



This information is provided by Africa Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at [www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net) and <https://www.africaanswers.com/destinations/south-africa>

While Africa Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

## ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

US passport holders will be granted an entry permit free of charge on arrival in South Africa.

Parents travelling with children under 19 years of age may be asked to show the child's unabridged (full) birth certificate, and where only one parent is accompanying, parental or legal consent for the child to travel (e.g. an affidavit from the other parent, a court order or, if applicable, a death certificate). Parents should travel with these documents in case asked to provide them. There are further requirements for children travelling unaccompanied or with adults who are not their parents; for more information on this, contact the South African Embassy at 3051 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008. Telephone (202) 232-4400 or (202) 390-5930. Africa Answers is not responsible for expenses incurred by travelers who are denied boarding for lack of this documentation.

## VACCINATIONS, ANTI-MALARIALS AND MEDICATION

All travelers to South Africa should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary, personal health profile and current policies in the destination.

South Africa is a low- to no- risk Malaria destination, however malaria is present in some parts of South Africa, especially from September to May. Although malaria medication is not *required* for entry to South Africa, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving directly from the US into South Africa.

Travelers entering South Africa from countries where yellow fever is present, including but not limited to, Zambia and Kenya, *must* have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the waiver reason. Airport transit travelers are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations.

## BAGGAGE

Airlines in South Africa routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to the airline's restrictions.

## **TIPPING**

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get \$1.50 per bag carried each way. City restaurant and bar servers should be tipped 15% - 20%. Airport transfer drivers at \$3 - 10 per person per transfer, depending on distance. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a tracker *and* a guide, the tracker should receive \$5 per person per day.

## **MONEY**

The currency of South Africa is the Rand. ATMs are readily available and accept major debit cards. Rand can also be obtained at airport currency concessions. Some restaurants and shops in tourist areas may accept payment in USD.

When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

During the game drive, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

*Always* use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Africa uses 240 volt electric current. Outlets are round 3 pin, 15 amp plugs (type M) or 2 pin (type C). Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

## **POTABLE WATER**

Tap water in urban areas of South Africa is generally safe to drink. Bottled water is provided by most hotels and lodges at a modest cost. Safari vehicles also carry drinking water for your refillable flask.

## **DRIVING**

In South Africa one drives on the left hand side of the road. An international drivers license is not required if your driver's license is in English with a photograph. Most gas stations are open 24 hours a day, but may require cash. Gas stations are not self service; a tip of R5 is recommended.

