

Johannesburg! Jozi! Egoli!

While Johannesburg is the largest and most populous city in South Africa, it is not one of the country's three capitals. That hardly matters for those who live in Jozi since, in true Jozi style, they would rather celebrate what they do have ... like South Africa's highest court, the Constitutional Court, or the Mandela Bridge; like Sunnion and Soweto. Gold first made Johannesburg thrive. In the 1880s, the soft golden metal was discovered in Barberton and the gold rush that ensued would not have been out of place in an American western movie. Future Vaalies from all over the world rushed to the score of the Witwatersrand gold reefs, hoping to make their millions.

Rugby-wise, the Lions represent Johannesburg, North West and Mpumalanga in the Super14. The rugby stadium, which hosted the 1995 World Cup Final, is called Ellis Park. Johannesburg will also be hosting the opening and closing matches of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. If you're looking for culture of the non-sporting kind in Jozi, you can visit the Apartheid Museum near Soweto as well as the Mandela Museum in Soweto itself. If you want to go even further back in time you can visit the Cradle of Humankind, just 25km away and check out the hominid fossils which shed some light on the history of human existence. In the here and now of Jozi, you can see how locals exist in the hip and happening suburbs of Newtown (home to the Market Theatre) and Melville (AKA "The Strip", with its many restaurants and nightclubs).

Famous South African rugby players who attended Johannesburg schools not featured in Derby Day include James Small (Greenside High), who earned 47 Springbok caps, mostly playing at wing, and Jonnie Brecht (Kempston Park High School).

