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PRETORIA & CULLINAN DIAMOND TOUR

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



Pretoria is the Rainbow Nation's chosen capital of South Africa with friendly and helpful citizens. It has the biggest zoo in the Southern hemisphere. Pretoria also has the largest correspondence university in the world, the largest residential university in South Africa as well as several excellent academic institutions.

The **Voortrekker Monument** is a monument situated in the city of Pretoria, South Africa. The massive granite structure, built to honor the Voortrekkers (Pioneers) who left the Cape Colony in the thousands between 1835 and 1854, was designed by the architect Gerard Moerdijk who had the ideal to design a "monument that would stand a thousand of years to describe the history and the meaning of the Great Trek to its descendants". It can be seen from almost any location in the city, as it is seated on top of a hill.

Kruger House is the historical Pretoria residence of the Boer leader and President of the South African Republic, Paul Kruger. It was built in 1884 by architect Tom Claridge and builder Charles Clark. Milk was used, instead of water, for mixing the cement from which the house was constructed, as the cement available was of poor quality. The house was also one of the first in Pretoria to be lit by electricity. The Kruger House is now a house museum that tries to recreate the ambience of the period that Kruger lived in.

Church Square is the historic centre of the city of Pretoria, South Africa. Its most prominent feature is the statue of the Boer leader and president of the South African Republic Paul Kruger at its centre. Statues of four anonymous Boer citizen-soldiers surround that of Kruger's on a lower level of the plinth.

The **Union Buildings** form the official seat of the South African government and also house the offices of the President of South Africa. The imposing buildings sit on Meintjies Kop and overlook Pretoria.

The **Transvaal Museum** is a natural history museum situated in Pretoria, The Transvaal Museum curates large collectons of Plio-Pleistocene fossils, (including hominids from Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Kromdraai in the Cradle of Humankind), as well as late Permian therapsids (mammal-like reptiles from the Karoo). In addition the museum holds very large collections of mammals, birds and reptiles.

The Cullinan Diamond Mine, also known as the Premier Diamond Mine, has uncovered some of the largest diamonds in the world today and the mine lies over one of the biggest kimberlite pipes in the world (kimberlite is named after Kimberley in South Africa and refers to a type of potassic volcanic rock known to contain diamonds).

The Cullinan Diamond Mine is the third richest diamond producing mine in the country, but its major claim to fame is the discovery of the Cullinan Diamond, exposed here in 1905. The Cullinan Diamond, which now forms part of the British crown jewels, weighed in at 3106 carats. It is the largest rough gem-quality diamond ever found, with a remarkable clarity. It also lays claim to a black spot in its centre, which apparently is a sign of severe internal strain. There is a rather elaborate tale about the rather difficult and risky cutting of the diamond that includes the myth that Joseph Asscher fainted after cutting the diamond perfectly in half.

The stories and the chance to see diamonds on display is principally what draws people to the Cullinan Diamond Mine, and a number of tours are available for entering the mine shaft, hoist room, big hole, and the display room. Since the discovery of the Cullinan Diamond by Frederick Wells there have been other prominent discoveries, including the diamond uncovered in May 2008 - a sparkling 101.27 carat diamond, roughly the size of a ping pong ball that sold for over \$6.2 million at Christie's in Hong Kong.

Includes:

- ✓ Transfers with aircon throughout the tour
- ✓ Entrance fees to the Kruger House, Voortrekker Monument, Cullinan Diamond Mine
- ✓ Services and expertise of a THETA registered tour guide

Days	Daily
Departure	09h00
Duration	6 hours
Meals included	No
Contact us for rates	