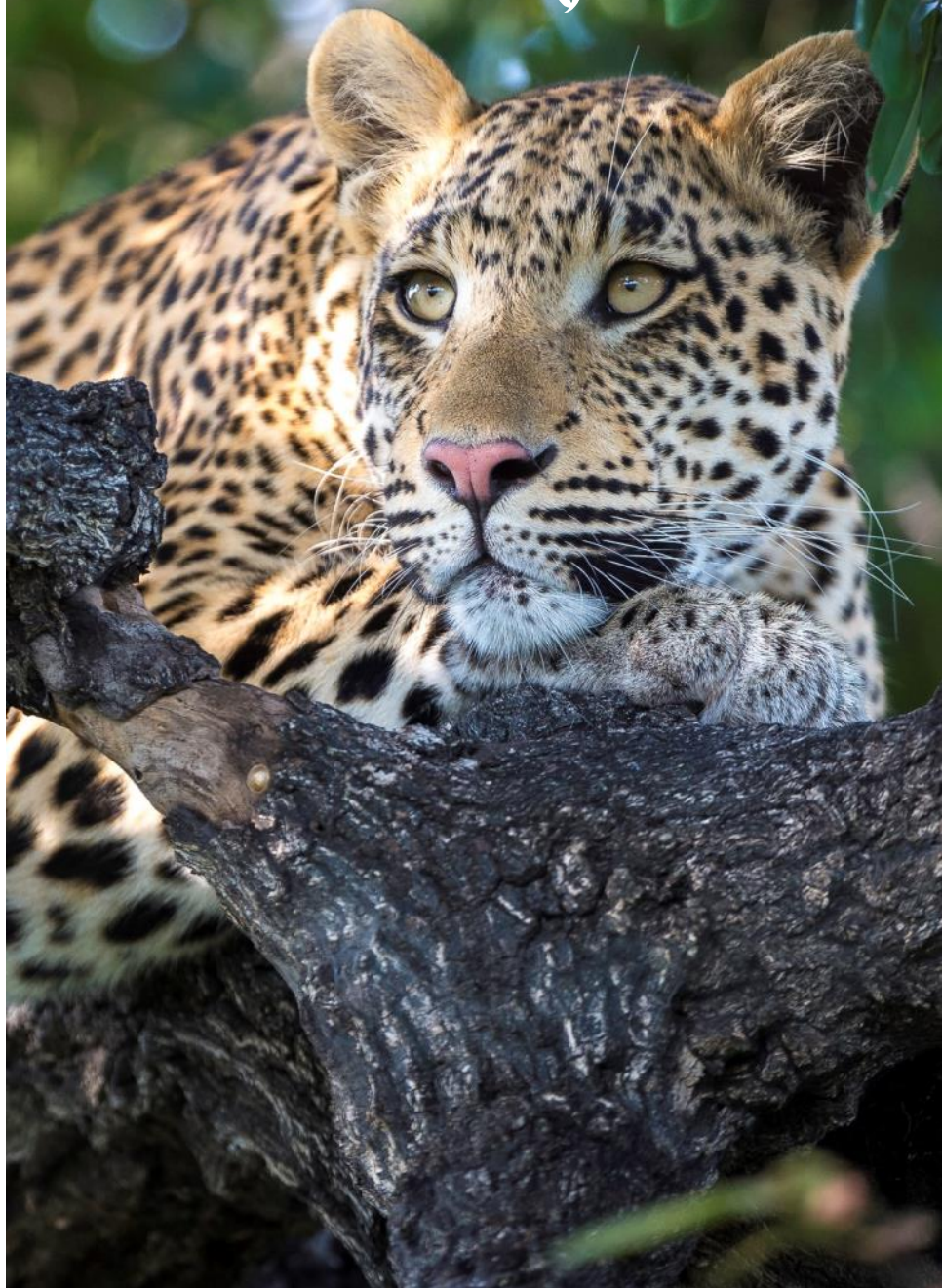


South Africa



South Africa

South Africa is an exciting place to visit. Cape Town, with its vibrant nightlife, stylish people and beautiful surroundings, has become one of the most desirable destinations in the world. And the country's natural attractions are as appealing as ever: the green vineyards and rocky coast of the Cape; the arid landscape of the Karoo; the rich farmlands of the Free State and Mpumalanga; the snow capped peaks of the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg range; and the verdant hills and wide beaches of KwaZulu-Natal. The country also has more than 300 game and nature reserves, along with some of the finest lodges on the continent. Your surroundings can be as wild or as genteel as you want—or both.

VISAS

A free tourist visa is issued upon arrival for US passport holders traveling to South Africa. Please refer to your Pre-Travel Checklist and itinerary for details. If you are not a US passport holder your entry requirements may vary; please contact your local government office for entry requirements.

