

Nelspruit

Province: Mpumalanga

Population: 21 541

Weather: During the winter months Nelspruit enjoys a fairly warm, sub-tropical climate with an average temperature of 23°C.

Geography: Nelspruit is situated in the northeast part of South Africa. The city is located on a low-lying plateau (called the Lowveld), in the lush Crocodile River valley, close to the impressive Kruger National Park and only 2 hours from Maputo, Mozambique on the beautiful Maputo Corridor.

Altitude: 660m

Closest Airport:

Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport

The airport is 23 km east of the city centre, with a range of transport options to get you where you need to go. Besides car rental services, these include metered taxis and shuttle services.

Help desk/flight information: 013 753 7500

Contact Person: Frances Duval-Potgieter

Email: frances@kmiairport.co.za

Website: www.kmiairport.co.za

Tourist information:

Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism

Tel: 013 755 1988

Fax: (013) 753 2986

Email: liaison@lowveldtourism.com

Web: <http://www.lowveldinfo.com>

Taxi Services

Nelspruit taxis should be ordered in advance and can normally be done by a restaurant or hotel. Taxi & Shuttle services operate from the airport.

Citybug

Tel: 013 753 3392

Email: info@citybug.co.za

Web: www.citybug.co.za

Citybug Shuttle Service

Tel: 013 744 0128

Email: info@citybug.co.za

Web: www.citybug.co.za

Emergency Services

Any Emergency: 107 (not from mobile phones)

Any Emergency: 112 (only from mobile phones)

Ambulance: 10177
Flying Squad – Police: 10111
Netcare 911 - 082911

Hospitals

Nelspruit Medi-Clinic.
Address: 1 Louise Street, Sonheuwel 1200
Postal Address: P O Box 3250, Nelspruit 1200
Tel: 013 759 0500

Bars, Clubs & Nightlife

O'Hagan's Restaurant

O'Hagan's is a South African chain pub/restaurant where one can enjoy a few drinks in a traditional pub atmosphere.

Address: Sonpark Centre, Cnr of Barbeton and Daan Pienaar Road, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 741 3580
Website: www.ohagans.co.za

Keg & Jock

Offering grills, light meals and a great bar vibe, The Keg & Jock is open till late 7 days a week. It's a great place to enjoy rugby or sporting events in the company of friends

Address: 11 van der Merwe Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 755 4969

Rocco's Night Club

This fairly new and very popular nightclub has replaced the old Keg and Jock Pub. There is good music here and it's quite a party. One can also enjoy the drinks specials and promotions here.

Address: Ferreira Street, Nelspruit
Email: roccosclub@hotmail.com

Blue Moon – Live Music

This custom-built live music venue is suitable for concerts and functions. It has impressive stages and bars where one is guaranteed of a good night out. Blue Moon plays a host of music and doesn't focus on one particular style.

Address: 10km south of Nelspruit
Tel: 013 744 9033
Website: www.blue-moon.co.za

Restaurants

Cuisine R150+ per person

Informal R80 – R150 per person

The Pub **Informal**

This traditional pub has a grill and serves South African cuisine. The Pub is well known for their delicious steaks.

Address: 10 Jones Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 755 4861

10 On Russel Cuisine

This highly recommended restaurant is situated in the oldest building in the town, in the city centre. The ever-changing contemporary menu offers fusion cuisine and is set in a sophisticated yet fun atmosphere.

Address: 10 Russel Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 755 2376
Website: www.10onrussel.co.za

Bundu Country Lodge Cuisine

This country lodge situated close to Nelspruit has a restaurant with a magnificent setting, with views of the Drakensberg Mountain Range. The grill serves African cuisine and seafood and is well worth a visit.

Address: Off R40, Nelspruit/White River Road, White River
Tel: 013 758 1221
Website: www.bunducountrylodge.co.za

Chez Vincent Cuisine

This sophisticated French restaurant, with an African influence is part of a guest house. Enjoy cozy meals in winter with a wood fire burning as you sip on one of the smaller South African estate's wine. Dinner times are between 18h30 and 20h30.

