23 km north of Pretoria) to the Haywards Camp in the Bobbejaansberg Private Game reserve, the ideal setting for your gala social event. Activities such as hot air ballooning clay pigeon shooting, fishing, archery, horse trails, camel trekking, game drives, Ndebele tribal welcomes, bush walks and 4x4 trails can be added to the experience.



Freedom Park - Wall of names



Freedom Park - Heritage Museum



1. Catering at Javett Art Museum
Image courtesy of Pure Cafe
2. Freedom Park Heritage Museum
Image courtesy of The Travelling Camera
3. Freedom Park at night
Image courtesy of Greeninc
4. Pure Cafe UP outside setting
Image courtesy of Pure Cafe
5. The Javett Art Centre at the UP (Javett-UP)
6. Groenkloof Nature Reserve Zebra
Image courtesy of Groenkloof Nature Reserve
7. Carnivore Restaurant
Image courtesy of Carnivore Restaurant
8. Haywards Safaris Entertainment
Image courtesy of Haywards safaris
9. Haywards Safaris Cuisine
Image courtesy of Haywards safaris
10. Haywards Safaris Entertainment
Image courtesy of Haywards safaris
11. Haywards Safaris Wildlife
Image courtesy of Haywards safaris
12. Haywards Safaris View
Image courtesy of Haywards safaris

a naturally spectacular and intellectual capital

Gauteng is the smallest of South Africa's nine provinces, but also the most densely populated and the fastest growing. Gauteng means 'Place of Gold' (gold has been intertwined with the province's history ever since its discovery in the Johannesburg area in 1886). It is the financial and industrial capital of South Africa, the economic powerhouse of Africa and was founded in the heydays of one of the world's biggest and richest gold rushes. Earning it the name "Egoli", meaning 'place of gold'.

The people of Gauteng have the highest per capita income level in the country. The most important economic sectors are financial and business services, logistics, communications, and mining. As the financial capital of Africa, more than 70 foreign banks have their head offices in the province. The province is home to 3 metropolitan municipalities, namely: Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni.

The **City of Tshwane** is a main hub for South Africa's automotive industry, contributing to 40% of overall national production, and has competitive advantages in metal production and the defence industry.

The Province has the most important educational and health centres in the country. The City of Tshwane boasts the largest residential university in South Africa, the University of Pretoria (UP), and what is believed to be the largest correspondence university in the world, the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Most of South Africa's research and development takes place in Gauteng,

which is home to many of the country's core biotechnology companies. Leading research institutes such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) are based here.

Gauteng is also home to the Cradle of Humankind, one of South Africa's eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. The region of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and environs has one of the world's richest concentrations of hominid fossils, evidence of human evolution over the past 3.5-million years.

The Gauteng Province firmly believes that given the type of facilities available and the opportunities it has, the province has the best capacity to host the event. As the city was fortunate enough to open and close the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Gauteng has the infrastructure, amenities and services capable of hosting a conference of international standard.



Image courtesy of City of Tshwane - Mandela Statue - Union Buildings

FAST FACTS

ACCESS: Three major international airports offer flights from global hubs across the world. O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg is one of Africa's busiest airports, while Cape Town International and King Shaka International Airport in Durban also offer scheduled services.



LANGUAGE: Although there are eleven official languages, the language of business is English and is spoken everywhere.



CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE: South Africa has world-class universities and other highly regarded research institutions as well as key industry sectors such as mining and minerals chemicals, agriculture, automotive, ICT and electronics.



EXCELLENT F&B: South Africa is renowned for wines and excellent fresh produce, not to mention award-winning restaurants and chefs.



PRE- AND POST-TOURS: Unmatched leisure options are available from natural wonders of the world to magnificent wildlife and eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



O.R. Tambo Airport





1. Church Square - Kruger Statue
2. Chief Tshwane Statue
3. Cullinan Abseil & Zip-line
4. Cullinan Diamonds
5. Menlyn Street Dancers
6. Menlyn Maine



Culture

Tshwane is a cultural city with grand architecture, a plethora of museums – both historical and modern – monuments, grand sculptures, bustling markets and vibrant township scenes complemented by up-market fine dining restaurants, street-side cafe's and ultra-modern bustling city shopping centres.

Cosmopolitan

Tshwane is a cosmopolitan city. Tshwane has the most foreign representative bodies in the world after Washington DC. As the seat of government, all South African Government Departments are in Pretoria. The Office of the State President is in the magnificent Union Buildings, – visited by many heads of state from around the world. Pretoria as the capital city is the diplomatic hub of South Africa with over 135 embassies and diplomatic missions such as the United Nations, World Bank and European Union.

Science and research hub

Tshwane is an academic, science and research hub. With four universities the University of Pretoria, Tshwane University of Technology, UNISA and Sefako Makgatho, no less than seven national science councils this centre of scientific research and learning boasts the highest level of education in the country.

African city

Tshwane is an African city boasting two nature reserves with big game such as rhino, antelope, lion and giraffe close to the city centre and a third, on the city boundaries, boasting the Big 5. Green belts, wetlands and special natural park sanctuaries within the city also cater for birding enthusiasts. Dining options within these reserves abound to satisfy the tastes of the nature lover with a penchant for fine dining.



