

## FUN FACTS

### A SOUTH AFRICAN STARTER FOR TEN:

#### *DID YOU KNOW...?*

1. **Football fever:** Fans of the beautiful game will be counting down to 4 December 2009 when FIFA will reveal the 31 teams who have qualified to compete against the host country in the 2010 FIFA World Cup (11 June - 11 July 2010). Knowing exactly where and when their team will be playing, eager supporters will then be able to start planning their itinerary.
2. **A deserted destination:** According to South Africa Tourism's statistics, Gauteng (main cities: Johannesburg and Pretoria) and the Western Cape (highlights: Cape Town and the Garden Route) remained the most visited provinces last year, together attracting nearly 60% of visitor nights. That leaves seven other provinces to explore away from the madding crowds, including the most undervisited area - the Northern Cape - which borders Botswana and Namibia and is home to the Kalahari desert.
3. **The real-life Lion King:** Swaziland is not only Africa's only absolute monarchy but also one of the world's last. Here King Mswati III - known as Ngweyama, meaning 'the lion' - rules by decree over his 1.1 million subjects.
4. **High flyer:** Lesotho, in the centre of South Africa, is the only independent country in the world entirely 1,000m above sea level, with its lowest point being at 1,400m - the highest lowest point of any country. Furthermore, being completely surrounded by South Africa, it is one of only three countries in the world that are enclaves within another country, the other two being San Marino and Vatican City in Italy.
5. **Variety is the spice of life:** South Africa is the third most bio-diverse country in the world after Brazil and Indonesia, and home to 10% of all known plant species. Table Mountain National Park alone has more plant types within its 22,000 hectares than the British Isles or New Zealand!
6. **River deep:** At 16 miles long and 700 metres deep, Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world, after the USA's Grand Canyon and Namibia's Fish River Canyon. However, it is also the largest green canyon in the world.
7. **Mountain high:** The spectacular 1,000 km-long Drakensberg mountain range is Africa's highest south of Kilimanjaro, rising to 3,482 metres (11,420 ft). Known as uKhahlamba, meaning 'barrier of spears', by the Zulus because of its ragged, spear-like rock formations, the mountains were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000 as they are home to one of the world's largest collection of San Bushmen rock art.
8. **The white stuff:** Tiffindell Ski and Alpine Resort, in the Southern Drakensberg, is South Africa's only ski resort.
9. **Keep on moving:** The handset's Garmin software contains over 300,000km of road data across Southern Africa and more than 1,000 towns.
10. **Living in peace:** Soweto's Vilakazi Street is the only street in the world where two Nobel Peace Prize-winners have lived; President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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