



# SOUTH AFRICA

destination **FACTSHEET**  
SERVICE LEARNING

330 Congress Street  
Suite 5  
Boston, MA 02210  
[www.acis.com](http://www.acis.com)

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## TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW

1

South Africa is known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', boasts 11 official languages, and its inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures.

2

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, and 10c. Most banks offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travelers' cheques.

3

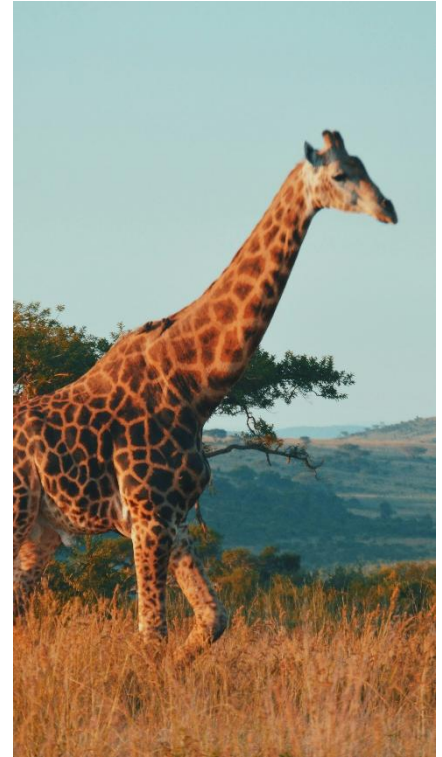
Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

4

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centers and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

5

The Big Five South African animals are the lion, elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros, and leopard.



## ACIS TRIP SERVICES

### Rooming

Rooming is based on double occupancy. When possible, we may utilize a triple room to help avoid placing a student in a single room.

### Meals

Breakfast and Dinner will be included unless otherwise stated on your itinerary. Lunch may be included on some days; check your itinerary for further details.

### Tour Manager

Upon arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking tour manager who will accompany you throughout the tour. If the tour begins in a Tour Manager's hometown, he/she may go home for the night rather than staying with the group at their hotel. In that case, the Tour Manager will stay with the group until they are ready for bed and then return first thing in the morning for breakfast, leaving contact numbers should he/she be needed for an emergency during the night. Please know there may be different tour managers for Johannesburg and the safari portion of your trip.



## GENERAL INFORMATION / TIPS

<p><b>Flights</b></p> 	<p>There is not a direct flight to South Africa, it is typically an overnight flight, and you will arrive in the evening.</p> <p>When flying home, it will not be a direct flight, it will be an overnight flight where you will arrive the next day in the afternoon.</p>
<p><b>Passport Requirements</b></p> 	<p>A visa is not required for a United States citizen traveling to South Africa on business, tourism or studies unless they expect to stay in South Africa for more than 90 days. Travel requirements are a Valid US Passport (passport must be valid 6 months after travel is completed) and a return ticket.</p> <p>If the traveler is not a US citizen, the South African consulate must be contacted for Visa information.</p> <p><b>Prior to departure: Travelers are recommended to complete a travel declaration form online. Please use link to see required information you will need to complete the declaration form and the link to the online form.</b>  <a href="https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/">https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/</a></p>
<p><b>Parental Consent (if necessary)</b></p> 	<p>Parental consent is required for NON-NATIVE South Africans under 18 who are traveling without a parent or legal guardian.</p> <p><b>Please use this link to complete the Parental Consent form:</b>  <a href="https://www.dha.gov.za/files/Parental-Consent-Letter_Suggested-Format_v8.pdf">https://www.dha.gov.za/files/Parental-Consent-Letter_Suggested-Format_v8.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Time Difference</b></p> 	<p>South Africa is six hours ahead of the Eastern Time Zone.</p>
<p><b>Luggage Restrictions</b></p> 	<p>Porterage for 2 reasonable pieces of luggage per person at the airport.</p>
<p><b>Tipping</b></p> 	<p>Pre-paid tipping per person per day will be listed on your account to cover the tour manager, local bus and guides.</p>
<p><b>Electrical outlets</b></p> 	<p>Electrical sockets in South Africa usually supply electricity at 230 volts AC / 50 Hz frequency. If you're plugging in an appliance built for 230-volt electrical input, or an appliance compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. A voltage converter will be necessary if your appliance isn't compatible with 230 volts.</p>



## WHAT TO PACK

South African temperatures, average at highs of 83°F to average lows of 46°F in the summer months, while winter temperatures range from 34°F at night to around 65°F during the day. Average annual rainfall is on the low side at under 500mm a year, making the country somewhat dry. Much of the rain falls in the Western Cape in the winter, differing from the rest of the country, which experiences summer rainfall. On the plus side, the South African climate boasts more than its fair share of sunshine, recording an average of 8.5 hours a day. So, depending on the time of year you are traveling to South Africa, it is best to pack accordingly. Here is a list of suggestions below:



