



# GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA

## Destination

South Africa is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Africa, as it offers truly magnificent views and has an abundance of activities to enjoy. This Southern African country is rich with culture and traditions; with every citizen having a unique heritage, culture and story to tell. The combination of the beauty of the landscape and friendly nature of locals makes South Africa a truly inspiring and exciting country to explore. Since the 17th century and the arrival of its very first settlers, South Africa has been claimed to be one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. Undoubtedly, South Africa's main attractions are its beautiful mountain and coastal views and magnificent national parks.

## Language and Religion

South Africa has 11 official languages, Zulu is the most widely spoken, followed by Xhosa, Afrikaans, and English.

Christianity is the most widely practiced religion with nearly 80% of the population identifying as Christian. Islam, Hinduism, and indigenous beliefs contribute to the remaining 20%.

## Entry and Visa Requirements

Most nationalities, including Australian, UK, USA and Canadian passport holders, do not require a visa to visit South Africa for up to 90 days. Please note that visas are the responsibility of the traveller and Dive Adventure will not be held responsible for guests being denied entry should they not be in the possession of the relevant visas.

## Medical and Health Requirements

Malaria prophylactics are required. Please note that Larium may not be taken when planning to scuba dive. Please inform your doctor that you will be diving so that he/she can prescribe an anti-malarial that is suitable. Please check with your physician for the best precautions to be taken. (For further details contact Travel Vax on (1300 360 164).

## Yellow Fever

A valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required for all passengers, arriving in or transiting through South Africa from a yellow fever endemic country or region, as listed by the World Health Organization (WHO). [www.sahc.org.au/yellow-fever.htm](http://www.sahc.org.au/yellow-fever.htm)

## Banking

Most of the major South African cities do have credit card facilities available, however they may charge you a surcharge to use the facility. ATM / Debit cards are a good way to withdraw local currency on arrival in a new country. This may not always be possible but it is an option in most cases. Cards should have a chip and pin.

## SNAPSHOT



We suggest that you pack a variety of clothing to suit different temperatures. As we travel through the country temperatures will often change and it is best to be prepared. Evenings can become cool and wind and rain are common.



Water temp 17°C - 25°C.  
5 - 7mm wetsuit recommended.



Diving Season: All year round



1 AUD = approximately 10 South African Rand



2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)



International Dialling Code: + 27



200 cigarettes and 50 cigars, 250g of cigarette or pipe tobacco, 50ml perfume, 250ml eau de toilette. 2 litres of wine.



230 volts, The Type M plug has three round pins in a triangular pattern. 



Water used for drinking and brushing teeth should first be boiled or sterilised.  
(bottled water recommended)

Information updated June 2018

## Tipping

Tipping is standard practice in South Africa, be prepared to tip 10% - 15% in restaurants, cafés and bars. If you are travelling as part of a group tour, we recommend anything from R25 to R30 per person, per day, per guide as a fair tip.

## Shopping | Bargaining

Bargaining is commonplace throughout Africa, especially for souvenirs and curios sold in markets, medinas, bazaars, and souks. There's a fine line between paying too much and getting ripped off and paying too little and insulting or short-changing the seller. Finding that line is half the fun, but a good place to start is to halve the first asking price and start haggling from there.



# GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA

## Climate

South Africa has typical weather for the Southern Hemisphere with the coldest days in June – August. On the central plateau, which includes Johannesburg and Kruger National park, the altitude keeps the average temperatures below 40°C. In winter temperatures can drop below freezing, also due to altitude. During winter it is warmest in the coastal regions, especially on the eastern Indian Ocean side from Durban, north to the Mozambican border.

South Africa is a sunny country, averaging 8-10 daily sunshine hours in most regions. The average annual rainfall for South Africa is 450ml but large and unpredictable variations are common. For most of the country, rain falls mainly in the summer months with brief afternoon thunderstorms. Each season has its benefits, and as such, there is no bad time to visit South Africa. The optimum time to visit depends on where you're going and what you want to do while you're there. Generally speaking, game-viewing at parks like the Kruger is best during the dry season (May - September), when animals are forced to congregate around water sources.

## AVERAGE LAND TEMPERATURES

City	Summer (January)		Winter (July)	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
Cape Town	26c	16c	18c	7c
Durban	28c	21c	23c	11c
Johannesburg	26c	15c	20c	4c
Kruger	33c	21c	26c	6c

## BEST TIME OF YEAR FOR SPECIES

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Whites (Cape Town)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hammerheads (Protea Banks)	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
Tiger Sharks (Protea/Aliwal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Whale Sharks (Mafia Island)	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Oceanic Black Tips (Aliwal Shoal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 Gilled Cow Sharks (Cape Town)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sardine Run (Coffee Bay)						✓	✓					
Humpback Whales					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Bull Sharks (Protea Banks)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Raggies (Protea/Aliwal)						✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cape Fur Seal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mako Shark	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Blue Shark	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
<b>BEST TIME TO DIVE AREAS</b>												
Zanzibar		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Sodwana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mozambique - Tofo	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mafia Island - Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protea Banks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Aliwal Shoal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