

PRACTICAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

SOUTH AFRICA



FORMALITIES

Passport valid 6 month after the return date, 2 blank pages mandatory
Contact the South African consulate of your country for information regarding the need of a Visa.

VACCINES :

Yellow fever vaccine is not compulsory unless you come from an infected area. In this case, at the customs checkpoint, your vaccine booklet will be required. Authorised vaccination centre are recommended.

It is necessary to take a anti-malaria treatment if you are visiting game reserves and national parks (Kruger, Umfolozi, Hluhluwe...). Consult your doctor or authorised centre who will recommend the best treatment.

CURRENCY :

The South African Rand is the currency, divided in 100 Cents — 1 Euro (€) = 11.2 Rands (ZAR) – September 2009
Foreign exchange desks are available in all airports. Credit cards are accepted everywhere except for petrol purchase. Cash can be drawn with VISA, MASTERCARD, and DINERS cards in the ATMs.

BANK OPENING HOURS :

From 09h00 to 15h30 during the week. Some are opened on Saturdays 08h30 to 11h00. In the international airports, the desks are open until the arrival of the last long-haul flight

TIME : South Africa is on GMT + 2

LANGUAGES: there are 11 official languages, but English is most frequently spoken.

TIPS:

In the restaurants, service is not included. A minimum of 10% tip is requested, according to your level of satisfaction. For luggage porters, 10 rands per piece of luggage is current practice. If you travel in a Group, tips and portage are included, in which case tipping the driver and the guide is expected and customary.

VOLTAGE : 220 Volts in general. Electrical plugs are in the shape of 3 round points forming a triangle.
You can buy an adaptor but you can easily borrow one from the hotel

TELEPHONE : The international code is +27.

Make sure your cell phone has international roaming before you leave. You can rent a cell phone at the airports, or buy a local SIM card that you recharge according to your needs (ensure your cell would work with a South African SIM card).

TEMPERATURES AND CLIMATE:

Seasons are inverted with Europe and Xmas is celebrated in the heart of summer.

The Cape region has a mediterranean-like climate, with a short Spring from mid-August until mid-September when the area is suddenly covered with multi-coloured flowers.

In the centre, the Transvaal has a temperate climate, thanks to altitude, except in the North, towards the Kruger Park, which has a subtropical climate as well as the North of Kwa Zulu Natal.

Best season is Spring (August to October) and autumn (March and April)

DRIVING:

-The road network is excellent. It links big cities to the smallest villages. Some highways have Toll gates (cash and credit card).
- Driving is on the left hand side but priority is to the right.
- Speed limit is generally 60 km/h in town, 120 km/h on highways and 100 km/h elsewhere. Wearing of Seat belt is compulsory for driver and passengers. Respect the road regulations, any breach will be severely fined.

- International driving licence

- Petrol is about 7,80 Rand per liter (September 2009). Cash only.



CLOTHING :

It is advisable to bring practical, light luggage for convenience.

Warning : bright colours are not advised in Game reserves and Parks. Casual clothing is not accepted in certain restaurants. Take a jersey with for early mornings and evenings in Summer (october to may) and warm jackets for winter (june to september). Nights can be very cool. Dont forget your costume, most of the hotels have a swimming-pool.

LUGGAGE AND ACCESSORIES :

- Sports bag or suitcase
- A small bag to carry things during the day
- Camera and charger
- Cap, sunglasses
- Binoculars
- A torch with spare batteries

TOILET BAG AND PHARMACY :

In each town you will find a 'drugstore', supplied with everything.

We advise you to travel with : mosquito repellent, sunblock, lipstick, paracetamol and anti-diarrhea.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

A minimum 200 mm teleobjective is advised for wildlife pictures. Patience and silence are key to success.

It is always possible to charge batteries in the hotels. Don't 'snap' people without their authorization. With a little talking, it is generally possible to portray locals. Do not take fotos of army camps, airports etc...

GUIDES :

Upon arrival in South Africa, Groups are generally welcomed by a french, german or english-speaking guide who will tour with them in the Northern part of the Country. Another guide will meet the groups in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town or Durban for the second half of the Tour.

He/She will carry a sign Africa Focus Tours with the name of the group.

In case of emergency, clients can contact Africa Focus Tours 24h/24