- ✓ **Basic Medical Supplies**
- ✓ **Toiletries**
- ✓ **Insect Repellent** (with DEET)
- ✓ **Binoculars** (to view the wildlife)
- ✓ **Beach towel**
- ✓ **Bathing suit**
- ✓ **Plastic Bags** (for wet and dirty clothes)
- ✓ **Raingear/Umbrella**
- ✓ **Clothing:** It is recommended to bring lightweight, comfortable clothing and shoes, as well as warm clothes for visits to reserves (morning and evening safaris) or water excursions, even in summer
- ✓ **Wear neutral colors:** Khaki, light brown, green, and tan. White clothes will show up dust and dirt. Bright-colored clothing such as red makes you very conspicuous to the wildlife, especially on a walking safari.
- ✓ **Dress casually:** Safari only requires casual clothing unless specified.
- ✓ **Cover at night:** Long sleeves and pants will help you stay warm and avoid mosquito bites.
- ✓ **Be comfortable:** Clothing should consist of non-synthetic material. Cotton is ideal.
- ✓ **Dress in layers:** Zip-off sleeves and lots of pockets are a plus. Bring a jacket and scarf along on game drives as temperatures drop quickly once the sun goes down in the evening.
- ✓ **Sun Protection:** Sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses are recommended.
- ✓ Raingear/Umbrella
- ✓ **Don't over-pack:** Choose lightweight clothing options whenever possible since packing space is at a premium.



## HEALTHCARE

Visit a local travel doctor or your primary care physician with your itinerary to get the best personalized medical advice on any vaccinations or special medication needed for the program.

In the event of a medical emergency where medical expenses and/or insurance is involved, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts according to the type of insurance purchased will apply. For information on vaccinations needed in each country, we recommend you consult <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

### Medical Expenses

In the event of a medical emergency where expenses are involved, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts per the type of insurance purchased.

330 Congress Street, Suite 5, Boston, MA 02210



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Should you have any issues at all during your trip, please call ACIS and we will rectify the problem immediately.** It is vital that you notify us as soon as you experience a problem as we can resolve issues very quickly on the spot before it adversely affects your trip.

ACIS Emergency Number: 617-450-5678



## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Climate

When planning your trip to South Africa, it's important to understand the country's seasons and average temperatures. Winter typically lasts from June to August, followed by spring from September to November, summer from December to February, and fall from March to May. Summers can be quite hot and are also the wettest months of the year. While winters are generally mild, temperatures can drop significantly, particularly in regions like the Drakensberg, so be sure to pack accordingly. Most of South Africa experiences rainfall during the summer, but Cape Town is an exception, receiving most of its rain in the winter months. If you're visiting Cape Town between June and August, it's a good idea to bring rain gear.

Below is a list of average temperatures of each month, so when you plan your trip, you can expect what temperatures you will experience.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Mean maximum (°F)	86.4	84.4	82.4	77.9	73.4	68.7	70.0	75.9	83.1	84.9	85.1	85.6	88.5

<b>Mean daily minimum (°F)</b>	58.5	57.4	55.6	50.5	45.0	39.4	39.4	43.2	48.7	52.2	54.9	57.0	50.2
<b>Mean minimum (°F)</b>	51.8	50.5	47.3	40.5	34.9	28.6	28.6	30.9	35.2	40.5	45.1	49.1	26.4

## Fun Facts

- ✓ The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, and 10c.
- ✓ Known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', boasts 11 official languages, and its inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures.
  - The languages are Afrikaans, English, IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Northern Sotho, Sesotho, Setswana, SiSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga
- ✓ Johannesburg is one of Africa's largest and most vibrant cities. It is the economic capital of Africa and the gateway to Southern Africa
- ✓ Kruger National Park is one of the largest game reserves that stretches over more than two million hectares that is home to over 130 mammals and over 500 bird species.
- ✓ South Africa has three capitals, and they are Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Pretoria.
- ✓ 1994, South Africa held its first democratic elections, which marked the end of apartheid and the beginning of a new era of democracy under Nelson Mandela's presidency.
- ✓ The South African Flag was first used in 1994. Here is a picture of the flag.



## Brief History of Safari

South Africa is home to some of the world's most famous safaris, offering diverse wildlife experiences in stunning natural settings. The history of South African Safari can be traced back to the colonial period. The concept of Safari has its roots in the exploration of Africa by Europeans, particularly during the 19th century. Safari originated from the Swahili word "safar," meaning journey or expedition. During the 19th century, South Africa was a popular spot for European hunters and explorers that wanted to see what the continent's wilderness and abundant wildlife had to offer. As more people came to hunt, concerns grew about losing too many animals. So, they started making rules to protect the wildlife. They set up special areas called game reserves where animals could live safely. The shift from hunting animals to viewing safaris in South Africa began gradually over time. People's perspectives changed when they saw a growing interest in observing animals in their natural habitats. By the mid to late 20th century, the safaris in South Africa started to transition out of hunting and shifted to focus on preserving animals to view their natural habitat.

One of South Africa's most famous game reserves is Kruger National Park, that stretches over 7,500 miles. It was first established in 1898 It spans across the provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo in northeastern South Africa, bordering Zimbabwe to the north and Mozambique to the east. It is home to over 130 mammals, including the big five which are the lion, elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros, and leopard, along with numerous other mammal species, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Kruger National Park has diverse landscapes ranging from savannahs and grasslands to dense woodlands and riverine forests. When visiting, you may experience a variety of safari experiences, including guided game drives, bush walks, and self-drive routes. This is a must see when visiting South Africa!