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## Investigating travel to **South Africa** – General Travel Information

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### Seasons & When to Go

- ✓ **Spring** is September – October
- ✓ **Summer** is November – March
- ✓ **Fall** is April – May
- ✓ **Winter** is June - August



**Welcome**

A good time of the year to visit the Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West Province, Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Karoo (the whole country except the southern Cape), is from May to October. The air is dry and warm; there are fewer tourists (lower prices) and game viewing at its best: sparse vegetation lets you see the animals better and low water levels coerce them out to congregate and drink at larger waterholes and lakes.

From mid-August to mid-September spectacular carpets of wild flowers bloom in the Western Cape colouring vast swathes of ground, particularly around Namaqualand.

Spring sees the arrival of migrating Southern Right Whales along the Cape coast. They are usually around from July to October and can be seen right from the shore or even better, from a boat.

If you missed out on Namaqualand's flowers, try to catch Pretoria's jacaranda blossoms instead. Purple tree-lined streets abound in the capital from October to November, and they do a fine job of brightening suburbia in Jo'burg at this time too.

From December through to February, summer brings hot and humid weather to most parts of the country. With it come rain, the occasional thunderstorm and patches of mist on the mountains. The coast along the Garden Route is best enjoyed now and it is probably the only season that taking a dip in the cold (really, really cold) waters around Cape Town is a reasonable proposition. KwaZulu Natal's coast line, on the other hand, offers amazing, warm & tropical swimming opportunities ...

There is only one place in the world where Great White Sharks are known to breach out of the water, and that's in False Bay around Seal Island. This phenomenon happens for a brief period in late August.

Bear in mind that South Africans are on holiday for much of their summer (generally from Christmas through to the end January), so you'd be very well advised to book accommodation and car hire well before you arrive. [E-Mail](#) LifeChanging Holiday in time to assist you or visit our [website](#) for [Self-Plan](#) options...

South African Weather line: 082-162

### Passport & Visa Requirements

Every person seeking to enter South Africa must be in possession of a valid passport and where necessary, a visa (with a few exemptions). Visitors who intend travelling to South Africa's neighbouring countries and back into South Africa are advised to apply for multiple entry visas.

Tourists must satisfy immigration officers that they have the means to support themselves during their stay and that they are in possession of return air tickets. They must also have valid international health certificates.

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Please make sure that you have at least TWO EMPTY PAGES (which lie side by side) in your passport before travelling to South Africa. Your passport should remain valid for a period of 6 months after your departure from South Africa.

Very important: For the LATEST passport & visa requirements & applications, please contact your nearest South African Embassy in your own country.

### **Malaria Risk Areas**

The risk of contracting the disease is negligible provided that you take the standard precautions. Malaria tablets, a good insect repellent (particularly in the evening), long-sleeved shirts and mosquito coils are advisable precautions. Most of South Africa is considered a very low risk area, with the exception of areas such as the Kruger National Park, Northern KwaZulu Natal, etc. When planning to visit South Africa, always enquire (from your accommodation providers) about Malaria; if it is necessary to take prophylactics. Please don't let malaria keep you from enjoying a safari in Africa! If however, this is a big concern for you, remember: There are several malaria-free game reserves in South Africa to choose from, e.g.: Addo Elephant, KwanDwe, Shamwari, Welgevonden and Madikwe are to name but a few.

### **Security and Safety**

South Africa is a developing country and crime does exist. Most parts can be safely visited, provided you take some basic commonsense precautions:

- Not walking alone in deserted areas at night
- Valuables should be carried discreetly when walking in cities. Be careful not to "flash" photographic equipment, jewellery or wallets
- Lock cars at all times (even when driving), avoid parking in remote areas and do not leave any 'inviting' items in view
- Be cautious and ensure that you have total privacy when drawing money from ATM machines
- If your accommodation provider has a safe in your room, use it to secure valuables, passports, cameras, etc.
- If driving, do not pick up hitch-hikers.

To give you even more peace of mind, consider buying Travel Insurance from LifeChanging Holidays. [Click here](#) for more info...

### **Language(-s) spoken**

South Africa has 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda and Zulu. Don't worry! ☺ English is spoken ALMOST everywhere, with the exception of some rural areas.

### **Car Rental**

- For more info on Car Rental, [click here](#)
- For more info on renting Campervans, Campers, Motorhomes, Motorvans, RV's & 4x4's , [click here](#)
- For more info on Airport Transfers, [click here](#)

### **Flying in South Africa**

You can choose between the following low cost domestic airlines: 1Time & Kulula.com. For more information & to compare rates, [click here](#)

### Planning your own holiday

Don't try and do too much. It is the most common way to spoil your own holiday. South Africa is a huge country and you cannot expect to see too much of it on one trip. Don't over-extend yourself. Stay for at least two nights (at 1 accommodation provider) and make sure that you aren't spending your hard-earned holiday, admiring the dashboard of your hire car most of the time.

Also remember that some towns are very far apart. Try to spend max 2 hours (from one destination to the next) on the road; this is  $\pm$  250km.

LifeChanging Holidays has built a one-stop-shop for all your holiday planning needs. You can compare rates – all on 1 website. WE CHARGE NO FEE FOR THIS SERVICE! ☺ For more info, [click here](#)



# SOUTH AFRICA

