



## Tour 5: Alexandra Township

- Duration: 4 hours
- Departure: 08:30, return: 13:00
- Price: 4 – 6 people: R 380 per person  
7 – 13 people: R 280 per person  
14+ people: R 220 per person
- Lunch will not be served

Experience the township-vibe in Alex. Only 10 minutes from Sandton. Alexandra township was once a market garden owned by Mr Papenfus who named it after his wife, Alexandra. The township was born in 1912 and it was one of the first places in Johannesburg to grant blacks the right to own property. Originally it was one and a half square kilometers, however it has grown to 7.6 square km with the inclusion of the East Bank, West Bank and Tsotsomane (Athletic village). It is estimated that there are 600, 000 residents crammed into this small piece of land.

The following venues will be visited.

### **Mandela's House**

This on-roomed house is the first house Mandela owned when he came to Johannesburg. He first stayed at the nearby Anglican Church at 8th Avenue before moving to the house at 46 7th Avenue.

### **East Bank**

This is the first elite housing project in Alexandra. It is where the yuppies from the township settle as a manifestation of climbing the social ladder. Here you find the cream of Alex, including, professionals, artists, musicians, etc.

### **Jukskei River**

An integral part of the Alex scene, it means different thing to different people – a place to build a shack, a polluted health hazard, an opportunity for future development.

### **Msomi Gang Head Quarters.**

The notorious Msomi gang in the late 1950s and early 60s ruled and terrorized Alex. They were like the Mafia. Businessmen were forced to pay protection fees and able bodied young men were forced to join them.

**The Men's and Women's Hostels**

These multi-storied flats were built specifically to house single men and women workers. Their existence encouraged prostitution and infidelity, which led to the break up of families.

**Zion Christian Church**

At 19th Avenue there is the ZCC, the biggest church in the southern hemisphere with close to 5 million members. It is said that the birth of this mammoth church was conceived at 7th Avenue near Nelson Mandela's one-roomed house. Its headquarters are in Moria, near Pietersburg.