



FAQs

Is it safe to visit South Africa's townships?

Yes! However, it is important to ensure you go into the 'right' places within the townships. To ensure that your visit goes smoothly, always opt for a guided tour with a SATSA-registered operator who has knowledge of the area and a planned itinerary.



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Is there still a water crisis?

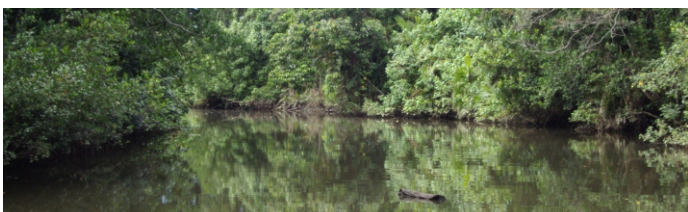
Although the Western Cape – including Cape Town, the Winelands, most of the Garden Route, and surrounds – has recovered from the worst of the 2017 drought, water should still be considered a scarce resource.

All visitors to South Africa are encouraged to be mindful of their water usage and to **#savethealocal** so that we can manage water resources responsibly and create a more sustainable destination.



Is there malaria in South Africa?

Check out the South African National Travel Health Network to find out if you are visiting a malaria zone – this includes areas of Limpopo and Mpumalanga where Kruger and many game reserves are located – and consider taking a malarial prophylaxis to minimise your risk.



Emergency Contacts

There are a few phone numbers you should have handy, should a medical or security emergency arise when you are in South Africa:

- **107** Emergency number (landline)
- **112** Emergency number (cellphone)
- **10111** South African Police Service
- **10177** Medical Emergency
- **021 937 0300** Wildlife Search & Rescue

Make sure to also have the name and contact details of your tour operator and/or accommodation.

A functioning cell phone is essential to carry with you at ALL times. Find out before leaving home if your phone will work in South Africa.

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Safety Tips for Travelling in South Africa

If you're concerned about tourism safety in South Africa, take comfort in the fact that there are some practical things you can do to mitigate the impact of crime while you're travelling around the country.

As many locals will tell you, it's all about being cautious and remaining constantly aware of your surroundings.

Follow this advice and you'll make life-long memories while you experience South Africa's beautiful landscapes, wildlife offering, and fascinating history, while meeting captivating people from a mix of cultures.

You can make a positive contribution to the prevention of crime by following these suggestions:



Walking & Getting Around

- Find out from a reputable travel professional where it is safe or recommended to walk.
- Keep your head up when you're walking around town and be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not venture into unknown or isolated areas.
- Have a clear plan as to where you are heading.
- Do not walk around at night.
- If you are heading out alone, inform someone from your accommodation or a travel companion of your plans.
- Be aware of common pickpocketing scams. If someone approaches you and attempts to step into your personal space or direct your attention elsewhere, simply walk away. Do not worry about appearing rude.
- Do not 'hail' a taxi on the street. Arrange a transfer from your accommodation or if available, use a trusted rideshare app such as Uber.



Personal Belongings

- Do not call attention to yourself by displaying expensive items e.g. flashy jewellery or electronics.
- It is ok to use your phone or camera but be discreet and stay alert e.g. don't walk around with headphones in or while texting, etc. on your phone.
- Always keep your belongings close to your body. Keep your handbag or backpack securely closed and do not hang it off the back of your chair when sitting at a restaurant or bar.



Payments & Money

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Card payments are widely accepted, even in rural towns.
- It is always preferable for you to withdraw cash at an ATM in a more secure location such as a hotel or shopping mall. Avoid using ATMs on the street or at night.



At Your Accommodation

- Leave your valuables in a safe if provided.
- Do not leave valuables or other items in front of open windows.
- Lock doors and secure windows before leaving or going to bed.



Driving in South Africa

- Always follow the speed limit and road signs, stay alert, and ensure you are aware of your directions.
- Keep the car doors locked and windows up when waiting at traffic lights or stop streets.
- Avoid driving after dark if possible.
- Park in safe, well-lit areas and do not leave anything visible in the car. Check that all of the doors are locked before you walk away.
- If you are doing a road trip in South Africa, be sure to have a detailed, up-to-date map, keep your car's tank full, and be aware of where the next gas station is located.
- Use your discretion when interacting with car guards and know that they cannot guarantee the safety of your car. If you wish to give a tip, a few spare coins will suffice.
- Be aware of hijacking scams. Do not pick up hitchhikers or stop at roadblocks that are not manned by the Police.
- If you are pulled over by the traffic police, know that they cannot ask you for cash – this is a bribe. Legitimate fines should be paid at a police station or magistrate's court.



Hiking

- Never hike alone. Always hike with a group of at least 4 people, one of whom knows the route well.
- Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for hiking. Bring additional layers and/or a jacket as weather conditions can change rapidly.
- Do not underestimate the hike and be sure to carry along enough food and water.



Documents

- Take photos of your important documents and upload them to the cloud in case they are stolen or lost.
- Carry a copy of your passport on you at all times.

In most cases, **common sense prevails**, and you should take the same precautions you would when travelling in any foreign country or city in the world.

A properly planned itinerary with a **reputable tour operator** with a proper tourism safety protocol will also help to mitigate any risks and, if an incident does occur, ensure you are swiftly assisted by experts and local authorities.

Visit satsa.com for a full list of accredited service providers.

Visitors to South Africa are encouraged to always travel with travel insurance.

