

# Bloemfontein

**Province:** Free State

**Population:** 850 000

**Weather (June/July):** Bloemfontein has a dry climate in the winter months (May to August) with rainfall in the summer months. June and July experience moderate weather with daytime temperatures averaging 16 degrees Celsius and cold nights averaging -2 degree Celsius. The city is known to experience severe frost in the winter months. The summers are hot and dry; however they do experience intense thunder storms. Bloemfontein also has spectacular sunsets.

**Geography:** Bloemfontein is situated in the centre of South Africa on the Free State Plateau. The city's landscape is that of low-lying hills and grassland plains.

**Altitude:** 1 400m

## Closest Airport:

Bloemfontein Airport

The airport is 10 km from the city centre and there is a shuttle service available for transport to and from hotels, guesthouses and the Tourism Centre.

Manguang Excellent Shuttle, Tel: 072 630 6210, email: [info@mangaungexcellentshuttle.co.za](mailto:info@mangaungexcellentshuttle.co.za)

Airport help desk Tel: 051 407 2240

Flight information Tel: 086 72 77 888

Website: [www.airports.co.za](http://www.airports.co.za)

## Tourist information:

Manguang Tourism

Tel: +27 51 405 8489 / 8490

E-mail: [information@bloemfontein.co.za](mailto:information@bloemfontein.co.za)

Website: [www.bloemfontein.co.za](http://www.bloemfontein.co.za)

Tourist Centre

60 Park Road

Tel: 051 405 8489

## Taxi Services

Bloemfontein taxis are metered and are usually ordered on demand by the restaurant or hotel.

### Alfa Taxis

Tel: 051 433 3341

### Bloem Taxis

Tel: 051 433 3776

### Pro-Taxis

Tel: 051 522 1968

### Silver Leaf Taxis

Tel: 051 430 2005

## Emergency Services

Any Emergency: 107 (not from mobile phones)

Any Emergency: 112 (only from mobile phones)

Ambulance: 10177

Automobile Association Emergency Rescue: 0800 010101

Automobile Association Medical Rescue: 0800 033007

Netcare Emergency medical response: 082 911

## Hospitals

### Bloemfontein Medi-Clinic

Address: Cnr Kellner & Parfitt Street, Westdene

Tel: 051 404 6666 or 24 hr Emergency Centre 051 404 6225

Website: [www.bloemfonteinmc.co.za](http://www.bloemfonteinmc.co.za)

### Bloemcare Clinic

Address: 11 A G Visser Street, Langenhovenpark

Tel: 051 446 3242

Email: [etaylor@bloemcare.co.za](mailto:etaylor@bloemcare.co.za)

### Life Rosepark Hospital

Website: 57 Gustav Crescent , Fichardt Park

Tel: 051 505 5111

Email: [Liesel.VanOudenhove@lifehealthcare.co.za](mailto:Liesel.VanOudenhove@lifehealthcare.co.za)

Website: [www.lifehealthcare.co.za](http://www.lifehealthcare.co.za)

### Universitas Hospital

Address: 1 Logeman Street, Universitas

Tel: 051 405 3911

Website: [www.netcare.co.za](http://www.netcare.co.za)

## Restaurants, Clubs & Nightlife

Many of the following venues start out as restaurants during the day and evolve into vibey bars. There isn't much of a club scene in Bloemfontein, but most bars have places to dance and DJ's as well.

**Cuisine** R150+ per person

**Informal** R80 – R150 per person

### Mystic Boer **Informal**

Live music, relaxed bar. There is a variety of live, local music as well as commercial music

Address: 84 Kellner Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 448 8217

Website: [www.diemysticboer.co.za](http://www.diemysticboer.co.za)

### Oolong Lounge **Informal**

Modern style lounge with great food. The kitchen is open all day until 10h00 at night, With regards to music there are many old school tracks and lounge vibes.

Address: 16A 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Westdene

Tel: 051 448 7244

Website: [www.oolong.co.za](http://www.oolong.co.za)

### **Coobah** Informal

A stylish spot serving good food and great cocktails, with modern décor. Relaxed lounge music during the week, and more upbeat live dj's over weekends.

Address: Bloemgate Centre, Nelson Mandela Avenue

Tel: 051 444 0924

Website: [www.coobah.co.za](http://www.coobah.co.za)

### **Cubana** Cuisine Informal

Stylish restaurant with unique dishes and cocktails. Relaxed lounge music , turning up the volume after 10h00

Tel: 051 447 1920

Email: [Bloemfontein@cubana.co.za](mailto:Bloemfontein@cubana.co.za)

Website: [www.cubana.co.za](http://www.cubana.co.za)

### **Second avenue café** Informal

Great student spot with awesome specials. Commercial music with the occasional Afrikaans songs thrown into the mix.

Address: 83 Kellner St, Westdene

Tel: (051) 448-3088

Email: [2ndavenuecafe@telkomsa.net](mailto:2ndavenuecafe@telkomsa.net)

### **Cool runnings** Informal

Laid back bar with relaxed reggae music and live rock bands on occasion.

Address: 168 Nelson Mandela Drive

Tel: 082 772 5397

Website: [www.coolrunnings.co.za](http://www.coolrunnings.co.za)

### **Stones** Informal

Large dance floor, and loads of pool tables. Commercial music, great for a big night

Address: Cedar House Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 150 Zastron Street, Corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Tel: 051 448 6484

Website: [www.stones.co.za](http://www.stones.co.za)

### **Barbas Café** Informal

All day restaurant with cocktails and hubbly. After 10h00 Barbas also turns into a night club with commercial music and live dj's.

