



The airport is located a few minutes by road from Bloemfontein's city center on the N8 – an important route which links Kimberley to the west and Lesotho to the east. Visitors travelling from abroad get connecting flights to Bloemfontein in either Cape Town or Johannesburg. The airport facilities will be upgraded in the near future.

Road travel from north or south is via the N1 highway, which passes Bloemfontein. This road is a toll road to the north, offering a very good quality road surface. The route to the east (KwaZulu-Natal) passes through the picturesque eastern Free State, while the Northern Cape capital of Kimberley is less than 200km to the west. Several national coach companies provide the area with regular luxury bus services arriving at and departing from Bloemfontein's Tourist Centre daily. The railway station in Bloemfontein links to a rail network covering the entire country.



## CONFERENCES, ACCOMMODATION AND VENUES IN MANGAUNG



BLOEMFONTEIN • BOTSHABELO • THABA NCHU

- All South African hotel chains are represented in Mangaung, offering tried and tested-quality standards.
- Large groups such as school groups and sports teams often prefer to overnight inexpensively in school or university hostels, which are available over long weekends and during school and university holidays.
- Holiday resorts in the vicinity generally offer self-catering accommodation facilities, chalets and caravan parks.

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Many visitors to Mangaung travel by air, particularly those visiting for business purposes, making use of regular flights to and from the Bloemfontein Airport.



### CONCLUSION

Theatres, restaurants, pubs, jazz clubs, and shopping and entertainment complexes provide relaxation for delegates and visitors during their stay. Crime levels are low and the city has everything a metropolis can offer, including the personal service, hospitality and warmth often lacking in larger centres. All these factors are contributing to more and more people discovering Mangaung as a preferred centre for conferences and events.

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- Facilities administered by the Mangaung Local Municipality include several fully equipped venues in the City Hall and Bram Fisher Civic Center.
- The Sand du Plessis Theatre has a seating capacity of 964, while several other spaces in this complex, including the adjacent André Huguenet Theatre, can be adapted to virtually any other configuration for a variety of uses.
- The University of the Free State and Central University of Technology have a large range of venues suitable for any gathering, and many schools in the area offer their facilities for rental. These venues are particularly popular during the long winter and summer holiday periods. Most sports stadiums also offer meeting venues.



## INTRODUCTION

Its location in the central interior of South Africa has established Mangaung as a perfect conference and event destination with modern, world class, well-equipped facilities and accommodation ranging from star rated establishments to intimate guesthouses.

Some of the national and international conferences hosted recently in Mangaung include the 1st National SALGA Conference since the new municipal demarcation; the National ANC Youth League Conference; African Union of Local Authorities (AULA) Conference; the 2nd Annual National Tourism Conference and the International Women in Local Government Conference. Mangaung's legendary hospitality also makes it ideal to host national and international sports events such as the ICC Cricket World Cup; SA Swimming Championships; SA Athletic Championships, prominent international and national rugby and soccer matches, as well as popular cultural events such as MACUFE, Bloemshow and the Volksblad Art Festival.



- World class hotels and lodges in the Mangaung area are popular conference venues. These include the Sun International casinos at Thaba Nchu, while an additional hotel/casino facility of the same hotel chain is currently under construction in Bloemfontein.
- Visitors who wish to combine relaxation with business meetings, could consider using the venues at the Maselspoort and Philip Sanders resorts just outside Bloemfontein, or those offered by several game lodges in the area.

- A large number of private conference venues, most of them located in Bloemfontein and its surroundings, can accommodate groups of up to 300 guests. Many of these venues also offer on-site accommodation for guests.
- Construction of the Bloemfontein Convention Centre on the campus of the Free State University, which will be able to host 3 000 delegates, will commence soon. This ultra-modern facility will immensely enhance Mangaung's capacity to host large conferences.

Most venues offer the full range of services required for professional gatherings, such as audiovisual equipment and kitchen, bar and catering services. In addition, several event management and equipment hire companies in Mangaung can meet any special needs relating to services and technology.

## CONFERENCE VENUES

Mangaung offers a huge variety of venues. These facilities range from large auditoriums with cinema-style seating, to halls, lapas and other venues suitable for smaller workshops, meetings and social gatherings.

## ACCOMMODATION

Numerous guesthouses, hotels and lodges in the Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo and Bloemfontein area offer a range of overnight accommodation that promises to suit every taste and budget.

- Guesthouses in all residential areas range from truly luxurious to basic bed and breakfast or self catering. Several establishments have gained distinction by achieving top scores in national ratings, while most offer excellent value for money, and congenial and comfortable accommodation.