Rietvlei Antelope





Image courtesy of City of Tshwane



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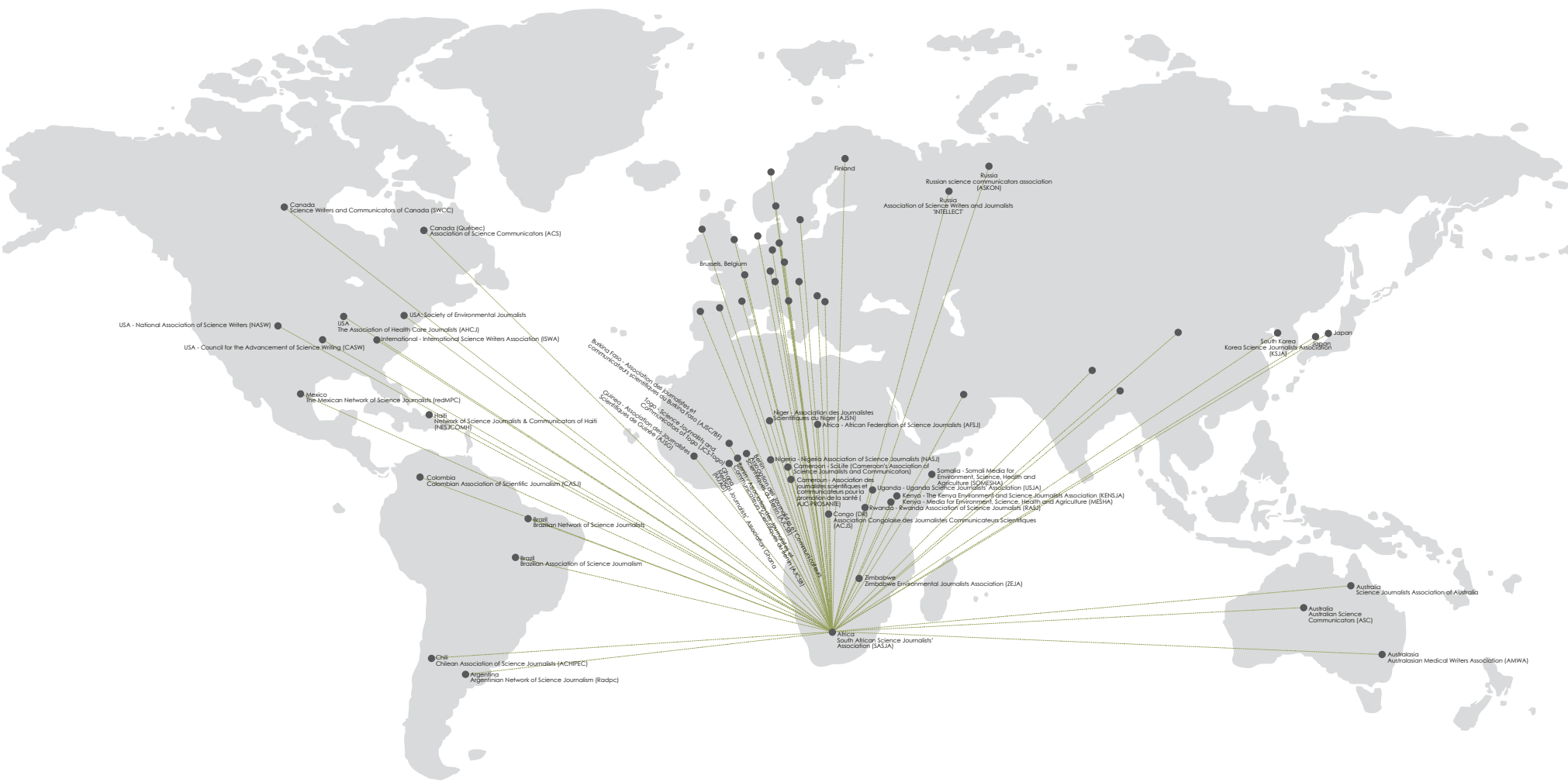


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1. Union Buildings - Picnic
2. Golf - Tshwane Open
3. Menlyn Maine - Hospitality
4. African Aerospace & Defence Show held annually in Tshwane



Travel

Air Travel

International Airport

OR Tambo Airport is the main international airport in Kempton Park, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, South Africa, not too far from the city of Johannesburg and, close to the administrative capital Pretoria/ Tshwane. It is the busiest airport in Africa with non-stop flights to the seven continents except Antarctica.

JNB serves as the primary hub for domestic and international travel in/out of South Africa. Transportation is cheaper from this airport.

Over 70 international airlines now fly into South Africa. Award-winning South African Airways, the national carrier, flies to destinations all over Africa and is connected to major international air routes.

Departure Check-in

Departing passengers should allow at least two and a half hours of check-in time for all international flights. An hour and a half is normally adequate for domestic check in and this will allow for sufficient time for parking and check processes.

Executive Lounges

International Departures

- South African Airways (Star Alliance)
- British Airways – Terraces (One World)
- The Premier Lounge

The Premier Lounge is an executive lounge that is open to any passenger, no matter the airline or ticket class. You can pay per visit or buy a pre-paid card for six or more visits.



