



# MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF GOLD





MINERALS

COUNCIL

Of all the world's great cities, Johannesburg is unique. Not because, unlike many of its inland counterparts in other countries, it is not located on a major waterway. It is unique because we can trace it back to the roots of its founding on 4 October 1886. Before the discovery of gold a few months earlier, there was just the bare veld. Today, Johannesburg, Joburg, Egoli, Jozi – call it what you will – is the hub of a population of five million or more people.

It's our city – the city founded on gold – and we, in the mining industry, are proud of it. We are proud of our contribution to developing South Africa into the African economic powerhouse that it is. And we are proud of the developments and monuments to our history that you will be seeing.

It was gold which largely financed South Africa's early evolution into the bustling financial, mining and industrial economy that it is now. The gold produced by South Africa since 1886 is equivalent to four of every 10 ounces of the precious metal produced by the entire world since the start of recorded history.





Today, South Africa remains a nation built on minerals.

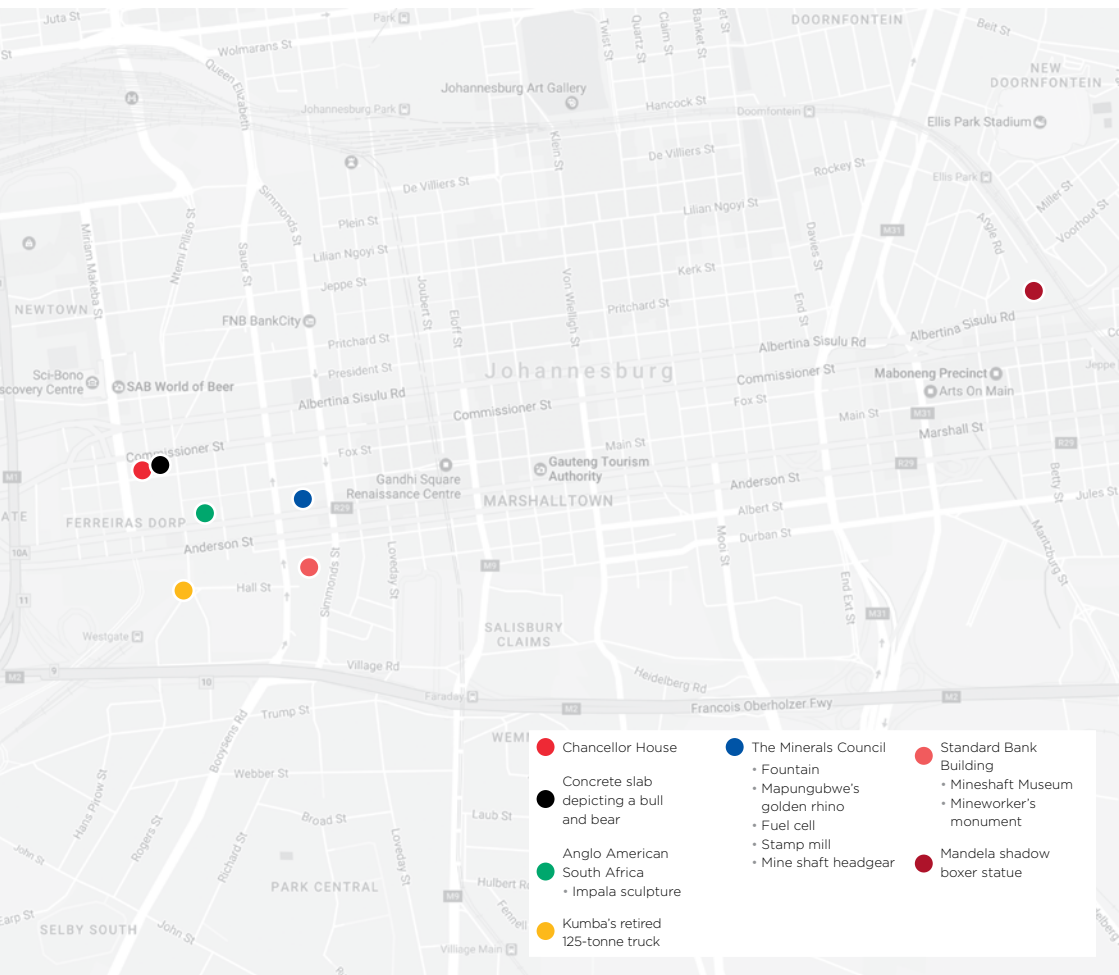
## **KEY SOUTH AFRICAN MINING FACTS**

- The Witwatersrand (Wits) Basin is known as the world's largest gold resource
- The first diamond, aptly named Eureka, was discovered on the banks of the Orange River in 1867, weighing 21.25 carats
- The largest diamond, named the Cullinan, was discovered at Premier Mine in 1905, weighing 3,106 carats uncut
- The Bushveld Complex hosts approximately 80% of PGM-bearing ore
- South Africa ranks sixth on the list of coal-exporting nations



## 2018 MINING STATISTICAL DATA

- The mining sector contributed R91 billion to the South African fixed investment
- The South African mining sector exported commodities worth R333 billion
- 456,438 people were employed in the mining sector
- Each person employed has up to nine indirect dependants





## AN HISTORIC TOUR

Here we are on Main Street, in the heart of Johannesburg's central business district, among the first roads to be created when the city was first laid out.

