

WALK WHERE MANDELA, GANDHI,  
LUTHULI & WINNIE TOOK A STAND.



DIGNITY  
JUSTICE  
RESPECT  
FREEDOM  
EQUALITY  
DIVERSITY  
DEMOCRACY

**CONSTITUTIONHILL**

**VISITOR BROCHURE**

[www.constitutionhill.org.za](http://www.constitutionhill.org.za)

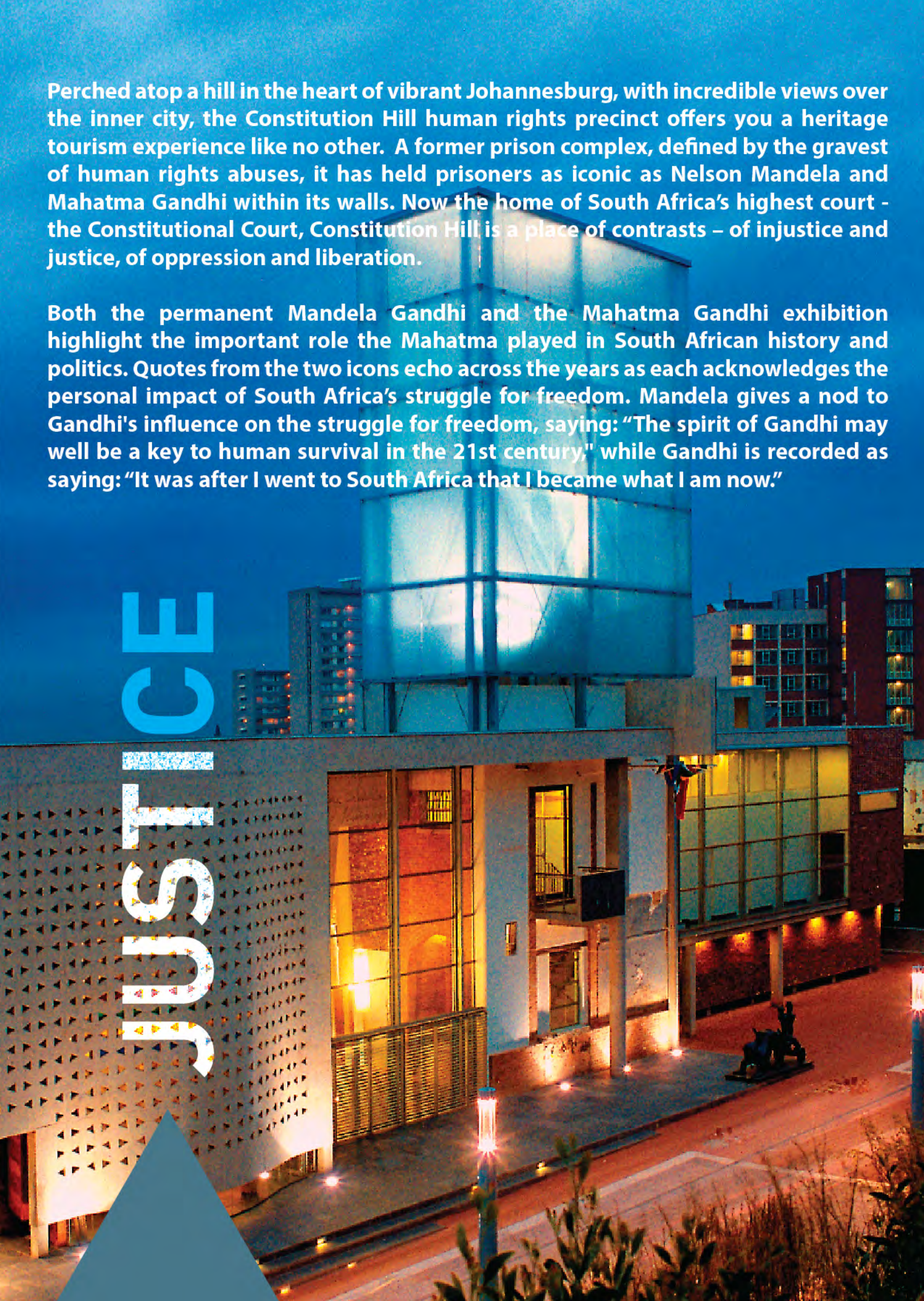


Perched atop a hill in the heart of vibrant Johannesburg, with incredible views over the inner city, the Constitution Hill human rights precinct offers you a heritage tourism experience like no other. A former prison complex, defined by the gravest of human rights abuses, it has held prisoners as iconic as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi within its walls. Now the home of South Africa's highest court - the Constitutional Court, Constitution Hill is a place of contrasts - of injustice and justice, of oppression and liberation.