Ground Transport

The Tshwane Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) consists of a total of some 80 kilometres of bus lines, comprising 62 stations throughout the Metro and neighbouring areas. The system consists of about 340 buses, some of which are powered by gas.

The buses travel along dedicated bus lanes in the centre of the roadway allowing you to avoid the traffic and get to your destination faster, safer and on time. The buses operate from a state-of-the-art Interim Control Centre (ICC) to enhance security and provide real-time information to passengers. Special needs passengers, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, are able to embark and disembark all buses with ease.

The BRT buses run from 06:00 in the morning until 20:00 at night in the week and 23:30 on Saturday evenings. With two to four-minute intervals during peak periods, and seven to ten minutes during off-peak periods. The BRT buses use a cashless smart card, called the Connector that is sold at the kiosks inside all seven bus stations.

A range of bus and coach services are available. These include commuter bus services, point-to-point shuttles and long-distance coach services.

Uber

Metered taxis are also available. The online travel service, Uber, is a very popular and convenient way to travel around the City of Tshwane.

Gautrain

The Gautrain is an 80-kilometre (50-mile) rapid rail system in Gauteng, which links Johannesburg, Pretoria, and O. R. Tambo International Airport. It takes 30 minutes to travel from O. R. Tambo International Airport to Pretoria in Tshwane. The Gautrain has 10 stations. Buses, shuttles, and minibus services are available to transport passengers to and from all stations.

Venue shuttles

Luxury air-conditioned coaches and shuttle buses are arranged to transport delegates between the airport, hotels, convention venues and side event venues. Delegates will be met with a personalised name board before being transferred to their destination.

Car rental

A number of major car rental companies are represented throughout South Africa. Bookings may be made prior to arrival and major credit cards are accepted for payment. It is recommended to hire a GPS with the car, and this should be specified at the time of booking.

