

Trails of Africa Tours and Safaris

South Africa Travel Guide and General Information

Time in South Africa

South Africa is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2); South Africa doesn't operate daylight saving time, so there's no time difference between the summer and winter months.

Currency in South Africa

South Africa's currency is the South African rand (ZAR). For the best exchange rates, check with your bank or visit www.oanda.com for the latest exchange rates. Travellers' cheques and foreign currency can be exchanged at banks; credit cards are widely accepted.

South Africa's International Dialling Code

The International Dialling Code for South Africa is +27. Calling to South Africa, you dial 0027, followed by the area code (e.g. 21 for Cape Town) and local number. Calling from South Africa, you need to know the code of the country you want make a call to (e.g. +44 for the UK; +1 for the USA).

Food in South Africa

In South Africa, most restaurants serve international cuisine, along with award-winning South African wine or the local Castle beer. South Africa's traditional foods includes Biltong (dried meat), Potjiekos (slowly cooked meat and vegetable stew), Mielie Pap (corn meal mix) and Boerewors (spicy sausage). Bar-b-ques are very popular, and here they are known as 'braais'!

Driving in South Africa's Cape

Distances in the southern Cape are usually small and you drive on the left. The roads are generally well signposted and almost all are tarmac.

Health in South Africa

For travel to South Africa, several vaccines are sensible (typhoid, polio and tetanus), though none are required. Malaria is generally not present in the Southern Cape, but is found in Mpumalanga and the Northern and Eastern sections of South Africa; always check the latest news and advice from your doctor.

Language in South Africa

English is one of South Africa's 11 official languages and is very widely spoken; other official languages include Afrikaans, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana and Zulu.

Visas for South Africa

Citizens of some countries like UK and US do not need visas when travelling to South Africa. Having said that, always check for the latest regulations with your nearest South African Embassy or High Commission before you travel.

Weather and climate in South Africa

South Africa is a large country and it spans several quite different climatic zones. The weather in the centre and east of the country, for example Mpumalanga, broadly follows the same weather pattern as the other countries nearby in the subcontinent. The weather pattern in South Africa's Cape is totally different from any other area – and in fact has rain when most of the rest of the country is dry, and vice-versa.

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