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P O Box 6885, Greenhills, 1767

Tel. No. 011-412-3407 / 083-662-9595

Fax No. 0866-198-245

www.kingandqueen.co.za



CRADLE OF HUMANKIND TOUR (MAROPENG & STERKFORTEIN CAVES)

Collection by a Registered Tourist Guide from your
Hotel of choice.

Welcome home!



Welcome to Maropeng and the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. Maropeng means "returning to the place of origin" in Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area of South Africa. The Cradle of Humankind is an easy drive of about an hour from Johannesburg or Pretoria. Our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. By coming here, you are coming to the birthplace of humanity. Welcome home!

The Maropeng Visitor Centre

The Maropeng Visitor Centre is an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years.

On arrival, you will see a massive burial mound called the Tumulus, which is your entrance to learning the secrets of our ancestry.

The Sterkfontein Caves

Within the caves, scientists have discovered many hominid and other animal fossils, dating back more than 4-million years, to the birth of humanity. The most important and most famous of these fossils are "Mrs Ples", a 2.1-million-year-old Australopithecus skull, and "Little Foot", an almost complete Australopithecus skeleton that is more than 3-million years old. These fossils, both found in the Sterkfontein Caves in the Cradle of Humankind, tell us much about the precursors of modern humans, Homo sapiens.

Archaeological finds within the Cradle of Humankind also include 2-million-year-old stone tools. The oldest recorded, at Swartkrans, near the Sterkfontein Caves, is a collection of 270 burnt bones that reveals how our ancestors learned to master fire more than 1-million years ago - a significant development and an early technological innovation. The ability to do this has taken us from the basic skills needed to keep ourselves warm and to cook our food, to being able to control and harness the power of fire to the extent that we can now create and burn rocket fuel to reach space and beyond.

Includes:

- ✓ Transfers with aircon throughout the tour
- ✓ Entrance fees to the Maropeng & Sterkfontein Caves
- ✓ Services and expertise of a THETA registered tour guide

Days	Daily
Departure	09h00
Duration	5 hours
Meals included	No
Contact us for rates	