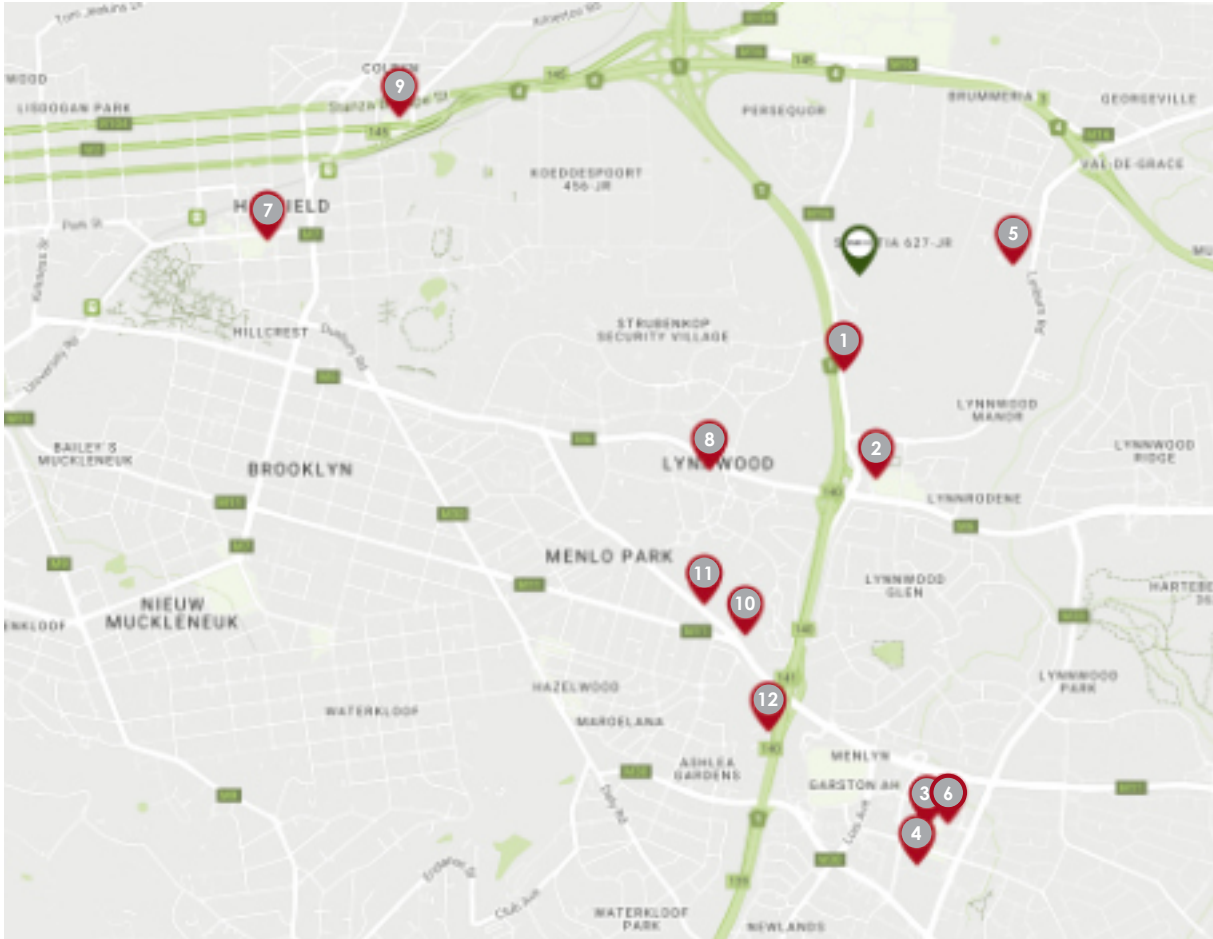
*embark
with ease*





Image courtesy of Sheraton Hotel

Hotels



Hotels within 10km radius of the CSIR ICC

- 1 Casa Toscana
- 2 City Lodge Hotel Lynnwood
- 3 The Capital Menlyn Maine
- 4 Maslow Times Square
- 5 Pierneef's Kraal Guest House
- 6 The Capital Trilogy
- 7 Hotel@Hatfield
- 8 Hudson House Boutique Hotel
- 9 Garden Court Hatfield
- 10 Town Lodge Menlo Park
- 11 Alpine Attitude
- 12 Menlyn Boutique Hotel

| Hotel | Rooms | Distance to CSIR International Convention Centre |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Casa Toscana | 20 | 1.1 Km |
| City Lodge Hotel Lynnwood | 205 | 2.3Kkm |
| The Capital Menlyn Maine | 284 | 6km |
| Maslow Times Square | 238 | 6.3km |
| Pierneef's Kraal Guest House | 24 | 2.7km |
| The Capital Trilogy | 75 | 5.3km |
| Hotel@Hatfield | 204 | 7 km |
| Hudson House Boutique Hotel | 24 | 4.5km |
| Garden Court Hatfield | 157 | 5.7km |
| Town Lodge Menlo Park | 106 | 4km |
| Alpine Attitude | 12 | 4.2km |
| Menlyn Boutique Hotel | 25 | 4.9km |



Image courtesy of www.booking.com

Hotel@Hatfield

Hotel@Hatfield offers 204 contemporary rooms designs.



Image courtesy of www.kayak.co.uk

Hudson House Boutique Hotel

This four-star boutique hotel offers perfect backdrop for a wide variety of private dining.



Image courtesy of www.booking.com

Garden Court Hatfield

Garden Court Hatfield is, in close proximity to the Gautrain and only 8 minutes' drive from the CSIR.



Image courtesy of www.booking.com

Town Lodge Menlo Park

Situated in the upmarket suburb of Menlo Park with a restaurant on the property.



Image courtesy of Facebook.com/AlpineAttitudeBoutiqueHotelConferenceVenue

Alpine Attitude

Every Hotel Room and Apartment is different and tastefully decorated by South African Artists according to different Themes.



Image courtesy of www.agoda.com

Menlyn Boutique Hotel

Where luxury, tranquillity, and art meet.



Image courtesy of www.sa-venues.com

Casa Toscana

Casa Toscana captures the style and character of Tuscany.



Image courtesy of www.silverdoorapartments.com

The Capital Menlyn Maine

The Capital Menlyn Maine is situated in Menlyn Maine, South Africa's first green living precinct.



Image courtesy of www.attacq.co.za

City Lodge Hotel Lynnwood

City Lodge Lynnwood is situated within the multi-use Lynnwood Bridge complex.



Image courtesy of www.booking.com

Maslow Times Square

The Maslow Time Square is packed with state-of-the-art facilities and technology to inspire the guest.



Image courtesy of www.sa-venues.com

Pierneef's Kraal Guest House

Pierneef's Kraal Guest House offers luxury and privacy.



Image courtesy of www.sahometraders.co.za

The Capital Trilogy

The Capital Trilogy comprise a variety of accommodation.



Leisure day tours

Pretoria Capital City 1/2 day tour

Pretoria, administrative Capital of the ZAR, the Union of South Africa, the Republic of South Africa and the new South Africa. One of our stops is at the Union Buildings, home to the president's office, from where you can delight in a panoramic view of the Jacaranda City, also the location of the inauguration of Nelson Mandela for whom a huge sculpture stands in the landscaped gardens.

- We visit:
- The Voortrekker Monument
 - Church Square & Paul Kruger Statue
 - Union Buildings & Nelson Mandela Statue
- We drive past / point out:
- Kruger House or Melrose House
 - Pretoria City Hall
 - Museum of Natural History
 - Pretoria Train Station
 - The old and the new South African Reserve Bank
 - The embassy area
 - Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary

Freedom Park

The Park is located on a 52-hectare site on Salvokop in Pretoria – a vantage point that offers visitors a spectacular panorama of our capital city and beyond. The mandate of Freedom Park is the creation of a memorial and monument that will narrate a story spanning a period of 3.6 billion years through the following seven epochs: Earth, Ancestors, Peopling, Resistance and Colonisation, Industrialisation and Urbanisation, Nationalism and Struggle, Nation Building and Continent Building.

The Park is also home to the Garden of Remembrance – to acknowledge those that contributed to the freedom of the country, and the Wall of Names – an awe-inspiring structure (697m), inscribed with the names of those who died during eight conflicts within South Africa's history.

Voortrekker Monument

The Voortrekker Monument is s a majestic granite structure, situated in expansive grounds, where game animals graze, and a number of attractions are available. Honouring the Afrikaner's principal historic event: The Great Trek (1835 – 1843), the Monument boasts sculpted portrayals of the journey the Voortrekkers (pioneers) and the Afrikaner endured, which makes it no surprise that the Voortrekket Monument is one of the country's most visited museums.

