

South Africa Guide



Cash

The currency of the country is South African rand. A rand is divided into 100 cents. Coins come in values of R1, R2, and R5, and 5, 10, 20, and 50 cents while banknotes come in the values of R10, R20, R50, R100, and R200.

One South African rand is equal to \$0.68 in USD.

You can find current exchange rates by visiting www.xe.com.

Credit and ATMs

MasterCards and Visas are widely accepted in South Africa. Only some smaller establishments will demand that you pay in cash.

Make sure that the credit card companies of the cards you plan to use in South Africa know you are traveling. Otherwise, they may stop your transaction from going through.

There are ATMs all throughout South Africa, especially at major banks, hotels, and shopping centers. Typically, at most ATMs, you can pull out anywhere from R2,000 to R5,000, which is equal to 135.36USD to 338.41USD.

In Case of Emergency

Nationwide Emergency Response- 10111

Cell Phone Emergency (call from anywhere)- 112

Ambulance Response- 10177



The standard electrical frequency in South Africa 50-Hz, while the standard voltage is 230-V. The sockets and plugs in the country are either type D, M, or N.

It is wise to bring a voltage converter as well as an adapter. Using your appliances or electronics in South Africa isn't recommended unless they share the same voltage.

Around $\frac{1}{3}$ of South Africa's population uses smartphones, while about 90% of the population has a mobile connection of some sort. The country uses use 2 GSM bands, 3 LTE bands and 3 UMTS bands.

There are WiFi hotspots in South Africa. Many of these can be found at cafes, hostels, malls, airports, hospitals, and hotels in major cities and towns.

Otherwise, you can use your mobile data nearly anywhere.



Getting Around

Out of all African nations, South Africa has the most extended road network.

Their well-maintained road network is the reason they remain competitive with international markets. As long as you have a map, you'll find it easy to drive around South Africa. The main public transportation options in the country include commuter rail, the mini-bus taxi, and the Gautrain high-speed rail system.

Uber and taxi rides are also available in South Africa. You can also rent scooters, Vespas, and bicycles.



Getting There

Delta Airlines and South African Airways are the only airlines that offer direct flights from the U.S. to South Africa. Depending on what airport in the U.S. you leave for South Africa from, flight time averages a little over 18-hours.



Language

There isn't just one official language spoken in South Africa. There are eleven including South African English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Venda, Xhosa, Tswana, Northern Sotho, Sotho, SiSwati, Tsonga, and Ndebele. However, there are well over thirty languages spoken throughout the country, with the two primary languages spoken being English and Dutch.



Travel

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