

Polokwane

Province: Limpopo

Population: 508 272

Weather (June/July): Polokwane enjoys a tropical climate with winter temperatures reaching highs of 20 degrees Celsius and lows of 4 degrees Celsius.

Geography: Polokwane lies 60km south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Its landscape is mainly grasslands, interrupted by rocky granite hills ("koppies"). This city is at the centre of the Limpopo province and is close to the famous Kruger National Park. Polokwane is 300km from Johannesburg.

Altitude: 1 310m

Closest Airport:

Polokwane International Airport

The airport is 5 km north of the city centre, with flights from Johannesburg arriving many times daily. Car hire services operate from the airport.

Help desk Tel: 15 288 0122

Flight information Tel: 015 288 0164

Website: <http://home.intekom.com/gateway/>

Tourist information:

Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board

Cnr Grobler and Church Street

Tel: 015 290 7300

Email: info@golimpopo.com

Website: www.golimpopo.com

Taxi Services

There is currently no significant metered taxi service in Polokwane, but this should change with the World Cup coming to this city. Alternatively, there are kiosks representing car hire companies, at the airport. This is a good means of transport around Polokwane.

Emergency Services

Any Emergency (Public service): 107 (not from mobile phones)

Any Emergency (Public service): 112 (only from mobile phones)

Ambulance (Public service): 10177

Automobile Association Emergency Rescue: 0800 01 01 01

Automobile Association Medical Rescue: 0800 033 007

Flying Squad – Police: 10111

Netcare Emergency response (Private service): 082 911

Hospitals

Limpopo Medi-Clinic

Address: Cnr Thabo Mbeki & Burger Street, Polokwane

Tel: 015 290 3600

Email: tobias.strydom@mediclinic.co.za

Website: www.limpopomc.co.za

Unicare Polokwane Hospital

Address: 67 Burger Street, Polokwane

Tel: 015 295 2192

Clubs, Bars & Nightlife

Being a fairly rural city, Polokwane is not known for its buzzing night life. Tourism and entertainment is more focused on daytime activities involving the outdoors. The best place to be at night, for entertainment purposes is Meropa Sun Casino where everything is under one roof. This is a safe environment and provides ample restaurants, bars and entertainment.

Meropa Sun Casino and Entertainment World

This is a must for any visitor to Polokwane where you will be kept busy and more than satisfied for the whole day with its Mangwanani Spa, Cultural Fair and Craft Market, two go-cart tracks, an amphitheatre with live performances, WildThingz (an outdoor area with a reptile and bird park) and Butterfly and Bird Park. The casino is also worthy of a visit.

Bars

Ngoma bar where you can enjoy some truly African cocktails and Squires' sports bar where there is live sport broadcasted daily.

Restaurants

Squires and Dijong-1, which is a traditional African restaurant with local delicacies such as tripe and pap, shortrib stew, morogo and pumpkin and curried chicken on offer.

Address: Situated only 5km from the city centre on Plot 59 Sterkloop, Roodepoort Road, Polokwane.

Tel: 015 290 5400

Email: meromvg@sunint.co.za

Website: <http://www.suninternational.com/Destinations/Casinos/Meropa/Pages/default.aspx>

Restaurants

Cuisine R150+ per person

Informal R80 – R150 per person

Basil's Restaurant **Cuisine**

This is an excellent and highly recommended restaurant which serves fusion, international, African and Asian food. The service is attentive and the ambience classically elegant. Basil's serves excellent food and a visit to Polokwane is not complete without a dining experience at this restaurant.

Address: Protea Hotel, The Ranch, 25 km South of Polokwane on the N1 highway, Polokwane

Tel: 015 290 5000

Website: www.theranch.co.za

Brush Strokes **Informal**

This is a great restaurant for a hearty breakfast. Their lunch menu will also curb your hunger so stop in here to prepare for a full day of sightseeing.