Nelson Mandela Footsteps Tour

Pretoria, and the world, witnessed Nelson Mandela being inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president at the Union Buildings on 10 May 1994. It was also here that over 100 000 people came to pay their respects to him after his passing on 5th of December 2013.

Some of Nelson Mandela's best speeches and quotes were made in Pretoria and his presence in the city has had a profound impact on the way Pretoria has transformed over the years.

Follow Nelson Mandela's footsteps across Pretoria

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1958 to 1961 | Old Synagogue: Treason Trial |
| 1962 | Imprisonment at Pretoria Local Prison |
| 1963 to 1964 | Palace of Justice: Rivonia Trial |
| 1990 to 1993 | Presidency: Negotiating peace and the Pretoria Minute |
| 1994 to 1999 | Union Buildings: Inauguration and Presidency |
| 1999 to 2013 | Various public appearances during retirement |
| 2013 | Mediclinic Heart Hospital: Illness and hospitalisation |
| 2013 | Union Buildings: Laying in state |

(copy courtesy of Showme Pretoria)



- 1. Church Square
- 2. Struggle Heroes Exhibition at Fountains Valley
- 3. Union Buildings
- 4. Voortrekker Monument



Pre & post leisure tours

Pretoria/Tshwane Tours

Gauteng is the smallest province in South Africa, accounting for only 1.5% of the land area. Nevertheless, it is highly urbanised, containing the major highways and the country's largest city, Johannesburg, its administrative capital, Pretoria and the historical Soweto. The most popular attractions in the province are combined in this day tour – if you only have one day to see it all, this is the tour for you.

We visit:

- Union Buildings in Pretoria
- Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg
- Mandela House & Vilakazi Street in Soweto

We point out:

- Church Square & Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria
- Sandton & Johannesburg CBD
- Hector Pietersen Memorial in Soweto
- Soccer City

Gold Reef City

Gold Reef City is a theme park – built around an old gold mine – which shows Johannesburg as it was at the time of the discovery of gold. Learn how Johannesburg came to be, how gold was discovered on the reef, descend 75 meters underground plus witness the magnificent flow of a live gold pour.

A variety of shops, housed in original buildings and entertainment is available at the Theme Park.

The Apartheid Museum

Half day with lunch or full day tour combined with either Johannesburg City or Soweto or Gold Reef City.

* a · part · heid

* An official policy of racial segregation formerly practised in the Republic of South Africa. This museum illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid. Visitors walk through the 22 individual exhibition areas, which contain film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts illustrating the events and human stories behind apartheid. At the end you'll have a far deeper understanding of the

why and how of apartheid and the new South Africa of today. The tour is self-guided, but our tour guide will be available to answer any questions.

Cullinan Diamond Mine tour

Take a train from Bosman Train Station for a historic steam train ride to Cullinan Diamond Mine.

Pretoria railway station is the central station in Pretoria, the executive capital of South Africa. It is located between Pretoria's central business district and Salvokop, in a 1910 building designed by Herbert Baker. It is the terminus of various Metrorail commuter rail services in the northern part of Gauteng, and a stop on Shosholozza Meyl inter-city services from Johannesburg to Polokwane and Nelspruit. Pretoria is also the northern terminus of the luxury Blue Train service from Cape Town. Platforms and tracks for the Gautrain rapid-rail service are adjacent to the main-line station.

Enjoy a tour of the mine where the world's biggest diamond (3106 carats) was discovered in 1905! The mine has produced 255 gem diamonds of over 100 carats, and nearly a quarter of the world's gem diamonds of 400 carats and over. The Cullinan Diamond, provided the two main polished diamonds within the British Crown Jewels (the 530 carat Great Star of Africa and the 317 carat Lesser Star of Africa). You will get the opportunity to visit the Cullinan Diamond Mine market for an unforgettable diamond and jewellery shopping experience. This is also the only outlet in the world where you can buy the Cullinan Star Cut diamond – a unique 66 facet cut. Each stone is laser inscribed – your assurance of the stones uniqueness.

On the surface tour visitors will see the big hole, the shaft and the diamond room where a selection of uncut diamonds and replicas of world-famous diamonds are displayed. It is advisable to wear comfortable shoes as a fair amount of walking is involved.

1. The Cradle of Humankind tours
Image courtesy of Vayaafricatravels

2. Gold Reef City
Image courtesy of Golf Reef City

3. Groenkloof Nature Reserve - Giraffe
Image courtesy City of Tshwane

4. Cullinan Mine Tour
Image courtesy of Cullinan Mine



Township tour

Depart Cullinan Mine for a Vintage Tour to Mamelodi Township or Atteridgeville – The Capital of Jazz Music.

The name "Mamelodi", which means "mother of melodies", derives from the name given to President Paul Kruger by black people because of his unusual ability to whistle and imitating birds, a true representative of its Jazz Capital of South Africa status.

Atteridgeville is a township located on the west of Pretoria and is often referred to as the jazz capital of South Africa. Known for its many restaurants, shebeens and taverns, Atteridgeville is a popular tourist attraction and home to many talented jazz artists and jazz lovers alike.

