

SMME Day to empower future pioneers in the tourism sector

To empower future pioneers and game-changers in the tourism sector, the Africa's Travel and Tourism Summit, which take place from 19-21 September, has launched SMME Day, designed to inspire best practices in an ever-changing brand Africa by providing businesses with the opportunity to exchange leads and collaborate as drivers for transforming the sector.



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Small and medium-sized businesses are considered crucial to the new tourism created by the onset of Covid-19. They bring fresh ideas and flexibility to adapt to a new tourism economy. Africa's Travel and Tourism Summit, which takes place from



SA to host first ever Africa's Travel and Tourism Summit

20 Aug 2021



The Summit is being hosted simultaneously in three major cities in Africa – Johannesburg, Durban and Lagos. The hybrid event gives delegates from around the world the option to attend either physically or virtually. It also gives those outside of Africa the opportunity to be a part of the Summit as they can schedule events according to their time zone.

South African Tourism acting CEO, Sthembiso Dlamini, says SMME Day is about gearing these businesses for the new future of tourism. "The Summit is what the African travel trade needs right now and SMME Day is a perfect way to reboot the tourism economy as small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of tourism. Many of the business people at SMME Day will be seasoned entrepreneurs. They do not want to know how they should run their business. Instead, they are here to find ways of adapting their businesses to a new kind of tourism market."

Dlamini adds that the new post-Covid tourism sector will rely more on digital technology, stringent health and safety standards and new ways to package travel particularly for the outdoors. But she warns against too much speculation and asks that industry players focus on working together instead. "Right now, we cannot really predict what the tourism market will look like or what it should be. Instead, we should spend our energy on working together to rebuild the tourism sector and make it even more robust than it was before the Covid-19 era."

With the theme "Re-awakening Africa", the Summit calls on all tourism stakeholders to reflect, reimagine and reignite a tourism sector ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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