Address: Cnr Rissik and Burger Street, Polokwane

Tel: 015 297 0164

Café Pavilion **Informal**

This is a great spot for lunch, where one can enjoy the farm yard, delicatessen and wine cellar.
Address: Sterkloop Garden Pavilion, Church Street, Polokwane
Tel: 015 291 5359
Email: cafepavilion@mweb.co.za

Mewetse Fine Dining **Cuisine**

Mawetse Fine Dining is a taste of tranquility and is an escape from the hustle and bustle of the CBD. Enjoy the beautifully landscaped garden and the soothing sounds of the fountains. Mawetse is a fine dining restaurant that features a wine cellar, cigar lounge and a champagne bar.
Address: 54 Jorissen Street, Polokwane
Tel: 015 297 4439

Pebbles Restaurant **Informal**

This elegant restaurant is set in a national monument and is well-known for its fine dishes. A great dining experience in the heart of Polokwane is guaranteed.
Address: 39 Grobler Street, Polokwane
Tel: 015 295 6999

Squires Grill & Bar **Informal**

This is a fabulous grill restaurant with good quality steak, flame grilled to perfection. Squires also offer chicken, fish and vegetarian options. The restaurant is vibey with an adjoining sports bar where television coverage of sporting events is broadcasted.
Address: Meropa Casino and Entertainment World. Situated only 5km from the city centre on Plot 59 Sterkloop, Roodepoort Road, Polokwane.
Tel: 015 290 5428
Email: tnaube@sunint.co.za

The Deck **Cuisine**

This restaurant combines Mediterranean with European chic and offers an array of dishes from seafood to Eisbein. The Deck is described as being classy, sophisticated and elegant, but in a friendly way. So go along for a good breakfast, delicious lunch or fine dining experience.
Address: Hampton Court, cnr Pierre and Neethling Street, Bendor, Polokwane
Tel: 015 296 4956

Activities/Attractions

To obtain the contact details for these attractions speak to the Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board on their hotline 0860 730 730

Chuene Crocodile Farm

Croc feeds and frequent talks provide a fascinating counterpoint to the sight of these impressive beasts.

Concentration Camp Cemetery

An idyllic cemetery housing the graves of the victims of nearby Anglo-Boer War concentration camp.

Gemco arts & crafts studio

contact 015 292 0758

Modjadji Cycad Nature Reserve

A world famous forest housing the world's largest concentration of indigenous cycad species.

Moletzie Bird Sanctuary

A sanctuary housing many bird species and highly acclaimed for its excellent work in the protection of rare Cape Vulture.

Polokwane Game Reserve

This is a great day trip as one can view a fair amount in just one afternoon. This game reserve is only a 3 hour drive from Johannesburg. There are a number of walks, including a one-day 20 kilometre hiking trail with overnight accommodation. There are 21 species of game in the reserve and frequent sightings of white rhino are enjoyed. Another attraction of this reserve is the newly formed aloe forest which can be reached on foot.

Tel: 015 290 2331

Shebeen tours & cultural dancers

Mmatsie art & cultural tours contact Matjie Masha @ 083 343 5809

Outdoor

Abseiling

Hiking

Horseriding

Game viewing

4 x 4 Adventure safaris

Elephant Back Safaris (Elephants are forever- contact Lindie 083 419 8223)

Nature's Way Adventure Safaris

Tel: 015 263 6473

Email: naturesway@telkomsa.net

Shopping Centre's & Markets

Savannah Mall

Address: Savannah Mall, 155 Grobler Street

Tel: 015 296 1401

Website: www.savannahmall.co.za

Limpopo Mall

Address: Market Street, Polokwane

Tel: 015 297 1383

Website: <http://www.leisurelimpopo.co.za/capricorn/limpopomall.htm>

A flea market is held in the **Library Gardens** on the last Saturday of every month.

Stadium

Peter Mokaba Stadium

Capacity: 45 000

Unsafe Areas

Polokwane is a fairly safe city, but as with all international cities it is best to stay within the city centre and not to wonder around too much at night.

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.