

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

27 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2016 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



OD PRE 2 Central Witwatersrand Gold

TRIP LEADER: Morris Viljoen



ITINERARY

This surface tour is designed to introduce delegates to some of the important geological features of the unique Witwatersrand plateau of the Johannesburg region on which the world's greatest goldfield and city of Johannesburg was established. The tour includes an introduction to the early gold mining history of the gold reefs and incorporates aspects of the history of early Johannesburg and the Randlords who developed the huge gold mining industry of South Africa. The banded, magnetic iron formation of the lower Witwatersrand strata known as the Contorted Bed, used to trace the Witwatersrand sediments including gold reefs below younger cover, will be examined followed by a stop at the outcrop of the iconic auriferous conglomerate reef horizons of the Main Reef and Main Reef Leader conglomerates at the Langlaagte discovery site SW of Johannesburg. The historic Ferreira stope museum on the Main Reef Leader, site of the first gold mining camp-(Ferreiras camp) will also be visited.

The uppermost (Elsburg) conglomerates and quartzites forming the southern edge of the Witwatersrand Plateau will then be examined, as well as the Ventersdorp lava which overlies the Witwatersrand sediments and which builds the Klipriversberg range south of Johannesburg.

Re-processing of the tailings dams will be viewed at the historic Robinson Deep mine and the origins and consequences of environmental impacts after 130 years of mining on the Witwatersrand will be examined. The effects of dust and water pollution will be discussed as well as research that has been done and remedial actions which have been taken.

DATES:

27 August 2016

Minimum Persons 4

Maximum Persons 15

Above cost per person includes:

- Full day transport in luxury coach.
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues as stated in itinerary above.
- Packed lunch and mineral water.