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# SOUTH AFRICA





# WILDLIFE AND SAFARI



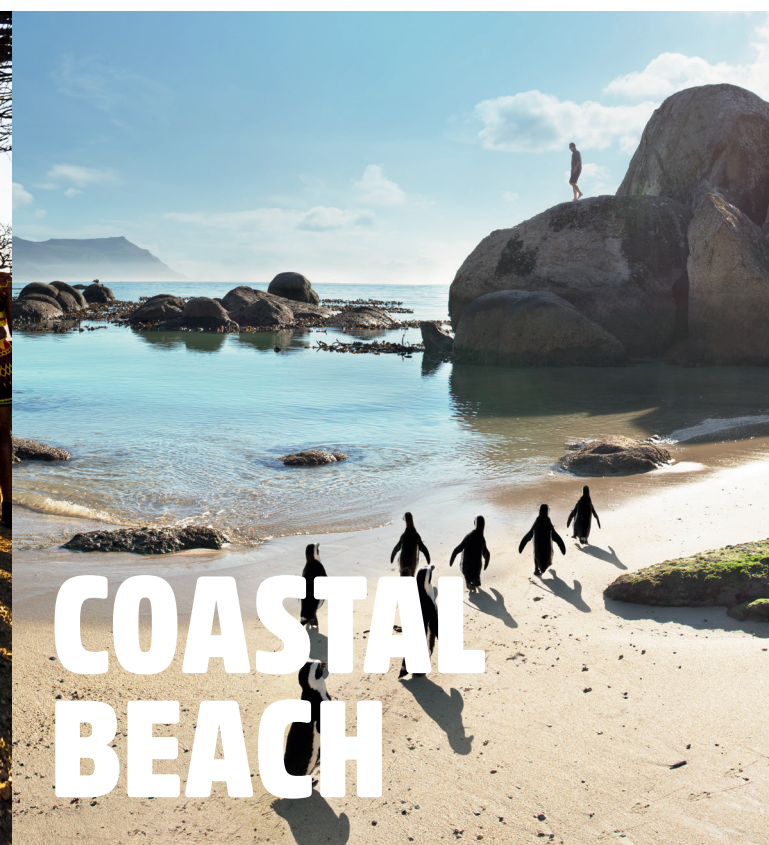
# ACTIVE ADVENTURE



# CITY LIFESTYLE



# CULTURAL ROOTS



# COASTAL BEACH



# SCENIC OUTDOORS

Experience an untouched world of perfect hushed silences and raw wildlife moments

Here in the South African wilderness, you begin your journey into the soul of Africa. It's one that engages all your senses from the very first moment, sparked to life when you first hear the distant roar of a lion, the laugh of a hyena in the night, or the song of thousands of cicada beetles at midday. Then experience the heightening of these senses when you first spot a rare leopard hidden in a tree, or feel the ground vibrate as a herd of giant elephants cross right in front of you.

With the ever-present sun shining on your face, (or on the brim of your safari hat) the South African wild is yours to explore. Leave your trip in the hands of a friendly game ranger, an expert on absolutely everything there is to know about the wild, who'll charm, intrigue and leave your head spinning with the facts and fascinating myths of the world you're entering. Start the day the way nature intended, at the crack of dawn, to see the wild residents emerge for a drink from the busy waterhole as the sun begins to rise over the iconic bushveld scenery. Then with your trusty guide by your side, track a herd of buffaloes as they amble along the great open expanses. And after a day of never-to-be-forgotten sights and safari moments, it's time to return to the warmest embrace of luxury lodges and some of the friendliest hosts around. When you've eaten enough for a family of elephants and shared all your favourite stories of the day, it's finally time to drop into bed and be lulled to sleep by the sounds of the bush.

