

Investigating travel to **South Africa** - Why South Africa?



"I believe that South Africa is the most beautiful place on earth. Admittedly, I am biased, but when you combine the natural beauty of South Africa with the friendliness and cultural diversity of our people, and the fact that the region is a haven for Africa's most splendid wildlife, then I think even the most scrupulous critic would agree that we have been blessed with a truly wonderful land. I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to come and see for yourself the splendour of South Africa. I know that my people will be delighted to welcome you and I think you will be enchanted by their warmth and hospitality. I am equally sure that you will enjoy our culture, our cuisine and the warmth of our people". - Nelson Mandela - President of South Africa, 1994 – 1999

15 More reasons to visit South Africa (SA)...

1. SA host the world's greatest variety of flower-bulbs and has 23 000 different plant species; the richest territory in the world in terms of species to area. The Cape Floral Kingdom is by far the world's smallest (0.04% of earth's surface) but also the richest (8 600 species) in flora. 5 800 of the species are endemic to the region.
2. 10% (more than 900) of the world's bird species are found in SA.
3. SA has more kinds of wild animals than North and South America, or Europe and Asia, together.
4. With this in mind: The African elephant is the biggest land based mammal on earth. The giraffe is the tallest animal on earth. The cheetah is the fastest land based mammal in the world. The eland is the biggest antelope in the world. The ostrich is the biggest bird in the world. The kori-bustard is the heaviest flying bird in the world. The world's smallest mammal, a shrew the size of a human fingertip, is also found in SA.



5. A true cultural experience: Population groups include the majority Nguni (incl. Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi); Sotho-Tswana; Tsonga; Venda; Afrikaners; English; Coloureds; Indians; Khoi and San; and immigrants from Africa, Europe and Asia. SA has 11 official languages, including English...
6. SA has been voted the best African travel destination by the Dutch, who send on average 120,000 visitors to South Africa every month.

7. SA's tap water is potable and of the safest and cleanest in the world. In hotels, guesthouses and restaurants, the standards of hygiene and food preparation are generally top-notch. It is safe to eat fresh fruit and salads and to put as much ice as you like in your drinks....
8. SA offer High Service Standard with World Class Hotels, Lodges, Boutique Hotels and Guest Houses. There is so much to choose from. For HAND-PICKED accommodation, [click here...](#)
9. SA's Coastal Management Policy is one of the best in the world with the country being the first outside Europe to gain Blue Flag status for its coastal management.
10. There are great international flight connections with minimal time difference from Europe. No jet-lag! ☺
11. SA has an amazing climate and has sunshine all year round - ideal for holiday makers with lots to offer: Tour Cape Town, or join the safaris around the Kruger National Park, or just enjoy the country's fabulous diverse scenery and cultures ... LifeChanging Holidays also highly recommends going off the beaten track and visit SA's most amazing country sides. [E-mail us](#) to help you plan an amazing LifeChanging Holiday...
12. South African Infrastructure is ideal and makes self drive trips ideal e.g. Exploring the [Garden Route](#). Many people imagine, not unreasonably, that the [Garden Route](#) is a bit like a wine route where you can go from garden to garden, smelling roses and admiring pergolas and rockeries. Not so. The [Garden Route](#) is so named for its lushness and greenery. The area is covered in forests and rivers which spill into the sea. Truly inspirational...
13. The Western Cape boasts beautiful Wine Regions with the biggest wine cellar in the world, the KWV in Paarl near Cape Town. This cellar covers an area of 24 ha and can store 121 million liters of wine.
14. SA is the eighth choicest place to visit in the world – iExplore
15. Cape Town (situated in the Western Cape) is known as one of the most beautiful cities of the world. It is also voted...
 - ✓ *TripAdvisor* Traveller's Choice best destination 2011
 - ✓ One of the World's Top 20 Cities - *Condé Nast Traveller* Readers' Travel Awards September 2010
 - ✓ Africa's Leading Destination – *World Travel Awards* 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2005, 2003
 - ✓ One of the World's Top 25 Places to Visit – *Trip Advisor* 2010 awards
 - ✓ One of the World's Most Beautiful Cities – *Forbes.com* February 2010
 - ✓ Best destination – *Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards* 2009
 - ✓ Second favourite overseas city – *Guardian*, UK
 - ✓ World's Number Two City – *Travel+Leisure* magazine July 2009
 - ✓ World's Best Entertainment/Lifestyle Destination – *Luxury Travel Awards* April 2009
 - ✓ 3rd Best City In The World – *US Travel And Leisure* July 2008
 - ✓ Best City In Africa & Middle East – *US Travel And Leisure* July 2008
 - ✓ 4th Top City In The World – *Condemast Readers' Choice* October 2008
 - ✓ 3rd Best City In The Top 10 World Food Cities – *Lonely Planet Blue List* 2008
 - ✓ Best Destination, Africa - *World Travel Awards* May 2008
 - ✓ One Of The "Places Of A Lifetime" – *National Geographic Traveller*, July 2008
 - ✓ Boulder's Beach: World's Best Family Beach - *UK Telegraph* March 2007
 - ✓ #1 UK Long Haul Destination – *UK Trends And Spends Survey* 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007
 - ✓ Favourite Foreign City – *UK Telegraph* 2004, 2005



"I have such a deep affection for South Africa because of the spirit of the people. It is the land that most stimulates and inspires me. It's like no place I've ever been." – Oprah Winfrey