Discovering *South Africa*

A land of unending contrasts, peppered with incredible natural wonders, deep rooted cultures, and some of the most impressive wildlife experiences on the planet, whether you visit for a safari, a cultural tour or to explore one of the world's largest waterfalls, you'll discover that there really is nowhere quite like Africa.

Activity Level
Moderate

South Africa, located at the southern tip of the African continent, is a land of diverse landscapes, cultures, and experiences. From Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain which watches over the city to the wildlife-rich Kruger National Park, South Africa offers a blend of natural beauty and urban vibrancy.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the country's history at sites like Robben Island and the poignant Apartheid Museum, relax on the pristine beaches of the Garden Route or lose themselves in the world-famous Winelands, loved for their superb scenery, sun-drenched vineyards and – of course – some of the best wines in the world. With a rich tapestry of traditions, languages, and cuisines, South Africa is a melting pot of diversity waiting to be explored.

Game Drives: Passengers must be able to board the safari vehicle independently.

Victoria Falls: Victoria Falls is not suitable for anyone with walking or mobility difficulties.

Rovos Rail & Royal Livingstone Express: Rovos Rail and Royal Livingstone Express are not suitable for those with walking difficulties, wheelchairs passengers must be able to board trains independently.

David Livingstone Hotel: This hotel is not suitable for people with walking difficulties as all rooms are on stilts or only accessible via open wooden stairs.

Pilanesberg Hotels / Lodges: Guests are entitled to game drives during their stay. They will be able to take the PM drive on day of arrival (dependant on arrival time), and both AM and PM the following day. Guests will NOT be able to take the AM drive on day of departure, as they will miss their transfer. Game drives are booked locally in resort at the hotel's reservation desk. Guests must be able to get themselves on & off the jeep independently.

During your stay at the safari lodge, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy an open-air BBQ dinner, also known as a Boma or Bush Braai, where you can experience authentic African culture and cuisine. These tribal dining experiences take place in traditional bomas that have been adapted for the comfort of guests. This experience takes place on specific nights only. Please confirm your attendance with reception or your Imagine representative in resort.

Visa Process

South Africa: Visa requirements depend on nationality. AUS, NZ, UK, US & EU nationals don't require a visa for stays up to 90 days (tourism/ business).

Travel Declaration: All travellers must complete an online goods/ currency declaration at least 24 hours before arrival via the SARS Customs Online Traveller Declaration Portal. This can also be done on arrival, but advance declaration speeds up processing.

Botswana: Guests travelling to Botswana for an overnight stay do not require a visa. Instead, you will need to obtain a single-entry visa for 55 USD or a double-entry visa for 70 USD, granting you entry to and exit from both Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls Airport (VFA) is in Zimbabwe. If you are travelling via here to or from Zambia you will require a KAZA Univisa, which can be purchased on arrival at the airport/border crossing, where cash is preferred (USD, GBP, EUR, ZAR). The KAZA Univisa costs 50 USD and enables you to travel between Zambia and Zimbabwe multiple times for up to 30 days.

Please note: If flying into Victoria Falls Airport (VFA), online arrival registration must be completed at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Visit https://evisa.gov.zw/app/index.html#/sign-in and indicate KAZA as your visa type — this is checked against your passport on arrival.

If you are flying into Livingstone Airport (LVI), you do not need to follow this process.

The climate in South Africa varies depending on the location and time of travel.



Average Summer	Average Winter
15-25°C	4-16°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
25-40°C	9-24°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
25-35°C	Around 20°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
25-35°C	Around 20°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
25-30°C	Around 8°C

Gratuities

Tipping is customary in South Africa. In restaurants, it is common to tip around 10-15% of the total bill if a service charge is not included.

Currency

South African Rand (ZAR)

Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in most urban areas in South Africa, including Visa and MasterCard. However, it's advisable to inform your bank of your travel plans to avoid any issues with card transactions. Some establishments, especially in remote areas, may not accept credit cards so it's wise to carry cash as a backup.



Cultural Norms

People: Respect for elders is important in South African culture.

It's also customary to greet people with a handshake and maintain eye contact during conversations.

Crime: South Africa, like any country, has areas with higher crime rates. Be cautious, especially in urban areas, and avoid displaying valuable items in public. Keep your belongings secure and be aware of your surroundings.

Plug Sockets

South Africa uses type D, M, and N plug sockets with a standard voltage of 230V and a frequency of 50Hz. It's recommended to bring a universal adapter if your devices are not compatible with these plug types.

Emergency

Police: Dial 10111 (landline or mobile)

Fire: 10177 (landline), 107 (mobile)

Ambulance: 10177 (landline), 112 (mobile)

Check in Process

Please be advised that upon check-in at hotels within South Africa, it is mandatory to present a valid form of identification, so it's useful to have these readily available.

Check in is usually from 3pm local time.



Dining

Standards of hygeine are reasonably high, especially in city hotels, restaurants and bars.

Tap water is generally safe to drink, but if you are in doubt then stick to bottled water.

Not all tap water in rural areas is safe to drink, so take precautions if necessary. It is predominantely considered safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables, salad, meat and fish.

Hygiene and Health:

Low-altitude regions including parts of Mpumalanga Province and Kruger National Park, are considered malaria-risk areas. Non-malaria areas include the Northern, Eastern, and Western Cape, as well as Pilanesberg.

Malaria: If you're visiting certain areas, especially during the rainy season, consider taking anti-malarial medication and using insect repellent.

Vaccinations: It's advisable to be up to date on routine vaccinations like measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and to get vaccinated against hepatitis A and typhoid.

What to pack

Essentials:
Passport & Visa: Ensure you have your passport, visa, and any necessary travel documents.
Travel Insurance: Ensure it covers medical emergenices
Money: Cash (especially small denominations) and credit/debit cards. ATMs are widely available.
Health Kit: Any prescription medications, over-the-counter medicines (Ensure that you travel with these in your hand luggage)

Clothing:
Lightweight clothing, a hat, sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes. Dress in layers as weather may change during the day.

Personal Items:
Toiletries: Basic items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and any specific personal items you use.
Sunscreen & Sunglasses: Protection from the strong sun is crucial.
Insect Repellent: Especially important in rural or tropical areas.

Electronics:
Adapter/Converter: South Africa uses a variety of plug types and voltages, so an adapter is essential. Phone & Charger: With a local SIM card, you can have better connectivity and avoid high roaming charges.
Camera: To capture your travels (with extra memory cards and batteries).

Other Useful Items:
Small Backpack/Daypack: For day trips and carrying essentials.
Hand Sanitiser: For cleanliness on the go.



