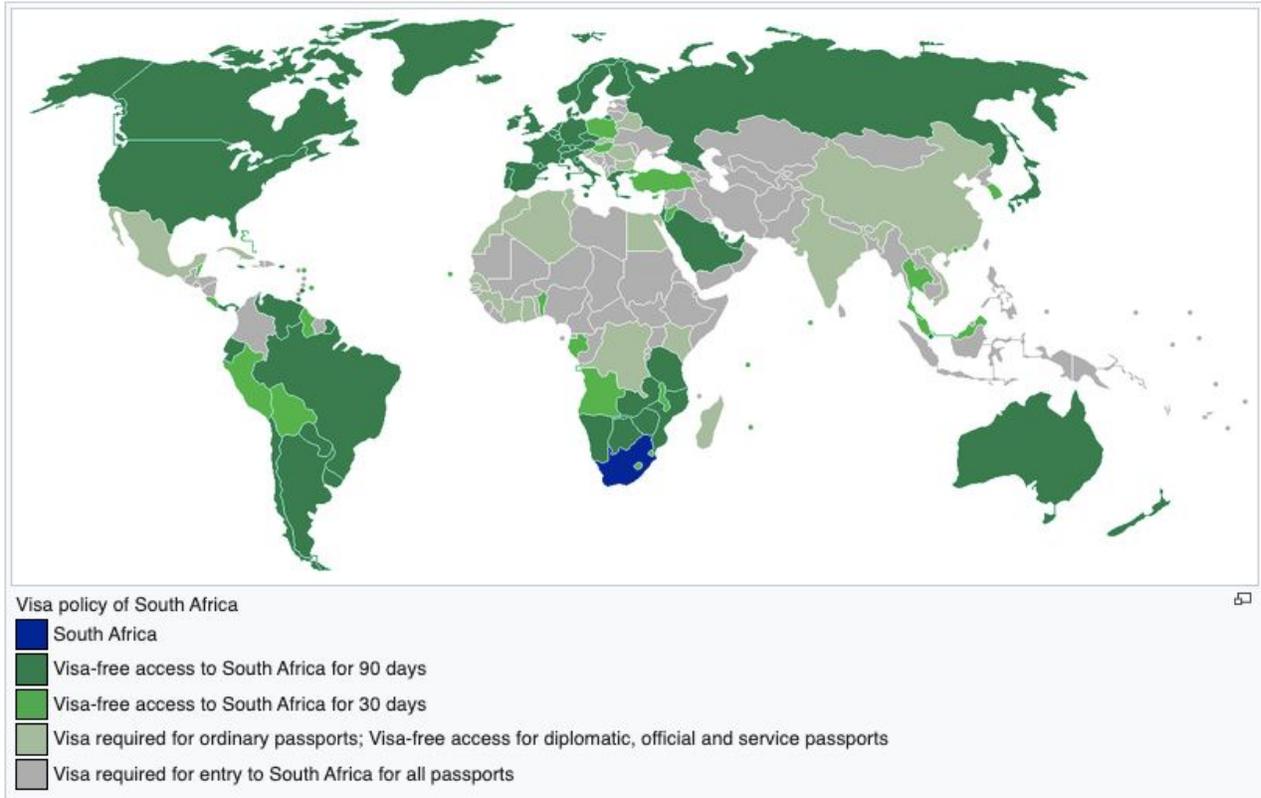


SOUTH AFRICA DESTINATION INFORMATION & TRAVEL TIPS

VISA INFORMATION FOR SOUTH AFRICA



Source : Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_South_Africa

Department of Home Affairs South Africa : <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa>

Visa Exemption List DHA :

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries>

Travelling with children :

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/621-updated-advisory-new-requirements-for-children-travelling-through-south-african-ports-of-entry>

CLIMATE & WEATHER

Seasons :

Summer - December to February

Autumn (Fall) - March to May

Winter - June to August

Spring - September to November

South Africa has a range of climate conditions from Mediterranean in the south west to subtropical in the north east. The interior is fairly dry and a small section in the north west heading up to Namibia has a desert climate. Rainfall varies from south west to north east. In the south west rainfall is expected in the winter months from June through to August with a few showers through September. Moving along the east coast and up to the north east of the country rainfall is expected during the summer months of December through to around March.

Average temperatures do not differ too much from south west along the coast up to the north east, although rainfall differs across these areas. The highest temperature variables occur along the west coast of South Africa and the north west where it is dry and arid.

Average temperatures range from 5°C in winter (approx 40°F) to around a maximum of 20°C (approx 68°F) and in summer from a low of 15°C (approx 60°F) to highs of 32°C (approx 90°F)

As the climate in South Africa is so mild one could choose to visit at any time of the year. Winter is not great for sunbathing, however perfect for safari as the region is dry from lack of rainfall making visibility excellent. Summer is perfect for Cape Town and spending time in the sunshine, although visitors can expect rainfall in the safari regions.

Seasonality in Cape Town & South Coast and best time of year to visit :

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Su	Su	A	A	A	W	W	W	Sp	Sp	Sp	Su
High	High	High	High	Mid	Mid	Mid	Mid	Mid	High	High	Peak

Seasonality in Kruger Area and best time of year to visit :

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Su	Su	A	A	A	W	W	W	Sp	Sp	Sp	Su
Mid	Mid	Mid	High	High	High	Peak	Peak	Peak	Peak	Mid	Peak

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is vital that all travellers to Africa take comprehensive travel insurance to cover for trip cancellation or curtailment as well as medical expenses. Most lodges will charge up to full cancellation for any trips cancelled between 30 and 60 days prior to travel, hotels are more

lenient but may still charge a cancellation fee. Airlines will also charge cancellation fees on booked tickets and rebooking/rerouting fees.

PACKING TIPS & LUGGAGE

Most flights to safari destinations have strict limitations and restrictions for luggage style and weight. If you are travelling to a safari region pack away the hard shelled cases and opt for a duffel bag on a trolley system. Johannesburg International Airport requires that all bags have at least one hard side. The size of the bag is important, however more so the weight. Most small flights will only allow a maximum of 20kg (around 44 pounds) checked and hand luggage combined. Safari travellers should aim for one checked bag and one carry backpack or handbag that can fit on their lap. There is no overhead storage for additional carry on luggage on safari flights.

Domestic and regional flights differ as they do allow checked luggage and two pieces of hand luggage, in most instances. Although our advice is to stick to the strictest luggage rules on your itinerary throughout. Luggage storage facilities are available at most points, however as flight routings for itineraries in Africa rarely see a return to the same airport we do not advise that you plan to store luggage. Of course we can arrange for excess luggage to be sent from one point to another.

Most lodges and hotels offer overnight laundry facilities to assist with the strict packing limitations, so no need to pack changes of clothes for every day. And only a handful of establishments & experiences (such as Rovos Rail) enforce a dress code, so no need to pack additional clothes for restaurants or dining in lodges. Basic toiletries are also provided at all hotels and lodges.

Recommended Gear Packing List :

- Camera with charger and additional memory sticks
- Travel Power Adaptor
- Mobile phone & charger (ask your service provider about international roaming)

We do suggest you travel with a small pair of binoculars if you are going on extensive safari. Most game drive vehicles will have at least one pair to share among all guests on the vehicle. Tablets are also useful for downtime between activities or during travel, for reading or watching downloaded programs. Remember to pack yours in if you wish, including charger and headphones.

Note on wifi at lodges - wifi is often supplied via satellite or routed to the lodge and can be intermittent. It may also be restricted to either lounge or room only. Mobile phone signal in safari regions is also generally quite limited.

Recommended Toiletries & Medical Kit List :

- Basic First Aid Kit - most hotels and lodges will carry an extensive first aid kit, however we recommend a small personal kit with plasters, antiseptic wipes, antihistamine cream etc.
- Basic Medication - hotels and lodges are not able to issue any medication to guests. Please do bring painkillers, anti inflammatories, anti nausea etc
- Hotels and Lodges will provide basic toiletries including bodywash, soap and shampoo. Lodges will usually also supply insect repellent. When considering toiletries only pack basics such as toothpaste or hair conditioner to save on luggage space and weight. A high protection sunblock is necessary in both winter and summer in Africa.

What to pack on safari :

Multi pocket jackets in safari khaki, trousers that zip off at the knee, gators and sun hats with insect screens are not essential for your safari stay, unless you absolutely love them. Do keep colours neutral if you are planning on participating in any bush walks, otherwise pretty much anything goes on the back of a game drive vehicle. We do recommend steering clear of very bright colours, red in particular.

For any walking safaris you will be required to wear neutral colours, which also does not include white. You will need to wear long trousers, preferably tapered, and comfortable walking shoes and socks. You need not bring hiking boots, trainers will suffice. However hiking boots are a bit more sturdy on uneven terrain.

Any seasoned safari traveller will tell you that layering clothing is key, as temperatures can vary throughout the seasons and throughout the day. Choose light cotton where possible and remove layers as the day heats up, or add as the evening cools down. Light long sleeves and light cotton long trousers protect from the harsh sun in summer, although remember to pack high protection sunscreen when you feel like enjoying the drive in shorts and t-shirts.

We recommend a good quality lightweight windproof jacket for winters on game drives, and for summer a lightweight rain jacket for the short afternoon showers will suffice. Most lodges will supply ponchos for summer rainfall.

Wind chill is the biggest contributing factor to the temperature & comfort on game drives, and more so in winter than in summer. You will get by with a great windproof jacket and gloves in winter instead of a bulky jacket that does not protect from the wind.

Always pack a hat, in both summer and winter. In winter add a warm scarf and windproof gloves, and a woolen cap if you feel so inclined. Again lodges will supply additional blankets on game drives in winter. Tip : pack in an extra pair of sunglasses!

There is generally no dress code at meal times at lodges, guests are most welcome to wear safari clothing to dinner. Remember to pack shoes in for walking around the lodge

Rough guide to packing for safari :

Ladies :

WINTER/AUTUMN	SUMMER/SPRING
3 x T-Shirts	3 x T-Shirts
2 x Long Sleeved Shirts	2 x Long Sleeved Shirts
1 x Soft Shell or Fleece Jacket	1 x Lightweight Rain Jacket
1 x Windproof Jacket	3 x Lightweight Shorts or Trousers
2 x Lightweight Trousers or Shorts	1 x Summer Dress
2 x Jeans or Thicker Trousers	Sandals
Trainers or Lightweight Boots	Trainers or Lightweight Boots
Windproof Gloves	Swimming Costume
Woolen Hat & Scarf	Sun Hat

Gents :

WINTER/AUTUMN	SUMMER/SPRING
3 x T-Shirts	3 x T-Shirts
2 x Long Sleeved Shirts	2 x Long Sleeved Shirts
1 x Soft Shell or Fleece Jacket	1 x Lightweight Rain Jacket
1 x Windproof Jacket	3 x Lightweight Shorts or Trousers
2 x Lightweight Trousers or Shorts	Safari Hat or Cap
2 x Jeans or Thicker Trousers	Sandals
Trainers or Lightweight Boots	Trainers or Lightweight Boots
Windproof Gloves	Swimming Costume

Woolen Hat & Scarf	
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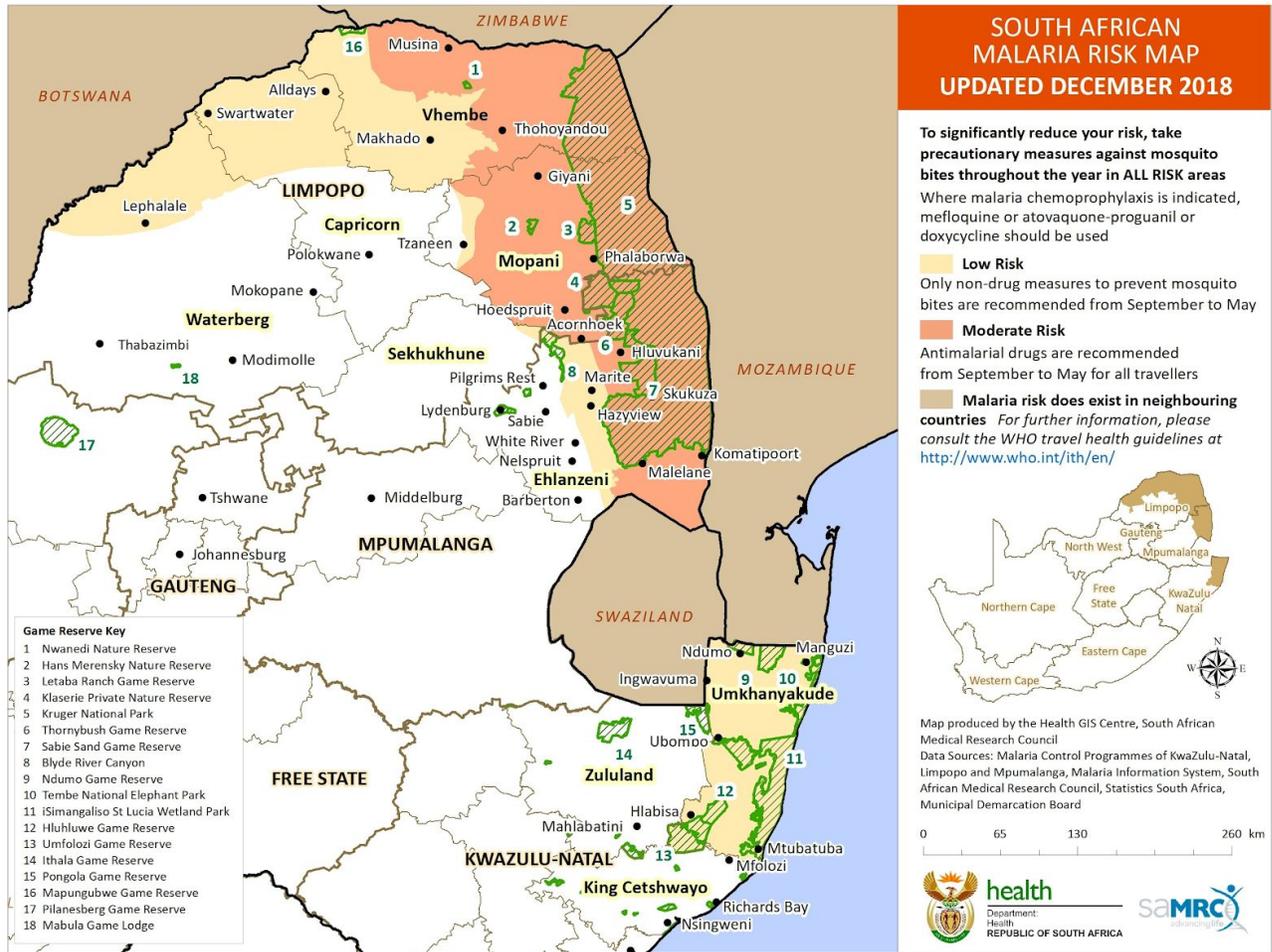
What to pack for visits to South African cities and surrounds :