Whatever experience you're after, South Africa has accommodation for any budget - from luxury lodges to camping under a million stars. And it's not just classic bushveld safari like you know it; our wildlife experiences spread through lush forests, wetlands, beaches, rivers and deserts. Choose from guided game-vehicle tours, to relaxing walks, horseback and river safaris or take it all in from the air as you fly over the landscape in a hot air balloon.

You'll soon feel that this world moves at its own speed, and to witness it and be part of it is something you won't forget. Coming this close to nature is a vivid reminder of why we have always been inspired by the untouched wild.

Free the adventurous spirit within. Come play!

Stepping up to the edge of the world's highest bridge bungee jump, your heart hammers in your chest as your eyes widen at the site of the valley way down below. Then, you go for it! You push forward from the bridge, dropping down at what feels like a million miles an hour, into the gorge beneath you. The wind roaring in your ears, your heart pounding even more now than ever, and all your senses are electrified. You are flying free. Then with a tug, you're swinging back up towards the sky, catching your breath as you get ready to experience it all over again on the next plunge. You'll never feel more alive than this. It's like walking a couple of inches taller than everybody else on the planet, and you're never looking back. This is what adventure tourism in South Africa does to you. It's these feelings that come with every experience that stick with you forever. The awesome people you meet along the way or who share the thrill with you make these memories even sweeter.

If you want to tick some items off the bucket list, this is the place to do it. Take on your first shark-cage diving experience, and stare straight into the eyes of a majestic Great White shark. Try adventuring along South Africa's famous rivers, in white-knuckled rafting experiences, cruising gently in some places before simply roaring past the riverbanks in a frenzy of white-water adrenaline. These are no everyday moments.

Then prepare to have your mind boggled by thousands of migrating sardines, followed closely by hungry dolphins and other fish, during the world-famous Sardine Run. Or get the hiking boots on and head out on the popular and challenging Otter, dolphin or Tsitsikama Falls hiking trails, or climb to the top of Table Mountain to see thousands of indigenous plant species and a view of Cape Town that will stay with you forever.

Whatever your pleasure, South Africa is an endless outdoor playground that will make you feel alive and free. From skydiving to quad biking, hot air ballooning to windsurfing, treetop zip lining or sailing along the coastline - there's no shortage of raw adventures and "wow" moments surrounded by some of the world's most beautiful scenery.

Meet the Rainbow Nation in buzzing cities bursting with colour and life

While the frenetic energy of a big city always commands attention, an African city like Johannesburg does more than that - it takes you by the hand and leads you into the heart of a place that constantly surprises, invigorates and charms, where the unexpected becomes the reality.

South Africa's City of Gold is where you'll feel true urban energy packed with local colour, flavour and soul. Hang out with the trendiest locals at street-side cafes, overlooked by contemporary apartment blocks, or get the taste buds revved up and ready to try everything you can see or smell at weekend food markets, aroma-filled coffee shops or some of the finest restaurants on the continent that are dotted throughout the city. There's always something happening on the streets, among Jozi's high-rise buildings. Join genuinely fun and friendly urban South Africans for a cocktail on packed rooftop bars, or meet them at art galleries and spaces brimming with culture and expression. This is a place like no other, where you can create some of your most vivid memories while making a whole lot of new friends.

Just a short flight away, there's Cape Town, one of the world's favourite cities, a place so beautiful, one picture is enough to sell it to anyone. In this stunning city, the locals almost outshine the sights and their famous mountain, with a reputation to keep you smiling, chatting and dancing throughout your stay. Don't miss the chance to take in some jazz at the city's acclaimed international festivals, and prepare to be mesmerised by local musicians and the rhythms that define this city. Then sneak away for a picnic, or an unforgettable open-air concert at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, the most peaceful setting imaginable, hidden against the slopes of Table Mountain.

And city life doesn't stop there; this country has plenty more remarkable cities to explore, like Durban on the semi-tropical east coast, where beachlife lives in perfect harmony with an energetic modern city, or feel perfectly at home in the historic coastal city of Port Elizabeth, known as the "Friendly City" to us.

