

There's more to Joburg's urban sprawl than highways and malls

While many South Africans fly to Johannesburg for business - which sees visitors travel to and from the City of Gold in one day - Joburg residents know that the city has some unusual attractions travellers would enjoy if they had a bit of time on their hands. According to Shaun Pozyn, head of marketing for British Airways says the city has a lot more going for it than massive malls and teeming highways. He suggests the following attractions:



This photo of Maboneng Precinct is courtesy of TripAdvisor

Cuisine with a twist at Maboneng Precinct

The [Maboneng Precinct](#) has in a few years come to be regarded as a beacon of urban regeneration, providing space for accommodation, retail, art and live performances. Weekends see braais on the rooftops and jazz sessions. The food and drink on offer are eclectic and rewards the adventurous, but Pozyn suggests Firebird Coffee and Eksé fast food, billed as “township cuisine with a twist”. Carnivores have hailed the steaks at the Che Argentine Grill, which also has surprisingly good vegetarian options.



Adrenalin rush at Orlando Towers

If you like to have your pulse quickened by more than caffeine, try a 100-metre bungee-jump or swing from the [Orlando Towers](#), the iconic cooling-towers which offer commanding views of Soweto. The towers have become an epicentre of adventure sports, offering base-jumping, climbing, paintball games, abseiling and the world's highest SCAD (Suspended Catch Air Device) free-fall. The latter entails free-falling into a net suspended above the ground.

Plenty of beer and history at the Radium

Joburg has no shortage of fine eateries, but for some nostalgia and excellent Portuguese food, try the [Radium Beer Hall](#) in Orange Grove. A bit of history: "the Radium" as it's known to its many longtime patrons, was a tea-room that led a double life as a shebeen, before securing a liquor licence and an enduring, down-at-heel appeal. The lovingly preserved bar-counter was rescued from the Ferreirastown Hotel, where it had once played a supporting role in a revolt. Pozyn explains: during the 1922 Miners' Rebellion, a firebrand nicknamed Pick Handle Mary, would stand on the counter and deliver rousing speeches to the miners. She was Irish-born Mary Fitzgerald, considered South Africa's first female trade unionist, and after whom Mary Fitzgerald Square in Newtown is named. These days there's less rabble-rousing and more espetada, trinchado and peri-peri chicken, and plenty of beer.



Image Source: [EatOut](#)

Whisky tastings at Whisky Brother

If you're a little more discerning about your tippie, visit [Whisky Brother](#) at Hyde Park Corner. Calling it a liquor-store is a bit like calling Michelangelo a Florentine doodler, as it's a shrine to whisky and whiskey, with a vast selection of Scotch, as well as Irish, American, South African, Japanese and Taiwanese brands, and collectables. If you're feeling flush, you can take home the Jameson 1994 Vintage for R22,000, but there are plenty of fine, more affordable bottles.

Walking tours rich with history and diversity

Explore the rich history and diversity of the city with one of the walking-tours offered by outfits like [Past Experiences](#). Examples include the Spicy Fordsburg tour, which takes in the culinary heritage of the suburb, and the Creative Jozi Public Art Tour of the inner city.



Image Source: [Cradle of Humankind](#)

Interact with our ancestors at the Cradle of Humankind

The [Cradle of Humankind](#) World Heritage Site at [Maropeng](#) allows fascinating insights into the evolution of humankind. Our ancestors first inhabited the area more than three million years ago and the facility's highly interactive multimedia exhibitions trace that journey in ways that continue to draw international acclaim, including a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The Sterkfontein Caves are nearby and the area also offers horse-trails and adventure sports.

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