



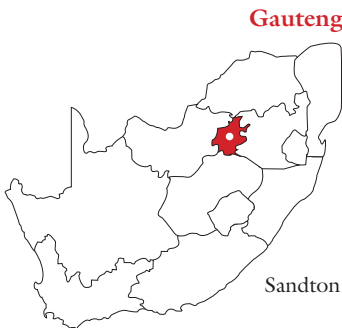
CONTACT DETAILS

7 George Avenue
Rivonia
Sandton
2196

Tel: +27 (0)11 803 7882/
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www.liliesleaf.co.za

Opening hours: daily
from 08h00 - 18h00 (closed
Christmas Day and Easter)



Liliesleaf

Liliesleaf is acknowledged to be the birth place of MK (Umkhonto we Sizwe - Spear of the Nation). MK was the military wing of the ANC, and the farm was the nerve centre from which the MK leadership planned the struggle for liberation and justice.

It was at Liliesleaf where the high command met to plan 'Operation Mayibuye' – the plan to overthrow the apartheid regime. The outhouse buildings on Liliesleaf housed the printing presses which were producing freedom literature. And it was from the brick structure that the inhabitants of the farm broadcast the first test of Radio Freedom using the lightning conductor as an aerial transmitter.

The raid by security police on Liliesleaf in 1963 led to the arrest and capture of members of the high command of MK, and the subsequent Rivonia Trial, which resulted in the life long imprisonment of key ANC, South African Communist Party and Congress Alliance leaders. This trial was a key turning point in the struggle against apartheid, catapulting South Africa's situation into the international spotlight. The trialists included Accused Number One - Nelson Mandela, and leaders such as Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Bram Fischer, Joe Slovo, Ruth First, Raymond Mhlaba, Rusty Bernstein, Bob Hepple, Harold Wolpe, and Dennis Goldberg among others.

The trial catalysed a series of events in South Africa's history which would eventually result in the formation of South Africa's first democratically elected government, some 31 years later.

Liliesleaf personifies the beliefs, inspiration and aspirations of a unique group of leaders who were committed to bringing about socio-political transformation predicated on democratic principles.

The Liliesleaf Trust

Liliesleaf has seamlessly integrated the authenticity of the original buildings' structures with two newly constructed buildings: the





Resource Centre and Liberation Centre, which mark the visitor's journey of enlightenment from struggle, to liberation to transformation.

Permanent and Temporary Exhibits

The Resource Centre will sustain the tradition of intellectual discourse that Liliesleaf is renowned for. In addition to the archive collective on-site, the Resource Centre library houses 3 000 books and over 500 hours of interview footage. The collection of this material, including oral recollection and interviews, began in 2003. Visitors to Liliesleaf are afforded access to all areas of the site and are issued with a 'pass card' should they wish to leave and return later on in the day.

'Liliesleaf was an old house that needed work and no one lived there. I moved in under the pretext that I was a houseboy or caretaker that would live there until my master took possession. I had taken the alias David Motsamayi, the name of one of my former clients. At the farm, I wore the simple blue overalls that were the uniform of the black male servant.'

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom