



South African Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution because of the high level of serious crime. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. There is a threat of terrorism in South Africa. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners such as shopping centres. See [Safety and security](#). The Western Cape, including Cape Town, is experiencing severe drought and strict water restrictions are in place. More information: [City of Cape Town](#). The frequency of most types of crime is increasing. Robberies are frequently reported on the roads and at shopping centres. Visitors to shopping malls should remain vigilant at all times. Be cautious when using public transport. Avoid using minibus taxis due to safety and security concerns. Avoid large gatherings and demonstrations as they can quickly turn violent. See [Safety and Security](#).

Parents and guardians must carry, and produce on request, a full (unabridged) birth certificate as well as a valid travel document (passport) for children under the age of 18. There are additional conditions for minors travelling with only one parent or unaccompanied. See [Entry and exit](#). The rate of HIV/AIDS infection in South Africa is very high. Exercise precautions with activities exposing you to risk of infection. Victims of violent crime, including rape, should seek immediate medical assistance. See [Health](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in South Africa at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to South Africa. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to South Africa. Care with food and beverage selection is advised. There is a medium risk of malaria in South Africa and dengue fever also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Proof of yellow fever vaccination will be required when entering South Africa if coming from a country with a risk of yellow fever.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to South Africa should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

South African Representation in Australia

High Commission of South Africa, Canberra

Corner State Circle and Rhodes Place
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6272 7300
Fax: (02) 6273 1033

Web: www.sahc.org.au

South African Department of Home Affairs, South Africa

Web: www.home-affairs.gov.za



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Time differences between South Africa and Australia

South Africa is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called South Africa Standard Time (SAST).

South Africa, 12 noon, June = Perth 6pm; Adelaide, Darwin 7:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.
 South Africa, 12 noon, December = Perth 6pm; Darwin 7:30pm; Brisbane 8pm; Adelaide 8:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for South Africa: +27

To Dial Australia Call:
 00 (or 09) 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct: 0800 990 061

Travelex Card Services: 0800 990 517

Visa Global Assistance: 0800 990 475

MasterCard: 0800 990 418

American Express Travellers Cheques:
 0800 991 021

Tourist Boards:

Eastern Cape	(0)43 701 9600
Free State	(0)51 411 430
Gauteng	0860 4288 364
Northern Cape	(0)53 832 2657
North-West Province	0861 111 866

Emergency Services:

Ambulance	10177
Police	10111

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in South Africa

Australian High Commission, Pretoria

292 Orient Street Tel: (+27 12) 423 6000
 Arcadia Fax: (+27 12) 342 8442
 PRETORIA 0083

Web: www.southafrica.highcommission.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in South Africa are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in Pretoria or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for South Africa and Australia

Allowances when entering South Africa:

Alcohol: 1 L of spirits and other alcohol and 2 L of wine.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes and 20 cigars and 250 g of tobacco.
 Perfume: 50 ml of perfume and 250 ml of eau de toilette.
 Other Goods: Up to 5,000 Rand.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

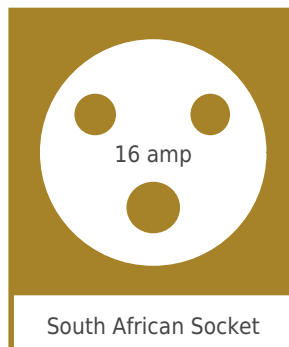
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting South Africa and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on South African customs visit www.sars.gov.za, or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket: South African (type M) socket is the most common. The Europlug (type N) socket is now the standard for new buildings.

Supply: 230 V, 50 Hz (similar to Australia).

A voltage converter will generally not be required to use appliances designed for Australia. A socket converter is usually all that is needed for these appliances.