CURRENCY

The rand (sign: R; code ZAR) is the currency of South Africa. In cities and large towns, ATMs often are the best option for obtaining local currency at the most favorable rate of exchange.

BANKS

Most banks are open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 3:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 11:00am. The following banks offer foreign exchange services: First National, Nedbank, Standard Bank, and ABSA. Various teller machines (ATMs) are found in every large town. Several international banks have branches in the main cities.

VAT

When visiting South Africa, foreign tourists can have sales tax (known as Value Added Tax – VAT) refunded at a port of exit

provided the value of each invoice for goods purchased exceeds ZAR50.00 and the total value of all items purchased exceeds ZAR250.00. To qualify, visitors must be in possession of a valid passport, valid tax invoices and must produce the goods purchased. Goods are also not to be utilized/consumed while in South Africa and must be in original packaging.

PERSONAL SAFETY

It's sensible to take the same precautions in major cities as you would in any of the world's metropolitan areas. Never leave luggage unattended. Deposit your valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box. Always lock your car doors when self driving and keep the windows closed. Do not walk around the city looking like a tourist and keep your camera concealed. Do not walk around with large amounts of cash. At safari lodges/camps, listen to the camp staff and guides. Safety precautions need to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to.

LANGUAGE

South Africa has eleven official languages. Most South Africans can speak more than one language.

RECOMMENDED READING

- * *Signs of the Wild: A Field Guide to the Spoor & Signs of the Mammals of Southern Africa* – Clive Walker
- * *Long Walk to Freedom* – Nelson Mandela
- * *Mandela: In Celebration of a Great Life* - Charlene Smith
- * *Scramble for Africa* - Thomas Pakenham
- * *Frommer's South Africa (Frommer's Complete)* - Pippa de Bruyn
- * *This is South Africa* - Peter Borchert
- * *Pocket Guide to Night Skies of Southern Africa* - Peter Mack
- * *The Life and Times of Thabo Mbeki* - Adrian Hadland
- * *Vanishing Cultures of South Africa* - Peter Magubane
- * *Behaviour Guide to African Mammals* – Richard D. Estes
- * *Complete Book of Southern African Mammals* - Gus Mills
- * *Newman's Birds of Southern Africa* – Kenneth Newman

JUST FOR FUN

- * South Africa's flag is the only flag in the world that has six colors with no emblems or insignia; and the national anthem is the only one with five languages.
- * South African English contains several unexpected idioms. For example, when South Africans say they will do something "just now," it means they will do it later. "Now now" means right away.
- * South Africans tend to affectionately abbreviate the names of their cities. As such, Durban is known locally as Durbs, Port Elizabeth as P.E., Pietermaritzburg as 'maritzburg and Jeffrey's Bay as J Bay. Johannesburg, which has long been known as Jo'burg or Joeys, has acquired the more African-style moniker of Jozi.
- * The South African Rand takes its name from Witwatersrand (White-waters-ridge in English), the ridge upon which Johannesburg was built and where most of South Africa's gold deposits were found.

South Africa													*Average lows and highs	
Temp.		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
JNB	°F	59/79	57/77	55/75	52/72	46/66	41/61	41/61	45/66	48/72	54/75	55/77	57/77	
CPT	°F	61/79	59/79	57/77	54/73	50/68	46/64	45/63	45/64	46/66	50/70	55/75	59/77	
DBN	°F	70/82	70/82	68/82	63/79	55/75	50/73	50/73	54/73	59/73	63/75	64/77	68/81	
JNB	°C	15/26	14/25	13/24	11/22	8/19	5/16	5/16	7/19	9/22	12/24	13/25	14/25	
CPT	°C	16/26	15/26	14/25	12/23	10/20	8/18	7/17	7/18	8/19	10/21	13/24	15/25	
DBN	°C	21/28	21/28	20/28	17/26	13/24	10/23	10/23	12/23	15/23	17/24	18/25	20/27	
*Rain variations occur each year. Amounts are dependent on your specific location.														
Rain		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
JNB	in	4.41	3.78	2.91	2.40	0.90	0.31	0.31	0.19	0.11	2.71	4.60	4.29	
CPT	in	0.59	0.70	0.70	1.97	3.54	3.34	3.54	3.15	1.97	1.41	0.51	0.59	
DBN	in	5.12	4.49	5.31	4.21	2.12	1.22	1.41	1.69	2.40	3.90	4.49	4.60	
JNB	mm	112	96	74	61	23	8	8	5	3	69	117	109	
CPT	mm	15	18	18	50	90	85	90	80	50	36	13	15	
DBN	mm	130	114	135	107	54	31	36	43	61	99	114	117	
JNB- Johannesburg, CPT- Cape Town, DBN- Durban														