



## TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA TRIP

### **Books to read about Africa** (interesting and optional)

- Nelson Mandela *Long Walk to Freedom*
- Peter Godwin *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*
- Lawrence Anthony *The Elephant Whisperer*
- Lawrence Anthony *The Last of the Rhinos*
- Alan Paton *Cry the Beloved Country*

### **Passports/visas**

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the intended date of return from South Africa and must have two completely empty pages, excluding the endorsement pages. Tourists from most countries do not require a visa to South Africa as long as your stay does not exceed 30 days. Visas are required for all the neighboring countries. On this trip visas that are needed will be purchased at the borders of the other countries when you arrive there –if you are travelling with a passport other than US, CDN, British or Israeli –please be sure to check the entry requirements or let us know and we can check these for you. Since acquiring a visa is up to the customs officials at the border, these cannot be purchased in advance, and they will need to be purchased in USD cash by you at the border. The actual cost of the visas depends on the country whose passport you are travelling on –if you have multiple passports or need more info about this please let us know.

### **Climate**

In general gorgeous weather can be expected on this trip. It is possible to have rain, so please be prepared for that and a lot of hot African sunshine -so sunscreen and sun hats are well advised. In addition, during the game drives on the Safari it can be very cold, so you should have a warm parka/anorak, gloves, hat and scarf for these (morning and afternoon). During the day it should be quite warm. We know this sounds crazy, and you will be in t-shirts most of the day, so please dress in layers and you will be really glad if you do bring very warm coats, gloves, hats, for the game drives.

### **Health**

In terms of what immunizations you need for travelling, it is best is to seek the advice of a travel doctor who will review your medical history and let you know what is specifically needed for you. You will just need to let him or her know where you will be going. Please check the itinerary at [torahinmotion.org](http://torahinmotion.org)

Your doctor or a travel doctor will provide the medical information for you for you. In many cases people take anti-malaria medications (starting a few days before you leave). Usually anything else is optional. There are a few different anti-malaria medications available so it is best to ask about this as well.

For general information, you can [click here](#) for the Centre for Disease Control website with detailed information about travel.

### **Malaria**

Most areas in South Africa that tourists would visit are malaria free. However, the Kruger National Park and the adjoining private game reserves, the Lowveld of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, parts of the northern KwaZulu Natal, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana are high risk areas and anti-malaria medication should be taken. Consult your personal physician or travel clinic. In all cases, when one is in these areas, one should use a mosquito repellent, wear long sleeves, long trousers and closed shoes at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most prevalent. If possible sleep under a mosquito net (these are in the hotels). We will be visiting some of these beautiful places on our trip.

### **Electricity**

Electricity is 220/230 volts, supplied through either two or three prong plugs with round pins. The hotels usually have wall sockets for international plugs or have adapters available at Reception. For other situations you will be able to buy adapters at hardware stores and sometimes at airport shops. If you are going on a safari in a remote area there may not always be power points for recharging videos, hairdryers and shavers. The hotels will usually have these for you.

### **Clothing/footwear**

In general dress on the trip is casual. On Shabbat you should wear what you feel comfortable with. You will be davening in local shuls, where there is a range in how people dress. One of the strengths of the South African Jewish community is that the non-shomer shabbat people come to Orthodox shuls -as a result there is great variety in how people come dressed for shul. In general on our trips we feel that people should be themselves and that has been a good policy about dress on the trips in general.

You will not need heavy footwear. Make sure you have comfortable walking shoes.

The evenings can be very cool, so a warm coat or jacket may be required.

For those going on safari in winter (July), it is advisable to bring a wind-proof warm jacket, hat, scarf and gloves for the early mornings and evening drives (trust us on this, you will be glad you did). During the day it is usually warm.

A sunhat and sunscreen are essential as are a good pair of sunglasses to protect against the strong glare of the African sun.

At game reserves dress is very casual. However neutral colours such as browns, beiges, khakis and dark greens are preferred on game drives. Bright colours and white are to be avoided.

**Baggage allowances**

Strict baggage allowance on all scheduled flights in economy class within South Africa is 20kg (44 pounds) per person plus a carry on that can be a maximum of 15 pounds

**Banks and Money Matters**

The main banks are found at every airport and in every large town.

Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are situated in airports, many shopping malls, outside most banks

in town and cities, also at many of the largest petrol/gas stations, and operate 24 hours a day.

Most major commercial banks offer foreign exchange/ bureaux de change that are usually open until 17h00.

Major international credit cards are accepted, but not at small markets where purchases must be paid for in cash in local currency.

We find international withdrawals with your debit card is the most convenient way to get local currency worldwide.

**Currency:**

The South African currency is the Rand that is made up from 100 cents.

Rands are available in the following notes: R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200.

The coins are 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, 1 Rand, 2 Rand, and 5 Rand.

**Staying in Touch-Telephone/Cellphones**

Cellphones (mobile phones) operate on the GSM digital system. If you bring your own cellphone, make sure it is set for global roaming before you travel. Remember you will pay for incoming calls at international rates to a cellphone.

You will normally have WIFI access in the hotels. Normal cell phone service may be limited in remote areas.

**Safety and Security**

As with all major cities in the world, due care must be taken to avoid pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports and in the tourist areas. Always check with your hotel whether it is safe to walk around in the evenings. It is not advisable to wear expensive jewelry and a minimum of cash should be carried. Don't carry all your essential documents, and cash with you. Leave these with your passport in your hotel safe.

Having said the above, it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious crime or violence in the popular areas you will be visiting.

**VAT**

Value Added Tax (VAT) of 14% is levied in South Africa. Overseas visitors can claim refunds of VAT paid on goods that they take out of South Africa. You must be able to show these items to the clerks at the airport on departure. Proceed to these kiosks before checking in for flights. One cannot claim VAT on any services whatsoever.

When purchasing your products, you should request a Tax Invoice. The shop's VAT number must appear on this invoice. The clerk at the VAT refund kiosks at the airport will compare your invoices with the goods purchased. Once your invoices have been approved and stamped, the VAT Reclaim Office (located in to International Departures Hall – after you have passed through Security and Passport Control), will refund you the appropriate amount.

## **Languages**

South Africa has 11 official languages, but English is the language of administration and is widely spoken. The other languages are Afrikaans, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.

## **Loss of Articles**

Torah in Motion Travel and the tour operators on the trip cannot accept any responsibility for the misplacement of any articles whilst on your tour. Naturally, we will endeavour to find and re-unite you with your misplaced items. However, logistics may not be favourable for the returning of articles unless you are prepared to pay for the cost to getting the goods back to you. Any costs incurred in this process will be for your own account.

## **Game lodge/safari behaviour**

You will be asked to sign an indemnity form when checking in at your game lodge. The animals on safari are wild – this is their home turf – they are not tame. You must please listen to your rangers and camp staff. The safety precautions they set out must be followed and taken seriously.

On game drives you should watch the animals quietly and with a minimum of disturbance to their natural activities. The animals can be frightened away by loud voices or any other loud sounds. You should not clap, whistle or throw any food items out of your vehicle. These can poison animals and damage the eco-system.

Smoking is not permitted.

## **DON'T FORGET TO BRING THESE (all these items are optional):**

- binoculars
- camera and film/video
- spare batteries for everything you will need
- cleaning and protective cloths for camera equipment
- sunscreen (or you may buy this here) /mosquito repellent
- sunglasses
- sunhat
- Bathing suit (optional)
- Siddur/chumash

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