Sterkfontein Caves

In 1947 a well-preserved skull of a species of early man known as Plesianthropus transvaalensis was discovered. The skull became known as Mrs. Ples, dating back 2.5 million years. The total of over 700 hominid specimens found here has made Sterkfontein the world's richest hominid site. A section of the caves is visited on an hour long guided tour and the excavation site can be viewed.

Maropeng Centre

The main building at Maropeng, called the Tumulus, emulates an ancient burial mound from the front, and in stark contrast, upon exiting, a very modern iconic structure is revealed.

An original fossil display and a boat ride on an underground lake through the four life-giving elements that combined to form the earth and shape the world as it is known today are offered in the Maropeng Visitors Centre.

Wonder Caves

One of the most beautiful naturally decorated caves in South Africa. Since its discovery only 100 years ago, few people have entered the Caves and it is thus relatively well preserved and virtually untouched. The enormous cave chamber with a volume of 46 000 cubic metres is believed to be 2.2 million years old.

Lunch at the Carnivore Restaurant,

"Africa's Greatest Eating Experience", can be included in this tour.

Lesedi Cultural Village Visit

Lesedi – meaning The Place of Light – is a multi-cultural African village, an hour's drive from Pretoria. Guests are invited to the Ndebele Village where a traditional welcome by all the people of Lesedi takes place. The cultural programme begins with a multi-visual presentation on the history and origins of South Africa's rainbow nation. This is followed by a guided tour of the four ethnic homesteads – Zulu, Basotho, Xhosa and Pedi. As the sun sets over the African bush, guests are escorted to the boma for traditional singing and dancing (you are voluntarily requested to participate in this) depicting stories that date back to the days of their ancestors. The guests are then treated to a Pan African Buffet in the Nyama Choma Restaurant with delicacies from North, East and Southern Africa.

An overnight option is also available, Lesedi African Lodge offers 30 rooms, all with private bathrooms. A full English breakfast is served in their restaurant and, if time permits, a shopping experience of a lifetime awaits guests in the vibrant, living Ndebele craft market and curio shop with its decorative walls and courtyards.



- 1. Tshwaing Meteorite Crater
Image courtesy of Koobit
- 2. Sterkfontein Caves
Image courtesy of No Limits Travel and Tours
- 3. Lesedi Cultural Village - Experience
- 4. Rietvlei Nature Reserve Rhinos
Image courtesy of Wikivoyage
- 5. Wonder Caves
Image courtesy of Rhinolion



Wildlife day tours

In the early 1900s, the Magaliesberg Mountains around Pretoria were rich in wildlife and home to abundant herds of elephants and other game. A number of sanctuary and rehabilitation centres are available within a short distance. Select a half-day tour to any one of the following, or a full day tour combining all three of the following attractions:

The **Ann van Ann van Dyk Cheetah Conservation & Research Centre Cheetah and Wildlife Centre** lies nestled in the foothills of the Magaliesberg just outside Pretoria, presenting a landscape of open African veld, many indigenous trees and a panoramic view of the north. De Wildt is renowned for its breeding success of rare and endangered species. The very rare King Cheetah was first bred here, and similar success has been achieved in breeding Wild Dog, Brown Hyena, Blue Duiker, Suni Antelope and various species of vultures. The tour coincides with feeding time, so you'll be able to observe these animals feeding in a natural, but controlled, habitat. The ambassador cheetahs at the Centre are exercised three times a week as part of an enrichment programme. This entails the cheetahs chasing a high-speed lure and visitors are able to witness the cheetah moving at speed. This activity offers some excellent photographic opportunities.

The **Elephant Sanctuary** is a safe house for African elephants and offers an interactive elephant experience. Hands-on educational elephant interactions provide you with an intimate experience with the elephants. Dedicated staff are committed to the use of positive reinforcement elephant training methods and as a result, relaxed elephants enjoy interacting with guests. Guests are guided on foot through The Elephant Sanctuary. Well-informed guides will provide you with in-depth information and insight about African Elephants! You will meet, face-to-face, these gentle giants and experience their warm breath and their unique trunks while feeding them. Take a walk with these majestic giants and appreciate them in their natural habitat.

Big Five Game Reserve Day Tours

If you only have one day available, Pretoria offers two Big Five game reserves close enough for a day trip. Dinokeng Game Reserve an 18,000-hectares reserve nestled within the malaria-free region is a mere 40- minutes from Pretoria and a 90-minute drive by tar road from OR Tambo Airport in the province of Gauteng, South Africa. All members of the Big Five (elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo, lion) roam free across the Reserve.

The Mongena Private Game Lodge located within the Dinokeng reserve is a private concession of 8,000 hectares that offers an authentic exclusive safari experience where only registered safari vehicles are allowed with no access by the general public. The lodge offers full-day safaris/ trips with return transfers from all Pretoria hotels or the CSIR International Convention Centre, lunch, drinks and a guided safari experience on open vehicles or a 1 /2-day overnight safari experience with all meals (excl. drinks with meals) and 2 wildlife activities included per nights' stay with return transfers to Pretoria based hotel (or OR Tambo at additional cost).