Every South African city has its own unique story to tell, and the best people to tell those stories are the locals themselves. So, let them be your guide to all the hot spots, dance spots, taste experiences and best-kept secrets around the cities they call home.

Take a journey of discovery from the roots of all humanity to a human story that inspired the world

It was here that the world's human story first began, a staggering four million years ago. Today a World Heritage Site, South Africa's Cradle of Humankind stands as humbling evidence of the earliest origin of modern humans, who lived and evolved here at the tip of the continent before spreading to the rest of the world. This is where it all started, and we can't wait to welcome you home.

The spirit of ancient Africa can still be seen today at the site of the lost Iron Age Kingdom of Mapungubwe, an advanced civilisation famous for its gold, which was traded as far as Asia hundreds of years ago. That spirit lives on in culture, tradition and myths, none more fascinating than the Limpopo province's Rain Queen Modjadji who still rules today.

Journey back to a time of war in KwaZulu-Natal, and walk the haunting battlefields where the mighty Zulu Kingdom fought under the reign of the warrior King Shaka Zulu. Then meet the proud Zulu culture of today at one of many cultural villages, and be charmed by their famous animal prints, art, food and traditions passed down over centuries. Of course, you can't leave South Africa without immersing yourself in the inspiring story of Nelson Mandela. Follow his footsteps from humble beginnings at Mvezo in the Eastern Cape to his former home in Soweto and on to the tiny prison cell on Robben Island where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison.

While South Africa embodies our most ancient roots, we have evolved into an amazing mix of modern cultures. Share in the truly South African urban and rural settings that celebrate our diversity and way of life, like buzzing urban markets, famous townships like Soweto, cosmopolitan bars filled with contemporary beats and good times, theatres, jazz clubs and traditional restaurants to mention a few. Diversity is South Africa's proud legacy, and you are invited to become part of the celebration of all nations and cultures by meeting and sharing a South African-style handshake and more than a few memories with those who call this place home.

To be in South Africa is to feel part of a story that goes back to the start of our shared humanity, the first chapter of our story and everyone else's, and to be welcomed back "home" not as a traveller, but as a friend.

Free your imagination and let the waves lift your soul, all along our sun-soaked coast

There's nothing more amazing than getting right up close to a hundred dancing and diving dolphins, their splashes speckling your camera lens with water. Nothing stops time like the explosion of sound and feeling of pure awe as a Southern Right whale breaches the blue ocean just meters away from you. No moment is more dreamlike than standing in frozen silence, witnessing baby loggerhead turtles hatch in the moonlight and make their awkward way to the ocean for the very first time. These are the moments that make South Africa special. And there are plenty more of them to be witnessed and experienced along our 2700km of coastline.

It's more than just the place where the cool Atlantic and warm Indian Oceans meet. It's where the folklore of fishing communities is as charming and real today as it ever was; where perfect beaches lure you into staying all day and the freshest flavours of the sea are piled onto your plate at seaside restaurants or right there on the sand, while the smell of the ocean fills your lungs.

Explore South Africa's natural wetlands where fauna and vegetation range from thickets and woodlands to marshes, forests and reed: home to hippo, crocodiles, black rhino, thousands of fish and bird species that go on with life just like they have for thousands of years. Be a welcomed guest in their world, go hiking along famous trails, crossing secret beaches, jumping over hidden rock pools and stopping to watch ocean sunsets with only the waves for company.

Come experience beach days that feel like they should never end and the finest beach-side hotels to spoil you when they eventually do. South Africa's sun-soaked coast lies ready, all-year round, to share its secrets, adventures and lazy days with you.

See where breathtaking nature stretches out in every direction to horizons that never end

Among mountains that look like they've been painted on the horizon and wide open panoramas that run further than your eyes can see, an elastic thread of tarmac transports you through a country that shifts and changes right before your eyes. From some of the world's most ancient landscapes like the awe-inspiring plains of the lonely Karoo to the Limpopo bushveld and the incredible Tsitsikamma Forest, secluded beaches or the valleys of some of the most beautiful winelands you will ever see, you can't help but feel you are somewhere special.