The same general packing list will apply to the cities as they do on safaris. Hardly any restaurant will enforce a strict dress code and will always default to smart-casual, which means guests can get away with jeans and a shirt. If travelling on a multi destination itinerary we recommend packing at least one fairly smart-casual outfit along with your safari packing list, that will see you through all eventualities. Closed shoes for gentlemen are preferable in most restaurants in the cities, although mainly only in the fine dining establishments where a shirt would be expected. Note - Travellers on Rovos Rail will require a formal outfit for dinners

IMMUNIZATIONS & MALARIA

South Africa does not require any immunizations. If travelling from a country where yellow fever immunizations are required visitors will be required to produce a yellow fever inoculation certificate.

Malaria is present in certain regions of South Africa and it is advised, although not mandatory, to take antimalarials. The most recent malaria risk area map included below.



CURRENCY & CARD FRAUD

The Rand is the official currency of South Africa - sign R or code ZAR. Subdivided into 100 cents (sign c).

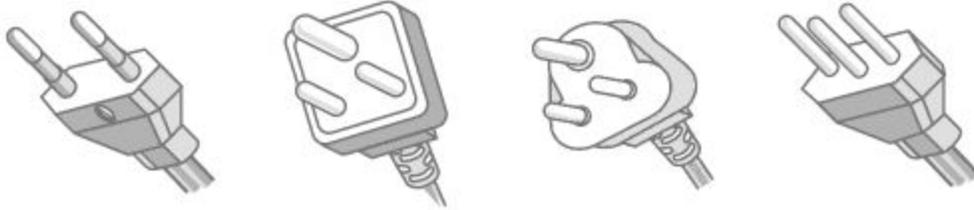
No other currency is accepted as tender in South Africa, although some lodges will accept US Dollars, Euros or GB Pounds as gratuities.

Credit cards and debit cards are accepted throughout most of South Africa. In more rural and remote areas, such as in game reserves, card machines rely on mobile network signal which is erratic. It is best to bring cash in small denominations to cover incidentals.

Opportunistic card skimming, card duplication and fraud is an issue - when paying for any goods or services always use a pin and always keep card in full sight. Insist upon a receipt.

When withdrawing from any ATM do not allow anyone to approach and offer assistance. Never let anyone see your pin or try to remove your card from the ATM.

POWER POINTS



For South Africa there are four associated plug types, types C, D, M and N. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins, plug type D is the plug which has three round pins in a triangular pattern and plug types M and N both have three round pins. South Africa operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are always at your discretion and are appreciated for good service. Gratuities are generally not included in any bill, however do always check your bill prior to paying as a handful of restaurants to levy a service charge for larger tables or during peak days. Below is a rough guide to tipping in South Africa, and shown as per couple :

Transfer or Uber	R10 to R20 depending on distance (around \$1 or €1)
Tour Guide	Half Day - R150 (around \$10 or €10) Full Day - R300 (around \$20 or €20)
Hotel or Lodge General Staff	R150 per day (around \$10 or €10)
Field Guide at Lodge	R300 per day (around \$20 or €20)
Tracker at Lodge	R150 per day (around \$10 or €10)
Gratuity at Restaurants or Bars	10-15% of total bill