



## GENERAL TRAVEL GUIDELINES



### SOUTH AFRICA

Area: 471,400 square miles

Population: 53,000,000 million approx.

Capitals: Pretoria, Cape Town, Bloemfontein

Country Tel Code: +27

Language: official languages are English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Southern Sotho, Tswana, Northern Sotho, Venda, Tsonga, Swati, Ndebele, and South African English.

### PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS:

A passport is required to enter South Africa. The passport must be valid for at least six months after the intended date of departure from South Africa and have at least two blank pages. U.S. citizen visitors to South Africa do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days for tourism, short business meetings, or in transit.

There are special requirements for minors traveling through South African ports of entry. Where both parents are traveling accompanied by one or more of their children, such children must be in possession of valid passports as well as an unabridged birth certificate. Abbreviated versions are not accepted.

More information may be found on [www.home-affairs.gov.za](http://www.home-affairs.gov.za).

### HEALTH:

The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, recommends that the

traveler takes precautionary measure against various diseases. In addition, some countries require certain inoculations, if you have passed through an infected area. Since requirements and recommendations do change and can be affected by your personal medical history, you should contact your physician, local Health Department, the CDC or a travel clinic in your area. Advise them of your exact itinerary and discuss the appropriate health precautions. As receiving inoculations overseas can result in unnecessary health risks, the CDC recommends that you have all inoculations before you leave home. You can contact CDC through any one of the following services:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL TRAVELERS' INFORMATION LINE

(404) 639-3311 (877) 394-8747 (888) 232-3299 [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

Inoculations that are currently advised for South Africa:

Vaccinations for cholera and smallpox are not required, but travellers from a yellow fever zone must have a valid certificate.

Malaria: Regions where Malaria is found include Limpopo, Mpumalanga and north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal. It is important to consult your doctor for advice on the best drug or drug combination to take. Take precautions in the early evenings and at night; wearing long trousers and sleeves with a liberal application of repellent will usually do the trick. The incubation period for the malarial parasite is 12 – 14 days so the time to watch for symptoms is often after you return home. It is important to get treatment very quickly if you've contracted malaria so if you develop flu-like symptoms you should have a quick and simple blood test without delay.

Avoid wearing perfume or after-shave lotion.

The bilharzia parasite is present in streams, rivers, lakes and dams in some of the northern and eastern parts of the country, and visitors should therefore avoid contact with the water in these regions. The Eastern Cape, like most of the country, is bilharzia-free.

Medical treatment and hospital fees must be paid direct. Special travel insurance is recommended. Most hotels have a list of doctors, whose names may also be found in the medical section of telephone directories.

**BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS:**

Light aircraft transfers will vary depending on the charter company used. Please consult with your agent on what the requirements are for your trip.

- Bags must be **soft** on all sides similar to that of a duffel bag. No cases with hard sides are allowed.
- **Maximum** check in luggage weight allowed is 20kg/44lbs
- Carry-on luggage is restricted to one piece weighing a **maximum** of 5kg/11lbs
- Suggested luggage size is 40cm/16 inches wide x 30cm/12 inches high x 60cm/24 inches long
- Should your luggage be unsuitable for the above requirements, you will be asked to repack your luggage into one of the soft bags available at Federal Airlines at an additional cost.
- Should your luggage exceed our limitations, **we do provide a complimentary luggage storage facility** offered on a return flight basis. Excess luggage remains the responsibility of the affected passenger at all times.
- Oversized bags **cannot** be carried on your lap as unsecured objects inside the cabin are hazardous to your safety.
- If you wish accommodate extra luggage ahead of time, please book and pay for an additional seat in advance as this may not be an option on the date of your flight without a pre-booking. This extra seat will allow you an additional 60kg (132lbs) of luggage and is subject to the above specifications.
- Complimentary excess luggage storage facilities are offered on a return flight basis at both O R Tambo and Kruger Mpumalanga International Airports.

#### PACKING TIPS:

Clothing - The weather in Southern Africa is generally pleasant throughout the year, warm to hot days, and cool to warm nights, summer (September to April) being the hotter months. During our winter months, however (May to August), it can get really cold at night and in the early morning, particularly when on safari, so we would like to suggest that you pack accordingly.

Bright colors and white are not recommended for safari wear. While game viewing, beige, khaki, and other neutral colors are most practical. Evening dress is casual. Long pants and long sleeves are suggested for early morning and after sundown due to mosquitoes. Sweater or Jacket for cool mornings and evenings. Closed shoes are recommended when out in the bush.

Please find herewith a list of suggested items which should be used as a guideline whilst planning your trip.

- Sun hat/bush hat
- Headscarf/bandana – particularly for dusty dry regions.
- Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with sleeves to protect your shoulders from the sun.
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts.
- Shorts and/or skirts – really short skirts are not practical for getting in and out of game drive vehicles.
- Long trousers/slacks.
- Track suit.

- Pajamas – lightweight for summer and warm/thermal for winter.
- Socks – thermal options are recommended for the winter months.
- Good closed walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine).
- Sandals – preferably low heeled or flat if you are going on safari.
- Swimsuit
- Lightweight jersey or fleece in summer.
- Light rain gear or jacket for summer months.
- Warm jersey or fleece plus anorak or parka in winter.
- Additionally, a scarf, gloves and beanies/woolen hats for the cold winter months.
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels or on one of the luxury trains.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

- Good quality sunglasses, UV protected, preferably polarized. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light.
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust.
- If you wear prescription glasses, bring a spare pair
- Flashlight or head lamp
- Southern African bird guide if you are a keen birder, e.g., Newman's or Sasol.
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities are supplied by most establishments).
- Malaria tablets (if applicable).
- Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from any allergies.
- Anti-nausea tablets if you suffer from motion sickness.
- Moisturizing cream and suntan lotion – SPF 30 or higher recommended.
- Lip balm.
- Insect repellent for body application, e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream and antihistamine cream, etc.)
- Tissues/Wet Wipes.
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance details, etc.
- Camera equipment including spare batteries, chargers, film, flash cards, memory sticks, etc.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera.
- We highly recommend that you bring your own pair of binoculars for viewing both wildlife and birds. The recommended general purpose binocular specifications are 8x40 or 10x42.

We suggest you leave your good jewelry at home, except, of course, jewelry you normally wear at all times. If you do bring very good jewelry, it is strongly suggested that you make use of safe deposit boxes at each hotel/camp which are generally offered free of charge. Holden Safaris cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Check with your insurance company before departure to assure that any valuables you decide to bring are properly insured.

## CURRENCY:

The currency unit is the rand, denoted by the symbol R. R1 = 100 cents. South Africa has recently introduced new notes and coins, but the old currency is still in circulation. Currently, \$1.00 USD is equal to approximately 13 Rand – ZAR. Major Credit Cards are widely accepted in South Africa. ATM's are widespread in major towns. We recommend some sort of back-up funds in case an ATM is out of service when you need it.

Call your credit card company and your bank and advise them of your travel plans. Authorization usually needs to be obtained for larger purchases and this is sometimes difficult. Visa is the easiest card to use, followed by MasterCard and American Express.

## TIPPING:

In South Africa it is customary to tip as a way of expressing gratitude. In restaurants, 10% of the bill usually applies. Restaurants do not usually include the tip in the bill. Taxi drivers should also receive 10% of the amount charged. R10.00 per bag is generally given to porters.

Below is a general guideline, however this is just a guideline - tipping is at your discretion:

Tipping is not compulsory and is for the discretion of each person. The following is a brief guideline to assist you:

Hotel Staff (housekeeping, etc.) US \$2 per day per person

Porterage US \$1 per person per movement

Trackers US \$5 per guest per day

Camp, Game Lodge and Specialist Guides US \$10 per guest per day

Butler US \$8 per guest per day

Transfer US \$2 per person

Full day Tour Guide US \$10 per person

The General Safari Camp / Lodge Staff US \$10 per person per day

(This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally among all the staff at a later stage.)

Restaurants / Hotels 10% is customary on meal accounts

## INSURANCE:

Medical insurance and preferably one that includes air evacuation should be regarded as a pre-requisite for any safari holiday.

## PHOTOGRAPHY:

This is a photographer's paradise. If taking photographs of local people, always ask their

permission beforehand. They may ask for payment. As in most countries, do not take photographs in airports or airport buildings, military or police buildings and of uniformed personnel.

If you are traveling with digital photographic and/or video equipment, ensure you have the specific charging apparatus for each piece of equipment (as well as the appropriate socket plug adaptor and voltage converter if required).

Ensure you have enough memory cards before you head off for the bush – people usually end up taking more pictures than they thought they would!

#### ELECTRICITY:

The standard voltage is 220-240 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. Adaptor plugs should be brought for razors and hair dryers.

PLEASE NOTE: Some camps have limited or no electricity. Candles and hurricane lamps may be provided.

#### SECURITY:

South Africa is no different from any other destination in the world. Common sense should prevail and precautions should be taken as in any major city. Use hotel and lodge safety deposit boxes where possible. If walking in towns or cities only carry small amounts of cash and do not wear obvious jewelry or display expensive possessions.