Let us introduce you to our places of wonder that make us swell with pride and take our breaths away again and again. Come stand at the top of the mesmerising Blyde River Canyon and feel your eyes try in vain to take in every inch of this enormous artwork of nature. Crane your neck up to see the mind-blowing peaks of the Drakensberg Mountains rising above you like gigantic castle towers and explore the world's largest collection of ancient San Rock Art preserved on their rock faces and hidden caves. And, if you stick around for the cool winter months you might get to see these famous mountains capped in pure white snow. From here, follow the path of their foothills into the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and get lost in a world of artists' villages, cool streams, farms dotted with plump cattle and friendly guesthouses all enriched with African culture and locals who absolutely love sharing their beautiful part of the country.

Every day in scenic South Africa ends with a horizon to look out on. Whether you enjoy it with friends, welcoming locals or just by yourself as you contemplate the world going by, it's sure to create the kinds of memories that will stay with you forever.

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# SOUTH AFRICA HANDY FACTS

## OUR COUNTRY

We have a population of 52.98 million beautiful, warm and friendly people.

We have 11 official languages- Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, Sepedi (officially Sesotho sa Leboa), Sesotho, siSwati, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

South Africa offers multiple tourist experiences within close proximity to one another.

Experience an untouched world of perfect hushed silence and raw wildlife moments; free the adventurous spirit within; meet the Rainbow Nation in buzzing cities; take a journey of discovery from the roots of all humanity; free your imagination, and let the waves lift your soul or just see where breathtaking nature stretches out in every direction. We have it all!

## TIME

South Africa is in the GMT +2 time zone (UTC+2), which is the same as Athens, Bucharest, Cairo, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Harare and Helsinki. We are six hours ahead of New York; six hours behind Beijing, eight hours behind Sydney and just an hour ahead of London.

The country does not apply daylight saving, so it's relative time remains constant.

The South African work week runs from Monday to Friday, typically from 8:30 to 17:00. Generally retailers operate until 17:00 on Saturdays and 15:00 on Sundays.

## OUR WEATHER

Our weather is great!

Generally warm, dry and sunny. Daytime winter temperatures average around 18° and 28°. The Western Cape has dry summers and wet winters. KwaZulu-Natal is subtropical on the coast and can be very hot, as can Mpumalanga and the Kruger National Park.

The interior is hot with spectacular thunderstorms in summer and is dry, frosty and sunny in winter.

## MAKING SENSE OF CENTS

Our currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. Notes come in R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200 denominations and coins are issued in R1, R2, R5 and 5,10, 20 and 50 cent denominations. R10 can buy you a can of coke, R20 a cappuccino, R50 a sandwich and smoothie, and R100 a gourmet pizza.

Some foreign exchange outlets stay open until 19:00 and the large cities have ATMs that exchange foreign

currency. Visa and MasterCard are acceptable everywhere and credit cards are essential for car hire. ATMs are open 24 hours a day.

We have a levy of 14% value-added tax (VAT). Overseas visitors taking purchases home can claim the VAT on these items if their value exceeds R250, so remember to ask for a tax invoice when you're doing your shopping.

## PLUGGING IN

The electricity supply is 200/230 volts AD 50HZ except in Pretoria (230V) and Port Elizabeth (200/250V).

Most plugs are three or two pin and adaptors can be purchased. US appliances may need a transformer. Most hotel rooms have 100 volt outlets for electric shavers and appliances.

South Africa has an average internet connection speed of 3.4Mbps. Many restaurants, hotels, libraries and shopping malls have Wi-Fi accessibility. The cost of 1GB of prepaid mobile data ranges from R99 to R160 depending on the service provider.