Other day trips offered in conjunction with Dinokeng Events a registered shuttle company based in Dinokeng Game Reserve include:

- Day trip Elephant interaction with return transfers from Pretoria-based hotels including lunch and drinks.
- Day trips for Rhino Rescue Centre including lunch and drinks.

Pilansberg Game Reserve – only about two hours from Pretoria. This malaria-free 58 000 hectare park – the fourth largest in South Africa – is situated on the eroded remains of a 1,2 billion year- old extinct volcanic crater, and is home to the Big Five (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant), and more than 365 bird species.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 07:30 | Departure Pretoria pick-up points |
| 09:30 | Arrival at Park |
| 10:00 – 16:00 | Game viewing in a closed airconditioned tour vehicle |
| 13:00 | Light lunch at the Pilanesberg Centre |
| 16:00 | Departure from Park |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | Drop-off Pretoria |



1. Elephant Sanctuary
Image courtesy of Facebook
2. Pilansberg Game Reserve
Image courtesy of Ulysses
3. Ann van Dyk Cheetah Conservation & Research Centre
Cheetah and Wildlife Centre
Image courtesy of Markasintours
4. Dinokeng Game Reserve
Image courtesy of Mongena Game Lodge
5. Muninggi Gorge Adventure Zone
Image courtesy of Inafricaandbeyond



Groenkloof Nature Reserve

Groenkloof Nature Reserve is located near the famous Fountains Valley at the entrance to Pretoria. This valley on the southern outskirts of Pretoria was proclaimed as a game sanctuary by President Paul Kruger on 25 February 1895, the first wildlife reserve in Africa. Its main purpose was to protect the shy and timid oribi that were found there and other game that were being wiped out by hunters. The wildlife on the reserve include zebra, jackal, duiker, kudu, impala, blue wildebeest, red hartebeest, ostrich, giraffe and sable. The rich birdlife will keep bird lovers busy for hours on end. Tours in this reserve can include hiking, mountain biking, horse trails and vehicle trails including night drives.

The Rietvlei Nature Reserve

The Rietvlei Nature Reserve is situated 18 km from the centre of Pretoria en route to OR Tambo International Airport. The 3 800 ha of endangered Bankenveld grassland includes open plains and undulating hills. The extensive vlei areas and tributary streams support the scenic splendour of the Rietvlei Dam – built to provide water to Pretoria. Some 1 600 head of game, including cheetah, rhino, buffalo, blesbuck, black wildebeest, red hartebeest, eland, Burchell's zebra, hippo, waterbuck, reedbuck, springbuck, mountain reedbuck, steenbuck, black-backed jackal, and grey duiker can be viewed here.

Tshwaing Meteorite Crater

Some 220 000 years ago a blazing stony meteorite the size of half a football field slammed into the earth's crust. The impact formed a huge crater, 1.4 km in diameter and 200 m deep. This crater is one of the best-preserved meteorite impact craters in the world. The name "Tswaing" means place of salt in Setswana and refers to a saline lake that covers the crater floor. Major attractions, besides the crater, are an extensive wetland system, the large variety of plant species of the Sourish-Mixed Bushveld, and 240 species of birds.

Muninggi Gorge Adventure Zone

Zip lining as you always imagined it should be! Zip-Line the Muningi Gorge, really long, breathtakingly high, extremely fast and exciting. Four zip-lines criss cross the Muningi Gorge, totalling a whopping 1.5 km over sheer "drops" in excess of 80 meters high and you will reach speeds of up to 90km/h. You can also try your hand at the ancient skill of target archery. Experienced guides will teach you how to shoot a recurve bow as done in the Olympic games. "Aim small; miss small", this is just two of the 16+ activities available at this branch

e-Bike with wild game in the Capital City

An exhilarating half-day experience in nature for first time e-bikers. The guided tour is aimed at people who know how to ride a bicycle but have possibly never ridden an e-Bike.

Bill Harrops Original Balloon Safaris

If you're going to do it – do it in style. Its sunrise, the silence of flight is punctuated only by the occasional blast of the powerful burners and the faint call of a bird or animal far beneath. The thrill is indescribable. You're hovering gently above the tree tops of the beautiful Magalies River Valley, or drifting majestically high above the Magaliesberg, just a few kilometers outside of Pretoria, a region boasting some of the best ballooning weather in the world. The exceptional peace of this unique and almost supernatural view of the world will forever remain as a truly cherished memory. After landing, savour a delectable and generous champagne breakfast at the well established, traditionally exquisite and beautifully appointed Clubhouse and Pavilion, where you'll be filled with the warmest of memories.

Professional pilots, attentive crew, immaculately maintained equipment, 5 aviation safety awards, make this longest established licensed Balloon Airline in southern Africa the choice of the well informed discerning individual traveller or corporate group. 2022 Traveller's Choice Award for Best Outdoor Activity. Balloon safaris – an absolutely unique and inspiring way to view the world



Image courtesy of E-biking



Image courtesy of Bill Harrops Original Balloon Safaris



Image courtesy of Bill Harrops Original Balloon Safaris



Image courtesy of Bill Harrops Original Balloon Safaris

scenic splendour

exhilarating alternatives

The fairest Cape of all

Cape Town & Surrounds

Bespoke tours of one to seven days are available. Travel along the spectacular coastline of the Peninsula through charming historical villages. Visit the mythical meeting place of two great oceans and experience the "Fairest Cape of all".

Highlights:

Table Mountain

Victoria & Alfred Waterfront

Hout Bay boat trip to Seal Island

Chapmans Peak Drive (if open)

Ostrich viewing (drive by)

Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve with Cape Point

Boulders Penguin Colony

Constantia Wine Farms

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

Franschhoek Wine Tram Curated Wine Experience

Stellenbosch/Paarl/Franschhoek wine tasting and historical towns

Land and Boat based whale watching or shark cage diving

Cape Town 3 or 5 nights guided e-Bike tour for non-athletes

A leisurely gentle activity in nature in a way that few ever see the Cape. Each day you are transported to the Cape's iconic destinations avoiding public roads

These include:

- Cape Point Nature Reserve
- Top of Table Mountain National Park at Silvermine
- Boschendal Wine Estate
- From Melkbosstrand toward Table Mountain

Accommodation at 4-star boutique hotels near Waterfront and in Franschhoek. Included are professional guide, e-Bike with helmets and wet weather gear, daily transfers to and from rides, breakfast and lunch at interesting venues, park and entrance fees including two of the following four:

- Robben Island
- Table Mountain Cableway
- Two Oceans Aquarium
- Kirstenbosch Gardens



This is Big Game Country

Kruger Park and Panorama Route tours

Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces. This is Big Game Country, the setting for dozens of sanctuaries teeming with wildlife and birds.... Among them, the Kruger National Park is world-renowned, as are several of the luxurious private reserves on its western boundary. The Kruger Park was established in 1898 to protect wildlife and covers an area of 2 million hectares. Truly the flagship of the South African national parks.

Different packages are available as well as options between the different private, some very luxurious, lodges and Kruger National Park camps. Accommodation ranges from huts and safari tents to 5-star lodges. Golf packages are also available.



Image courtesy of gettyimages

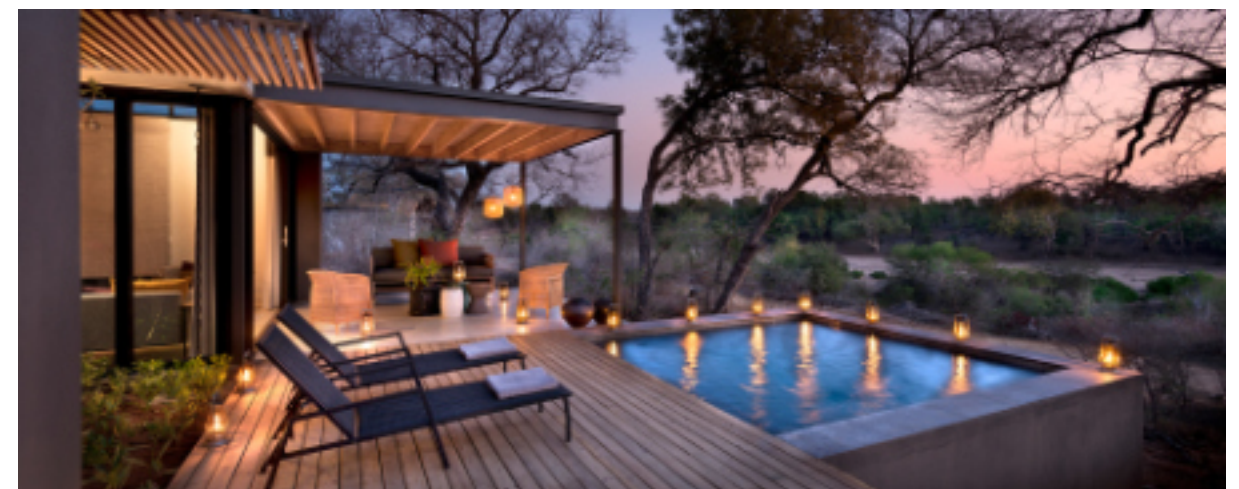


Image courtesy of go2africa.com



Proposed Conference Budget and Finances

The bidding process has been proudly sponsored in-kind by the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa (SDCfA) and the South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA) and their bid supporters.

A key motivation to hold the WCSJ 2025 in Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa at the CSIR International Convention Centre is that a) the exchange rate for currencies of the global north is extremely favorable and, b) the CSIR ICC, due to its affiliation with the South African NSI and mandate to host science related conferences, can offer unbeatable rates as the venue for the conference. This will allow the conference logistical costs to be minimized and allocation of funds to activities supporting the growth and development of science journalism, to be maximized.

For the conference itself a budget for 800 (small), 1000 (medium) and 1200 (large) delegates will be developed and sources of funding, not

limited to the following, will be established and outlined in a detailed fundraising plan:

- Registration fees
- Sponsorships
- Exhibitions
- Grant from South African Tourism
- Scholarships from supporting institutions
- Government support (SA National Department of Science and Innovation)

Several supporting entities have already informally committed to financially supporting the conference either through sponsorships, donations or in-kind.

We are confident of access to the resources, and our ability to finance the conference ensuring that the budget is inclined toward development of the science journalism profession. A detailed budget proposal will be prepared should we be granted the opportunity to host the WCSJ 2025.