



TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Parents or guardians traveling with children under the age of 18 typically requires documentation beyond a passport. Read on for the specific requirements for each country. Do note entry requirements are subject to change; always check with the nearest embassy or representative should you have specific concerns. Also see Page 5 for a Consent Letter Form you can use.

South Africa Entry Requirements For Traveling with Children

Only a passport is needed for children under 18 years of age to enter South Africa, if they are traveling with both parents and are travelling on a visa-exempted passport. (Most of SA's major source markets are visa exempted, including USA, UK and most of Europe.) More information may be found here: [The latest advisory from Home Affairs South Africa](#)

However, for South Africa, should a minor child be accompanied by only ONE parent, or if the child is traveling with a person who is not his/her biological parent, the following documentation will be required:

- Valid passport
- Reason for the absence of the other parent

- Copy of a birth certificate/equivalent document
- Parental consent letter
- Copy of the passport / identity document of the absent parent
- Contact details of the absent parent

PLUS, where applicable *

- *Copy of an adoption order
- *Copy of a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights /legal guardianship in respect of the child.
- *Copy of a death certificate of the deceased parent

Supporting documents are not required where children are in direct transit at an international airport.

Children in possession of valid South African visas are not required to produce the documents already submitted as part of their visa applications when travelling through a port of entry of the Republic. (Applies only to children holding non-visa exempted passports.) A child presenting a passport which contains the details of his or her parent or parents is not required to produce a birth certificate/equivalent document.

If you are unsure of any of the procedures, click [here](#) for the latest notices from South African Home Affairs.

Zimbabwe and/or Zambia Entry Requirements for Traveling with Children

Requirements for traveling with children may depend on the visitors' countries of origin. Parents of children under the age of 18 years may be required to produce the following documentation (certified copies may be accepted, or original documents

together with non-certified copies are accepted) when entering or leaving the borders of Zimbabwe and/or Zambia:

Both parents traveling with children

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.

One parent traveling with children.

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit signed by the parent or who is not travelling authorizing the parent who is travelling with each child to do so, together with a certified copy of the non-travelling parent's passport or identity document and contact details.
- If the parent travelling with each child has been granted full parental rights and responsibilities or is the legal guardian of each child, they must provide a certified copy of the court order granting them those rights.
- If one parent or legal guardian is deceased, the parent or legal guardian travelling must provide a certified copy of the death certificate.

An adult traveling with children who are not their biological children.

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit from each child's parents or legal guardians confirming that they have permission to travel with each child.

- Certified copies of the identity documents or passports of each child's parents or legal guardians.
- Certified proof of the contact details of each child's parents or legal guardians.

Please note:

- As indicated, all supporting documents required should be certified copies.
- Parental consent documents must be issued within six months before the date of travel.
- Families travelling with children under the age of 18 years may be restricted from entering and/or departing from Zimbabwe and/or Zambia without the above-mentioned documentation.
- The above-mentioned documentation must be available when visiting neighboring countries when travelling with minors, where the point of entry and/or exit is Zimbabwe and/or Zambia.
- It is recommended that should the documentation not be in English; an English version is obtained.

Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique Entry Requirements (with Children)

Children 18 and under who enter these countries are required to present an original or certified copy of a full birth certificate. Extracts or copies are not acceptable. If **not** traveling with both parents, additional documentation is required. Please check with the nearest embassy or representative for specifics.

Malawi Entry Requirements for Traveling with Children

If a minor is traveling to Malawi with or without a guardian, they will need to carry a birth certificate (original or certified copy), passport, a consent letter and/or proof of legal guardianship (if traveling with a non-parent).

MINOR (CHILD) TRAVEL CONSENT

I. THE PARENT(S).

I/We, _____, am/are the lawful custodial parent(s) and/or non-custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of:

II. THE MINOR.

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Place of Birth: _____

Passport Number (if applicable): _____

- Country of Issuance: _____
- Date Issuance: ____/____/____
- Date of Expiration: ____/____/____

III. TRAVELING ALONE/ACCOMPANYING PERSON. (check one)

- I authorize my child to travel **alone**.

- I authorize my child to travel **with the following individual/organization**:

- Individual/Organization Name: _____
- Relationship to Child (if applicable): _____
- U.S. or Foreign Passport Number (if applicable): _____
 - Country of Issuance: _____
 - Date Issuance: ____/____/____
 - Date of Expiration: ____/____/____

IV. ITINERARY.

I authorize my child to travel to the following location _____ during the period beginning on ____/____/____, and ending on ____/____/____.

V. SIGNATURE(S).

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Name: _____

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Name: _____