South African Holidays 2018

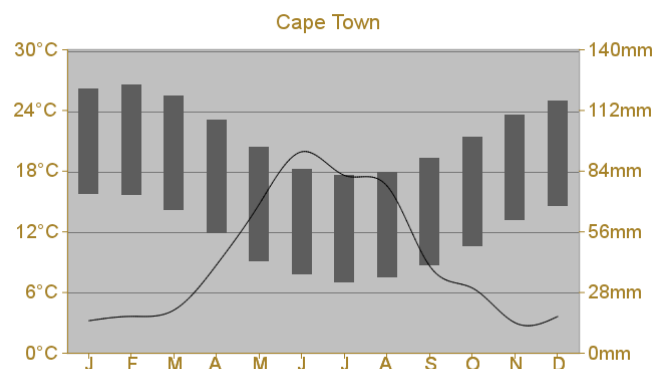
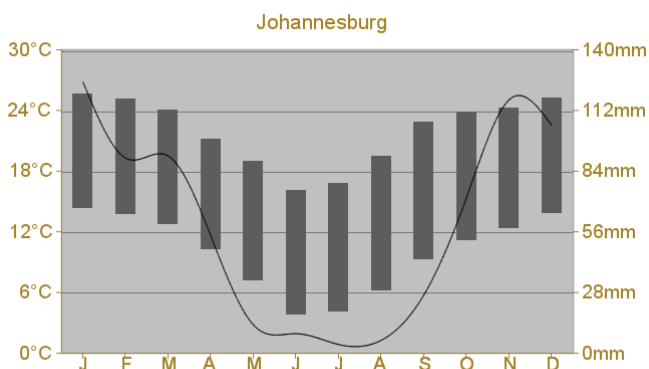
Public Holidays

01 Jan: New Year's Day	16 Jun: Youth Day
21 Mar: Human Rights Day	09 Aug: Women's Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	24 Sep: Heritage Day
02 Apr: Family Day	16/17 Dec: Day of Reconciliation
27 Apr: Freedom Day	25 Dec: Christmas Day
01 May: Workers Day	26 Dec: Day of Goodwill

School Terms

Term 1: 17 Jan - 28 Mar	Term 3: 17 Jul - 28 Sep
Term 2: 10 Apr - 22 Jun	Term 4: 09 Oct - 12 Dec

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in South Africa



For local forecasts please go to the South African Weather Service at www.weathersa.co.za.

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 10.26 South African Rand
 10 South African Rand (ZAR) = 0.97 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 9.86 South African Rand
 10 South African Rand (ZAR) will cost 1.01 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

R5	=	\$0.51 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		
R10	=	\$1.01 AUD	R100	=	\$10.14 AUD
R20	=	\$2.03 AUD	R200	=	\$20.28 AUD
R30	=	\$3.04 AUD	R300	=	\$30.41 AUD
R40	=	\$4.06 AUD	R400	=	\$40.55 AUD
R50	=	\$5.07 AUD	R500	=	\$50.69 AUD
R60	=	\$6.08 AUD	R600	=	\$60.83 AUD
R70	=	\$7.10 AUD	R700	=	\$70.96 AUD
R80	=	\$8.11 AUD	R800	=	\$81.10 AUD
R90	=	\$9.12 AUD	R900	=	\$91.24 AUD
					R1,000 = \$101.38 AUD
					R2,000 = \$202.75 AUD
					R3,000 = \$304.13 AUD
					R4,000 = \$405.51 AUD
					R5,000 = \$506.89 AUD
					R6,000 = \$608.26 AUD
					R7,000 = \$709.64 AUD
					R8,000 = \$811.02 AUD
					R9,000 = \$912.40 AUD
					R10,000 = \$1,013.77 AUD

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of South Africa is the Rand (plural Rand), which is abbreviated using the symbol R. The subunit of the Rand is the cent. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About South Africa

Size: 1,219,090 sq km (10% smaller than the NT).

Population: 52 million (double the size of Australia).
 Johannesburg 9 mil.; Cape Town 3.6 mil.; Durban 3 mil.; Pretoria 2 mil.; Port Elizabeth 1.2 mil.; Vereeniging 1.2 mil.; Bloemfontein 0.5 mil.

Ethnicity: Black 80%, white 8%, coloured 9%, Indian 2.5%.

Religion: Zionist Christian 11%, Pentecostal 8.2%, Dutch Reformed 7%, Catholic 7%, other Christian 47%.

Language: There are 11 official languages in South Africa, but most people speak conversant English.

GDP Per Capita: US\$12,700 (Australia US\$46,600).

Significant Dates:
 Pre 400AD- Indigenous San peoples live in the area for millennia.
 400-1600 - Bantu peoples from central Africa including the Zulu and Xhosa begin to settle in southern Africa.
 1652 - Dutch settlers found Cape Colony to supply shipping.
 1806 - Cape Colony is ceded to the British. Many Dutch farmers (Boers) trek inland to found new republics.
 1879 - The British prevail in the Anglo-Zulu War.
 1899-1902 - Second Anglo-Boer War. Boer republics of Orange Free State and Transvaal become British colonies.
 1910 - Colonies are joined to form the Union of South Africa.
 1948 - Policy of apartheid (separateness) is introduced.
 1964-90 - Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment.
 1990-94 - Apartheid is repealed. Mandela becomes president.

