



South Africa Information

Travel documents

South Africa has very specific entry requirements for minors. Unaccompanied minors must present a notarized copy of their birth certificate, notarized affidavits signed by all of their guardians, and copies of the passports or identify documents of all their guardians. You can find more documentation information at dha.gov.za, and for more general travel information, you can visit travel.state.gov. Additionally, your Tour Consultant can help advise.

U.S. citizens traveling to South Africa must have a passport that is valid for six months after their expected return date. No entry visas are required. Please check travel.state.gov to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens of all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what specific documentation is required for them to travel.

Due to internal flights, a complete group passport list must be sent to EF no later than 110 days prior to departure. Please contact your Tour Consultant for further information.

Vaccinations and health precautions

For the most up-to-date information on vaccinations and other health requirements, we recommend checking cdc.gov or consulting your physician.

Tour Director and bus drivers

You will have the same Tour Director during your entire tour, but bus drivers may change from day to day. When it comes to tipping bus drivers, consider it on a daily basis.

You'll ride in vans at the game reserve at Kruger National Park. Your van drivers will serve as your local guides for the game tours.

Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Director, drivers, and local guides as a token of appreciation. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver
- \$5 per person per day for your game tour guide

We encourage Group Leaders to collect all tip money from their travelers before departing for tour. To keep tips organized, we recommend using the envelopes from your Departure Kit. For larger groups, feel free to divvy up the money between chaperones. It is preferable for tips to be given in the local currency of your destination, especially for local guides. You can ask your travelers to convert their U.S. dollars before you collect tip money, or you can exchange the money yourself into local currency (either in the U.S. or when you arrive abroad). If you have any questions on tipping, please reach out to your Tour Consultant.

Currency

The South African currency is called the Rand. Visit xe.com for current exchange rates and more information. We recommend bringing an ATM card or a credit card that you can use to withdraw cash from a bank or ATM machine. ATM machines are available throughout the tour. Traveler's checks are difficult to cash and should not be used. We recommend that you inform your bank about your travel plans prior to your departure.

Most banks have security guards to protect patrons from theft. Always have someone with you when withdrawing cash. While most shops outside of more rural towns and villages accept credit cards, the phone lines are much slower, making the use of credit cards time consuming. This may cause delays in your group's schedule.

Transportation

Tours to South Africa will rely on both bus transfers and internal flights. Buses are new and air-conditioned, and long transfers will be broken up with stops to rest or explore along the way. Your Tour Consultant will give you your internal flight information around 60 days prior to departure. For game tours in Kruger National Park, you'll ride in open four-wheel drive vehicles that fit up to 10 people.

Accommodations

Accommodations will vary between hotels and lodges and include the amenities you would expect, such as showers, toilets, fresh linens, and towels. Some hotels have swimming pools, too.

Students will share rooms with two or three other travelers of the same gender. These rooms will have single or shared double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may end up sharing rooms with students in the tour group who are not from their own school.

Adults will share twin rooms with other adults of the same gender. Adults may also share rooms with adults in the tour group who are not from their own school. Please note that groups may not all have rooms next to each other (some may even be on different floors) and that hotels may be located outside of the city center. Please contact your Tour Consultant if you'd like a list of sample hotels.

South Africa has a standard electric voltage of 220/230V with circuit capacities of 15 amps. Electricity is supplied through either 15-amp 3 prong plugs or 5-amp 2 prong plugs (both with round pins). Travelers should definitely bring the appropriate adaptor.

Phones and internet

It's easy to buy an international phone card in South Africa to make phone calls home, and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting, or using data abroad. Wi-Fi is not available at all hotels in South Africa, and when it is available, there is often a fee.

Local food

Travelers should not drink the tap water in South Africa and should only drink water from pre-sealed containers. Bottled water is available for purchase everywhere for \$1–2.

You'll find that most cuisine in South Africa reflects the region's British, German, and Dutch colonial periods, as well as Afrikaner influences. High-quality meats, vegetables, and fruits are sourced from the surrounding area's farmland. Breakfast is the only meal that will be included every day, but often lunch and/or dinner will be included, as well. During the days that lunch is not included, you should budget \$8–10 for lunch.

Most meals will be served buffet style. Breakfasts on tour will likely include pancakes, fruit, cereal, toast, juice, and coffee. Lunches and dinners will consist of salads, soups, and a mixture of vegetarian, beef, chicken, or fish dishes. Options are available for vegetarians or travelers with allergies, but please be aware that the diversity of options might be limited based on availability, as these requests are not common in South Africa.

Safety

Travelers will be staying in accommodations located in reliable and security-conscious areas. Always inform your Tour Director if you need to break away from the group at any point. Store valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes and refrain from carrying large sums of money or wearing valuable jewelry. Please be sure to read EF's *Travel & Safety Guide* before going on tour.

Weather

Travelers should be prepared for a wide range of climates. Keep in mind that South Africa experiences winter during our summer. Autumn in South Africa (mid-February to April) is warm but not too hot with little rainfall (60–80°F). Winter in South Africa (May to July) in high altitude areas is characterized by dry, sunny, crisp days and cold nights (50–65°F), so it's a good idea to bring warmer clothes. Please check weather.com for your destinations and travel periods.

Packing

People in Cape Town and Johannesburg dress similarly to how people dress in most European and American cities. Days are warm with cold evenings, so we suggest bringing and wearing layers. Every day, you'll be walking for at least one hour across mostly flat terrain, including dirt paths and unpaved walkways, and some hills and stairs. So, comfortable walking shoes are a must.

Game tours in Kruger National Park often start early in the morning, so we recommend bringing a jacket or other warm layer you can easily take off later in the day. We also suggest wearing neutral-colored clothing and a hat.

Occasional rain showers are common during certain seasons, so depending on the timing of your trip, lightweight rainwear may be necessary. Loose-fitting, layered clothing that can accommodate varying temperatures will be the most comfortable option. Quick-dry material is best for hot days outside and a warmer layer may be needed for chilly evenings and early mornings.

You also might want to bring sunscreen, binoculars, sunglasses, insect repellent, a flashlight, and a stomach-soothing medicine such as Pepto-Bismol.

Luggage

We recommend bringing soft duffel bags instead of rolling suitcases. Luggage allowance for economy is 44 lbs/20 kgs per person for internal flights within South Africa. Hand luggage is limited to no more than 5 kgs and may not be larger than 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm.