



MOTHEO REGION

“Motheo” is the Basotho word for “foundation” or “strong base of a building”, a reference to the fact that this region lies at the centre of the province. In the middle of the region lies Bloemfontein, the provincial capital and the judicial capital of South Africa, as well as the business and cultural hub of the Free State.

The region encompasses three local municipalities namely Mangaung, Mantsopa and Naledi, collectively it has 11 towns under it. This is the place of enormous opportunities, where several political parties saw the light of day and where the population of the province come together to merge into a cosmopolitan community. The ANC was formed in the region in 1912 in Mangaung at Wesleyan church close to where the power station is located today. At night, the city lights form a golden glow on the horizon as locals and visitors revel in the cultural and entertainment opportunities associated with city life.

But Motheo is not only the region where the provincial capital is located; it is also a region of golden fields of wheat and maize, where sheep and cattle graze. Game reserves and private farms where country lifestyle as well as game watching and hunting can be experienced make up the rest of the region. Imagine an area with a city, several small towns and farms where farmers welcome you into their homes and make you feel like one of the family. Motheo region has busy social calendar throughout the whole region. Bloemfontein is popularly known for hosting Bloem Show, Bridal Show, Wheels Expo, Homemakers Expo, not forgetting the well known MACUFE, Vuka Jazz festival, biannual folkloric festival, Rose festival and the adventurous Caledon 400 offroad championships and the Two Nations Sports festival held between Ladybrand and Maseru, the only sports festival where the marathon is ran from one country into another

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Weather:

Summer: **December-February**

Winter: April-July

Spring July-September

Autumn Jan-March

Average winter temperature: 7.71°C Max:-3°C

Average summer temperature: 23°C Max: 35°C

South African Weather Service 0821

Infrastructure

Transport

Road travel

The Free State has an extensive and well signposted road network. Main routes are tarred but some of the smaller country side routes are connected by well maintained gravel roads, caution should be taken while traveling on gravel roads. Filling station stations for fuel [leaded, unleaded, diesel are plentiful and are mostly located main roads and some country roads. Trading hours in smaller towns is 8am-5p.m whilst in bigger towns' fuel is available 24/7 a day. Public transport is easily connected to major towns and is also available for those who travel to countryside and in the township [taxi]. Metered taxi and shuttle service and chartered buses are also provided at the request. Major rental companies like imperial, Avis, Hertz, Budget, Tempest, Abba, Europacar and Alamo operate in Bloemfontein at the Airport and at the City centre.

Air travel

Bloemfontein has an airport located in the east about 10 km from the city centre. Companies like SAA and 1time are operating daily flights.

Sporting Facilities

Free State Stadium home of Free State Cheetahs – venue for 2010 soccer cup

Cricket Stadium home of Free State Eagles – Hosted world cricket

Seisa Ramabodu Stadium home of Bloemfontein Celtics – Siwelele sa masele

Botshabelo Stadium- host local and national games

Mmabana Stadium- host local and national games.

A list of facilities in other sporting codes is available at the request.

**Telecommunication**

The telecommunication system in the region is fully automatic and is linked to all small towns in SA and abroad. Public telephones accommodate both phone cards and coins. Please dial 1023 our local tourist offices if you need a telephone number of a tourism product not listed. We also have a good cell phone reception in all towns for all networks. Fax facilities and internet shops is also accessible. Regional dialing code is [051]

Banking

Banking facilities are available in all towns, where there are no branches there are ATMs. Normal banking trading hours in all towns is from 9am-15h30 and 9am-11 am on Saturdays. Major credit cards are generally accepted (there is usually a sign indicating that). Some of the banks have telephone and internet banking facilities. Foreign exchange by most banks can be done only in Bloemfontein.

Safety and security

Dial free call number [1023] to report any crime

For emergency service [Ambulance and firefighting] dial 10717

Municipal security service is available at all local councils.