Main Street runs along the heart of Johannesburg (Egoli, the City of Gold or Joburg), where the local offices of major mining and finance companies such as Anglo American, FNB, ABSA and Standard Bank are housed, along with the Minerals Council South Africa (formerly the Chamber of Mines). The street and the centre of the city are redolent of Joburg's mining past and deliver a fascinating account of the history and legacy of mining in South Africa.

A collection of various mining remnants and equipment from the early gold-rush days are placed strategically along Main Street, emphasising a mining theme.



Let's start with the fountain outside the offices of the Minerals Council South Africa, which tells the story of gold. The fountain represents the Wits Basin. There, set in a mosaic, is a map of the goldfields and the mines that developed across this golden arc. The centrepiece of the fountain represents the largest gold nugget ever found in South Africa, weighing 9kg.

Looking down Marshall  
Street, the fountain in  
front of the offices of  
the Minerals Council  
South Africa



PLATINUM POWER  
FUEL CELL

environmental  
responsibility

Average Annual  
Savings

CO<sub>2</sub>

430 tonnes per annum

NO<sub>x</sub>

220 kg per annum

H<sub>2</sub>O

24 kg per annum

heating  
building

reducing CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions

FCP Electric

Inside the Minerals Council South Africa property is a living symbol of our future – a fuel cell with platinum catalysts generating electricity from natural gas. It is clean and green, it is virtually maintenance-free and it is reliable. Its catalysts contain 40 ounces of South African platinum and it generates a regular 100kW of electricity day in, day out, powering 70% of the organisation's equipment.

Of all the city's streets, Main Street might be seen as a microcosm of Johannesburg's history – of our history as a mining country.

A fuel cell powers  
the offices of the  
Minerals Council  
South Africa





Further along Main Street Mall is a sculpture of a rhino, a replica of the much smaller Mapungubwe golden rhino that was unearthed in 1934. The golden rhino of Mapungubwe, South Africa's first kingdom, dates back 800 years.

Reproduction of the  
Mapungubwe golden  
rhino on the Main  
Street walk



To the west of Marshalltown, at 44 Main Street, is the Anglo American precinct. What was once the headquarters of the Anglo American mining group, a monumental building, 44 Main Street ranks among the world's finest examples of art deco architecture.



The former  
headquarters of Anglo  
American South Africa  
at the 44 Main Street

Art deco style is epitomised  
at 44 Main Street







The Leaping Impala or Impala Stampede sculpture, donated by the Oppenheimer family to the city in 1960, was originally installed in Sir Ernest Oppenheimer Park near the centre of town. It stands on the Anglo American precinct.

Impala Stampede  
sculpture outside  
44 Main Street



Further east and opposite the Minerals Council is the old Union Corporation building, adorned on the outside by a replica stamp mill. These were the first mills for crushing gold ore to release the tiny gold particles – driven by steam engines with the pestles rising and falling ceaselessly. It used to be said, the “roar of the stamps” could be heard for more than 50 miles day and night.

The original restored  
Langlaagte stamp mill  
on Main Street



A more modern stamp mill  
from 1956 can be found at  
the corner of Marshall and  
Pixley ka Isaka Seme streets



Down Hollard Street, a concrete slab depicts a bull and a bear near the entrance of what was the site of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange from 1903-1978.

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A monument commemorating mineworkers' contributions to the economy of the country is at the corner of Pixley ka Isaka Seme and Main streets

Step away briefly to the Standard Bank head office on Simmonds Street, built over an old mine shaft, which is now a museum open to the public. When Standard Bank built its new offices in the 1980s, the bank unearthed the entrance to one of the city's historic mines and this shaft can be visited within the building.



The Standard Bank offices on Simmonds Street



The Mineshaft Museum below Standard Bank



Further back on Main Street is the sort of old mine headgear that would have stood over a mine shaft. It once served to lower miners underground at a platinum mine to the north-west of our city. For though gold may have provided the foundations on which the economies of our city and the country were built, South Africa is endowed with a multitude of minerals. So we have a platinum shaft headgear here in Main Street but...

Mine shaft headgear  
with the Minerals  
Council South Africa  
building in the  
background







If we retrace our steps and make a small diversion from Main Street, at the corner of Ntemi Piliso and Hall streets, we discover an enormous 125-tonne truck, now retired after 20 years of faithful service, hauling iron ore at Kumba Iron Ore's open-cast Sishen mine in the Northern Cape. It's another symbol of our history as a mining nation.

A retired 125-tonne  
truck once used by  
Kumba Iron Ore



Chancellor House

There are other historic monuments here – across Ntemi Piliso Street and next to the Magistrates Court is the carefully restored Chancellor House. It has been renovated to include a sidewalk museum that depicts the time Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo set up South Africa's first black law firm on this spot in the 1950s.

The renovated Chancellor House retains its facebrick façade with a restored balcony



And there, too, is a shadow statue of the greatest South African himself, Nelson Mandela, in his iconic pose as a boxer. As he once said: "In the ring, rank, age, colour and wealth are irrelevant". Were it the same all over.

Shadow statue of  
Mandela as a boxer





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