



DESTINATION TRAVEL AND BUSINESS TOURISM.

Before journeying to South Africa there are a few preparations to make and precautions to take into consideration.

TRAVEL

Passport Requirements

All visitors require a passport, valid for at least 30 days beyond the period of intended stay, to enter the country. Ensure that there are sufficient pages (at least two full blank pages) available within the passport. All visitors must have confirmed return or onward tickets, relevant documents required for their next destination and evidence of sufficient funds for maintenance during their stay.

If there is confusion regarding passport requirements, contact the relevant embassy or consulate prior to travel.

Visa Requirements

Most nationalities do not need a visa to enter South Africa as a tourist, as long as the stay does not exceed 30 to 90 days.

Nationals of the following countries do not require a visa, for stays of up to 30 days:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Gabon, Guyana, Hungary, Hong Kong (SAR, and British Nationals Overseas) Jordan, Lesotho, Macau (SAR), Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Peru, Poland, Seychelles, Slovak Republic, South Korea, Swaziland, Thailand and Turkey

Nationals of the following countries do not require a visa, for stays of up to 90 days:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Malta, Monaco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania (90 Days Per Year), Trinidad & Tobago (90 Days Per year), Uruguay, Venezuela, United Kingdom (British Citizens), United States Of America, Zambia (90 Days Per Year) and Zimbabwe.

As entry requirements may change, please check visa related information with relevant embassies and consulates. For a list of detailed visa requirements per nationality see the South Africa Department of Home Affairs site.

Luggage

Please check the luggage weight limit per passenger for the airline. Exceeding this limit will result in an additional fee. Many airlines enforce a restriction of one bag in locked luggage and one carry-on hand luggage item per person. Charter airlines usually restrict to one 20kg soft luggage item per person.

Transport

Rental cars can be organised from a number of agencies, most of which can be found within the airports. Hotel concierges will also be able to advise with both car rental and reputable taxi services. Please note that vehicles are driven on the left hand side of the road, and that a valid international



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drivers license is required. The majority of vehicles utilize manual transmission, however automatic drive is available on request.

WELLBEING

Health

Ensure that correct quantities of prescribed medication are taken into consideration before traveling. As a precautionary measure, it is advised to carry a medical certificate for prescription medication from a medical practitioner when traveling through airport or border control. In the event that medical care, and even hospitalization, is required during travels, South Africa has a high standard of medical health care, promoting some of the best hospitals and doctors in the world. Prior to departure, it is highly advised to secure travel insurance, as well as set aside cash in the correct currency for any, as well as medical, emergencies.

Immunisations

By law, no vaccinations are required to enter South Africa, however Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Malaria vaccinations are highly recommended. Although most of the tourist destinations in South Africa are malaria-free, it is still prevalent in the Lowveld of Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Maputaland coast of KwaZulu-Natal, including the Kruger National Park.

Medical professionals must be informed of the exact location of travels in and around South Africa to ensure that they prescribe the correct immunizations and medication.

In the event that the traveler departs from a country where Yellow Fever is present, a valid international yellow fever inoculation certificate must be presented upon arrival in South Africa.

Most bush lodges will provide insect repellent, however it is advised to purchase a spare repellent prior to departure for bush travel stay.

Safety

Although South Africa carries a stereotype as a crime-ridden country, dangerous situations and circumstances can be easily avoided with a bit of caution and common sense. Criminal activity is present within South Africa, as in many countries around the world, and is largely protected by police and security officials. If anything, tourists are likely to fall prey to petty crimes and crimes of opportunity. Therefore, when in vehicles, keep doors locked and windows closed, and when on foot, do not openly expose valuables or possessions and aim to never walk alone, or at night.

GENERAL

Currency

The South African unit of currency is called the Rand and it is divided in to 100 cents. Coins come in denominations of 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2 and R5, and notes in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. Due to favorable exchange rates, South Africa is a very inexpensive destination, given the quality of lodging, dining and activities offered. Cards are widely accepted, and ATM machines are readily available in the main cities and towns. Ensure to notify the banks of your intention to travel, that you have sufficient funds in the demarcated account and to convert currencies before hand and/or organize traveler's checks, cash passports or universal electronic ATM cards.



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Tipping

It is normal to tip service-based staff in South Africa, so keep small change handy. In restaurants, an additional 10-15% of the bill is standard, whereas tipping of tour guides, trackers, drivers and game rangers is also the norm is left to discretion.

Telecommunications

South African telecommunications are up to date and highly connected, allowing for swift communication both nationally and internationally. Mobile phones can be hired from all international airports. Upon arrival, ask one of the airport ground staff as to where the phones can be hired. Prepaid credit, called airtime, can be purchased from most retail outlets and grocery stores. South Africa's mobile phone operators utilize the GSM system, if a mobile phone is compatible with the GSM system, set up international roaming with the service provider prior to departure. Wireless internet connections can be found in most international hotels and restaurants around South African. Internet cafes can be found in most business locations and shopping malls.

The international dialing code for South Africa is 0027.

Electrical Sockets

The local electricity supply is 220/230 Volts AC 50Hz. For important electrical appliances and chargers, please purchase the correct converter prior to departure, or set cash aside for a converter at arrival.

Language

South Africa is proud to boast eleven official languages. English, the first language, is widely spoken and understood.

Climate & Clothing

In Summer (November to March) daytime temperatures can reach as high as 30°C (90°F). With a lot of time spent outdoors, ensure to bring, or purchase once arrived at destination; swimming costumes, sunglasses, sun block, sun hat as well as light clothing. For safari, bush and nature-based travels, it is highly advisable to bring insect repellent.

Summer nights can see the temperature drop to as low as 10°C (50°F), ensure to pack a light jacket or sweater for cooler mornings and evenings.

In Winter (April to October) daytime temperatures are generally mild, with a nighttime dip to -2°C (35°F) in certain parts. Ensure to pack warm clothing, particularly padded jackets for inland adventures and bush safaris, as well as scarves and gloves especially for icy game drives.

Furthermore, it is advised to pack comfortable walking shoes, as well as hiking boots or trainers for bush walks.

Tap Water

Throughout the country, the tap water is safe to drink. It is advised to not consume water from rivers or other waterbeds as it may pose a risk of schistosomiasis (bilharzia) and other waterborne diseases.



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Operating Hours

Below is a rough guide for general operating hours for establishments within South Africa.

Banking hours: Monday to Friday: 08h30 – 15h30, Saturday: 08h00 – 11h30.

Office hours: Monday to Friday: 08h30 – 16h30.

Shop hours: Monday to Friday: 08h30 – 17h00, Saturday: 09h00 – 17h00, Sunday: Some shopping centers open on a flexi time basis.

Miscellaneous

Smoking is prohibited in public areas and public transport. Certain entertainment facilities may offer smoking sections or allocated times wherein smoking is permitted indoors. Smoking is not permitted at entrances to establishments, and it is common for security and police officials to issue tickets for throwing cigarette buds out of car windows or on the streets.

The legal drinking age is strictly over 18, and most bars and clubs require proof of age documents upon entry.