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inspired by the students poring over their study material. Other interesting sites on the tour included the Constitutional Court, Gandhi Square and Chancellor House. During apartheid, Chancellor House was one of the few buildings that could be rented to African tenants, and it came to be the original location of the law offices of Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo in the 1950s. In the ensuing decades, the building deteriorated, until the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) bought the building and turned it into a sidewalk museum, showcasing memorabilia and archival document displays about its historical significance.

Another great initiative by the JDA, which we also got to see, is Ernest Oppenheimer Park, a beautiful landscaped garden dotted with benches, next to a basketball court.

The tour I was on focused on the regeneration of the city, but there are many other tours on offer that cater to specific interests.

Tour operator Past Experiences offers graffiti, shopping, and photographic tours, and tours focusing on architecture and political history.

Other groups visited the SAB World of Beer for a tour, and the Absa Money Museum, the only banking museum in the country. The museum houses a collection of various forms of money used through South African history, including cowrie shells, Venetian glass beads and gold coins recovered from sunken ships.

Following the morning tour, we visited Fashion Kapitol in the Fashion District. After browsing the weekly Saturday market, we watched a fashion show, where young designers displayed their creations.

It was then on to a networking session at the JDA's offices at The Bus Factory. Journalists got to "speed network" with various inner-city tourism players. One thing that struck me was the commitment and belief they have in the inner city; they are willing to do whatever it takes to make it the tourism hub of Joburg. Passion like that is contagious.

We left feeling inspired and ready for some fun on the rooftop,



The Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra in front of the Rand Club.

or Skylevel, of the Parktonian Hotel in Braamfontein, where we were treated to 360° views of the city, accompanied by cocktails and snacks. During the Joburg City Festival, the Skylevel will be open to the public; for R75, visitors will receive a flame-grilled kebab and a drink.

As if we hadn't eaten enough by this point, the next event on the itinerary was an underground dinner at Turbine Hall, the original Joburg Jeppe Street Power Station and the last and largest of three steam-driven power stations built in Newtown to supply electricity to the city.

In 1961, the plant was shut down, and by 2000 it was occupied by more than 300 squatters.

Today, the building houses the

For more details on the Joburg City Festival, follow @JoburgCity on Twitter, e-mail info@jcta.co.za or call Gerald Garner at 082 894 5216

To book a walking tour of the city, visit [www.joburgplaces.com](http://www.joburgplaces.com), [www.mainstreetwalks.co.za](http://www.mainstreetwalks.co.za) or [www.pastexperiences.co.za](http://www.pastexperiences.co.za)

To book a Friday evening dinner at Turbine Hall, visit [www.theforum.co.za](http://www.theforum.co.za) For more information about Maboneng, visit [www.mabonengprecinct.com](http://www.mabonengprecinct.com)

offices of AngloGold Ashanti and is home to the medieval Turbine Hall, a first-class conference and wedding venue. Every Friday night, Turbine Hall is open to the public, and offers a four-course dinner at R330 a head.

The final destination on the agenda was the Maboneng



Gandhi Square



Ernest Oppenheimer Park

tour concept, encourages people to rediscover the inner city, offering a "picnic in the sky" at a cost of R180 per person. Visitors get a blanket and a picnic basket which they can fill at Market on Main. They then hop on to Mabo'go, Maboneng's private shuttle service, and visit the Carlton Centre, where they have a picnic on the 50th floor.

The media weekend showed only some of what Joburg's city centre has to offer, and it is only the beginning.

There is no doubt that the Joburg City Festival, optimally scheduled the week after Joy of Jazz and the week before Arts Alive, will bring all the tourism offerings together, in an explosive week of fun and enlightenment.

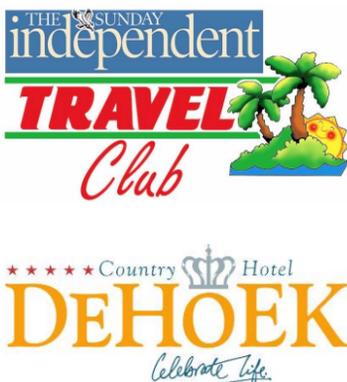
Precinct, which has a variety of retailers, restaurants and activities in the immediate area, the most popular being Market on Main – a food and design fair that takes place every Sunday from 10am to 3pm and the first Thursday of every month from 7pm to 11pm. Main Street Walks, a walking

## Win a country treat for two

ENTER The Star Travel Club competition to win a night for two sharing a superior suite at De Hoek Country House. This includes breakfast, a five course à la carte dinner with a pre-dinner sherry, and fruit in the room on arrival. Total value of this prize is R5 140. It is valid for six months but cannot be redeemed over long weekends or special holidays.

To enter, post your details and travel club number with the Country House's name to: The Marketing Dept, Box 1014, Joburg 2000 by June 18, 2013. To join The Star Travel Club, and become eligible to enter the competition, enclose R140 membership fee payable to The Star Travel Club with your entry.

Alternatively, call 011 633 2341 AFTER June 18 with your credit card. This includes a three-month subscription to the Saturday Star or Pretoria News Weekend. If you join or renew your membership this year you could win a 14-night Island MSC Cruise to Madagascar, Reunion &



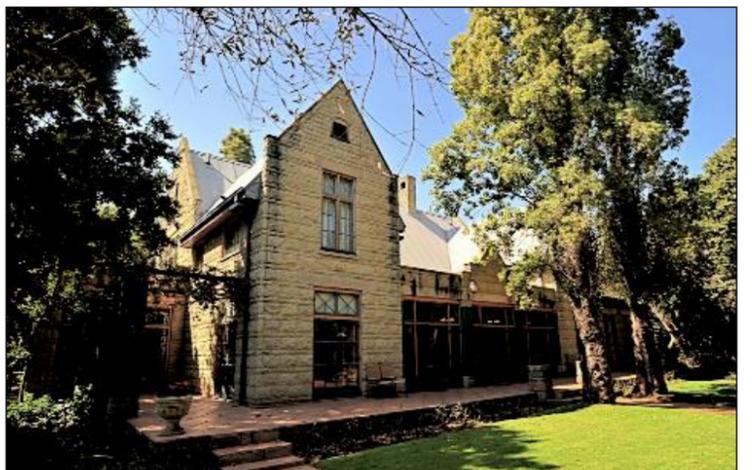
Mauritius on the MSC Sinfonia valued at R41 800. Monthly MSC Cruises are also offered.

The five-star De Hoek Country House lies in a serene country setting in the Magaliesburg area – an hour's drive from Joburg and Pretoria. The hotel, a masterpiece in sandstone, is tastefully and classically decorated, with careful attention to detail. It of-

fers 20 luxurious suites and has become known for its excellent cuisine and personalised service. De Hoek's Swiss-trained chef, Michael Hostenstein, and his team, create five-course dinners, set with crystal and silver. De Hoek caters for companies and private individuals looking for an exclusive country venue to host a memorable event. De Hoek also has conference facilities suitable for smaller groups – set just aside from the main hotel – in Stonebridge House.

Some interesting facts about De Hoek:

1. De Hoek's Michael Hostenstein is a master chef and has established a reputation as a world-class chef.
2. Stonebridge House boasts a variety of conference and function rooms, catering for up to 60 guests.
3. Guided mountain and river walks, hot-air ballooning, gliding, horse riding and game drives within private game reserves are some of the outdoor activities that can be



The five-star De Hoek Country House lies in a serene country setting in the Magaliesburg area.

arranged by advance request.

4. De Hoek via La Cigale offers spa treatments for individuals, couples or groups – either in a luxurious treatment room, or in the gardens.

5. De Hoek arranges and hosts events on an ongoing basis, such as hot-air ballooning weekends, wine-tasting events, themed lunches,

special occasion celebrations and much more. Details can be found on the website – [www.dehoek.com](http://www.dehoek.com).

Tel: 014 577 9600  
 Fax: 014 577 9610  
 Cell: 083 677 6853 (Michelle)  
 Cell: 083 713 6830 (Michael)  
 E-mail: [reservations@dehoek.com](mailto:reservations@dehoek.com)  
 Website: [www.dehoek.com](http://www.dehoek.com)