



BLUE
SAVANNAH

Sky



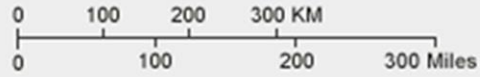
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Free State

South Africa

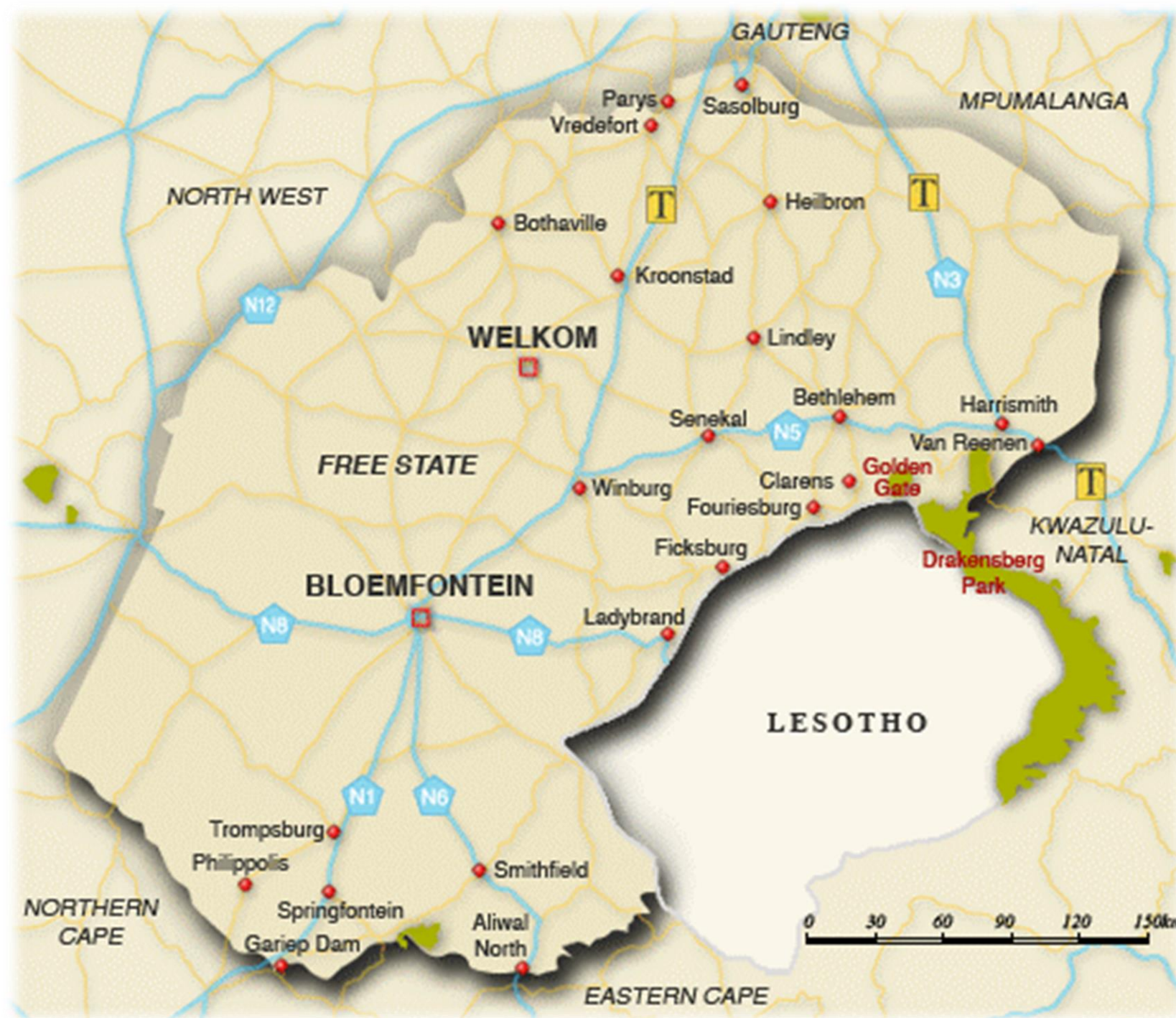
- ★ National Capital
- Province Capital
- City or Town
- International Boundary
- Province Boundary*
- Road
- River

*Province boundaries are subject to change under provisions of the South African Constitution.



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The Free State Province lies in the heart of South Africa, with the Kingdom of Lesotho in the hollow of its bean-like shape. Lying between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south, the region is one of flat, rolling grassland and crops fields, rising to lovely sandstone mountains in the northeast.

Gariiep Dam and Vanderkloof Dams are the largest dams in the country.

Some of South Africa's most valued San rock art is found here.

The Free State is the world's 5th largest gold producer and a leader in the chemicals industry.



- **Capital City:** Bloemfontein, “City of Roses” and also the judicial capital of South Africa.
- **Airports:** Bram Fischer International Airport - Bloemfontein (BFN)
- **Best time to visit:** Spring and autumn is the best time of year to visit. In spring you can expect a magnificent display of colourful blossoms while in autumn you will be anointed with the season’s colours - shades of oranges, browns and reds.
- **Climate:** a continental climate, characterised by warm to hot summers and cool to cold winters. Almost all rains fall in the summer months as brief afternoon thunderstorms
- **Food specialities:** Potjiekos (traditionally a social gathering, where three-legged pots are heated over a fire and various meats, vegetables and spices are gradually cooked, and later enjoyed with home-baked potbrood (pot bread) or roosterkoek.)
- **Language:** Afrikaans, Sesotho

Regions



1. Bloemfontein

With its picturesque rural tranquility and vibrant, dynamic central business district, Bloemfontein prides itself on being luxuriously steeped in rich traditions and is known as the cradle of the Afrikaner society. It exhibits several buildings of majestic size: the judicial administration, the university and the military headquarters.



2. Clarens

The beautiful town of Clarens lies just west of the Maluti mountain range and is the perfect country retreat. Known as the 'jewel of the Free State', Clarens is very popular with the artistic community.



Regions

3. Small Towns



The Free State offers you interesting small towns and villages, rich with a cultural mix of African and European and a history of many struggles and wars.

4. Harrismith

Harrismith is a small, charming country town. It is the ideal destination to break a long trip or escape from the stresses of city living. Midway between Durban and Johannesburg and known for the Plateberg Mountain.



Regions



5. Basotho Cultural Village

The Basotho Cultural Village nestles in the heart of the Qwaqwa National Park, close to the world-renowned Golden Gate area. The Cultural Village takes you for a walk down the pathway of time.



6. Gariep Dam

Gariep-Dam, (the youngest town in South Africa), is situated alongside the N1 and is perhaps better known to most for the man made Gariep Dam (the largest dam in South Africa).



Regions



7. Golden Gate Highlands National Park

The park derives its name from the brilliant shades of gold cast by the sun on the park's sandstone cliffs, especially the imposing Brandwag rock.