Address: [www.barbascafe.co.za](http://www.barbascafe.co.za)

Tel: 051 430 2542

[www.barbascafe.co.za](http://www.barbascafe.co.za)

## **Activities/Attractions**

**Oliewenhuis Art Gallery**-A neo-Cape Dutch manor house where State presidents stayed on their visits to the city. A great place to have a picnic on the sprawling lawns also a tea garden and restaurant.

Bloemfontein City Centre

Tel: 051 447 9609

### **Naval Hill & Franklin Nature Reserve**

Rising from the heart of the City, flat topped Naval Hill offers magnificent panoramic views. On the plains the Franklin Nature Reserve is found, giraffe, springbuck, ostriches, buffalo roam freely. The Lamont Hussey Observatory inside the game reserve was converted into an intimate theatre.

Address: Naval Hill, off Union Avenue

Tel: 051 405 8489

### **Loch Logan Waterfront**

Loch Logan Waterfront and surrounding areas form the entertainment and leisure hub of Bloemfontein. It includes the rugby, cricket and athletics stadiums. The tranquil setting incorporates the natural beauty of the surroundings as well as commercial flair.

Address: Henry Street, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 406 4984/4308388/4331245

Website: [www.lochlogan.co.za](http://www.lochlogan.co.za)

Email: [lochlogan@georgiou.co.za](mailto:lochlogan@georgiou.co.za)

### **Windmill Casino & Entertainment Centre**

The Windmill Casino is the all encompassing family playground in Bloemfontein with Diamond Lil's, 7 Restaurants, "Super Bowling", "Sweets from Heaven" and "Marche Rouge" to delight you.

Address: Jan Pierewiet and N1, Pellissier

Tel: 051 410 2000

Website: [www.suninternational.com](http://www.suninternational.com)

### **State President Swart Park, King's Park & the Zoo**

These parks are a blaze of colour almost all year round. Kings Park was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1925 – the popular Art Market is held here every 1st Saturday of the month. The Zoo can be enjoyed by young and old – a great place to enjoy a picnic.

### **Bloemfontein National Museum**

The National Museum, Bloemfontein promotes an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural and cultural environment through, conservation, research and education.

Address: 36 Aliwal Street, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 447 9609

### **PACOFs**

Sand du Plessis Theatre, boasting as one of the world's most modern and technically advanced theatres, is breathtakingly beautiful, glittering in glamorous gold and magnificent marble. Tours, Wednesdays at 14:30.

Address: PACOFs Building, First Avenue, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 447 7772

Website: [www.pacofs.co.za](http://www.pacofs.co.za)

### **National Botanical Gardens**

Great for long walks in the gardens or up the mountain. Restaurant on the water, picnic and braai areas available to all.

Address: Rayton Road, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 436 3612

Website: [www.sanbi.co.za](http://www.sanbi.co.za)

## **Outdoor**

Parachuting

4 x 4 drives

Scuba diving

Survival course

Boating

The above are all offered within or in close proximity to Bloemfontein.

## **Aldersgate Crocodile Farm**

60 Park Road, Willows

Tel: 051 4058489

## **Bloemfontein Skydiving Centre**

Address: Tempe Airfield, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 451 1143

Email: [tandemskydive@gmail.com](mailto:tandemskydive@gmail.com)

## **CNS Adrenaline Scenic Flights and Charters**

Address: Tempe Airfield, Bloemfontein

Tel: 051 447 8300

Email: [charl.rootman@gmail.com](mailto:charl.rootman@gmail.com)

## **Soetdoring**

Soetdoring Nature Reserve has two entrances. The eastern entrance is at the Modder River on the Bloemfontein / Bultfontein road (R700). Here visitors enjoy angling, picnicking and game viewing. Braai facilities are located along the river and the dam.

Tel: 051 433 9002

## **The Modder River**

Entrance is at the eastern boundary and runs through the 7 500 ha reserve before entering the Krugersdrift Dam which forms the western boundary. This is mainly an area for water sports.

Visitors tend to be anglers, boating enthusiasts or water-skiers.

## **Olien day walk**

3km short circular walk with a lapa at the base

Tel: 051 430 0900

## **Shopping Centre's & Markets**

### **Loch Logan Waterfront**

Henry Street

Tel: 051 406 4984/4308388/4331245

Website: [www.lochlogan.co.za](http://www.lochlogan.co.za)

Email: [lochlogan@georgiou.co.za](mailto:lochlogan@georgiou.co.za)

A large variety of restaurants, cinemas and shops as well as picnic spots.

**Mimosa Mall**

Kellner Street  
Tel: 051 444 6914

A well-known and up market shopping centre.

**Preller Square**

Tel: 051 436 2200

**Stadium**

Free State Stadium  
Capacity: 48 000

**Unsafe Areas**

Like most major cities, avoid walking around after dark. Don't venture into unknown areas and townships without a guide. Watch out for your possessions and don't leave valuables in your car. Contact the Bloemfontein Tourism Bureau for a detailed list of unsafe areas.

**Safety Tips**

Avoid walking alone after dark. Stick to crowded areas and keep your belongings close and concealed. Rather take a taxi than walk through unlit areas. Don't exhibit mobile phones, cameras, cash or valuables in the open. Watch out for pick-pockets.

Street children and beggars may approach you for a hand out. Many social workers counsel against giving money to the children as it usually gets handed over to some older figure or is used for sniffing glue. If you wish to do good for these children, rather give them food.

When driving, keep car doors locked and be aware of loiterers standing around at traffic lights. You should also be aware of who is in the immediate vicinity when getting into or out of your vehicle in the parking lot at the supermarket or mall.

It's advisable not to leave bags, cameras, mobile phones etc lying around on car seats, thieves are known to break the windows, snatch valuables and disappear into the crowd.

Ensure that hired or borrowed vehicles are reliable, recent models that have been serviced recently. Make sure that you have sufficient fuel for your journey and avoid stopping unnecessarily on the highway.