Address: 56 Ferreira Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 744 1146
Website: www.chezvincent.co.za

O'Hagan's Restaurant Informal

This is a South African chain restaurant with a Traditional Irish pub theme. It serves typical pub food with a South African flavour. A reliable, family restaurant.

Address: Sonpark, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 741 3580

Oliver's Restaurant and Lodge Informal

Oliver's was voted one of the top 100 restaurants in South Africa and serves continental and Mediterranean dishes. You can enjoy a traditional fondue or raclette in this fabulous setting on the Whit River Country Estate.

Address: White River Golf Estate, along the R40, just past White River.
Tel: 013 750 0479
Website: www.olivers.co.za

Trattoria Stefano Informal

A fabulous comfy and casual Italian restaurant with excellent thin-based pizzas as well as delicious lasagna. This is a fun restaurant with a Tuscan feel and great food.

Address: Steiltes Shopping Centre, Aurora Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 744 9310

Activities/Attractions

Lowveld Botanical Garden

Rugged, rocky river scenery is the perfect, spectacular setting for Nelspruit's main tourist

attraction, the Lowveld National Botanical Garden, situated in the heart and at the hub of Mpumalanga. The 159 ha garden straddles the Crocodile and Nels Rivers. Viewed from the air, it is clear that the two Rivers dominate the scene and determine the character of this Garden. The Crocodile surges through a narrow, solid rock gorge that has been scoured out and potholed over millennia, while the Nels River tumbles down a waterfall from the west, to converge with the Crocodile in a serene pool on a bend in the river.

Address: Off White River Road, Nelspruit

Tel: 013 752 5531

Web: www.sanbi.org/frames/lowveldfram.htm

CrocRiver Enviro Park

The CrocRiver Enviro Park is by far the largest facility of its type in Africa, and is situated twenty minutes from the new Mpumalanga Kruger International Airport on the outskirts of Nelspruit. The atmosphere and scenic beauty of the lowveld is very evident along the margins of the Crocodile River which borders the grounds on which the Park is situated, The Park stands between Nelspruit and the Riverside Mall and is a mere 5 minutes drive from Nelspruit's business centre. Facilities include a variety of attractions amongst which are the Turtle Pond, and the Fish Pond. all linked by a cascading waterway, Next to the Crocodile Pond is the Water Monitor Enclosure. The reptiles are housed in a terrarium with 88 glass enclosures in which are displayed indigenous and exotic species.

Tel: 013 752 5511

Email: info@enviropark.co.za

Web: www.enviropark.co.za

Chimpanzee Eden

Set on a 1000 hectare game reserve, Jane Goodal Institute Chimpanzee Eden is a home to chimpanzees that have been misplaced from their natural habitat. The world renowned Jane Goodall Institute has made this tranquil venue their South African sanctuary and has committed itself to the rescue and care take of chimpanzees in need of refuge. Being the 1st and only chimpanzee sanctuary in South Africa, this venue will be able to bring the world of chimpanzees closer to humanity through education, tourism and modern technology.

Tel: 013 745 7406

Fax: +27 13 7457406

Web: www.janegoodal.co.za

Hot Air Balloon Flights

It's sunrise. The silence of your balloon safari is punctuated only by the occasional blast of the powerful burners and the faint call of a bird or animal far beneath. The thrill is indescribable - ballooning truly is something really different and special.

Tel: 013 737 6950

Outdoor

Sandboarding, Mountain Biking & Cycling, Tandem Skydiving, Paragliding, Hiking & Kloofing, White river water rafting, Quad biking, Fly fishing, 4x4 Trails, Paintball shooting, and many more... <http://www.riverwild.co.za>

Shopping Centre's & Markets

Riverside Mall Shopping Centre

White River Road, Riverside Park X1

Nelspruit
Tel: 013 757 0080
Fax: 013 757 0085
Website: www.riversidecentre.co.za

Stadium

Mbombela Stadium
Capacity: 40 000
Situated 7kms north of Nelspruit's city centre on the N4.

Unsafe Areas

The informal settlements, otherwise known as "Townships", unless on a guided tour. Avoid poorer suburbs like Kanyamazane, especially at night, and the CBD during evening times.

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.