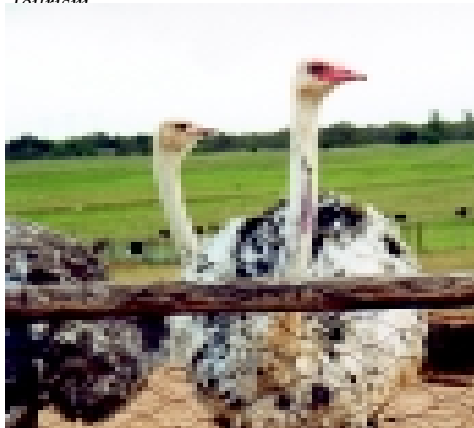


Some of the residents you may meet in Mpumalanga Province, which is near South Africa's famous Kruger Park in the Northern part of the country, which borders on Mozambique. Photos courtesy South African Tourism



Residents of an Ostrich farm we visited while in South Africa during our Cape Tour. Yes, you can take rides on them, so prepare to saddle up for a photo opportunity.

1st African Peace Through Tourism Conference

Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, South Africa, March 3-7, 2002

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE THROUGH TOURISM (IIPT) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AFRICA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION AND MPUMALANGA TOURISM AUTHORITY

Louis D'Amore, (right) President and Founder, of the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism, organizer of the conference, Mira Berman, ATA Executive Director and Fiona Martin, Coordinator on behalf of the Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, South Africa, said in a joint statement, "the purpose of this historic conference is to foster African awareness of the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of tourism and the role it can play in facilitating an environment of reconciliation and peace on the continent."

ATA, as a founding member of IIPT's Coalition of Partners for Peace Through Tourism, has taken a leadership role in this African Peace Through Tourism Conference. Hon Michael A. Gizo, MP of Ghana, was named Co-Chair together with The Most Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town. Hon. Gizo, then ATA president, was a keynote speaker at both the IIPT Global Conference Glasgow, Scotland, October 1999, as well as the first Global Summit on Peace Through Tourism held in Amman, Jordan, November, 2000. An estimated 400 delegates, plus other international delegates with special expertise are expected.

Lou D'Amore expressed hope that the African Conference will build on the success of similar IIPT events, including one in Amman, Jordan, held under the auspices of His Majesty King Abdullah. The African initiative will be the first of a series of regional conferences and symposia leading up to the Second Global Summit that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, October 14-17, 2002.

Fiona Martin of the Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, stated "Hosting this prestigious event will be the forerunner of other conferences throughout Africa, and the beginning of a wave of practical ideas that can assist in building a united, peaceful continent, through tourism." She also noted "the MTA's humble initiative should aim to bring our brothers and sisters of Africa together to share ideas on how to make our beautiful continent peaceful and economically sustainable. To use tourism as a catalyst for economic, environmental and human resource development is a unique concept and one that

has great potential to facilitate Small and Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) development in the tourism sector and contribute to poverty alleviation. The conference will be fundamentally 'African' in nature and the focus will be on practical and sustainable



outcomes that would benefit all delegates, in their own country." The conference is aligned to many of the Millennium African Recovery Programme (MAP) key objectives, as initiated by South African President Thabo Mbeki, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, especially those that relate to conflict prevention and human resource development. IIPT is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering and facilitating tourism initiatives that contribute to international understanding and cooperation, improved quality of environment, preservation of heritage, and a peaceful, sustainable world.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

IIPT African Peace Through Tourism Conference Information
In the USA: IIPT website: www.iipt.org
Email: africa@iipt.org; Tel (802) 253-2658
Fax: (802)253-2645.
ATA website: www.africa-ata.org
Tel (212) 447-0027; fax (212) 725-8253
In South Africa: Mpumalanga Tourism Authority
www.mpumalanga.com
Tel: 27-8-36535145; Fax: 27-13-6502106
Conference Secretariat
Email: legamus1@netactive.co.za
Email: lchalker@mweb.co.za



Near World
Famous Kruger Park

Air Gabon