Both the permanent Mandela Gandhi and the Mahatma Gandhi exhibition highlight the important role the Mahatma played in South African history and politics. Quotes from the two icons echo across the years as each acknowledges the personal impact of South Africa's struggle for freedom. Mandela gives a nod to Gandhi's influence on the struggle for freedom, saying: "The spirit of Gandhi may well be a key to human survival in the 21st century," while Gandhi is recorded as saying: "It was after I went to South Africa that I became what I am now."

ICE

JUST





# CONSTITUTION HILL MUSEUMS



## Number Four

The notorious Number Four prison is the place where thousands of black men were imprisoned and brutalised. It housed both criminals and political prisoners. The Mahatma Gandhi Exhibition in the Number Four prison includes artefacts such as a prisoner's uniform similar to that which would have been worn by the Mahatma. A pair of leather sandals is also featured: it is told that Mahatma Gandhi presented these to General Jan Smuts - the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa. The statesman later returned these to Gandhi on his 70th birthday with the words: "I have worn these sandals for many a summer ... even though I may feel that I am not worthy to stand in the shoes of so great a man."



## Constitution Square

At the heart of Constitution Hill is Constitution Square, a large outdoor piazza which is used for events. It is a beautiful space where people can meet, engage and relax. Two stairwells of the Awaiting Trial Block have been retained in its centre as a reminder of how the past exists in the present. Stand outside one of the stairwells and listen to the songs of resistance recreated using the voices of those who took part in the Defiance Campaign of the 1970s. Also on Constitution Square is the We the People Wall. You can participate in the building of the Constitution Hill space by reading messages written by others on the wall, and leaving your own: a record of what democracy means to free South Africans.



## Constitutional Court

The Constitutional Court is the home of the Constitution, the highest law of the land. Like South Africa's Constitution, the Court is designed to be open, accessible and transparent. It is built around the remaining stairwells of the old Awaiting Trial Block. The foyer of the Court is a light-filled area dominated by slanting columns - an architectural metaphor for trees under which African villagers traditionally congregated to discuss matters of social importance with their elders. Any member of the public may attend court hearings, or may enter the building to view the many individually commissioned artworks on display.



# CONSTITUTION HILL MUSEUMS



## Great African Steps

The Great African Steps were built with the bricks of the demolished Awaiting Trial Block, where black male prisoners were kept while awaiting trial. The steps will take you up the hill, between the solid-stone wall of the notorious Number Four prison to the right and the open glass and light of the Constitutional Court to the left. This is a walk between the past and the future, with the legacy of apartheid on one side and the values of freedom, equality and dignity on the other.



## Old Fort

Johannesburg, Egoli, Jozi - a city known by many names - was established in 1886. The promise of gold brought migrants from all around the world flocking to its reefs to seek their fortunes. The Old Fort - nothing but a grassy hill from the outside - was commissioned in 1893; and built as a jail to house criminals in the burgeoning mining town. It was turned into a Fort in 1896 when the British attempted to overthrow the Boer Republic in what came to be known as the Jameson Raid. Since then it has housed both common criminals and struggle heroes - Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi amongst them. The Old Fort's permanent interactive exhibition showcases the military and prison function of the Old Fort - focussing on first person narratives of some of those incarcerated in the Fort.



## Women's Jail

Built in 1910, the grace of this Victorian brick building obscures the pain and humiliation suffered by the many women detained within its walls. The jail held black and white women in separate sections. The infamous murderess Daisy De Melker was held here, as were prominent activists Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. But the vast majority of inmates were neither murderers nor activists. They were women arrested for pass offences or illegal occupations such as beer brewing.



Mandela gives a nod to Gandhi's influence on the struggle for freedom, saying:  
*"The spirit of Gandhi may well be a key to human survival in the 21 st century,"*  
while Gandhi is recorded as saying:  
*"It was after I went to South Africa that I became what I am now."*



Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned four times during his time in South Africa, including a period at Constitution Hill.

Mahatma Gandhi  
(1869-1948)

DIGNITY



# RED BUS HOP ON - HOP OFF TOURS

